NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER LISTED

OCT 1 0 2007

Amended: 1-2-09 7-1-09

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 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

**Historic name** Ellsworth Downtown Historic District

**Other name/site number**

## 2. Location

Street & number: Generally including the blocks between N. Main and 3rd Streets from Lincoln to Kansas Ave. AND Lincoln to Court Ave. between 1st & 2nd AND the west side of Kansas Ave. between 1st and 2nd Streets in downtown Ellsworth. ☐ not for publication

City or town: Ellsworth ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Ellsworth Code 053 Zip code 67439

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Patrick Zollner DSHPO 8/24/07

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official /Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I herby certify that the property is — Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

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

Ellsworth Downtown Historic District
Name of property

Ellsworth County, Kansas
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**
(Check only one box)

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

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| ~~49~~ 52 | ~~36~~ 34 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| 2 | | structures |
| | | objects |
| ~~49~~ 52 | ~~38~~ 36 | total |

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**
1

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**
(Enter Categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single and multiple dwelling and hotel
COMMERCE: business, professional, organizational, financial institution, specialty store, department store, and restaurant
GOVERNMENT: government office, post office, correctional facility and courthouse
RECREATION: theater
INDUSTRY: communications facility
SOCIAL: meeting hall, club house, and civic
HEALTH CARE: medical business/office and clinic
RELIGION: Religious Facility
EDUCATION: School and Library
TRANSPORTATION: road-related

**Current Functions**
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling and multiple dwelling
COMMERCE: business, professional, financial institution, specialty store, and restaurant
GOVERNMENT: government office, correctional facility, and courthouse
SOCIAL: meeting hall and civic
HEALTH CARE: medical business/office and clinic
RELIGION: religious facility
LANDSCAPE: parking lot
INDUSTRIAL: communications facility
EDUCATION: School and Library
VACANT/NOT IN USE
WORK IN PROGRESS

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style
LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne, Italianate, and Romanesque
LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco, International, No Subcategory, and Contemporary

**Materials**
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE, CONCRETE
walls LIMESTONE, BRICK, WOOD, METAL, CONCRETE
roof METAL, ASPHALT, SYNTHETIC
other LIMESTONE, BRICK, METAL, MARBLE, GRANITE

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

Ellsworth Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Ellsworth County, Kansas
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**
(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register

☒ 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.

☒ 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 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 it 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)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1870--1957

Attached amendment extends POS to 1960

**Significant Dates**

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

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Architects: John Seltz, Weary and Alford, Charles Shaver, Mann and Company; Builders: J.T. Dalton and Sons; Frank Easterly

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**
☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ Previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
# _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

**Primary location of additional data:**
☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other
Name of repository:

Ellsworth County Historical Society and Museum

Ellsworth Downtown Historic District — Name of Property

Ellsworth County, Kansas — County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 30

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

| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 14 | 566830 | 4287020 |
| 2 | 14 | 569700 | 4287060 |
| 3 | 14 | 567125 | 4286950 |
| 4 | 14 | 567140 | 4286780 |

☒ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Brenda R. Spencer and Christy Davis

Organization: Preservation Planning and Design — Date: 16 October, 2006

Street & number: 10150 Onaga Road — Telephone: 785-456-9857

City or town: Wamego — State: Kansas — Zip code: 66547

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

name: See attached list

street & number: — telephone:

city or town: — state: — zip code:

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

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including 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

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION**

Location and Setting

Located off of Highway 156 in central Kansas, the town of Ellsworth lies approximately 45 miles southwest of Salina and 100 miles northwest of Wichita. The downtown historic district, within Ellsworth's Central Business District, is in the south-central section of town. Ellsworth (population approximately 3,000) is the county seat of Ellsworth County (population approximately 6,500). The town maintains a viable business district that serves the local community and rural population by offering a basic array of goods and services and some specialty shops that cater to a developing visitor clientele.

Ellsworth can trace its roots to the establishment of Fort Ellsworth in 1864 on the military trail between Fort Riley and Fort Larned. Later renamed Fort Harker, the post remained in operation until 1872. The first official settlement was platted along the bank of the Smoky Hill River in 1867 but was devastated by a flood early that summer. The town was moved to its current location in the summer of 1867, coinciding with the arrival of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. The new town of Ellsworth was platted north of the railroad, northeast of the Smoky Hill River. Oriented on a 45-degree grid running parallel to the river and railroad, the northeast/southwest streets were named Avenues (Kansas, Douglas, Lincoln and Court) and northwest/southeast streets were numbered northeast of Main Street. The early commercial development occurred on two streets flanking the railroad tracks, South Main and North Main (two separate streets north and south of the tracks). Ellsworth's first decade was rooted in the cattle trade during which time frame structures lined both Main Streets. However, devastating fires took their toll and by the later 1870s, development of more permanent masonry structures emerged north along Douglas Avenue (perpendicular to Main Street) providing a new beginning for a town striving to begin anew following the collapse of its cowtown past.

The commercial district evolved through the mid twentieth century, growing first northeast and eventually to the north and west. Most retail businesses and offices were located along Douglas Avenue but the County Courthouse was located first on E. North Main and later on Court Avenue, two blocks southeast of Douglas. Business houses filled in one block on each side of Douglas Avenue and continued along Main Street as well. The construction of a new courthouse on Kansas Avenue, northwest of Douglas Avenue, and the construction of a new elementary school and new Methodist Church at 3rd Street and Douglas Avenue, served to establish the existing boundaries of the central business district. The existing concentration of commercial and public buildings spans from North Main Street to 3rd Street, and generally from Kansas Avenue to Lincoln Avenue, one block on each side of Douglas Avenue, the major downtown thoroughfare.

The boundaries of the downtown historic district are comprised of the existing concentration of historic commercial and civic buildings in Ellsworth. The district is approximately seven square blocks in area, encompassing approximately eighty buildings. The district generally spans from North Main Street on the southwest to 3rd Street on the northeast, and from Kansas Avenue to Lincoln Avenue. Also included in the district boundary are the courthouse and historic commercial buildings on the northwest side of Kansas Avenue between North Main and 2nd Street on the northwest edge of the district, and the block between 1st and 2nd Streets and Lincoln and Court Avenues on the southeast edge of the district. The district boundary was defined by the location of intact historic buildings in the traditional downtown area. South Main Street and the 200 block of east and west North Main Street retain little historic integrity establishing a clear border on the south end of the district. Residential neighborhoods north and east provide a distinct change in use, establishing a clear northern boundary (only three single family dwellings are included in the district). Contemporary commercial development has occurred northwest of the district boundary but the buildings have no historic associations and therefore, are not included in the district boundary.

The district is comprised of traditional historic commercial and civic buildings. Along Douglas Avenue and the cross streets, front facades generally share a common set-back against a sidewalk; occupying the full width of the lots, the buildings dimensions are in increments of 25' in width and share a common party wall with the adjacent buildings on each side. These buildings vary in depth, some extending to the mid-block alley and some occupying one-half to two-thirds of

the lot, allowing a small parking area in the rear. A number of individual set-piece buildings that retain their historic and architectural significance are located throughout the downtown historic district. These buildings are typically free-standing and some are set back from the sidewalk. They include: City Hall, the Ellsworth County Courthouse, the old jail, Robbins Memorial Library, the Elementary School, and the United Methodist Church. Surface parking lots are located on East and West 1st Street and at the Dollar General Store on Lincoln Avenue. The district's setting and configuration of buildings reflect its late nineteenth and early twentieth century development. The Ellsworth downtown historic district is comprised of 85 buildings (79 primary resources and 6 secondary structures) and two structures (a wood-frame carport and a wood gazebo). Forty-nine of the eighty-seven resources (56%) are contributing. One of the contributing resources, the Wellington Insurance Building at 115 N. Douglas Avenue, is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Downtown Ellsworth historically hosted a wide range of uses including agricultural, transportation-related, service and professional offices, and retail stores as well as civic, social and governmental uses. Housing also constituted a prominent use in the district historically, including apartments above businesses, private residences, and at least three hotels. The district today continues to host a mix of uses, although the uses do vary from those historically. Downtown Ellsworth continues to serve as the primary location of City and County government and other prominent uses including the Elementary School, public library, and Methodist Church. Sixty-seven percent of the buildings in the district occupied by businesses classified as Commerce/Trade; downtown serves as a primary trade center providing basic goods and services to the community and surrounding rural area. As the business district grew and expanded off of Douglas Avenue throughout the first half of the twentieth century, many early residences gave way to commercial development. There are only three private dwellings within the historic district boundary. Many upper level apartments are now vacant but a few of the apartments over commercial businesses continue to be occupied. Eight percent of the district buildings serve residential uses. Additionally, there are several commercial businesses that are underutilized or vacant (14% of the district buildings are under vacant or used as storage).

Downtown Buildings

The district resources include buildings constructed from the 1870s to the 1990s. There are three existing commercial buildings that pre-date 1880 and 23% of the district buildings pre-date 1900. The remaining district buildings are fairly equally dispersed throughout the twentieth century. Twenty-six percent of the buildings were constructed between 1900-1919, 20% between 1920-1939, and 14% between 1940-1957. Eight of the district buildings post date 1957 with the latest resource, the Kanapolis Bank, being constructed in 1990. The period of significance for contributing resources in the district is 1870 – 1957.

Like many Kansas downtowns, most of Ellsworth's downtown buildings are traditional commercial buildings with subtle stylistic references. The architectural stylistic classification has been provided for each property and Richard Longstreth's classification of historic commercial buildings (in *Buildings of Main Street*) is also identified for the commercial buildings in the district. These stylistic classifications do not necessarily correspond to the dates of construction of the building because many of the historic commercial buildings have experienced extensive facade remodeling or replacement on at least one occasion. In many instances, the replacement facades have gained significance in their own right and stand as representatives of the period in which they were constructed (versus representing the building's date of construction). A majority of the district buildings are one and two-part commercial blocks and nearly fifty percent of the resources are classified as Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements-Commercial Style buildings reflecting the standard image of historic commercial buildings -- an upper facade with regularly-space windows (two-story) and brick detailing or plain upper facade with corbelled parapet or simple parapet cap (one-story), and separate storefront with display windows flanking a recessed entrance, a base or bulkhead and transom. In Ellsworth, these buildings are characterized by their one-and two-story brick facades with corbelled brick parapets.

There are a few high-style resources in downtown Ellsworth. Nine percent of the district buildings are Late Victorian, reflecting Italianate, Romanesque and Queen Anne styles. These buildings include Italianate commercial storefronts featuring metal cornices, arched upper windows, and cast-iron storefront columns, in addition to the more ornate

Romanesque facades featuring arched masonry openings. The town's financial institutions are among the few existing Classical Revival buildings, portraying an image of stability and permanence. Approximately 18% of the district buildings are Modern in style, a greater percentage than many Kansas downtowns. Modern buildings include prominent public buildings like the Ellsworth County Courthouse and Ellsworth Elementary School, both design by Hutchinson architects, Mann & Co. The Modern Movement encompasses a number of the replacement facades installed on commercial buildings from the late 1930s into the 1950s reflecting a clean, unadorned image. Ellsworth's Modern buildings also include at least two buildings reflecting the International Style and the Art Moderne style (107-109 E. 1st Street and 118 N. Lincoln Avenue). All but eight of the existing buildings in the district were constructed prior to 1958. As a grouping, these buildings reflect the continuum of architectural development in Ellsworth that is typical of Kansas and the Midwest. Included in this collection are examples of common alterations made to traditional commercial buildings as part of the general evolution of commercial design and the continued viable function of buildings as places of business. These resources are significant as a surviving group of buildings that reflect the history of the city of Ellsworth. As a collection of extant buildings that retain their historic architectural integrity and associations with the community's development, they form a distinct district with a visible sense of time and place.

Ellsworth's Underground

A unique feature of the commercial buildings in downtown Ellsworth is a system of interconnected underground tunnels or sidewalks in the basements of some buildings along Douglas Avenue. Evidence of these former underground business spaces was discovered in recent years by owners of properties in the Wellington Block, the west side of the 200 block of Douglas Avenue. Although Wellington built several of the existing buildings in the last decade of the 19th century and first decade of the 20th century, he replaced and expanded some former buildings. Historic references to businesses located on the lower levels pre-date Wellington's development but he undoubtedly expanded this network. The basement under the Masonic Hall (#27 at 208-210 N. Douglas) provides one of the best records of these underground spaces. In this building, three basement spaces are connected by a rear stone "sidewalk." Each space has 2/2 wood windows with stone sills and lintels and door openings onto the rear walkway. The three business spaces include a former bowling alley that features chalk boards and wood wainscoting on the walls, and wood floors with the original ball pit extant. These three basement spaces are connected, not only by the rear walkway but also by openings between the spaces. A door in the southeast corner of the bowling alley provides access to the basement space in the adjacent building on the south. The basement beneath Seitz Drug, Wellington's former office (#26 -206 N. Douglas) was the location of the Royal Barber shop. In the rear of this basement, a large boiler was located that served all of the buildings in the Wellington Block. The space below the Arts Council (#24-204 N. Douglas) also illustrates former window and door openings on the west wall (front); one former door opening faces east, appearing to access a tunnel/walkway that crossed beneath the street. Historic photos of these buildings show former stairwells and evidence of sidewalk vents or window wells that provided light into the basement spaces. The interconnected spaces seem to extend only through 212 N. Douglas and are not located in buildings on the north end of that block, some of which were constructed after the Wellington Block.

Although the interconnections in the Wellington Block could be attributed in part, to their shared development, similar basement spaces are found on the east side of the block and in the 100 block of Douglas Avenue. On the east side of the block, the buildings originally known as the Union Block (201-207 N. Douglas, now occupied by the Citizens State Bank) retain evidence of former window and door openings on the south and west basement walls, as do buildings north of the bank (209, 211, 219, 221 N. Douglas). The basement in the old Citizens State Bank at 126 N. Douglas also retains evidence of former window openings, as does the old Seitz Drug building on the southeast corner of 1st and Douglas. Many of these spaces retain remnants of historic plaster of basement walls and wood or other finished flooring supporting the idea that these were utilized as business spaces.

No reference to the underground sidewalks or tunnels has been found on early maps. The precise extent of the former network is unknown but the existing spaces provide a link to Ellsworth's past and clear indication that the basements of many of Ellsworth's downtown buildings were occupied by business and interconnected to allow underground circulation between buildings -- a distinguishing feature of the business district.

Property Listing
Following is a list of individual properties in the district by number, identifying building name, address, date of construction and status (contributing or non-contributing to historic district).

| PRIMARY RESOURCES: | | | | | SECONDARY STRUCTURES: | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| # | Historic Name | Property Address | Date of Const | Status | Description | Outbuildings | Structures |
| 1 | Gas Station | 104-06 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1950 | NC | | | |
| 2 | Commercial Building | 112-114 N. Douglas Avenue | 1958 | ~~NC~~ C | | | |
| 3-5 | Farmers Hotel | 105-111 W. N. Main Street | c.1880s | C | | | |
| 6 | Co-op Station | 103 N. Kansas Avenue | 1935 | C | | | |
| 7 | | 116 W. 1st Street | c.1930s | | Garage | C | |
| 8 | Commercial Building | 118 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1880s | C | | | |
| 9 | Billiards Hall | 120 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1910 | C | | | |
| 10 | Meat Market | 122 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1900 | NC | | | |
| 11 | Commercial Building | 124 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1880s | NC | | | |
| 12 | Citizens State Bank | 126 N. Douglas Ave. | 1912 | C | | | |
| 13 | Commercial Building | 110-112 W. 1st Street | c.1912 | NC | | | |
| 14 | Commercial Building | 120 W. 1st Street | c.1915 | NC | | | |
| 15 | Carpenter's Shop | 100 blk N. Kansas Avenue | c.1910s | C | | | |
| 16 | Auto Sales/Service Building | 202-204 W. 1st Street | c.1910s | NC | | | |
| 17 | Commercial Building | 206-208 W. 1st Street | c.1920s | NC | | | |
| 18 | Ellsworth County Courthouse | 210 N. Kansas Avenue | 1951 | C | | | |
| 19 | Law Enforcement Center | 212 N. Kansas Avenue | 1981 | NC | | | |
| 20 | Kanapolis Bank | 120 W. 2nd Street | 1990 | NC | | | |
| 21 | Southwestern Bell Building | 211 N. Kansas Avenue | 1960 | ~~NC~~ C | | | |
| 22 | City Hall | 121 W. 1st Street | 1938 | C | | | |
| 23 | Billiards Hall/Barber Shop | 107-111 W. 1st Street | c.1905 | C | | | |
| 24 | Old Central National Bank | 202 N. Douglas Avenue | 1886 | ~~NC~~ C | | | |
| 25 | Wellington Block | 204 N. Douglas Avenue | 1886 | C | | | |
| 26 | Wellington Office | 206 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1897 | C | | | |
| 27 | Masonic Hall | 208-210 N. Douglas Avenue | 1898 | C | | | |
| 28 | Wellington Block | 212-214 N. Douglas Avenue | 1901 | C | | | |
| 29 | Grocery/Ellsworth State Bank | 216-218 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1908 | C | | | |
| 30 | Dryden Hardware | 220-222 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1900 | C | | | |
| 31 | Printing Office | 224 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1900 | C | | | |
| 32 | Commercial Building | 226 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1880 | NC | | | |
| 33 | Commercial Building | 110 W. 2nd Street | c1940 | C | | | |
| 34 | Commercial Building | 111 W. 2nd Street | c.1925 | C | | | |
| 35 | Commercial Building | 302 N. Douglas/107 W. 2nd | c.1900 | NC | | | |
| 36 | Bakery Building | 304 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1910 | C | | | |
| 37 | Commercial Building | 306-308 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1880 | C | Carport | | NC |
| 38 | Citizens Bank Drive-Thru | 310 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1970 | NC | | | |
| 39 | First Methodist Church | 322-324 N. Douglas Avenue | 1951 | C | | | |
| 40 | Ellsworth Elementary School | 313 N. Douglas/110 E. 3rd | 1952 | C | | | |
| 41 | Commercial Building | 102 E. 2nd Street | 1920 | C | | | |
| 42 | Commercial Building | 233 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1910 | C | | | |
| 43 | Commercial Building | 231 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1910 | NC | | | |
| 44 | Commercial Building | 221 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1920 | NC | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 45 | Grocery Store | 219 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1940s | C | | | |
| 46 | Commercial Building | 215-217 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1880 | NC | | | |
| 47 | Commercial Building | 213 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1947 | C | | | |
| 48 | D.B. Long Building | 211 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1930s | C | | | |
| 49 | Minnick Building | 209 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1920s | NC | | | |
| 50 | Bell Hardware | 207 N. Douglas Avenue | 1874 | NC | | | |
| 51 | Larkin Dry Good Store | 205 N. Douglas Avenue | 1874 | NC | | | |
| 52 | Central National Bank | 201-203 N. Douglas Avenue | 1915 | C | | | |
| 53 | Commercial Building | 107-109 E. 1st Street | c.1935 | C | | | |
| 54 | Commercial Building | 119 E. 1st Street | c.1910 | C | | | |
| 55 | Commercial Building | 121 E. 1st Street | c.1925 | NC | | | |
| 56 | Dry Cleaning Building | 123 E. 1st Street | c.1900 | C | | | |
| 57 | Novack IGA | 206 N. Lincoln Avenue | 1960 | NC | | | |
| 58 | Residence | 122 E. 2nd Street | 1884 | C | Shed | C | |
| 59 | Residence | 118 E. 2nd Street | 1900 | NC | Shed | C | |
| | | | | | Garage | C | |
| 60 | J.H. Robbins Memorial Library | 219 N. Lincoln Avenue | 1913 | NC | Gazebo | | NC |
| 61 | | 220 N. Court Avenue | c.1960s | | Garage | NC | |
| 62 | Skating Rink | 220 N. Court Avenue | 1952 | C | | | |
| 63 | Old Jail/Sheriff's Residence | 206 N. Court Avenue | 1911 | C | | | |
| 64 | Auto Garage | 201-203 N. Lincoln Avenue | 1925 | C | | | |
| 65 | City Plumbing Building | 205 N. Lincoln Avenue | 1926 | C | | | |
| 66 | Residence | 207 N. Lincoln Avenue | c.1900 | NC | Garage | NC | |
| 67 | Commercial Building | 112 E. 1st Street | c.1935 | NC | | | |
| 68 | Commercial Building | 110 E. 1st Street | c.1900 | NC | | | |
| 69 | Telephone Exchange Building | 108 E. 1st Street | c.1935 | C | | | |
| 70 | Seitz Drug Building | 125 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1900 | NC | | | |
| 71 | Elite Theater/Larkin Building | 123 N. Douglas Avenue | 1909 | NC | | | |
| 72 | Nunamaker Building | 121 N. Douglas Avenue | 1882 | C | | | |
| 73 | Commercial Building | 119 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1925 | C | | | |
| 74 | Commercial Building | 117 N. Douglas Avenue | c.1925 | C | | | |
| 75 | Wellington Insurance Building | 115 N. Douglas Avenue | 1887 | C-NR | | | |
| 76 | Barber Shop | 111 N. Douglas Avenue | 1984 | NC | | | |
| 77 | Rural Water District Office | 101-103 N. Douglas Avenue | 1958 | ~~NC~~ C | | | |
| 78 | Rammelsberg Dry Goods | 109 E. N. Main Street | 1879 | NC | | | |
| 79 | Commercial Building | 103 E. N. Main Street | c.1880s | C | | | |
| 80 | Service Station | 105 E. N. Main Street | c.1940s | C | | | |
| 81 | Ellsworth Senior Center | 115 E. N. Main Street | 1987 | NC | | | |
| 82 | Wamhoff Garage | 116 N. Lincoln Avenue | 1924 | C | | | |
| 83 | Commercial Building | 118 N. Lincoln Avenue | c.1947 | C | | | |

TOTAL: 49 Contributing Resources (56%): 45 buildings and 4 outbuildings
38 Non-Contributing Resources: 34 buildings, 2 outbuildings, and 2 structures.

## INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note on Sources
The individual property histories provide information about the history of the commercial parcels. Principal sources include Sanborn maps (1888, 1893, 1899, 1905, 1911, 1920, 1928, 1943), clippings files at the Ellsworth County Historical Society, materials from the Kansas files at the Kansas State Historical Society (including Ellsworth County clippings), newspaper articles (mainly in the Ellsworth Reporter), and phone directories (which post-date 1922). A 2004 historic property inventory did not provide any histories of the properties. Property addresses presented some challenges in this project. The addresses identified for the properties in this nomination reflect the existing building addresses. However, these vary from the historic addresses in many locales and do not always progress chronologically up a block. The 1943 Sanborn Map included building addresses, which clearly corresponded with the lots. When the 1943 addresses do not correspond to the existing building address, this discrepancy is noted in the property summaries. It should also be noted that the most detailed historical records exist for the first decades of Ellsworth's history, particularly its settlement and cowtown days. Unfortunately, devastating fires destroyed early on many of the buildings associated with this time period. Although few extant buildings interpret the earliest period of Ellsworth history, many of the extant buildings were constructed during the city's second construction phase (post-1876) by the city's founders. Because it was common for historic commercial buildings, particularly the facades, to be regularly updated, a building's current architecture often no longer interprets its early history. However, the authors of this nomination believed it was important to include all known information, including more extensive early history, for future reference.

**1. Gas Station** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**104-106 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1950**
**Legal Description:** S 100' of W4.6' Lot 1 & S 100' of Lot 2 & S 100' of E20.8' Lot 3, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER
**Documentation:** Figure #15 & 17

**Description:** This one-story building is comprised of two parts. The north half is a frame structure with vertical wood siding, a flat roof with shingle canopy and two garage bays with overhead doors. The south half appears to have been added; it is an aluminum-framed storefront system with opaque panels above and below the display windows and a corner entry. The south addition has a metal shed roof. The building is located on the north end of the lot, abutting a commercial building on the north. It is set back from the sidewalk/street with a paved parking lot on the east and south, used for display of automobiles.

**History:** This corner was occupied by joined one-story buildings that housed a grocery and dwelling in 1888, 1893 and 1899. Between 1899 and 1905, these buildings were demolished. The lots were vacant until the years between 1911 and 1920 when a filling station was constructed. The building was expanded between 1920 and 1928. It remained in its 1928 configuration in 1943. There is still a service station building on this lot, which now functions as a used car lot - Hoffman Auto Sales.

**Integrity:** Although the filling station on this lot dates to 1911-1920, the building has experienced contemporary alterations and retains little historic integrity. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**2. Commercial Building** **Status-~~Non-Contributing~~**
**112-114 (114-1/2) N. Douglas Avenue** Contributing 1-2-09
**Date of Construction: 1958**
**Legal Description:** N50' of W4.6' Lot 1 & N50' of Lot 2 & 3 & N50' of E21.2' Lot 4, Block 32 Original City

**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT
**Documentation:** Figure #15 & 17

**Description:** This one-story block building has a blond brick facade with bi-color brick detailing above the storefront and a simple concrete cap. Although similar to traditional 1920s-1940s one-story commercial structures, this building was not built with traditional storefronts. Designed for two businesses, the building has two single doors in the center bay with flanking single-light display windows. A corner opening on the north and south ends of the front facade is infilled with glass block, likely original to the construction. A flat metal canopy projects above the storefront.

**History:** There were no buildings on this lot until the years between 1905 and 1911 when a very small building was built just south of the alley in the east corner of the lot. By 1920, the expanded building was a dry cleaner's. Between 1920 and 1928, the building was demolished and replaced by a new filling station and adjoining store. Between 1928 and 1943, a hollow clay tile building was built at this location. The building now at the location is closer to the plane of the street than the tile building. According to the appraisers office, the current building was constructed in 1958. The Ellsworth/Kanopolis Chamber of Commerce has been at this location since 1995. A Real Estate office occupies the second storefront.

**Integrity:** Dating to the 1950s, the building is a good example of a Modern structure compatible with historic commercial architecture. However, constructed in 1958, the building does not meet the fifty-year age threshold for eligibility and therefore is a non-contributing member of the district.

**3-5. Farmers Hotel/Keystone Hotel/Rogers Hotel/Morgan Hotel/Golden Belt Hotel** **Status-Contributing**
**105-111 W. N. Main Street**
**Date of Construction: pre-1888/ca. 1935**
**Legal Description:** Beg NW Cor Lot 6 then SE52.6', SW50', SE25', SW100'. NW136.8', NE37', SE29', NE48', SE30.2', NE 65' to POB, Block 32 Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business/VACANT
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #2

**Description:** Although this building has a common blond brick facade on the south (dating to the period between 1928-1943), it is clearly three separate buildings from rear (north). The eastern most building is the original livery, in place by 1888 (used as hotel above) and later serving as an implement dealership. The center section was the hotel, operating under various names over the years. The west section was added between 1928 and 1943. The existing facade likely dates to c.1940 when the former hotel was converted to commercial use.

The east building is a two-story native stone structure with original window openings on the east, west and north sides. An overhead garage door is extant on the rear and original 2/2 wood windows are extant in some openings on the side and rear. There is a small one-story stucco addition with a shed roof on the east half of the rear. The center building is brick, also two stories in height with a raised penthouse bay on the east end. The side and rear of the building are blond brick, matching the front facade. There are three former window openings on the upper level of the rear facade, all of which have been infilled. There are two shed additions on the rear of this building; a shed addition with metal siding on the east and a small block addition with shed roof on the west. The center building is approximately one-half the depth of the east building. The west building has a concrete slurry on the rear and west facades. Former window openings are boarded up and a former concrete loading dock is in place on the west end of the rear facade. The building is

approximately one-third the depth of the east building. The front facade is bi-color buff-colored brick with blond brick detailing and a simple concrete cap on the parapet. The center and west buildings have three window openings on the upper facade, all infilled. There is a single door on the west end of the front facade; the center section is defined by a projecting flat metal canopy over the "storefront". The central "storefront" is comprised of three single doors with flanking single-light windows. The east end of the south facade is distinguished from the central and west sections by a raised parapet further defined by vertical brick banding and a checkerboard pattern on the upper facade. This stepped bay, which comprises the west half of the east building, has a pair of windows (infilled) on the upper facade and a garage bay at street level. The east half also has a pair of window openings on the upper facade and a single door with two-light window to the east covered by a metal slat awning. The entire facade is distinguished by the blond brick detailing, defining a bulkhead beneath street-level windows and horizontal bands above the "storefront" and one the upper facade. The existing facade clearly reflects a former remodeling, possible when the building ceased to function as a hotel and was converted to business use.

**History:** In 1888, the 2-story Farmers Hotel and attached livery occupied this site (eastern-most building). By 1893, the hotel had been renamed "Keystone Hotel." It was again the Farmers Hotel in 1899. In 1905, the business was called "Ellsworth Hotel." Between 1905 and 1911, an addition was added to the west end and it had been converted to the Rogers Hotel. According to a 1912 source, town founder and hotelier Arthur Larkin built the Rogers Hotel. Larkin died in 1912 (Kansas: a cyclopedia ...). By 1920, the building had become the Morgan Hotel and the livery part of the building, on the east end, had been converted to an agricultural implements warehouse. By 1928, the property had become the Golden Belt Hotel and the agricultural implements portion of the building was vacant. By 1943, the complex had been converted to commercial businesses. The center portion of the building is occupied by Surveys, Inc.

**Integrity**: The original building has a rich history, serving as a hotel for years. The existing facade dates to c.1940, combining the structures and reflecting the period in which it was constructed; it is a contributing member of the district.

**6. Co-op Filling Station** **Status-Contributing**
**103 N. Kansas Avenue (aka 123 W. N. Main Street)**
**Date of Construction: 1935**
**Legal Description:** Beg SW Cor Lot 9 then NE150', SE73.8', SW65', NW30.2', SW48', NW29', SW3', NW14.6' to POB, Block 32 Original City
**Current Function:** TRANSPORATION: Road-related
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER-Vernacular
**Documentation:** Photo #3

**Description:** This complex is comprised of three distinct bays, each one-story in height. The center bay is a native stone structure with a corner entry and two-light aluminum-framed windows on the south and west facades. The building has a hip roof and a mansard awning that wraps around the corner, both with wood shingles. Connected to the center structure on the northeast, set back from the south facade is a native stone structure with a single door and overhead garage bay on the south facade. This building has a simple stone cap on the parapet and a shallow sloping roof. Connected to the center bay off the northwest corner is a one-story brick building with two garage bays on the south facade and multi-light steel windows on the west. The walls of the brick building have been extended with a metal frame to create a shed roof that slopes to the north, capping an addition on the rear of the brick building. The addition had a concrete foundation and metal siding. The building is recessed from the south and west with gasoline pumps located on the SW corner of the lot. A free-standing metal canopy covers the pumps.

**History:** This building is the Co-op filling station. In 1888, a wagon shop and lumber yard occupied this site. By 1893, the lumber yard was no longer located here - but the wagon shop remained. In 1899, there were five small buildings on lots 11, 12, and 13 - these included a one-story dwelling at the back of lot 13, a one-story storage building in the middle of

lot 13, a vacant commercial building at the front of lot 13, and two small buildings on lots 11 and 12. The small building at the front of lots 11 and 12 was a carpenter's shop. By 1903, all the buildings in lot 13, with the exception of the dwelling, had been demolished and a cement block manufacturing plant had been built on lot 13. The carpenter's shop remained in lots 11 and 12. By 1911, after the Rogers Hotel had expanded west, the carpenter's shop had been demolished. By 1920, only the dwelling on lot 13 remained. It had been expanded between 1911 and 1920 using concrete blocks!! Another dwelling was added between 1920 and 1928 at the front of lot 12. The filling station, still extant, was developed between 1928 and 1943. In 1935, the Farmers Union Oil Company was listed at this address. The Ellsworth County Farmers Cooperative was founded in 1914. The service station has served as the Coop Oil Company and Service Station since the 1930s.

**Integrity**: Although modified with at least two additions, the original stone structure is evident and with the exception of the roof, portrays the original building form and design. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**7. Garage** **Status: Contributing**
**116 W. 1st Street**
**Date of Construction:** ca 1930s
**Legal Description:** Lots 14 and 15, Block 32, Original Town
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER

**Description:** The building is a one-story clay tile building with a brick facade fronting the alley on the south. There are two overhead garage doors on the south facade and no other openings. It is the only structure on the site.

**History:** This hollow clay tile and brick garage was built between 1928 and 1943. It appears to have been associated with another tile building formerly located to its north at 116 W. First Street. Like the garage, the demolished building was built between 1928 and 1943.

**Integrity:** Although the building that this garage was historically associated with has been removed, the garage is representative of the period in which it was constructed. It is a contributing member of the district.

***Vacant Lot at 116 N. Douglas Avenue - South of 118 N. Douglas Avenue***
The building locals came to call the "Old Theater Building" (no longer extant) was built on this lot in 1877. By the time of its construction, the devastating fires of 1869, 1875 and 1877 had destroyed many frame commercial buildings. In response, Ellsworth developers began to construct commercial buildings with fire-proof materials such as brick and stone. According to one account, this building was the first 2-story stone building erected on the west side of Douglas Avenue ("Old 'Theatre Building' Knew Colorful History, Ellsworth Reporter, 22 January 1970 – an 1883 account credits the building at 202 N. Douglas as being the first permanent building on the west side of N. Douglas). In 1888, the building housed a clothing store on the first level and offices on the second floor. In 1893, there was a saloon on the first floor and dwelling upstairs. In 1899, there was a dry goods, boots, shoes and clothing store on the first floor and dwelling on the second floor. It was a restaurant in 1905 and 1911. By 1920, the building had been expanded to the back of the alley and the main store was a harness shop. In 1928, the enlarged space was used for vulcanizing, a process whereby rubber tires were hardened. According to a 1969 source, a theatre opened during the 1920s and closed in 1938. The 1943 Sanborn Map still listed the building as a theater. The owners announced plans for demolishing the building in December 1969 (Ellsworth Reporter, 18 December 1969). It was demolished in January 1970. The site is now used for parking.

**8. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**118 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1880**
**Legal Description:** S24' & N1' Lot 25, Block 32, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #2-3, 13 & 16-17; Photo #1

**Description:** This two-story stone building has a brick facade and is an excellent example of the Italianate style with its arched upper windows with stone keystones. The building retains 2/2 double-hung wood windows on the upper facade with arched brick lintels accented by stone keystones and stone sills. Brick corbelling defines the parapet and remnants of the former stone building adjacent on the south are in place at the south edge of the front facade. The storefront is an aluminum-framed contemporary replacement with brick veneer bulkheads. Apparently designed for two businesses, the storefront angles back to a recessed central entry with two single doors. The building is now occupied by a single business, a restaurant. A flat metal canopy extends above the storefront; corrugated metal covers the transom, and a projecting sign extends from the upper facade above the transom. There is a one-story addition on the rear that has metal siding.

**History:** This two-story Italianate building was a furniture store in 1886 and a billiard hall in 1888. In 1893 it was a produce and poultry market with a dwelling on the second floor. By 1899, the store had been converted to sell second-hand goods. It was a barber shop in 1905, 1911 and 1920. Between 1920 and 1928, a small one-story addition was added to the back of the building. Although no construction date for this building has been documented, it was likely constructed in the late 1870s or early 1880s, soon after the construction of the building formerly located to its south, which is believed to be the first masonry building on this side of the street. The building was a cafe by 1938, later served as Charlotte's Cafe and is now occupied by Paden's Place, a local restaurant/cafe.

**Integrity**: Although the storefront is a modern replacement, likely dating to the 1950s or 1960s, the upper facade is in near-original condition. This is one of the few remaining examples of Italianate buildings in downtown Ellsworth and an excellent example of the early permanent commercial structures on Douglas Avenue.

**9. Billiards Hall** **Status-Contributing**
**120 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1910**
**Legal Description:** Lot 23 & N1' Lot 24, Block 32, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #13, 13 & 16-17; Photo #1

**Description:** This one-story red brick building is distinguished by its simple upper facade and brick corbelling at the parapet. Two existing round cast-iron columns divide the storefront into three bays although the storefront itself is a contemporary replacement with aluminum-framed display windows and contemporary brick bulkhead. The storefront angles back to a recessed central entry. A second door (into the bar) is located in the north angled wall of the storefront. A flat metal canopy extends between the storefront and transom. The transom is covered with plywood panels and a sign projects from the upper facade.

**History:** There was a narrow one-story notions shop on this lot in 1888. In 1893, it was a cigar shop. It was a grocery in 1899, vacant in 1905. Between 1905 and 1911, owners replaced the original building with a one-story billiards hall. A billiards hall was still at this location in 1920. The remaining historic features, including cast-iron storefront columns, appear to date to the construction of the billiards hall between 1905 and 1911. The building is now occupied by Paden's Place Bar, operated by the same owners as the restaurant located to the south.

**Integrity**: Although the storefront is a contemporary replacement, it maintains the traditional components and proportions of a historic commercial building. The upper facade is in original condition and the storefront retains its cast-iron columns. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**10. Meat Market** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**122 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1900**
**Legal Description:** Lot 22, Block 32, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #2-3 & 13; Photo #1

**Description:** The exposed brick parapet appears to match the adjacent building to the south. This one-story building has a tan brick facade that is primarily obscured by a wood shake mansard awning that spans from the storefront to near the top of the building, exposing only brick corbelling at the top of the parapet. The facade is framed by projecting, angled piers, covered with wood sheathing. It is unclear whether these piers are part of the historic facade. The storefront is aluminum-framed with wood sheathing. The configuration angles back to a recessed central entry. The one-story building is stone at the rear. The building has a basement with former openings on the front (east) wall.

**History:** There were two one-story storefronts, an ice cream shop and meat market, on this lot in 1888. By 1893, a sausage factory had been added at the back of the lot and the two storefronts served as meat and grain markets. The south storefront was still a meat market in 1899; however the grain market had become a harness shop. By 1905, the two-storefront building had been demolished a new 1-story meat market building constructed. The grocery and sausage factory remained in 1911. By 1920, however, the sausage factory had been demolished and the main building was serving as a grocery warehouse. The site maintained its 1920 configuration until at least 1943. Although the current building has been substantially altered over time, the corbelled parapet indicates an early twentieth-century construction. The building is now occupied by Oxhide Gift Shop.

**Integrity**: The existing wood awning and sheathing obscures the c.1900 brick facade. Given the lack of historic integrity, the building is a non-contributing member of the district. If the awning and sheathing were removed and the historic facade was intact, the status could possibly be reversed.

**11. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**124 N. Douglas Avenue***
**Date of Construction: pre-1888**
**Legal Description:** Lot 21 & E5' Lot 20, Block 32, Original City **Included in Legal Description of 126 N. Douglas*
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER
**Documentation:** Figure #3-4 & 13; Photo #1

**Description:** The existing configuration of the recessed facade dates to the expansion of the bank into this building c.1970s-1980s. Historically, the building maintained a traditional facade and storefront flush with adjacent buildings. Currently, the facade is blond brick with a stone foundation to match the adjacent bank to the north. Setback from the sidewalk, the void serves as a small landscaped space with a tree, bench, and limestone business sign. Building is stone on the rear.

**History:** This was a vacant one-story building in 1888. There was a tin shop and hardware store in 1893 and 1899. By 1905, the front storefront was a confectionery and the back of the building had an ice cream plant. In 1911, there was a restaurant on the lot. In 1920, it was a general store. In the 1950s and 60s, the building was occupied as a pool hall. It was later purchased by the owners of the bank building, adjacent on the north. The new owners expanded into the building, remodeling the front of the building resulting in the current configuration. The space is now occupied by a law office and title company (who occupies the former bank to the north).

**Integrity**: The current configuration, with the facade setback from the street, dates to the expansion of the bank building. Although compatible as an expansion of the corner bank building, it does not reflect the building's historic configuration. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**12. Citizens State Bank** **Status-Contributing**
**126 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1912**
**Legal Description:** Lot 21 & E5' Lot 20, Block 32, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival
Temple Front
**Documentation:** Figure #3-4 & 12-13; Photo #1

**Description:** Built as a bank in 1912, the building portrays the Classical Revival style that was common among financial institutions constructed during that time. The building maintains the basic design with massive round Doric columns framing each bay on the front (east) facade. The columns have large square bases and terminate at an entablature beneath a simple cornice. A parapet extends above the cornice with a central pediment on the front facade. The front facade is comprised of three bays, a recessed central entry with an ornate metal canopy flanked by a single window opening at each end bay. The original windows appear to have been two-light with a three-light transom (extant on the north facade). The front windows have been replaced and have a screen panel. The entire front facade is ashlar stone. The north facade is blond brick with stone detailing. The front facade extends around the corner to the first (east) bay on the north facade. The remainder of the facade is similarly detailed with the entablature, cornice and parapet matching the front. The bays are defined by square stone pilasters and a single window opening. The basement includes evidence of former openings on the east (front) and north walls indicating possible former areawell or underground sidewalk.

**History:** Citizens State Bank constructed this building in 1912. Before then, a wide range of businesses occupied the lot. There was a one-story clothing store on this lot in 1888. At the back of the lot there was a cigar factory, express office, and harness shop. In 1893, the large building housed the clothing store on the main floor, a barber shop in the basement, and a harness shop and jeweler at the back of the lot. The same businesses remained in 1899, with the exception of the addition of two boot and shoe stores and loss of the jewelry shop. In 1905, a cigar manufacturing plant had moved to the basement. A music store had opened in one of the three small storefronts at the back of the lot. In 1911, there was still a clothing store on the main floor, boot and shoe store, tailor and land office in the small storefronts at the back of the lot. Citizens State Bank built their new building on this lot, moving in December 1912 (Ellsworth Reporter, 12 December 1912). In 1920, there was an auto tire shop in the building at the back of the lot. Less than 2 years after Citizens dedicated its new building, Central Bank announced plans to build its own neoclassical building. After the federal bank

examiner ordered the closing of Central National Bank in 1931 (see #52-"Central National Bank" below), Citizens moved into the building Central built in 1915. After Citizens moved out, the building at 126 N. Douglas served a number of uses. In 1943, the building was the city's post office. In the 1970s, the Miner and Aylward Law Firm occupied the space. The building now serves Sherman, Hoffman and Hipp law firm and Smoky Hill Title Co. Citizens State Bank continues to occupy the Central National Bank building.

**Integrity:** Although the windows and doors are contemporary replacements, the building clearly portrays its original design. It is a contributing member of the district.

**13. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**110-112 W. 1st Street**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1912**
**Legal Description:** W46.5' of Lot 20, Block 32, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #4

**Description:** This one-story brick building is comprised of three bays framed by brick piers and defined by a brick panel on the upper facade. Originally built for three individual storefronts, the structure was occupied by a single business by 1912. The current storefront consists of an entrance in the center bay and display windows in the end bays. The door and display windows are aluminum-framed with vertical wood siding filling the original storefront openings. A mansard awning with wood shingles spans the three bays and a sign projects from the center of the upper facade. A single door is located at the east end of the north (front) facade and on the west side of the building.

**History:** This building shares a parcel with 126 N. Douglas. There were shops on this lot by 1888, including a cigar factory, express office, and harness shop. In 1893, there was a harness shop and jeweler. The same businesses remained in 1899, with the exception of the addition of two boot and shoe stores and loss of the jewelry shop. By 1905, a music store had opened in one of the three small storefronts. In 1911, there was a boot and shoe store, tailor and land office in the small storefronts. Between 1911 and 1920, perhaps coinciding with the new Citizens Bank construction in 1912, the three storefronts were converted to one auto tire shop. In 1928 and 1943, the building had a small store and an office. The building appears to date to the changes in the 1910s when it was converted to a single business; it is now occupied by a flower and gift shop.

**Integrity:** Although the masonry facade clearly portrays the original building design, the mansard awning and wood infill of the storefront bays alter the historic proportions of the facade. The building is a non-contributing member of the district. Removal of the awning and compatible storefront(s) could make the building contributing.

**14. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**120 W. 1st Street**
**Date of Construction: c.1915/Contemporary siding**
**Legal Description:** W74' of Lots 16-19, Block 32, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER

**Description:** The small, one-story brick building is clad with metal siding. The building has a small entry bay on the east facade. The brick parapet is still evident from the building's rear. The windows, which have horizontal muntins, appear to date to the 1950s. The siding was added at a later date. The building is free-standing on SE corner of Kansas Ave. and 1st Street, surrounded by parking lot on the south and east and included in the legal description of parking lot.

**History:** Owners built a one-story store on this location between 1911 and 1920. Until at least 1943, the building shared Lots 18 and 19 with three dwellings (all since demolished). The dwelling that was located immediately east of the store was built prior to 1888. The others were built between 1899 and 1905. Although the current building is covered with steel siding, its dimensions match those of the original brick store building.

**Integrity:** The non-historic materials obscure the historic brick building. It is unclear at this time if the changes are reversible. However, the changes render it non-contributing to the district

**15. Carpenter's Shop** **Status-Contributing**
**100 block N. Kansas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca.1910s**
**Legal Description:** E75' of Lot 25, Block 40, Original Town
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse/ VACANT
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style
**Documentation:** Photo #4

**Description:** This one-story building has a tile block front facade and brick pattern stamped-metal siding on the north and south sides. The original structure appears to have been extended to the west; the west bay has contemporary corrugated metal siding and roof. The building has a gable roof, obscured on the east by the tile facade with a plain parapet. The front (east) facade has a single central door flanked by a multi-light steel window on each side. A six-light steel window is extant in the center of the upper facade over the door (gable end). Multi-light steel windows are extant on the side facades as well. The building appears to be unused, or used for storage and is in deteriorated condition.

**History:** This building was built as a carpenter's shop between 1911 and 1920. Until the years between 1905 and 1911, this quarter of Block 40 was vacant. By 1943, the carpenter's shop had been moved to a new building to the north and this building was a blacksmith's shop. The building's appearance dates to its original 1910s construction.

**Integrity:** Although in deteriorating condition, the building clearly portrays its original design. It is a contributing member of the district.

**16. Auto Sales/Service Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**202-204 W. 1st Street**
**Date of Construction: ca.1910s**
**Legal Description:** E50' of Lots 20-23, Block 40, Original Town
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse/VACANT
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style
**Documentation:** Photo #4

**Description:** The building is a two-story brick structure with brick corbelling defining the top of the building. Possibly built for a non-retail function, the building does not have a traditional storefront. The north facade is comprised of four bays,

each with a single window opening on the upper facade. The lower facade has display windows on the two east bays and a single door with wood infill in the third bay. The west bay has a masonry opening with a pair of 2/2 double-hung wood windows extant. The upper windows on the north facade have stone lintels and sills. The east facade is asymmetrical with a single upper window on the north end of the facade. The first floor has six masonry openings including two single doors on the north end and a window opening with a pair of replacement windows on the north half, and an overhead garage door flanked by two former window openings on the south half. The window and door openings on the east facade have arched brick lintels unlike the flat stone lintels on the north facade. All upper windows openings are infilled with wood. Ground floor openings include original wood windows, replacement windows, and former openings infilled with wood. A one-story brick bay on the south likely reflects a former addition.

**History:** The first building built on this corner was a one-story carpenter's shop, built between 1905 and 1911. By 1920, the current building was constructed. In 1920, the building housed an auto sales room, service station, and repair shop. By 1928, it was identified as a 25-car garage. The building was vacant by 1943, after garage structures had become obsolete. Its current use is unclear.

**Integrity:** Although the brick facade is intact, the replacement windows and doors, and the infilled openings obscure the historic character of the building. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**17. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**206 -208 W. 1st Street**
**Date of Construction: ca.1920s**
**Legal Description:** W100' of Lots 20-23, Block 40, Original Town
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER

**Description:** The existing structure is comprised of two formerly separate two-story brick buildings. Metal siding has been installed over the front (north) facade. There are two single-light contemporary windows on the west end of the north facade. Immediate east of the windows, blond brick veneer defines the entry bay (208 W. 1st) with a pair of contemporary doors. A flat metal awning spans the entry bay and a large sign projects from the upper facade.

**History**: As noted above, this quarter of the block was developed in the 1910s. The first building at 206 W. First Street was a concrete machine shop built between 1920 and 1928. The building opened to the garage, adjacent to the east. The current building encapsulated the 1920s building and occupies the lot originally occupied by 206 W. First Street, in addition to the lots to the west. The building currently houses multiple tenants including Alltel, Radio Shack, and Rolling Hills Electric Coop.

**Integrity:** The building(s) retains no historic integrity and is a non-contributing member of the district.

**18. Ellsworth County Courthouse** **Status-Contributing**
**210 N. Kansas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1951**
**Architect: Mann and Company; John Seitz**
**Legal Description:** Lots 1-8, Block 39 Original Town
**Current Function:** GOVERNMENT: Courthouse
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT
**Documentation:** Photo #5

**Description:** This two and three-story concrete building reflects the Modern Movement in architecture that embodied a rejection of the ornamentation of Victorian and Classical styles preceding it. The building utilized concrete and polished brown granite to create a smooth facade in which stepped forms, banding of materials, and fenestration articulated the facade. With the exception of a carved band inscribed 'Ellsworth County Court House' over the entry, the facade is void of any ornament. The main building is three stories in height with a curved center bay that defines the entrance. The entrance is comprised of three pairs of doors with full-height windows on the second floor; the first and second floors are framed by a simple granite surround giving the entrance a vertical orientation. The entrance is above grade, accessed by concrete stairs and resulting in interior stairs up to the first floor (above grade), or down to the basement (partially above grade). The end bays of the main building are defined by two vertical bands, each with a pair of single-light windows on each floor, separated vertically by a granite panel. The rear section of the building steps up for a fourth floor and two-story end bays frame the main building. The interior of the building has granite wainscoting and terrazzo floors and stairs, features which are extant.

**History:** This building is the third to serve as the Ellsworth County Courthouse. The first, a two-story building constructed 1873, was located on the northwest corner of E. North Main and Court Avenue south of the old jail. It was replaced with a 2- 1/2 story building on the corner of 2nd and Court Avenue between 1888 and 1893. After the 1890s courthouse was completed, the original courthouse building was demolished. The current courthouse was dedicated on May 12, 1951. It was designed by Mann and Company of Hutchinson, Kansas and local architect John Seitz (born ca. 1909/son of pioneer George Seitz) ("Ellsworth County Courthouse," Ellsworth County Historical Society Clippings). The building was constructed of concrete, polished brown granite, plate glass in steel and aluminum, polished marble, and terrazzo. The building was built at a cost of $303,988, using a mill levy to fund $168,810 of the cost – and a bond issue for the remainder. The building continues to serve as the courthouse.

**Integrity**: The courthouse is an excellent example of the Modern designs for which the Hutchinson firm of Mann and Co. is well-known. The building retains significant integrity and is a contributing member of the historic district.

**19. Law Enforcement Center** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**212 N. Kansas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1981**
**Legal Description:** Lots 9-13, Block 39, Original Town
**Current Function:** GOVERNMENT: Correctional Facility
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER

**Description:** The Law Enforcement Center is a contemporary building built to house the police department. The one-story building is modern construction, comprised of three sections. The center section is taller than the end bays and defined by a shed roof. Ribbed-concrete is the dominant material on the facade.

**History:** The Ellsworth County Law Enforcement Center was completed in 1981. Historically, dwellings occupied this part of the block. The county acquired the property in the 1940s and completed construction of the adjacent courthouse in 1951. At the time of its 1981 completion, the county jail facilities were moved to the Law Enforcement Center.

**Integrity**: The Law Enforcement Center is a contemporary building; it is a non-contributing member of the historic district.

**20. Kanopolis Bank Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**120 W. 2nd Street**
**Date of Construction: 1990/1995**
**Legal Description:** Lots 14, 15 & N18.1' of Lot 16, Block 15, Original City

**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER

**Description:** The bank is a one-story contemporary building with a shallow hip roof and dark brick veneer facades. The building is set-back from the street with a landscaped grass lawn. The entrance fronts 2nd Street on the north. A drive-through is located on the south, and a free-standing sign is located on the northwest corner of the site. 2004 Survey notes that building was remodeled in 1996.

**History:** Throughout Ellsworth's history, a lumber yard occupied this quarter of Block 33. In the 1880s and 1890s, Mike Gray operated the business. By 1905, it was Demuth and Shepard Lumber Yard. Demuth and Shepard operated the lumber yard until the years between 1911 and 1920. By 1920, the business was known as Lambert Lumber Company. Lambert's remained at this location until at least 1943. After that time, there was a donut shop on the lot. The donut shop was demolished in 1990 when Kanopolis State Bank built a new branch bank in 1990. In 1990, soon after the branch bank's construction, First Bank bought Kanopolis State Bank and acquired the Ellsworth building. First Bank expanded the building in 1995. The current appearance reflects the 1995 changes (http://firstbankkansas.com/aboutus/history.html).

**Integrity:** The bank is a contemporary building; it is a non-contributing member of the district.

**21. Southwestern Bell Building** **Status-~~Non-Contributing~~**
Contributing
1-2-09
**211 N. Kansas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1959-60**
**Legal Description:** Lots 17-19 & S6.5' of Lot 16, Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** VACANT/NOT IN USE
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT

**Description:** This one-story building with brick facade has an L-shaped footprint with the building entrance located at the intersection of the 'L', defined by a flat metal canopy. The entrance is raise slightly above grade, accessed by two-steps with aluminum hand rails. The brick facade has a simple stone cap. A set of four aluminum-framed hopper windows are located on the front (east) facade, north of the entrance. A band of stone veneer panels are located above the windows.

**History:** Southwestern Bell acquired this property in 1959 for the purpose of constructing their new building. Before re-locating to this lot, the company had offices at 108 E. 1st Street and 126 W. 1st Street. The company was first listed at 211 N. Kansas Avenue in 1961.

**Integrity:** The building portrays its original design representing the Modern Movement. However, its 1960 date of construction does not meet the fifty-year age threshold. It is s a non-contributing member of the district.

**22. Ellsworth City Hall** **Status-Contributing**
**121 W. 1st Street**
**Date of Construction: 1938**
**Architect: Charles Shaver**
**Legal Description:** Lots 1-7 & Vac Alley, Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** GOVERNMENT: City Hall
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT
**Documentation:** Photo #6

**Description:** As was typical of most municipal buildings built during the Great Depression, Ellsworth's City Hall was construction through a federal New Deal program designed to create jobs. The building is a simple two-story brick structure with brick banding as the only ornament. The front (south) facade is comprised of three bays; the center entry bay projects slightly and has a simple stepped parapet that rises above the end wings. The center bay has three single doors on the ground floor and three windows, over the doors on the second floor. A flat metal canopy separates the two stories. The entrance is raised above grade and accessed by concrete steps. The end bays have two pairs of windows per floor. The existing windows are 6/6 replacements. A large auditorium is located north of the front/main building and has a truncated hip roof. A fly loft rises above the auditorium roof on the south end and a one-story bay on the west facade originally housed the police and fire departments.

**History:** The Ellsworth City Hall was built in 1938 with $26,636 in federal funds from the New Deal and $35,000 in municipal bonds. 45 men were employed in the construction - 35 of them local. Mrs. Clara Williford was mayor. The building, designed by Charles Shaver, was dedicated on June 5, 1938. The original city hall, built 1888, was located on the same site at 211-213 N. Kansas Avenue, facing Kansas Ave. The construction of city hall required the demolition of a filling station, auto repair and tractor shop located south and east of the original city hall.

**Integrity:** The building retains a significant degree of integrity and clearly portrays the New Deal Era in which it was constructed. It is a contributing member of the district.

**23. Billiard Hall/Barber Shop – Wellington Block** **Status-Contributing**
**107-111 W. 1st Street**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1905**
**Legal Description:** Beg 28.8'SELY of SW COR Lot 1, Block 33 Original City, then NELY 48.1', SELY17', SWLY21.9', SELY14.9', SELY27.7', NWLY 32' to POB
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #7

**Description:** This two-story red brick building is characterized by its corbelled brick parapet and arched lintels on the upper windows. The building fronts 1st Street on the south. The front facade is comprised of four bays, each with a pair of windows on the upper facade. The windows have been downsized with wood infill on the west half of the upper facade; double-hung windows with storms are extant on the east half. Metal siding covers the transom area. The storefront is framed by brick piers. The west storefront is wood with a recessed central entry. The east storefront is a contemporary aluminum-framed replacement with a blond brick bulkhead. A single door on the east end of the ground floor provides access to the upper floor. An ornamental cast-iron fire escape is extant on the rear (west) facade.

**History:** This building shares a parcel with 202 N. Douglas, the old Central National Bank (but maintains a separate legal description). The 1888 and 1893 Sanborn maps indicate a stone foundation on this site. Perhaps an earlier building was destroyed by one of the many fires that wreaked havoc on downtown Ellsworth during the 1870s and 1880s. The lot was vacant until the years between 1899 and 1905 when E.W. Wellington developed it and adjacent lots as part of his Wellington Block (see #27-Masonic Building for more information on the Wellington Block). In 1905 and 1911, there was a barber shop and billiards hall in the building. By 1920, the westernmost building housed the post office; the center building was a jewelry shop, and the easternmost building was a barber shop. The building is now occupied by a real estate and an insurance office.

**Integrity:** Although the building has experienced obvious contemporary alterations including downsized upper windows on the west and a replacement storefront on the east, the masonry facade retains a fair degree of integrity. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**24. Central National Bank (old)** **Status-~~Non-Contributing~~** Contributing 7-1-09
**202 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1886/c.1905/c,1970s storefront**
**Legal Description:** E69.9' Lot 1 & S2.64' of E69.9' Lot 2, Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** VACANT/WORK IN PROGRESS
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
Two-Part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #2, 5-6 &12; Photo #7 & 28

**Description:** This corner, two-story brick building was built by the Central National Bank in 1886 (the bank occupying the corner storefront location and a drug store occupying the north storefront). The building was reconfigured and expanded to the west (#23-107-111 W. 1st Street-above) by Wellington c.1905. The upper windows on the south facade match those on the building to the west with arched brick lintels and stone sills. The front of the building was more finely detailed by stone swags at the arched brick lintels and an ornate pressed metal cornice in place of the corbelled brick cornice on the south facade. The metal cornice with brackets features a pediment over the south half of the front facade, where the bank was originally located. The front facade is divided into two bays, each featuring a pair of windows on the upper facade. All of the upper windows have been replaced; most have been down-sized with wood or metal panels. The front facade has been occupied by a single business, the existing storefront dating to a 1960s-1970s remodeling in which a metal grill was installed between the upper windows and storefront, over the transom, and a new storefront with opaque metal panels installed. A single door on the north end of the east facade provides access to the upper floor. The north facade has also experienced alterations. A storefront bay on the west end has been infilled with brick, with only a single door opening. At some point in its early history, the ground floor of the building was lowered to street level. Former openings on the south facade have been infilled; only the arched brick lintels are extant. This building, like all of the structures in the Wellington Block, has a basement that was designed and used as a separate business space, linked to adjacent basements in the block by a common, underground tunnel or sidewalk. Historic photos illustrate an exterior stairwell that provided basement access, and grates/wells in the sidewalk allowing light into the lower level spaces. The former openings (now infilled) are evident on the front (east facade) of the basement.

**History:** According to an 1883 source, this lot housed the first two-story stone building on the west side of Douglas Avenue in 1877 when Tom May "erected a two-story stone building on the northwest corner of Douglas Avenue and First Street" (Cutler). The Central National Bank constructed the current building in 1886. The bank was located on the southeast corner of a larger building that included a drugstore. The two areas were separated by a two-story fire wall, which wrapped around the bank part of the building. The bank sold the building to Arthur Larkin in early 1887, when it moved to the Insurance Building ("The Central National Bank, 1884-1915). By 1893, the drugstore portion of the building was occupied by a restaurant. Between 1893 and 1899, a jewelry store located in the bank part of the building. Between 1899 and 1905, the building was re-configured and enlarged as part of the Wellington Block development (see #27-Masonic Building below). The first floor housed an office on the south and music store on the north. The upper floor was opened up into one space. The bank building became part of the Wellington Block, which E.W. Wellington began to develop in 1897 by "building new structures on vacant lots and remodeling the existing ones" ("Wellington Pioneer Builder of Ellsworth," Ellsworth Reporter, 3 August 1967). In 1905, plans called for the construction of a barber shop and billiards hall to the rear of the lot. By 1920, the building that had formerly housed a billiards hall (111 W. 1st) was in use as a post office. The post office was located in this location at the back of the block until it moved to the southwest corner of 1st St and Douglas Avenue between 1920 and 1928 (Sanborn). Later expansions are evident on the building's side elevation. The building has most recently been occupied by a furniture store. The basement of this building includes evidence of

former openings to an underground walkway. Historic photos illustrate former stairwells and sidewalk grates. The upper floor was formerly converted to apartments. The building was recently purchased by a local dentist and is now vacant pending rehabilitation for offices, likely as a rehab tax credit project.

**Integrity:** Although the masonry facade and cornice are intact, the downsized windows and contemporary storefront have drastically altered the historic components and proportions of the building. In its current form, it is a non-contributing member of the district. The former alterations could be reversed; with compatible improvements, the status could potentially be changed to contributing.

**25. Wellington Block** **Status-Contributing**
**204 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1886**
**Legal Description:** E84.9' of N21.9' Lot 2, Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** RECREATION/CULTURE: Museum
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #5-6 & 12; Photo #7, 25 & 28

**Description:** This two-story brick building was built to match the adjacent corner bank in 1886. The upper facade matches the bank building with the exception of the upper window openings; there are three single windows on the upper facade of this building as compared to the two sets of paired windows on the bank facade. The windows do have the same stone swag over arched brick lintels and an integral common stone sill that serves as a lower cornice, dividing the upper facade from the storefront. The upper windows have been replaced with a single-light tinted glass contemporary unit. A distinguishing feature of the facade is the ornamental pressed-metal cornice with a central pediment, also matching the bank building to the south. The storefront is a dark metal-framed contemporary replacement but it does maintain the basic components and proportions of a traditional storefront. The bulkhead and transom are vertical wood siding. The building features a basement, formerly connected to adjacent spaces by a common underground sidewalk. The basement is now accessible only from the building to the north. However, former openings are visible in the east (front) wall of the basement (Most of the basement spaces featured both a door, and windows fronting the underground sidewalk). The upper floors of the buildings in the Wellington Block were connected, as well as the basement level spaces. The historic configuration of offices is extant on the upper floor of this building.

**History:** This building was built in 1886 to match the adjacent Central National Bank (see #24 above). In 1888, the building housed a boot/shoe store and barber shop (basement). In 1893, the store was a dry goods store, boot and shoe store and a barber shop in the basement. The first floor was vacant in 1899. By 1905, the first two lots in Block 33 had been completely developed by E.W. Wellington (see "Masonic Building" below). 204 N. Douglas was a book store with club rooms on the second floor in 1905, 1911, and 1920. The building is now occupied by the Ellsworth Arts Council and is utilized as an art gallery.

**Integrity:** Although the upper windows and storefront are contemporary replacements, they maintain the original masonry openings and proportions of a traditional facade. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**26. Wellington Office/ Wellington Block** **Status-Contributing**
**206 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1897**
**Legal Description:** N1' Lot 2 &S23' Lot 3, Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** HEALTH CARE: Medical Business

**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #5-6 & 12; Photo #7, 26 & 28

**Description:** Like many of the buildings that comprise the Wellington Block, this two-story red brick building is characterized by intricate brick corbelling on the parapet. The upper facade is divided into two bays by a central pilaster. There is a pair of windows in each bay with arched brick lintels and a continuous stone sill that forms a horizontal band across the facade and aligns with a band on adjacent buildings. The upper windows have been downsized and smaller replacement windows installed. The existing storefront is a contemporary replacement, likely dating to the 1960s or 1970s. The aluminum-framed storefront has opaque panels on the bulkhead. A recessed door on the north end of the facade provides access to the 2nd floor. A canvas awning is in place over the transom area. This is one of the buildings that provide clear evidence of the former underground network. The north and east facades of the basement have former openings, now infilled, that provided access to adjacent basement on the north and a common hallway on the east. A large boiler located in the rear of this basement actually served all buildings in the Wellington block. The original upper floor offices were formerly converted to an apartment. The building steps down to one story at the rear.

**History:** This building was a one-story meat market in 1888 and tailor shop in 1893. By 1899, E.W. Wellington had developed the site as a two-story building for his own insurance and real estate office and additional offices on the second floor. Royal Barber Shop was located in the basement. The building remained an office until the years between 1911 and 1920, when a Variety shop moved into the space. By 1928, it was a drug store. Although the building does not appear to have had a direct historic connection with early druggist George Seitz (who built a building at 125 N. Douglas in 1905 and retired in 1913), it has been home to Seitz Drug Store since the early 1920s. An apartment is located on the 2nd floor.

**Integrity:** Despite the replacement windows and storefront, the building retains significant integrity and clearly portrays its turn of the century character. It is a contributing member of the historic district.

**27. Masonic Building – Wellington Block** **Status-Contributing**
**208-210 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1898**
**Legal Description:** Lots 4 & 5 & N1.5' Lot 3 & S4.2' Lot 6, Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque
**Documentation:** Figure #5-7 & 12; Photo #7-8. 23-24, 26 & 28

**Description:** The Masonic Hall was one of the buildings developed by E.W. Wellington. This two-story brick building is the largest building in the Wellington Block, 65' wide and taller than the adjacent two-story buildings. However, like other buildings in the Wellington block, the building is distinguished by ornate brick corbelling that forms a cornice at the top of the parapet and an intricate diamond pattern on the frieze below the cornice. The upper facade is divided into five bays by brick pilasters. The bays feature 1/1 double-hung windows with arched brick lintels and multi-light arched transoms. Bays 1, 3 & 5 feature a pair of windows while bays 2 & 4 have a single, narrow window. Like adjacent buildings, a continuous stone band serves as the sill of upper windows. A stone band also spans the upper facade, dividing the arched transoms from the windows. A brick panel with corbelled bands is located between the stone lintel and transom. The storefront is an aluminum replacement, likely dating to the 1970s. The bulkhead is ribbed metal, a flat metal canopy is in place, and the transom is covered. The basement of this building provides the best evidence of the former underground network of commercial spaces. A paved corridor is extant along the rear of the basement space with doors and windows into three basement rooms. Openings between the rooms, formerly infilled, have been re-opened. The south room was formerly a bowling alley; the pit is extant in the wood floor and chalk boards with former bowling scores

are extant on the walls. Floors and some walls of the basement are finished, 2/2 double-hung wood windows face the common corridor, providing clear evidence of former use of these underground spaces. The rear of the building is one-story, the south half is brick, the north is block.

**History:** Wellington: The building at 208-210 N. Douglas was the first of the buildings E.W. Wellington developed as part of his Wellington Block. Wellington came to Ellsworth County in 1877 and to Ellsworth city in 1887 with his wife Clara and son Waldo. Wellington made significant contributions to the city, including the development of many downtown commercial properties and the city's first sewer system, which he later sold to the City of Ellsworth. When Wellington moved to Ellsworth, the lots at 208-210 N. Douglas were occupied by the Jackson Opera House, which was completed in 1882 (Ellsworth Reporter, 7 September 1882). Wellington began his commercial empire with the construction of the Insurance Building at 115 N. Douglas Avenue in 1887. In 1897, E.W. Wellington began buying and developing property on the west side of the 200 Block of Douglas. ("E.W. Wellington, Kansas: a cyclopedia...)

Masonic Hall: The building at 208-210 came to be called the Masonic Building after the masons dedicated their lodge on the second floor on December 1, 1898 (Ellsworth Reporter, 1 December 1898). A state grand master Mason, Wellington donated the space to the fraternal organization which was forced to abandon a previous meeting hall during the depression of the early 1890s.

Odd Fellows Hall: In 1910, the Odd Fellows announced plans to build a meeting hall over the first story of the Wellington Block (they had formerly occupied space in the Masonic hall/opera house that later became the Golden Belt Theater). They dedicated the space on January 13, 1911 (Ellsworth Reporter, 5 May 1910).

Storefronts: The first floor of the building was originally divided into two storefronts. In 1899, the smaller north storefront was vacant and the south storefront was occupied by a boot, shoe, dry goods and clothing store. By 1905, a grocery occupied the smaller north storefront. The first floor served this use until at least 1920. The south storefront (the part later occupied by Duckwalls), housed the Beatty and Santry Clothing Store. The store was organized in February 1900 and opened March 13, 1900. Proprietor Tom Beatty came to Ellsworth from Ireland. After 15 years of working at Larkin's store, he partnered with Dan Lantry [sic]. Beatty and Santry closed in 1931 ("Beatty and Santry Broom ..." Ellsworth Reporter, 5 July 1979). The Safeway Store was also located in the Wellington Block for 30 years beginning in 1929 (Ellsworth Reporter, 31 May 1929). The building was owned by Wellington family until 1950 when Wellington's granddaughters Dorothy Wellington Long and Marjorie Wellington Benton sold it to A.L. Duckwall Stores, which opened a store in the south storefront. In 1995, owners converted the Masonic building to an Antique Store. The current owners, the Roehrmans, remodeled the building in 2003, adding a coffee shop, etc. (Ellsworth Reporter, 21 September 1995).

**Integrity:** The upper facade of this building is in near-original condition. Although the storefront is a contemporary replacement, it retains the components and proportions of a traditional storefront. The basement provides clear evidence of the former underground network of commercial spaces. The building is a contributing member of the historic district.

**28. Wellington Block** **Status-Contributing**
**212-214 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1901**
**Legal Description:** Lot 7 & N20.4' Lot 6 & S5.6' Lot 8, Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #6-7; Photo #7-8 & 26-28

**Description:** Like the other brick structures that comprise the Wellington Block, this building is distinguished by intricate brick corbelling on the upper facade. The corbelling includes a simple cornice that caps the parapet, a band of recessed square panels beneath the cornice and stepped corbelling between brick pilasters. The pilasters terminate in the middle of the upper facade yet frame the two bays on the upper facade. Each bay has two pairs of upper windows. Existing windows are 1/1 double-hung with an infilled panel above. Original iron lintels with rosettes are extant on the upper windows and tile caps the parapet. The existing storefront is a contemporary replacement with aluminum-framed display windows and a blond brick bulkhead. The storefront entry is recessed on the south end of the front facade. A flat metal canopy spans the entire facade and the transom area is covered. The building steps down to one story at the rear; it is stone and has a gable roof.

**History:** In 1888, these lots were occupied by a smattering of free-standing buildings, including a 2-story lunch, a 1-story jewelry store, and a 1-story millinery. Between 1893 and 1899, these buildings were demolished in preparation for redevelopment as part of the Wellington Block. E.W. Wellington built a two-story drug store for P.D. May and Co. at this location in 1901 (Ellsworth Reporter, 4 April 1901). A dance hall, constructed at the same time, occupied the rear of the building. By 1911, a furniture store occupied the front of the commercial building and the dance hall had been converted to a dry goods, boots and shoe store. The store remained in 1920. The building later housed Townsend's Variety Store. An early dentist office on the upper floor was later converted to apartments. The building now houses a hardware store.

**Integrity:** Even with the replacement upper windows and storefront, this building retains significant integrity. The brick facade, characteristic of the buildings that comprise the Wellington Block, is intact. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**29. Grocery/Ellsworth State Bank** **Status-Contributing**
**216-218 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca.1908**
**Legal Description:** Beg 18.9' SELY of NE COR Lot 8 then NWLY 130.8', NELY49.7', SELY130.8', Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store AND Business
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT: Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #6-7; Photo #7-8 & 28

**Description:** Unlike its red brick neighbors to the south, this two-story brick building was built after the turn of the century, and is distinguished by a tan brick facade. The facade is characterized by a simple stepped parapet and subtle brick corbelling that resembles a cornice band. There are also simple brick surrounds framing the upper windows. A large inset cross-shaped panel is recessed between the windows, in the center of the upper facade. This panel is now stuccoed with a painted insignia (matching historic photos). The existing windows are downsized with two small 1/1 double-hung windows in each opening. The original windows were likely paired with transoms above given the size of the openings. The storefront is a contemporary replacement that closely matches the upper facade. The aluminum-framed display windows have a tan brick bulkhead. The center bay is recessed for an entry with a free-standing column in the center of the entry bay. The storefront has an iron lintel with rosettes. A flat metal canopy projects between the storefront and transom; the transom is covered with metal siding. A sign projects from the upper facade, over the canopy. This building does have a basement, but this building, as well as those to the north, was apparently not connected to the underground sidewalk. The later date of construction of these buildings supports the notion that those buildings to the south, designed and built by Wellington were primarily those that were connected on both the basement and upper levels.

**History:** In 1888, 1893 and 1899 there were two free-standing one-story buildings on these lots. In 1905, the southernmost free-standing building, a tailor's shop, was still extant. The northern building appears to have been expanded to serve a bakery. Between 1905 and 1911, the buildings were demolished and replaced with two-story grocery store. By 1920, the first level of the building had been divided into two sections, the northernmost occupied by Ellsworth State Bank and the southernmost occupied by a grocery. The Ellsworth State Bank was chartered in July 1916 and opened its offices in the Wellington Block in June 1917. The bank closed its doors in November 1926 following closings of the Kanopolis State Bank, Farmers State Bank of Wilson, and Geneseo State Bank (Ellsworth Reporter, 11 November 1926). The building formerly housed Nemechek Grocery. The American Legion was located on the upper floor, complete with a wood dance floor. The space was later converted to apartments. The building continues to serve two businesses on the ground floor; the south half is occupied by the True Value Hardware store (located at 212-214 and expanded into this space) and the north half is occupied by H & R Block.

**Integrity:** Although the upper windows and storefront are replacements, the original masonry openings are retained as are the components and proportions of a traditional storefront. The building clearly portrays its Progressive Era, Commercial Style. It is a contributing member of the district.

**30. Dryden Hardware** **Status-Contributing**
**220-222 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca.1900**
**Legal Description:** Lot 11 & N18.1' Lot 10, Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Communications Facility
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque
**Documentation:** Figure #6-7; Photo #8

**Description:** Built around the turn of the century, this two-story tan brick building is a good example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style distinguished by the corbelled arches above the windows in the center of the upper facade. The facade is divided into three bays by brick pilasters that extend from the parapet to the middle of the upper windows. The parapet was originally stepped at the center bay (formerly removed). The windows in the end bays have stone surrounds that terminate at a horizontal band that spans between the pilasters. A stone cornice with scroll brackets also defines the end bays. The center bay is comprised of two windows topped by stone bands that serve as a base for the corbelled arches. An ornate carved design is on the inset panel of the arches. The existing upper windows are replacements with five horizontal lights, the lower of which is an operable awning panel. The cast-iron storefront lintel and columns are extant although the columns are sheathed in aluminum below the canopy. The storefront is a contemporary replacement, likely dating to the 1970s. The storefront is aluminum-framed with brick bulkheads and recessed center bay. A flat metal canopy extends between the storefront and transom. The transom is covered with corrugated metal. The buildings steps to one-story at the rear; it is stone on the north facade, brick on the west, and block on the south.

**History:** These lots were occupied by two free-standing one-story buildings, a hardware store and bakery, in 1888 and 1893. By 1899, the bakery was vacant. Between 1899 and 1905, these buildings had been demolished and replaced with a 2-story hardware store, which occupied the space until at least 1920. This building was home to Dryden Hardware, owned by Alva J. (Pete) Dryden, father of A. J. Dryden who founded Dryden Pottery after World War II. Pete Dryden was in the hardware business for 56 years. (Dryden Pottery of Kansas and Arkansas, 11) His hardware store was first listed at this address between 1925 and 1935. The business was later renamed Dryden Ace Hardware; the hardware store closed 1966-67. The Ellsworth County Independent Reporter newspaper now occupies this building.

**Integrity:** Although the upper windows and storefront are replacements and the center raised parapet has been removed, the building retains significant integrity and clearly portrays its Romanesque style. It is a contributing member of the district.

**31. Printing Office** **Status-Contributing**
**224 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1900/ca. 1940s**
**Legal Description:** Lot 12, Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #6-7; Photo #8

**Description:** The two-story building dates to the turn of the century however, the facade dates to a later period, likely ca.1940s. The facade is tan brick with blond brick subtle detailing that includes the parapet cap, a "cornice" band, window surrounds, and a panel over the storefront, in the traditional transom area. The upper window openings are almost square suggesting original paired windows; the openings are now infilled with wood. The absence of a transom supports the later facade date. Framed by brick piers, the storefront is a contemporary replacement; it is aluminum-framed with synthetic brick veneer on the bulkhead. A flat metal canopy extends above the storefront. The storefront entrance and a separate entry to the upper floor are recessed on the south end of the storefront. There is a one-story shed addition on the rear with metal siding.

**History:** There was a two-story meat market on this lot in 1888 and 1893. By 1899, the building had been demolished. In 1905, another two-story building, a billiards room, was on the lot. By 1911, this was a printing office. It continued with this use until at least 1943.

**Integrity:** Although lacking the intricate detailing of earlier brick buildings on the block, this building is a good example of a later, brick facade with simple bi-color detailing. Despite the replacement storefront and infilled upper windows, the facade portrays the period in which it was constructed. It is a contributing member of the district.

**32. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**226 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1880**
**Legal Description:** Lot 13, Block 33, Original City
**Current Function:** HEALTH CARE: Medical Business
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
**Documentation:** Figure #6-7; Photo #8

**Description:** This two-story red brick building features a corbelled brick cornice and arched window openings. However, the arched openings have been bricked in and the center opening infilled with brick; the other openings on the north and east facade have replacement windows. A large mansard awnings spans from beneath the upper windows to the top of the storefront. A replacement storefront with tinted glass and dark brick bulkhead has been installed. The awning and raised bulkhead drastically change the proportions of the historic facade. A corner building, the north facade is also exposed to the street. As previously noted, the upper windows have been downsized. Additionally, one opening has been converted to a door and a fire escape and small deck installed. The ground level has infilled openings as well; it maintains a single opening at the west end of the north facade.

**History:** A two-story building occupied this lot in 1888. A grocery store was on the first floor - and dentist's office on the second. The dentist's office occupied the second floor in 1899. The first floor was then occupied by a general store. A jeweler was located in the building in 1905, 1911 and 1920. L.E. Shade operated the jewelry store front before 1922 until 1960 and lived in the apartment upstairs. The building is now occupied by a chiropractic clinic.

**Integrity:** The former alterations have drastically altered the historic character of this building. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**33. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**110 W. 2nd Street***
**Legal Description:** Lot 13, Block 33, Original City
(**Building is included in Legal Description of 226 N. Douglas Ave.*)
**Date of Construction: ca. 1890/ca. 1940**
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT
**Documentation:** Photo #8

**Description:** This one-story blond brick building may date to the late 1800s but the existing facade likely dates to ca. 1940. The design portrays a non-retail function with a single recessed door with flanking window on the east end of the north facade, and three individual windows on the west half of the facade. A small fixed canopy projects over the entry bay. The window opening, which extends around the corner into the recessed entry, is filled with glass block. The other windows are 2/2 horizontal pane double-hung windows with storms.

**History:** This building shares a parcel with 226 N. Douglas. A one-story building first appeared on this site between 1888 and 1893. It was a workroom associated with the adjacent grocery store, later a jewelry store. The building was later used as a dentist office and a chiropractor's office. It was recently converted to a wood shop.

**Integrity:** The building clearly portrays its historic character dating to the 1940s remodeling. It is a contributing member of the district.

**34. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**111 W. 2nd Street***
**Date of Construction: ca. 1925**
**Legal Description:** Lots 1 & 2, Block 34, Original City (**included in legal description of 302 N. Douglas Ave.*)
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #9

**Description:** This one-story hollow-tile building is free-standing at the southwest corner of the site. The building has a brick facade on the south; a wood fence extends along the southern border to the building at 107 W. 2nd Street, east of the site. The building is a small, square footprint with a single door and windows on both the west and south facades. The front (south) facade has a simple corbelled parapet with a tile cap. The windows and doors are contemporary replacements. The window openings have concrete lintels on the west and stone lintels and brick sills on the south.

**History:** This one-story building was constructed between 1920 and 1928. It is now occupied by Harms Real Estate.

**Integrity:** The building retains a significant degree of integrity, clearly reflecting its 1920s form. It is a contributing member of the district.

**35. Commercial Buildings** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**302 N. Douglas Avenue AND 107 W. 2nd Street**
**Date of Construction: ca. post-1943(Douglas) ca.1900 (2nd)**
**Legal Description:** Lots 1 & 2, Block 34, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business & Specialty Store AND DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #6; Photo #9

**Description:** This site is occupied by two connected buildings. The corner building is a one-story brick structure and the west/rear building is a two-story brick structure, the reverse of the historic configuration. Historically there was a two-story building on the corner with a one-story rear bay (ca.1890). By 1911, the west building was two stories and it was some point after 1943 that the corner structure was lowered to one-story. It is unclear if the original building was altered or if it was removed and a new one-story building built. The existing corner building is contemporary in style with an orange brick front facade that extends around the corner to the south. A former window opening on the east (front) facade has been infilled with concrete block and downsized for a pair of small 1/1 contemporary windows. The orange brick extends across the property line onto the front facade of the building at 304 N. Douglas as a surround for a single door that likely provides access to the upper level of 304. The entrance to the corner storefront space is on the south facade in an opening also downsized with block infill (below an iron storefront lintel). The west end of the south facade is a brick wall with two single doors. These doors appear to serve the business located on the ground floor of 107 W. 2nd, a hair salon. The ground floor of the two-story building at 107 W. 2nd Street appears to have been rebuilt of brick, likely when the corner building was modified. The building at 107 and the south facade of 302 are brick that have been painted white. The storefront of 107 is comprised of a single door with one window on the west and two on the east. The masonry openings are contemporary. The upper facade appears to reflect its historic configuration with four arched window openings and a corbelled brick parapet. The windows are contemporary replacements that do not fill the original arched opening above the window. The upper level is used as apartments. A fire escape is located on the rear (west) facade.

**History:** There was a two-story drug store with a one-story doctor's office to the rear on this corner in 1888 and 1893. The building had a canted entry. By 1899 the building was occupied by a candy kitchen and dwelling upstairs. In 1905, it was a jewelry store. By 1911, it was a confectionery again. The one-story portion at the rear of the building had been expanded to two stories by 1911, when it was occupied by an office. In 1920, the front part of the building was an office and the rear was a tailor's shop. In 1928 and 1943, both spaces were offices. At some point after 1943, this building was lowered to one story. The space is currently occupied by Brooke Insurance and Financial Services. The building at 107 W. 2nd Street shares a parcel with 302 N. Douglas Avenue, which was a drug store in 1888. In 1888 and 1893, this site housed a one-story doctor's office, possibly associated with the adjacent doctor's office. Between 1899 and 1905, the building was expanded to serve a two-story office building. The ground floor is currently occupied by a hair salon and there are apartments above.

**Integrity:** Comprised of two former structures, both buildings on this site have been modified to the extent that they retain little historic integrity. This is a non-contributing member of the historic district.

**36. Bakery Building** **Status-Contributing**
**304 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1910**
**Legal Description:** Lot 3, Block 34, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store; DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT: Commercial Style; Two-part Commercial Block

**Documentation:** Photo #9

**Description:** This two-story red brick building is distinguished by brick detailing on the upper facade. A projecting brick band, with inset panels framed by pilasters on the end, defines the top of the building. A projecting stretcher course connects to arched brick lintels at the upper windows and forms a horizontal line across the upper facade. The facade (upper and lower) is asymmetrical due to a single door on the south end of the ground level that likely provides access to the upper floor apartments. This door is surrounded by brick that matches the facade on the adjacent building to the south (302). The upper facade is comprised of two pairs of 1/1 double-hung wood windows; the pair on the south appear to be original but those on the north appear to have been replaced with an infill panel above. The storefront is offset to the north, the masonry opening retains an iron lintel and the original transom is extant although the glass has been painted. A flat metal canopy extends between the transom and storefront. The storefront is framed by brick piers. It is aluminum-framed with a brick bulkhead and recessed central entry. The upper floor is in use as apartments. The rear of the building steps down to one-story with a garage bay on the west (rear).

**History:** There was a vacant one-story building on this lot in 1888 and 1893. In 1899 and 1905, it was a small carpenter's shop. Between 1905 and 1911, a new bakery building had been built on this lot. The bakery was still at this location in 1928. In 1943, a bakery was located next door at 306 N. Douglas. This building was identified in the 2004 survey as 306 N. Douglas. The building is now occupied by a furniture store on the ground floor and apartments above. According to the 2004 survey, the building is owned by Bethpage Mission of the Great Plains; the organization may use a part of the building.

**Integrity:** Although the building has experienced some alteration at the ground level entry to the upper floor, the facade is in near original condition. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**37. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**306-308 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1880/ca. 1950**
**Legal Description:** Lot 4, Block 34, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business and Specialty Store; DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT
**Documentation:** Photo #9

**Description:** Although a two-story building on this site pre-dates 1888, the existing blond brick facade dates to the 1950s. The facade is a plain brick plane with two sets of window openings on the north and south halves of the upper facade. The storefront is aluminum-framed, likely dating to the same period. The south upper windows are two-light casements; the north windows are multi-light steel windows, supporting a 1950s date for the facade. A flat metal canopy extends above the storefront and there is no transom. The building maintains is historic configuration with two storefronts. Framed by brick walls, a central door apparently provides access to the upper floor apartments. The rear view confirms that the building is indeed historic, with original stone walls exposed above a one-story garage bay on the north half of the rear. A wood deck extends from the 2nd floor on the south half of the rear facade. Multi-light steel windows are extant on the rear stone facade. A free-standing wood carport is in place at the southwest corner of the site.

**History:** A two-story building was located on these lots by 1888. At that time, the southernmost storefront was occupied by a jewelry store with a hand printing shop upstairs and the northernmost storefront by a furniture store. In 1899, 1905, and 1911, a furniture store occupied the entire first floor. There was a lodge hall on the second floor in 1899. By 1920, the space was occupied by a printing shop (south) and grocery (north). In 1928, there was a cleaning and pressing shop

on the south end of the building. In 1943, this space was occupied by a bake shop. The current facade appears to date to the 1950s or 1960s. Building is now occupied by the Lobby Shop and Whitmer Financial Planning on the ground floor and apartments above. A portion of the building may be used by the Bethpage Mission; their activity center is listed at 308 N. Douglas in the phonebook.

**Integrity:** Although a precise date has not been confirmed, the existing blond brick facade and multi-light steel windows support a 1950s date for the existing facade. The building is significant as a representative of the 1950s remodeling; it is a contributing member of the district. The free-standing wood carport is a non-contributing structure.

**38. Citizens State Bank Drive-thru** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**310 N. Douglas Avenue** (formerly also 312)
**Date of Construction: 1970**
**Legal Description:** Lots 5&6 & SW15' Lot 7, Block 34, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER
**Documentation:** Photo #9-10

**Description:** This drive-through bank facility is a contemporary building with a small central brick enclosure supporting a cantilevered glass and metal canopy. The building is set back from the street with one-way drives on the north and south. A center island is landscaped with trees, a flagpole and business sign.

**History:** There was a one-story marble works shop at 310 N. Douglas in 1888, 1893, 1899, 1905 and 1911. Between 1911 and 1920, a new two-story building had been constructed. It was the place of business for an Auto Repair shop in 1920. In 1928 and 1943, it was a battery station. There was a free-standing one-story photo shop at 312 N. Douglas Ave. in 1888, 1893, and 1899. The building was expanded between 1899 and 1905. The photo shop was expanded again between 1905 and 1911.By 1920, there was an office and cobbler at this location. By 1928, the front of the store was at the plane of the sidewalk. Both of the historic structures (310 and 312 N. Douglas) were removed for, or prior to, construction of the bank. The site remains home to the drive-through branch of Citizens State Bank.

**Integrity:** Built ca.1970, the building has no historic associations; it is a non-contributing member of the district.

**39. First Methodist Church** **Status-Contributing**
**322-324 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1951**
**Legal Description:** Lots 8-13 & N9.6' Lot 7, Block 34, Original City
**Current Function:** RELIGION: Religious Facility
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT
**Documentation:** Figure #2 & 6; Photo #9-10

**Description:** The original church on this site dates to the 1880s however, the existing building was extensively remodeled or rebuilt in 1951 (1951 cornerstone). The facade is blond brick and Modern in style. The building is distinguished by it overall lack of ornament. The main building is a rectangular form with a gable roof and arched central entry with subtle brick corbelling. A square tower rises above the roof line at the southeast corner of the sanctuary. The tower has a gable roof and features vertical windows with multiple horizontal concrete bands. Simple one-story bays are located on the south and west sides of the sanctuary. The original building features blond brick with concrete detailing. New entry bays, constructed of orange brick, have been added on the north and south sides, with ramps, to make the building accessible.

**History:** The Ellsworth Methodist Episcopal Church was first organized in 1872. In 1876, the congregation purchased Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of Block 34 for the purpose of erecting a church. The original church was dedicated December 7, 1884. The church was remodeled and enlarged in 1909-1910. The current appearance dates to a 1951 remodel/reconstruction. ("Fiftieth Anniversary of Methodist Church," Ellsworth Messenger, 7 February 1935.

**Integrity:** The 1951 remodeling has gained significance in its own right and is an excellent example of a Modern building in downtown Ellsworth. The church is a contributing member of the district.

**40. Ellsworth Elementary School** **Status-Contributing**
**313 N. Douglas Avenue (aka 110 E. 3rd Street)**
**Date of Construction: 1952**
**Architect: Mann and Company**
**Legal Description:** All Block 27 and Vac Alley, Original City
**Current Function:** EDUCATION: School
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT
**Documentation:** Photo #11

**Description:** This one-story tan brick building is an excellent example of a school constructed in the Modern Movement. The original school was oriented east/west with the main entrance facing 3rd Street on the north. The building footprint was originally rectangular, comprised of two parts-the gymnasium/auditorium on the east and a rectangular classroom bay on the west. The entrance occurs at the connection of the two bays and is defined by a massive rectangular "tower" with a corbelled brick design. The auditorium has a shallow gable roof and glass block in the masonry window openings. The classroom bay also has a shallow gable roof and a band of horizontal windows on the north facade. The school has been expanded with a second classroom wing, extending south of the auditorium, forming an 'L' shaped footprint. The addition is of compatible design; it is blond brick with a shallow gable roof and sets of horizontal windows.

**History:** The Ellsworth Elementary School was constructed in 1952 from plans by Hutchinson architects Mann and Company, the firm that designed the Ellsworth County Courthouse, dedicated in 1951. The building was determined eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 2004 as part of a statewide schools study.

**Integrity:** Although the expansion nearly doubled the classroom space, the school clearly portrays its original design and retains significant integrity. It is an excellent example of the Modern Movement in architecture; the school is a contributing member of the historic district.

**41. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**102 E. 2nd Street**
**Date of Construction: 1920**
**Legal Description:** E65' Lot 14, Block 28, Original City
**Current Function:** SOCIAL: Civic
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT: Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block

**Description:** This one-story building with a red brick facade is characterized by geometric stone ornament and large window openings along the north facade. The building fronts E. 2nd Street, facing north. The front facade is comprised of six bays: five large window openings and a wider, entry bay on the west end of the facade. A canvas awning spans the entry bay. The window openings are infilled with an opaque panel, screened to simulate mullions.

**History:** This building was built to house a printing operation in 1920. From the 1890s until the construction of this building, there was a printing operation in the building to the west. The building is now owned by Bethphage Community Service, Inc., a residential and vocational training center for mentally disabled persons.

**Integrity:** Although the windows and doors are contemporary replacements, the brick facade is in near-original condition. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**42. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**233 N. Douglas Avenue** (formerly 225)
**Date of Construction: ca. 1897/ca. 1910**
**Legal Description:** W85' Lot 14, Block 28, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #7; Photo #16

**Description:** This one-story red brick building is an excellent example of a traditional Commercial Style building. The upper facade is characterized by simple brick corbelling and stone detailing. Brick piers frame the storefront. The storefront is a contemporary replacement but retains the components and proportions of a traditional commercial building. The storefront is aluminum-framed display windows with tile veneer on the bulkhead. The central entry is recessed and a six pane transom is extant with retractable awning hardware. The recessed entry features hex-tile flooring.

**History:** This building was built as a one-story building between 1893 and 1899. In 1899, 1905, 1911 and 1920 it was a print shop. It was still a one-story printing building in 1943. It is now occupied by Darrs & Co. Tuxedo Rental and Richelle's Salon.

**Integrity:** The building is an excellent example of a one-story Commercial Style building. It is a contributing member of the historic district.

**43. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**231 N. Douglas Avenue** (formerly 223)
**Date of Construction: ca. 1897/ca. 1910/Contemporary facade**
**Legal Description:** Lot 15, Block 28, Original City
**Current Function:** MEDICAL: Medical office
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #7; Photo #16

**Description:** This one-story brick building has experienced an extensive facade remodeling. The brick facade, now painted, is visible above the storefront. A large surface-mounted sign is located on the upper facade. The existing storefront is sheathed with vertical wood siding. Contemporary windows and a single door with sidelight are each topped by round canvas awnings.

**History:** This building was built as a one-story building between 1893 and 1899. In 1899, it was a grocery and lunch. In 1905, 1911 it was listed as a grocery. In 1920, it was a boot and shoes shop. It is now occupied by a dentist office.
**Integrity:** The existing facade retains little historic integrity. The building is a non-contributing member of the district.

**44. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**221 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: pre-1888/ca.1940s/contemporary storefront**
**Legal Description:** Lot 16, Block 28, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #7-8 &11; Photo #16

**Description:** This two-story building has a variegated brick facade with red brick detailing, likely a 1940s replacement. The building has also experienced a contemporary remodeling in which the storefront was bricked in. Framed by brick piers that match the upper facade, the only openings on the existing storefront are a door with sidelight on the north end and a contemporary window opening on the south end. There is no transom. The upper facade has three window openings-a wide central opening with a pair of windows, flanked by single windows on each side. The windows have red brick lintels and stone sills. The existing windows are two-light replacements with an opaque panel at the top. The rear of the building steps down to one-story. The rear bay has a gable roof and metal siding. The basement is finished with a wood floor. The west (front) wall of the basement had a central door and flanking window openings, now infilled. This is the northern-most building on the east side of the 200 block of Douglas Avenue to have apparently been connected by the former underground sidewalk.

**History:** This two-story building was a farm implements shop in 1888, 1893, 1899, 1905, 1911 and 1920. The shop sold buggies in the early twentieth century. It is now occupied by Peterson and Kasper Law Firm.

**Integrity:** The existing facade retains little historic integrity due in large part to the infilled brick storefront. The building is a non-contributing member of the historic district.

**45. Grocery Store** **Status-Contributing**
**219 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: pre-1888/ca.1940s-50s facade**
**Legal Description:** Lot 17, Block 28, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT
**Documentation:** Figure #7-8 & 11; Photo #16

**Description:** Although the existing building was in place prior to 1888, the existing blond brick facade likely dates to the 1940s or 1950s. The upper facade is defined by a simple concrete parapet cap and tan brick detailing. The upper windows are also representative of the mid-twentieth century. Although contemporary replacements, there are two window openings, nearly square in shape with tan brick surrounds. The original windows were likely multi-light steel windows, typically of that period. Brick piers frame the storefront and an entry bay on the north end of the storefront which provides access to the 2nd floor. The storefront is a dark-framed contemporary replacement with opaque panels on the transom. Remnants of a former business sign are extant on the upper facade, above the transom. A one-story block bay

is located at the rear of the building (east). The west (front) wall of the basement has a former window and door opening, now infilled with concrete block, indicating the possible presence of an underground sidewalk.

**History:** This was a two-story building with a grocery store in 1888, grocery and queensware in 1893, 1899, a grocery in 1905, 1911, and 1920. The current façade appears to date to the mid-twentieth century. Formerly Russ's Color Center, the building is now occupied by Boot's Flower Shop.

**Integrity:** The building is a good example of a commercial facade representative of the Modern Movement. The facade is representative of the period in which it was constructed; it is a contributing member of the district.

**46. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**215-217 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1880/contemporary facade**
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #7-8 & 11; Photo #16

**Description:** Although now occupied by a single business, the two former historic buildings are visible from the rear. The north building is stone; the south has brick-stamped metal on the rear (east) facade. The front facade of the two buildings is obscured by contemporary vertical wood siding. The storefront has been completely remodeled with a recessed entrance and contemporary window openings. A canvas awning spans the entire storefront. The only visible evidence of the historic facades is the tile parapet cap (above the wood siding).

**History:** The buildings on these two lots were connected prior to 1888, when the south building (215) was a one-story dry goods store and the north building (217) was a one-story hardware store. In 1893, 215 was a newspaper office and post office. In 1899, it was a boots and shoes shop. In 1905, 1911, 1920, both 215 and 217 N. Douglas were a hardware and harness shop. The two former buildings are now occupied by a single business, Kirkham Michael Engineers.

**Integrity:** The existing facade retains no historic integrity. The building(s) is a non-contributing member of the district.

**47. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**213 N. Douglas Avenue** (aka 211-1/2)*
**Date of Construction: ca. 1880/ca. 1947 facade**
**Legal Description:** Lot 20 & N20.1' Lot 21, Block 28, Original City
*(*legal description combined w/ 211 N. Douglas Ave.)*
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT
**Documentation:** Figure #7-9 & 11-12; Photo #16-17

**Description:** This two-story building boasts a Modern facade, like several other commercial buildings in downtown Ellsworth. The building dates to ca.1880 but the existing blond brick facade dates to the 1940s. Typical of the era, the upper facade has a single window opening, now infilled with glass block. A flat metal canopy projects above the storefront. Formerly used as a movie theater, remnants of the storefront likely date to the 1960s. Opaque blue panels are extant above the storefront and on the south wall of the recessed entry. The panels may cover an existing transom but more likely the transom was removed with the 1940s facade. The south wall of the entry features a box office/ticket

window, obviously dating to the theater. The existing storefront is a contemporary replacement with dark metal framed display windows and doors. Brick piers frame the storefront; the bulkhead is also brick and the angled, recessed entry is maintained. Building has one-story stone bay on the rear.

**History:** This was a two-story printing office in 1888. In 1893, it was a meat market and grocery store in 1899. The building was vacant in 1905. It was a notions shop in 1911 and an implements warehouse in 1920. The current facade is a Modern design that likely dates to the late 1940s. The building is now part of Robson's Hallmark Shop located to the south at 211 N. Douglas.

**Integrity:** Although the building has obviously experienced multiple former remodelings, the facade is a good example of a Modern remodeling and representative of the period. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**48. D.B. Long Building** **Status-Contributing**
**211 N. Douglas Avenue ***
**Date of Construction: 1876/ca.1930 facade**
**Legal Description:** Lot 20 & N20.1' Lot 21, Block 28, Original City
(**Legal description includes 211-1/2 Douglas Ave. on the north)*
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #7-9 & 11-12; Photo #16-17

**Description:** The original building, a one-story stone structure is evident from the rear. The existing tan brick facade could date anywhere from the 1920s-1940s. The facade features simple brick corbelling at the parapet and has a tile cap. A metal storefront lintel with rosettes is in place above the transom. A flat metal canopy projects between the storefront and transom. The transom area is covered with wood. A small sign projects from the upper facade, above the canopy. The storefront is a contemporary replacement with dark-framed display windows and door, and a brick bulkhead. The entrance is recessed on the south end of the storefront. The west (front) facade of the basement is native stone and has a former large center opening, infilled with stone. The basement maintains historic finishes with plaster walls and a concrete floor. Large stone slab steps are extant at the rear of the basement, indicating former exterior basement access from the rear.

**History:** This building was originally constructed in 1876 by Ellsworth pioneer druggist D.B. Long (Cutler). Long opened his new drug store on September 13, 1877 (Ellsworth Reporter, 13 September 1877). During this period in his life, Long was active both in Ellsworth and statewide, serving in the Kansas House of Representatives and as the state's first Commissioner of Fisheries in the late 1870s (*First Biennial Report of the State Board of Agriculture to the Legislature of the State of Kansas, for the Years 1877-8*). The building was a grocery store in 1888 and 1893. In 1899, 1905, 1911, 1920 the one-story building was a meat market. It was still a one-story building in 1943. The building is now occupied by Robson's Hallmark; the store spans into the building on the north at 211-1/2 N. Douglas Avenue.

**Integrity:** The existing facade is an excellent representative of a one-story Commercial Style remodeling. Although the storefront has been replaced, the building maintains the components and proportions of a traditional storefront. It is a contributing member of the district.

**49. Minnick Building/Sherriff Drug Store** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**209 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1885/ca.1940s facade/contemporary storefront**
**Legal Description:** S3.5' Lot 21 & N21' Lot 22, Block 28, Original City
**Current Function:** HEALTHCARE: Medical Business

**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT: Commercial Style; Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #7-12; Photo #16-17, 22 & 28

**Description:** The existing two-story building dates to the 1880s but the existing red brick facade reflects a 20th century remodeling. The existing facade (in place by the late 1940s) features a corbelled brick parapet and two upper window openings that since been infilled/covered. The window openings have stone sills and exposed metal lintels. A sign projects from the upper facade between the upper windows. The storefront is a contemporary replacement. The display windows and doors are dark-framed metal with tinted glass and opaque panels at the bulkhead. The entry is recessed on the south end of the storefront. A fixed canvas awning covers the transom area. The rear of the building is one-story native stone, possibly remnants of the original 1870s one-story building. The building has a full basement with a concrete floor and historic plaster on stone walls. The west (front) wall of the basement had a center door with flanking windows, now infilled.

**History:** This building was originally constructed as a one-story building by E.G. Minnick in 1876. Minnick, a native Iowan, druggist, physician and surgeon, came to Ellsworth in 1871 and started his business in 1872. Among his business interests was the Ellsworth Sugar Factory, built in 1881 (Cutler). W. E. Sherriff (1855-1938) bought the Minnick (aka "Minnich") Drug Store in 1883. From 1876 to 1883, Sherriff had worked for druggist George Seitz. Sherriff was also Ellsworth's fire chief for many years. By 1888, the building was a two-story drug store with sleeping rooms upstairs. Sherriff operated the drug store until his death in 1938, at which time his son Dale Sherriff became proprietor. (Ellsworth Reporter, 10 July 1947) In a 1945 ad, the company boasted "Same Location Since 1883." Dale Sherriff operated the business until 1947 when he sold it to the Darnell family of Plainville. The Darnells sold the business to G.E. Forney and James and Pauline Montgomery, who named it "F & M" after the first letters in their last names. In 1960, F & M removed the soda fountain. Their son Ron Montgomery joined the business in 1966 and took full ownership in 1978. Barbara Kennedy bought the store in 2001 ("Passing the Torch," Ellsworth Reporter, 10 May 2001).

**Integrity:** The existing brick facade reflects a new front on the original 1880s building dating to the mid- to late-1940s. Due to the infilled/covered upper windows and replacement storefront, the building is a non-contributing member of the historic district.

**50. Bell Hardware Store/Union Block** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**207 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1876/1994 facade**
**Legal Description:** N20.9' Lot 23 & S3.6' Lot 22, Block 28 Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
**Documentation:** Figure #7-12; Photo #16-17 & 28

**Description:** This two-story stone building is one of the oldest existing structures that represent the construction of permanent commercial buildings on Douglas Avenue. Part a four-building block, known as the Union Block, constructed in 1876, the original stone facade is visible at the parapet and from the rear, where a one-store stone bay is extant. Three upper window featuring arched ornamental hoods also date to the building's original construction. However, the front

facade has been drastically altered with the application of a stucco coating over the stone. The storefront is a contemporary replacement with dark-framed tinted glass display windows and doors with a brick bulkhead. The entry is recessed on the south end of the storefront and a canvas awning spans the entire storefront. The building has full basement with former openings on front (west) wall.

**History:** This building was constructed in 1876 as part of a block of four two-story stone buildings constructed by E.A. Powers, I.W. Phelps, Arthur Larkin and J.L. Bell after a devastating fire destroyed many commercial buildings on South Main (and known as the Union Block). 207 N. Douglas originally housed the hardware store of J.L. Bell, a New York native who opened his first Ellsworth hardware store here in 1876 (Cutler). The building was still a hardware store, with offices on the 2nd floor, in 1888. By 1893, it was a grocery and queensware shop with offices above. It continued in this use until sometime between 1899 and 1905 when "queensware" was dropped from the name. In 1911, it was connected with the building to the north (209 N. Douglas) as a drug and wallpaper store. In 1920, it was again a grocery. Citizens State Bank and Trust purchased this building in 1992 and remodeled it in 1993-94 to provide additional office space for the bank. Citizens Bank also owns the adjacent building to the south.

**Integrity:** The application of stucco over the native stone combined with the replacement storefront, diminishes the building's historic integrity. It is a non-contributing member of the historic district.

**51. Larkin Dry Goods Store/Union Block** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**205 N. Douglas Avenue***
**Date of Construction: 1876/contemporary facade**
**Legal Description:** Lots 24-26 & S3.7' Lot 23 less beg SE Corn Lot 26 then NWLY57.6', NELY49.5', SELY57.6', SWLY 49.5' to POB, Block 28, Original City
(*Building is combined with legal description of bank on corner at 201 N. Douglas Ave.*)
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER
**Documentation:** Figure #7-12; Photo #16-17 & 28

**Description:** Like the adjacent building to the north, this two-story stone building was built in 1876 as part of the Union Block. A one-story stone bay is extant on the rear. The window openings and cornice appear to date to an early twentieth-century storefront remodel. The existing stucco facade and infilled storefront likely date to the Bank's expansion into this building in the early 1990s. The ground level now has three individual fixed-light window openings and the three historic upper window openings have been infilled with single-light fixed panes. There is no entrance into this building from the street. The building has a full basement, now connected to the adjacent basements on the north and south. The front stone wall has two former window openings.

**History:** This building was constructed in 1876 as part of a block of four two-story stone buildings known as the Union Block, constructed by E.A. Powers, I.W. Phelps, Arthur Larkin and J.L. Bell. Originally occupied by Arthur Larkin's dry goods store (Cutler), the building continued to house a dry goods store for years. In 1893, it was listed as dry goods and clothing. By 1899, the first floor was still dry goods and clothing - but the second floor was a furniture store. By 1905 and through at least 1911, this building was part of a hardware and furniture store that also occupied the building next door at 203 Douglas. In 1920, five years after the Central National Bank had expanded to 201-203 Douglas, 205 N. Douglas was a furniture and undertaker's business. Like the adjacent building to the north, this building is occupied by the Citizens State Bank and Trust. Citizens Bank purchased both buildings in 1992 and remodeled them in 1993-94 to provide additional office space for the bank.

**Integrity:** The existing stucco facade and infilled storefront retain no historic integrity. The building is a non-contributing member of the historic district.

**52. Central National Bank/Citizens State Bank** **Status-Contributing**
**201-203 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Architect: Weary and Alford Company; Seitz and Trubey; Builder: J.T. Dalton and Sons**
**Date of Construction: 1915**
**LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Lots 24-26 & S3.7' Lot 23 less beg SE Corn Lot 26 then NWLY57.6', NELY49.5', SELY57.6', SWLY 49.5' to POB, Block 28, Original City
(*Legal description includes building to north at 305 N. Douglas Ave.*)
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
**Architectural Classification:** Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival
Temple Front
**Documentation:** Figure #7-8 & 10; Photo #16-17 & 27-28

**Description:** The two-story bank, constructed of ashlar stone, reflects the Classical Revival style, common among financial institutions. The building features two-story columns on the front (west), and south facades, and a massive parapet, capping the building. The parapet is stepped over the central entry and features carved swag and shield ornament at the end bays. The parapet features alternating panels that are recessed to simulate crenulations or a balustrade. A cornice with dentils and egg and dart molding is located beneath the parapet. 'Citizens State Bank' is inscribed on the frieze beneath the cornice on the front facade. The front facade is three bays with a wide center bay that is inset and features four round fluted columns with Corinthian capitals. The building foundation serves a base. The primary building entrance is located between the two center columns with an ornate carved stone entablature. The south facade is similarly configured with three primary bays. An inset center bay features square fluted columns with Corinthian capitals. Large second floor windows, between the columns, have been infilled on the south facade but remain extant on the north (with replacement windows). Single windows in the end bays feature ornate carved window hoods, differing in style on each floor. The windows and doors are contemporary replacements. Basement openings, above grade, are infilled with a grill/vent. The basement formerly had a door on the south providing exterior basement access from the sidewalk. The basement is sub-divided into rooms and includes the bank vault.

**History:** Early History: This building was constructed in 1915 for the Central National Bank. Before that time, these two lots were first occupied by the Episcopal Church, which burned down in a prairie fire ("Touring Ellsworth in the 1890s," reprinted in the Ellsworth Reporter, 29 April 1976). Later, there were two buildings that were part of the four-building 'Union Block', two-story stone buildings erected in 1876 by E.A. Powers, I.W. Phelps, Arthur Larkin and J.L. Bell. These boosters joined forces to build permanent buildings on Douglas after an 1875 fire destroyed many of the commercial buildings on South Main. The building at 201 N. Douglas housed the Powers Bank, founded in 1870 and first located on South Main. For years, the Powers Bank was the community's only bank. The 1890s depression forced the Powers Bank, also known as the First National Bank, to close its doors in January 1891 ("Central National Bank"; Ellsworth Reporter, 29 January 1891).

Central National Bank: In Spring 1902, the Central National Bank purchased the building that formerly housed the defunct Powers/First National Bank. The Central National Bank, first organized as Farmers and Merchants Bank in 1884, occupied 6 different buildings during its first 30 years. Chartered as Central National Bank in 1886, the bank built a 2-story building in 1886 at 202 N. Douglas (see below). After selling the building to Arthur Larkin in 1887, Central Bank moved to the Insurance Building in 1888. In Spring 1902, the bank moved to the Powers/First National Bank Building at 201 Douglas.

A New Building: In July 1914, the bank announced plans for a new building that would occupy two lots at 201-203 N. Douglas. In the process of building its new $110,000 edifice, the bank demolished both the former First National Bank building at 201 N. Douglas and the adjacent building at 203 N. Douglas, which I.W. Phelps had constructed in 1876 to house his grocery store (Cutler). The new Central National Bank opened to much fanfare in July 1915 (Ellsworth Reporter, 27 July 1915). (Phelps was credited with being Ellsworth's first storekeeper.) According to a pamphlet

produced for the grand opening, "The building and all equipment were designed by and constructed under the direct supervision of the Weary and Alford Company of Chicago, who design and equip bank buildings exclusively." The Central National Bank building was one of early designs of the firm, which later designed the Security Bank Building in Sioux Falls, South Dakota (1918), the high-rise First National Center in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (1931), and the Heritage Tower in Battle Creek, Michigan (1931) (Emporis Buildings http://www.emporis.com/en/cd/cm/?id=100940). Central National Bank included "A private room for the exclusive use of the lady patrons of the bank" and a "Farmer's Meeting Room," which provided meeting space for 100 people. The General Contractors were J.T. Dalton and Sons of Junction City. Peoria Stone and Marble Company of Peoria Ohio provided the stone. The safes and vaults came from the Herring-Hall-Marvin Safe Company of Hamilton Ohio. Seitz (son of druggist George Seitz) and Trubey architects of Ellsworth and Young Brothers of Wichita were responsible for painting and interior decorating. The Topeka Daily Capital declared that the bank was "one of the Prettiest in Kansas" (Topeka Daily Capital, 25 July 1915).

Central National Closes its Doors: Unfortunately, like the First National Bank that formerly occupied this location, the bank's beauty could not transcend the difficult times to come. The Central National Bank was closed by order of the national bank examiner in March 1931. At the time "A million dollars in deposits [were] temporarily lost to Ellsworth people." The closing, which came five short years after the Ellsworth State Bank suffered the same fate, was called the "worst crash since the Tompkins bank failure in the late eighties." (This was a reference to the First National Bank, of which Tomkins was the cashier.) In a public statement, Central Bank President George Tremble tried to make sense of the event: "The underlying causes of the suspension can be ascribed to the shrinkage in values of the products of the farm, and the consequent depression of real estate values" ("Central National Bank Closes Doors," Ellsworth Reporter, 26 March 1931). After various attempts to re-organize the bank, Tremble left Ellsworth for Wichita and the bank announced that it was abandoning plans to re-organize as a national bank. Burdened with the stress of the Great Depression, Tremble died in 1935. In September 1931, depositors of Central National received their first of 6 dividends, which equaled 25% of their deposits. Depositors did not receive their final dividend until 1938.

Citizens State Bank: Citizens State Bank, which had constructed its own building at 126 N. Douglas in 1912, took possession of the Central National Bank Building in July 1931 ("Tremble Leaves Ellsworth," "Abandon Plans for Bank Reorganization," Ellsworth Reporter, 16 July 1931). Soon Citizens Bank had relocated to the Central National Bank Building (its former space was occupied by the Post Office). The Citizens State Bank and Trust Co. still operates at this location today.

**Integrity:** The bank building, constructed in 1915, has experienced numerous remodelings. Despite former alterations that include infilled and replacement windows and doors, the building retains a significant degree of historic integrity. It is a contributing member of the historic district.

**53. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**107-109 E. 1st Street**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1935**
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style
**Documentation:** Photo #17

**Description:** This one-story blond brick building is uniquely configured with an 'L' shaped footprint at the rear. The blond brick facade has a simple stone cap and bi-color detailing on the upper facade. The non-traditional storefront has a series of six wide brick piers dividing the storefront into multiple bays. Each pier has corbelled panels. The central void is the primary building entry. A contemporary window with a red brick base is located between the brick piers. A distinguishing feature is the corner window, extending from the south to the east facade. The east facade is similarly configured with a central corbelled panel between two windows. The building has a stone foundation.

**History:** The first building to occupy this lot was a one-story office building constructed between 1899 and 1905. In 1911, there was a barber on the west side and an office on the east side. By 1920, after the Central National Bank had been built to the west, the space was divided between a barber and a cobbler. The building was expanded between 1928 and 1943. The current building was likely built for Wilson Abstract, which moved to this location between 1935 and 1941. Wilson Abstract occupied the building until after 2000, when the business became Post Rock Abstract and Title. Post Rock Abstract and Title is the current occupant.

**Integrity:** Although the existing windows and doors are contemporary replacements, the building is one of the few early Modern buildings in downtown Ellsworth, the corner window, vertical piers and horizontal orientation of the building reflect influences of the International Style. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**54. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**119 E. 1st Street**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1910**
**Legal Description:** Beg 55; NELY SW COR Lot 1, Block 28 Original City then NELY9.5', SELY37', SWLY 64.5', NWLY19', NELY55', NWLY 18' to POB.
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #18

**Description:** This one-story brick building exemplifies the Commercial Style, prevalent in the Progressive Era. The simple brick facade with piers frames the storefront. The existing storefront is a contemporary replacement with aluminum-framed display windows and brick bulkhead. The building retains a recessed entry on the west end of the facade. Corrugated metal siding now covers the transom and a flat metal canopy extends between the storefront and transom panel. Metal also covers the parapet, perhaps obscuring deteriorated masonry.

**History:** This building first appeared on this lot between 1905 and 1911, when a restaurant occupied the space. According to the 1888 Sanborn map, an earlier building had been destroyed by fire before 1888. In 1920 and 1928, it was a produce market and milk depot. The existing building appears to date from the 1905-1911 time period of original construction. The building now houses Potpourri Bakery.

**Integrity:** The simple one-story brick building is a good example of a traditional Commercial Style building. Even with the replacement storefront, the building retains significant integrity and is a contributing member of the district.

**55. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**121 E. 1st Street** (formerly 117)
**Date of Construction: ca. 1925/2005 remodel**
**Legal Description:** BEG 37' SELY SWCOR Lot 1, Block 28 Original City, then NELY 64.5', SELY19', SELY 64.5', NWLY19' to POB
*(*Legal description combined w/ building to east at 123 E. 1st Street)*
**Current Function:** VACANT
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #18

**Description:** This two-story brick building likely reflects an original non-retail use with the large upper windows and ground floor window versus a storefront. The windows and doors were recently replaced, drastically changing the character of the building. The upper windows were originally multi-light steel windows. The original stone sills are extant. The upper facade has a simple stepped parapet with a concrete cap and subtle brick detailing. The ground floor is comprised of two bays, a single window opening on the west side and a door with sidelights on the east. There is a one-story bay on the rear.

**History:** This building was built between 1920 and 1928 as a produce market. It was likely associated with the produce market/milk depot next door at 115 E. 1st St.

**Integrity:** The dark-framed tinted glass replacement windows and doors drastically change the character of this building. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**56. Dry Cleaning Building** **Status-Contributing**
**123 E. 1st Street** (formerly 119)*
**Date of Construction: ca. 1900/ca. 1935**
**Legal Description:** BEG 37' SELY SWCOR Lot 1, Block 28 Original City, then NELY 64.5', SELY19', SELY 64.5', NWLY19' to POB
*(*Legal description combined w/ building to west at 121 E. 1st Street)*
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Special Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #18

**Description:** Occupied by a dry cleaning business since ca.1930s, the blond brick facade portrays its non-retail function with the absence of a traditional storefront. The building has a tile parapet cap and the upper facade is void of any form or ornament or detailing. A flat metal canopy spans the entire facade. A single door is located on the west half of the front (south) facade and a single window on the east. The building has a rear addition.

**History:** There was a one-story carpenter's shop on this lot in 1888, 1893, and 1899. Between 1899 and 1905, the building was expanded south to meet the sidewalk. Despite a short stint as a cobbler's shop in 1911, the building continued to serve as a carpenter's shop at least through the late 1920s. Between 1928 and 1943, a dry cleaning shop moved in. By 1949, the business was known as Aves Cleaners. By 1962, the business was called Allison Cleaners. The current facade likely dates to the early dry cleaning period. The building is now occupied by Richard's Dry Cleaners.

**Integrity:** The building retains a high degree of historic integrity, likely dating to the conversion of the building from a carpenter's shop to a dry cleaning business ca.1930s. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**57. Novack IGA Grocery Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**206 N. Lincoln Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1960/1995**
**Legal Description:** Lots 1-9 less BEG SW COR Lot 1 then NELY 64.5', SELY 56, SWLY64.5', NWLY 56' to POB, Block 28, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER

**Description:** This one-story block building has a brick facade. A large fixed gabled canopy extends from the east and south facades, supported by wrought iron columns. A large business sign is mounted on the canopy. The south half of the facade is an aluminum-framed storefront system, multi-light clerestory windows are extant on the north half of the facade. The building is set back from the street, facing N. Lincoln Ave., surrounded by a paved parking lot on the front and sides.

**History:** This building was constructed in 1960 as a grocery store for Novak IGA (IGA was previously located at 207 N. Douglas). In the 1990s, Dollar General purchased the property. They constructed a 16' X 80' addition in 1995 and still occupy the building.

**Integrity:** The contemporary building has no historic associations; it is a non–contributing member of the district.

**58. Residence** **Status: Contributing**
**122 E. 2nd Street**
**Date of Construction: 1884; remodeled 1997**
**Legal Description:** Lot 10 & E1/2 of Lots 11-13, Block 28, Original City
**Current Function: DOMESTIC:** Single Dwelling
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER-Vernacular
**Documentation:** Photo #12

**Description:** This one-story frame house dates to the 1880s. The footprint of the building is an 'L' shape with an intersecting gabled roof and shed bays at the rear. There is a small porch with a shed roof in the center of the front (north) facade. The house has wood siding and 2/2 wood windows with aluminum storms. A wood-frame shed, dating to 1901 (according to the 2004 survey), is located at the SW corner of the lot. A wood picket fence encloses a well manicured lawn with mature trees and shrubs.

**History:** This vernacular frame house was built before 1888. At that time, the northeast corner of Block 28 was occupied by four single-family dwellings. 122 W. 2nd Street is one of two that remain.

**Integrity:** The house was reportedly remodeled in 1997 (2004 survey). The building is one of only three remaining homes in the proposed downtown district. The house and rear shed retain significant integrity and are contributing members of the district.

**59. Residence** **Status: Non-Contributing**
**118 E. 2nd Street**
**Date of Construction: ca.1880s/ca.1900/ca.1925**
**Legal Description:** W1/2 of Lots 11-13, Block 28, Original City
**Current Function: DOMESTIC:** Single Dwelling
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER-Vernacular
**Documentation:** Photo #12

**Description:** The one-story frame residence dates to the 1880s but has been expanded on at least two occasions. The original footprint was likely an 'L'; the existing footprint is a 'T' with a rear ell and rear shed additions. The basic roof form is an intersecting gable and center chimney; the roof has composition shingles. An irregular front porch has a shallow hip roof off of the front gable and extending to the east. A rectangular garage with a gable roof, connected to the house at the northwest corner, was added ca.1960s. The house has wood siding and maintains some wood 2/2 windows but some windows have been replaced. There are two additional out-buildings on the southwest corner of the lot. A free-standing

block garage has a flat roof and is accessible from the alley. This building retains multi-light steel windows. A second free-standing structure is located southeast of the masonry garage. It is a frame structure with board and baton siding comprised of an enclosed gable bay and shed extension that is open air.

**History:** This vernacular frame home was built before 1888. Between 1899 and 1905, it was expanded to the west. It was expanded again between 1920 and 1928. The front-facing garage is a late twentieth-century addition.

**Integrity:** With multiple additions, including the attached garage at the NW corner of the property, the residence retains little historic integrity. It is a non-contributing member of the district. However, the two rear outbuildings do retain significant integrity and are contributing members of the district.

**60. J.H. Robbins Memorial Library** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**219 N. Lincoln Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1913/1958 and 1984 additions**
**Architect: John Seitz (1958 addition); C.F. Abercrombie (1984 addition)**
**Legal Description**: Lots 14-16, Block 19, Original City
**Current Function:** EDUCATION: Library
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival
**Documentation:** Photo #13

**Description:** The original building is a small rectangular structure with an enclosed front entry bay that has an intersecting gable. The tan brick building has a unique rusticated stone foundation and an exposed chimney on the north gable end. Wood eave brackets and stucco in the gable end are characteristic of the Tudor style. Two additions, in 1958 and 1984, greatly expanded the size of the library, dwarfing the original building and re-orienting the primary entrance to the north facade. The additions are comprised of two additional N/S gable bays (east of the original building) that are connected to each other and the original building with intersecting gables. The additions are tan brick with dark brick veneer on the foundation and contemporary detailing and fenestration. The roof extends to form a canopy on the center bay, creating a porch for the entrance. The library property includes a lawn on the south side of the building. A wood-frame gazebo is in place toward the east end of the lot.

**History:** The J. H. Robbins Memorial Library was completed in 1913. Mrs. Eva Robbins approached the Ellsworth City Council in 1911 with a proposal to donate the construction of a library building in memory of her late husband if the city would provide the land and $100 per year in maintenance. When it opened in 1913, the library housed 1398 books donated by the Ladies Library Association. The association also donated $15.00 for additional books and $155.91 toward the librarian's salary. When the library outgrew the small original building, the library board hired local architect John Seitz to draw plans for an addition. Completed in 1958, the $28,000 addition was funded in part through a city bond issue. A second addition, designed by architect Fred Abercrombie, was completed in 1994 at a cost of $600,000, provided additional space and enhanced accessibility. Recently, the library has also added an elevator. ("Library History" J. H. Robbins Memorial Library website, http://skyways.lib.ks.us/towns/Ellsworth/library/libhist.html)

**Integrity:** Although the original building is discernable, the additions dwarf the original building. Additionally, the orientation of the main entrance has been changed to the north facade. The building is a non-contributing member of the historic district and the gazebo is a non-contributing structure.

**61. Garage** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**220 N. Court Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca.1960s**
**Legal Description**: Lots 8-13, Block 19, Original City
(*Garage included in legal description of commercial property at 220 N. Court Avenue*)

**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER

**Description:** One-story building is frame construction with a gable roof and masonite siding. An overhead garage door is in place on the north facade. The building is setback from the curb, facing north (E. 2nd Street). It is located on the southwest corner of the lot, north of the commercial building at 220 N. Court Avenue.

**History:** This garage and the adjacent building sit on the parcel formerly occupied by the 1892 Ellsworth County Courthouse. The courthouse was demolished following the 1951 completion of the current courthouse building. The garage post-dates 1951.
**Integrity:** The garage is contemporary construction and has no significant historic associations. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**62. Skating Rink** **Status-Contributing**
**220 N. Court Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1952**
**Legal Description:** Lots 8-13, Block 19, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse
**Architectural Classification:** Modern Movement

**Description:** This one-story free-standing building was built as a skating rink in the 1950s. The blond brick building has a vaulted roof and small horizontal windows on the north and south facades. The front facade has curved corners at the top, following the shape of the vaulted roof. The front facade has a recessed center bay with a central door flanked by single-light windows. The building is rectangular in form and faces east, fronting N. Court Avenue. The site includes a free-standing garage facing north on E. 2nd Street (listed separately at #61 above)

**History:** This building and the adjacent garage are on the parcel formerly occupied by the 1892 Ellsworth County Courthouse. The courthouse was demolished following the 1951 completion of the current courthouse building. The building first housed a skating rink operated by Godfrey Soukup. By the 1970s, it was the office of the Ellsworth Reporter. The Reporter remained in the building through the 1990s. Today, it is used by True Value Hardware as a storage building.

**Integrity:** Although atypical of Modern commercial buildings in downtown Ellsworth, the building is representative of the period in which it was constructed and retains significant integrity. It is a contributing member of the district.

**63. County Jail/Sheriff's Residence** **Status-Contributing**
**206 N. Court Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1911**
**Legal Description:** Lots 1-7, Block 19, Original City
**Current Function:** VACANT/NOT IN USE
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS
**Documentation:** Photo #14-15

**Description:** Constructed in 1911 as a jail and sheriff's residence, this large two-story building is eclectic, reflecting a variety of stylistic influences. With red brick exterior walls and native stone foundation, the building is generally rectangular in form with slightly projecting bays with intersecting hip roofs. A gable roof extends from the front hip to form a full-height front porch that is supported by two-story round Ionic wood columns, characteristic of the Greek Revival

Style. Featuring original clay tile, the roof is a dominant feature. Gabled dormers are extant on the north and south sides of the eastern bay. Small one-story porches with hip roofs and square brick columns extend from the north and south facades. The windows are generally 6/1 double-hung wood windows with wood storms (extant). The window openings have stone sills and lintels. However, some windows received unique treatment such as a dormer window with a multi-light stained glass transom and diamond-shaped tracery on the sidelights, and the tripartite window in the gable end of the front porch, each characteristic of Queen Anne detailing. The front porch is in extremely deteriorated condition with a collapsed floor. The second floor of the porch features a wood railing and wood shingles are extant in the gable end, over the porch. An arched stone surround characteristic of Richardsonian Romanesque style is featured on the south facade of the east bay. Vacant for several years, the building is rapidly deteriorating and in need of major repair.

**History:** This building, located on the southeast corner of Block 19, was constructed as a county jail and sheriff's residence in 1911. The building replaced the 1873 stone county jail located at 120 N. Court. The 1911 jail's construction required the demolition of four dwellings that occupied the south end of the block. The 1911 building is located south of the lots formerly occupied by the 1890s Ellsworth County Courthouse, which was located at the on the northeast corner of the same block. It was still being used for its original purpose in 1943. The County built a new Law Enforcement Center in 1981. Wilbur Kruse, an architect, bought the vacant building from Ellsworth County in 1980 and converted it to offices in 1983. Mike and Dawn Olson bought the building in 1997 from Mr. Kruse ("Olsons Saving Old County Jail," Ellsworth Reporter, 24 July 1997).

**Integrity:** The former jail building is a prominent structure in downtown Ellsworth. Facing an uncertain future, the building is in need of extensive maintenance and repair to ensure its continued existence. It is a contributing member of the downtown historic district.

**64. Auto Garage** **Status-Contributing**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1925**
**201-203 N. Lincoln Avenue**
**Legal Description:** Lots 25-26 & S18' of Lot 24, Block 19, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #15

**Description:** This corner building is comprised of two parts – a two-story corner building, and a one-story brick structure with a vaulted roof on the east. The corner building is a simple Commercial Style building with regularly-spaced windows on the upper facade and subtle brick corbelling at the parapet. Constructed as an auto garage, the building features industrial multi-light steel windows characteristic of the building's non-retail function. The original windows are extant although covered on the interior; the openings have brick sills and lintels. An angled metal slat awning spans the south (front) and west facade, dividing the ground floor from the upper facade. The storefront was comprised of multiple bays. The existing ground floor has aluminum-framed display windows and wood doors. The one-story east bay features two garage bays, a single door and four windows. The window openings have been slightly downsized to accept stock replacement windows.

**History:** This lot was occupied by a pre-1888 Queen Anne home in 1920. By 1928, it was the location of a two-story garage built to house 50 cars and a built-in filling station. According to the 2004 inventory form, the building was constructed in 1926. The garage was still in business in 1943.

**Integrity:** The building is a good representative of one-and two-story Commercial Style buildings. It is a contributing member of the historic district.

**65. City Plumbing Building** **Status-Contributing**
**205 N. Lincoln Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1926**
**Legal Description:** S20.6' Lot 23 & N6' Lot 24, Block 19, Original City
**Current Function:** VACANT/NOT IN USE

**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block

**Documentation:** Photo #15

**Description:** This is a one-story hollow-clay tile building with a brick facade. The storefront has a center door flanked by two display windows likely indicating an original non-retail function. The upper facade is defined by subtle corbelling on the parapet. A canvas awning is in place over the door and windows.

**History:** According to the 2004 inventory, this building was constructed in 1926. In 1928 and 1943, it was a plumbing shop. City Plumbing and Heating Company was first listed in the building in 1935. It opened between 1925 and 1935. The business still occupied the building in 1999 but has since located to a larger building at 116 N. Lincoln Ave. This building does not appear to be in use.

**Integrity:** This simple one-story Commercial Style building is representative of the Progressive Era and retains significant integrity. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**66. Residence** **Status: Non-Contributing**
**207 N. Lincoln Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca.1900/1994 remodel**
**Legal Description:** Lot 22 & S9.2' Lot 21 & N4' Lot 23, Block 19, Original City
**Current Function: DOMESTIC**: Single Dwelling
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER-Vernacular

**Description:** This is the only residence remaining on this block. Constructed ca.1900, the one-story frame house has a gabled hip roof with composition shingles. The house is generally rectangular in plan form with a gabled rear addition that connects the house to a rear garage constructed ca.1980 (2004 survey). The front hip extends to from a canopy over the front porch, supported by square wood columns. The home was remodeled in 1996 (2004 survey) and now has replacement 1/1 vinyl windows and vinyl siding. The garage is a frame structure with a gable roof and masonite siding. A white fence encloses the lawn on the north and west sides of the lot.

**History:** This house was built between 1899 and 1905. By then, there were four single-family dwellings on the west side of Block 19 – and a church on the northwest corner. Between 1920 and 1928, a garage and plumbing building replaced the house formerly located on the block's southwest corner. Today, this is the only extant building of the four houses.

**Integrity:** The replacement windows and vinyl siding are not in keeping with the historic character of the building. The residence and garage are non-contributing members of the district.

**67. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**112 E. 1st Street***
**Date of Construction: ca. 1935**
**Legal Description:** Lots 1 & 2, Block 29, Original City
(**Legal description combined with building at 110 E. 1st Street to the west*)
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER
**Documentation:** Photo #19

**Description:** The one-story building has wood siding on the front (north) and east facade. A mural has been painted on the east wall. A rear bay addition has metal siding. The front facade is comprised of a central door and flanking single-light windows. A small shingle mansard awning is located above the door and windows. A sign projects from the upper facade, over the door. The front of the building is painted white.

**History**: This building was built between 1928 and 1943. It is now occupied by Downtown Liquor and Spirits.

**Integrity:** The building retains little historic integrity; it is a non-contributing member of the district.

**68. Commercial Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**110 E. 1st Street***
**Date of Construction: ca. 1900**
**Legal Description:** Lots 1 & 2, Block 29, Original City
(**Legal description combined with building at 112 E. 1st Street to the east*)
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT: Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #19

**Description**: The building is a one-story structure with a gable roof and rear shed addition. The front parapet obscures the gable roof and the upper facade/parapet has been stuccoed. The storefront is contemporary wood siding downsizing the original display windows to accommodate single-light square windows. A central entry is recessed with 1/1 windows in the east and west angled walls of the recessed entry.

**History:** This building was built between 1899 and 1905 as a one-story harness shop. In 1911 and 1920, it housed a tailor shop. The building is now occupied by Fashion Flair Salon.

**Integrity:** The building has experienced multiple modifications and retains little historic integrity. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**69. Telephone Exchange Building** **Status-Contributing**
**108 E. 1st Street**
**Date of Construction: ca. pre-1888/ca. 1935**
**Legal Description:** Lot 3, Block 29, Nunamaker's Addition
**Current Function:** VACANT/NOT IN USE
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT: Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #19

**Description:** This one-story brick building is a good example of a Commercial Style building, typical of the Progressive Era. The upper facade has a corbelled brick detailing and brick piers frame the storefront. It appears that a membrane roof has been wrapped over parapet. The transom area is covered with wood but the storefront lintel, with rosettes, is in place. The storefront retains a recessed entry on the west end of the north facade. The display window appears to be painted metal with a brick base. The color of brick varies from the storefront piers and bulkhead to the upper facade, supporting the history below – that the building was reduced from one to two stories between 1928 and 1943. The upper facade was likely constructed at that time and does not match the brick on the storefront.

**History:** There was a two-story building at this location in 1888. In 1893, there was an office on the first floor and photo gallery on the second floor. In 1899, it was a feed store. The building remained free-standing until the Nunamaker's Subdivision was developed between 1899 and 1905. Within a few short years, the building was surrounded, with Seitz Drug on the west and a harness shop on the east. By 1911, the building had become a telephone exchange, a use it retained until at least 1943. Sometime between 1928 and 1943, the building was cut from two stories to one story and the facade remodeled. The building is currently vacant.

**Integrity:** Although the existing one-story building represents a significant alteration of the original two-story building, the building was extant in its current configuration by 1943 and has gained significance in its own right. It is a contributing member of the district.

**70. Seitz Drug Building** **Status-Non--Contributing**
**125 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1905**
**Legal Description:** BEG NW COR Lot 4, then SELY 90', SWLY 53.2', NWLY 8', NELY 20', NWLY82', NWLY24.2', Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #3, 12-13 & 17; Photo #16, 19 & 27

**Description**: Constructed just after the turn of the century, this two-story red brick building is a good example of a Commercial Style building. The upper facade is characterized by brick corbelling at the parapet, a common feature in downtown Ellsworth. Located on the corner of Douglas and 1st, the building had a canted entry on the northwest corner that is maintained on the upper facade but the storefront entry has been moved to the north facade. The upper facade has regularly-spaced windows with simple stone sills and lintels. The window openings have been downsized; the existing windows are approximately one-half their original size. There are only two ground level windows on the north facade, other former openings have been infilled. A 'breezeway' at the rear of the building has been enclosed creating an interior connection between this building and the building to the north (#69-108 E. 1st above). The existing storefront is a contemporary replacement with stone veneer bulkhead and aluminum-framed display windows that have two opaque panels over a fixed-pane window. The building has a full basement with a wide shallow arched opening (now infilled) between this corner building and the adjacent building to the south.

**History:** This building was constructed by George Seitz in 1905 for his drug store, which he managed until his retirement in 1913. Although Seitz Drug had moved to 206 N. Douglas by 1925, this building continued to serve as a drug store (Trubey Drug Store) until the 1950s. Born in Germany in 1847, Seitz came to the United States in 1865 (Cutler). Seitz moved to Ellsworth in the early 1870s. In the 1880s, he served both on the city council and in the Kansas Legislature ("George Seitz Started First Drug Store," Ellsworth Reporter, 3 August 1967). Seitz was a charter member of the Ellsworth Masons in 1873 (Cutler). He built his first stone pharmacy building on the northeast corner of North Main and

Douglas in 1874 (Cutler). This 1905 building was his third location. In addition to working as a druggist, Seitz also built a number of buildings in Ellsworth. Among them was a dental office for Dr. Clark D. Day, which he began in 1881 (Ellsworth Reporter, 14 July 1881). George Seitz's son inherited his father's penchant for construction. Trained as an architect, he began designing Ellsworth buildings in the early twentieth century. The Seitz Block's canted entrance is shown on the 1905 Sanborn map. The building is now occupied by Lyons Federal Savings.

**Integrity:** The upper windows and storefront are former replacements that change the character and proportions of the building. Additionally, the original corner entrance has been moved to the north facade, significantly altering the orientation of the storefront. The building is a non-contributing member of the district.

**71. Elite Theater/Larkin Building** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**123 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1909**
**Legal Description:** BEG 24.2'S of NWCOR Lot 4 Nunamaker's Resub of Lots 17-19, then SELY 82', SWLY29', NWLY82', NELY29', Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #3, 13 & 17; Photo #19 & 27

**Description**: This two-story brick building was apparently built to match the design of the adjacent corner building that had been constructed c.1900. The corbelling on the parapet is identical to the corner building. This building has two large window openings on the upper facade, now infilled with wood. The storefront is also wood with vertical wood siding covering the transom and bulkhead. A historic storefront lintel is extant. A flat metal canopy separates the storefront from the transom area. The proportions of the storefront have been altered; the existing aluminum-framed storefront is a contemporary replacement that is shorter than its historic predecessor. Projecting and surface-mounted signs are located on the transom area. The theater storefront was reportedly recessed. The existing basement provides no indication of former underground openings.

**History:** The Elite Theater, a motion picture house, opened in this building, also known as the Larkin Building, on October 1, 1909 under the management of Karl Bornshein (Ellsworth Reporter, 1 October 1909). By 1920, the building was in use as a grocery (Sanborn). According to the Sanborn maps, this building was built between 1905 and 1911 - indicating that the Elite Theater was the first occupant at the time of the building's construction. Before then, the lot was occupied by a small one-story cobbler's shop. The name "Larkin Building" implies an association with town founder and early hotelier Arthur Larkin (see #52- 201-203 N. Douglas and 203-213 E. N. Main following #83). Larkin continued to invest in the town until his death November 4, 1911. In 1960, the building was a bus depot. It is now occupied by the CR Old West Trading Post.

**Integrity:** Given the infill of the upper window openings and replacement storefront, the building retains little historic integrity. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**72. Nunamaker Building** **Status-Contributing**
**121 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1882**
**Legal Description:** Lot 17 less BEG 21.7' NELY of SWCOR Lot 17, then NELY 7', SELY90', SWLY7', NWLY90', Block 29, Original City

**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
**Documentation:** Figure #3, 13 & 16; Photo #19 & 27

**Description:** This is one of the few remaining two-story native stone buildings in downtown Ellsworth. Constructed in the early 1880s, it is also one of the earlier remaining commercial structures. The building has a simple stone cap on the parapet and three upper windows that have been infilled with wood. A one-piece stone storefront lintel is in place and stone piers frame the storefront. The building retains a wood storefront with cast-iron columns and a full-height recessed center bay. The transom has been covered with wood and the bulkhead is brick. The building has a one-story bay on the rear.

**History:** This building was built in 1882 by pioneer Henry Nunamaker for a jewelry shop and photo studio ("Ellsworth County," Cutler). Nunamaker came to Ellsworth in about 1872. When his original building burned, Nunamaker built again at the corner of Douglas and 1st. When his second building burned, he re-built again ("Ellsworth City," 1882). The building at 121 N. Douglas was a free-standing building until the 1890s when builders connected two new buildings to the south (117 and 119 N. Douglas). By 1905, Nunamaker had subdivided and developed to the north - and George Seitz had built Seitz Drug at 125 N. Douglas. At that time, the first floor was occupied by a music store. By 1920, it was a millinery shop, possibly Roth and Spicer. In 1949, Mike Lundy bought the building from the estate of Jessie O'Donnell, who had owned the building until his death ("Remembering the Businesses in Ellsworth," Ellsworth Reporter, 14 November 2002). The building is now occupied by the Johnny Bingo Hat Shop.

**Integrity:** Although the upper windows and transom have been covered with wood, the building retains significant historic integrity. It is a contributing member of the historic district.

**73. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**119 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1925**
**Legal Description:** Lot 16, Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #3, 13 & 16; Photo #19 & 27

**Description**: This one-story brick building is a good example of a Commercial Style building, common in the Progressive Era. The building has a corbelled cornice and brick piers frame the storefront opening. The storefront has wood-framed display windows and wood siding on the bulkhead. The entry is recessed in the center of the storefront, framed by original round cast-iron columns. A flat metal canopy extends between the storefront and transom. The transom is covered with wood and a projecting sign hangs from the upper facade. The brick facade above the transom has been painted white. A one-story block garage bay is located at the rear of the building.

**History:** This one-story brick building, and the adjacent building at 117 N. Douglas, was built between 1920 and 1928. In 1935, Marshall Cleaners occupied the building; they had moved by 1942. The current business, Drovers Mercantile, opened in August 1995 ("Drover's Mercantile," Ellsworth County Historical Society Clippings).

**Integrity:** Although the storefront has experienced alterations, the proportions and components of a traditional storefront are retained. The building is a contributing member of the district.

**74. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**117 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: ca. 1925**
**Legal Description:** Lot 15, Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Figure #13, 13 & 16; Photo #19 & 27

**Description**: This building appears to be a twin of the adjacent building to the north, and another good example of a Commercial Style building. The one-story brick building is defined by its corbelling on the upper facade. Brick piers frame the storefront. The existing storefront is a contemporary replacement within the bays defined by the original round cast-iron columns. The display windows are wood-framed and vertical wood siding covers the transom. The bulkhead is tan brick.

**History:** This one-story brick building, and the adjacent building at 119 N. Douglas, was built between 1920 and 1928 (Sanborn). It was a cafe in 1938 and is now occupied by Mosaic.

**Integrity:** Although the storefront is a contemporary replacement, it maintains the components and proportions of a traditional historic building. It is a contributing member of the district.

**75. Insurance Building** **Status-Contributing-NR**
**115 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1887**
**Legal Description:** Lot 14, Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** SOCIAL: Civic
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN
**Documentation:** Figure #3, 12-15 & 17; Photo #16, 19 & 27

**Description**: This two-story brick building is among the most ornate in downtown Ellsworth. The front facade is red brick, the south is tan brick and the foundation and water table is limestone. The building features an ornate metal cornice (although components are missing) and corner turret with a conical roof. The upper facade features two sets of three windows with individual arched brick lintels and a large arched surround joining the three windows. The storefront retains full-height cast-iron columns and the original recessed entry with multi-light stained glass transoms. The south half of the storefront has been altered and is boarded up. The turret is open air and the upper windows on the west and south facade have been infilled with wood. The south facade is tan brick with red brick arched lintels and ornate corbelling at the parapet. Isolated sections of the parapet have collapsed. Ground floor windows on the south facade have previously been downsized; the top third was infilled with brick. One/one double-hung windows are extant below the infill. The east end of the south facade features a second storefront and projecting bay on the upper floor. Little remains of the original storefront except the brick piers dividing the storefront into three bays. The openings are infilled with wood. The upper projecting bay is wood with a gabled pediment. It is in deteriorated condition but the components are extant. The entire building is deteriorating and in need of extensive repair. The building was recently individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A local group has plans to restore the building. The building has a full basement but no visible connection to a former underground sidewalk or adjacent buildings.

**History:** Edward Winslow Wellington commissioned the Insurance Building in 1887. E.W. Wellington was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1853 and graduated from Harvard in 1874. After practicing law in Boston for a time, he

came to Kansas in 1878. Wellington made his fortune in sheep ranching, after which he opened the real estate and loan office in the Insurance Building in 1887. Wellington is best known for his development of the west side of Douglas Avenue between 1st and 2nd Streets, the Wellington Block, which he began in 1897.

At time he commissioned the Insurance Building, business owners had been building on Douglas for more than ten years, the majority of buildings being in the 200 Block of N. Douglas. In 1888, the Insurance Building shared the block with a two-story Jewelry store (121 Douglas) and a 1-story newsstand (125 Douglas). Between 1893 and 1899, the block filled out to house an adjacent grocery store (117 Douglas), D.G. B&S Clothing Store (119 Douglas) and a photo/jewelry store (121 Douglas). Wellington and Brundage moved out of the Insurance in December 1887. In February 1888, Central National Bank moved into the Insurance Building (Ellsworth Reporter, 29 December 1887; "The Central National Bank, 1884-1915"). From 1905, until the completion of its new building at 126 N. Douglas in 1912, Citizens State Bank occupied the building (Ellsworth Reporter, 13 July 1905). Local contractor Frank Easterly remodeled the Insurance Building in 1929, converting the second-story to apartments and moving the elevated first floor to street level. John Tanton, who operated a coin laundry in the building, bought it from Tom Woods in 1973. Woods had inherited the building from his father W.E. Woods ("Landmark Building Houses Variety of Tenants," Ellsworth Reporter, 26 January 1978). The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

**Integrity:** This building was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2006. It is a contributing member of the district.

**76. Barber Shop** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**111 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1984**
**Legal Description:** N55' Lot 13 & N55' of W5.4' Lot 12, Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER
**Documentation:** Figure #15-17; Photo #20

**Description:** This contemporary frame building has a gable roof and metal siding with a brick base on the front, west facade. The building is located on the south half of the lot with a small parking area on the north.

**History:** This side-gabled butler-type building was constructed in 1984 according to the 2004 survey. It is occupied by a barber shop.

**Integrity:** The structure is a contemporary building with metal siding; it is a non-contributing member of the district.

**77. Post Rock Rural Water District** **Status: ~~Non-Contributing~~** Contributing 1-2-09
**101-103 N. Douglas Avenue**
**Date of Construction: 1958**
**Legal Description:** Lots 11-13 Less N55' Lot 13 & N55' of W5.4' Lot 12, Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER
**Documentation:** Figure #12 & 15-17; Photo #20

**Description:** This one-story brick building is a large structure (approx 75' x 100') with a vaulted roof. A rear block addition extends from the east half of the building and also has a vaulted roof. A portion of the building may date to a former auto garage constructed on the east half of this site between 1905 and 1911. The west portion and the facade

date to a 1950s reconstruction (replacing the former 2-story building on the corner site). The west and south facades are blond brick with a simple concrete cap. The west facade is comprised of multiple storefront bays with contemporary dark-framed tinted windows with modern brick bases. The center bay is the primary building entrance. A storefront spans the southwest corner of the building. Two garage bays and two single doors are located on the east half of the south facade.

**History:** This building occupies the lots formerly occupied by 101-105 E. N. Main. 101 E. N. Main was the location of the 2-story George Seitz Drug Store until he moved to his new building at 125 N. Douglas. After Seitz vacated the building, it became a saloon and billiards hall. Two buildings at 103-105 were also billiards halls. Between 1905 and 1911, the adjacent buildings at 103-105 had been removed and a one-story garage constructed (B.B. Flora Garage). By 1920, the Seitz Drug building at 101 E. N. Main was serving a restaurant. It was still extant in 1943, as was the garage at 103-105 E. N. Main. According to appraisal records, the existing building dates to 1958. It appears to have incorporated some of the structure of the one-story garage. It is likely the Seitz Drug Store was demolished at that time.

**Integrity:** The existing facade reflects a former alteration and has contemporary replacement windows. Although generally representative of the period in which it was constructed (1958), the building does not meet the fifty-year age threshold. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**78. Rammelsberg Dry Goods** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**109 E. N. Main Street** (formerly 107)
**Date of Construction: 1879/ca.1980s storefront**
**Legal Description:** Lot 10 & W1/2 Lot 9, Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** SOCIAL: Clubhouse
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
Two-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #20

**Description:** This two-story stone building is among the oldest existing commercial buildings in downtown Ellsworth. The building has five upper windows with stone sills and lintels. The openings have been infilled with wood and wood siding has been installed over the parapet. The existing storefront is a contemporary replacement comprised of red brick infill. A single door on the west end of the ground floor provides access to the upper floor. The storefront has a recessed central entry flanked by display windows with brick bulkheads. A transom panel on the display windows have been infilled/downsized but the brick storefront infill spans above the display windows. A sign projects from the upper facade, over the entry. There is a one-story bay on the rear with corrugated metal siding.

**History:** This building was commissioned in 1879 by Christain Henry Rammelsberg. Rammelsberg, a German native born in 1833, came to Ellsworth in 1878, bought this property and began plans for a 2-story stone building. Rammelsberg operated a dry goods store with Bruett and had living quarters upstairs for both families. The business opened in May 1879 (Ellsworth Reporter, February 1880). Rammelsberg gained sole ownership in 1882 and moved his family out when he completed a mansion during the mid-1880s boom. After the family moved out, the second story of the building was used for storage. To support his enterprises and his mansion, Rammelsberg borrowed heavily against the building. The depression of the 1890s dealt a harsh blow to the Rammelsbergs. In 1895, the dry-goods building was sold at Sheriff's Auction. Between 1893 and 1899, the building was converted to an agricultural implements store, Pressney and Erdtman Farm Implements. The upstairs was a saloon. The agricultural implements store was still in business in 1920, when the building was sold to James McCool. According to a promotional piece in the *Topeka Daily Capital* on May 3, 1914, McCool's was "a well regulated, well patronized pool and billiard hall and bowling alley. You never see or hear anything improper or out of the way here and it is the leading resort of the kind in the county. Mr. McCool also handles soft drinks, cigars, tobacco, confectionery, etc. He understands this line of work." McCool sold the building to Emil Cipra in

November 1926. In 1938, there was still a bowling alley on the west half of the ground floor. In 1943, the building was remodeled and all iron was stripped off to be sold for war scrap. When Coach and Four Bowling Alley opened in 1961, it put small bowling alleys like this one out of business. In 1961, the building was sold to Helwick Motors, which used it as storage. The owners sold it to William Westerhause, who also used it for storage, in 1971. The building was used for storage until the VFW bought it and began work on it in March 1981. It was an ironic new use for the building whose iron had been scrapped to support the war effort. (VFW Building, Ellsworth County Historical Society Clippings.) The 2004 inventory form assigns this building the address of 103 E. North Main.

**Integrity:** The contemporary storefront with brick infill changed the proportions of the historic building. Combined with the wood infill of the upper windows and sheathing over the parapet, the building retains little historic integrity. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**79. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**103 E. N. Main Street** (formerly 109)
**Date of Construction: ca. pre-1888/ca.1925**
**Legal Description:** E1/2 Lot 9 & W2.5' Lot 8, Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block
**Documentation:** Photo #20

**Description:** This small one-story building occupies a narrow lot, approximately 15' in width. The existing configuration dates to the 1920s. The building has a simple limestone facade with a concrete cap on the parapet. The storefront is a former replacement with vertical wood siding over the transom area and bulkhead. The storefront entrance is recessed on the east end of the facade.

**History:** The building at 107 E. N. Main occupies a lot and a half. This building occupies the half lot not occupied by 107 E. N. Main. There was a restaurant at this location in 1888; a saloon in 1893 and 1899. The building was vacant in 1905 and 1911 and housed an office in 1920. The building appears to have been narrowed and lengthened between 1920 and 1928. The 2004 inventory identifies this building as 105 E. N. Main.

**Integrity:** Although the existing storefront is a contemporary replacement, the building retains the basic proportions of a traditional storefront. It is a contributing member of the district.

**80. Service Station** **Status-Contributing**
**105 E. N. Main Street** (formerly 111-113)
**Date of Construction: ca. 1940s**
**Legal Description:** Lot 7 & E22.1' Lot 8, Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT
**Documentation:** Photo #20

**Description:** The existing blond brick facade likely dates to the late 1940s or 1950s. The one-story building has a garage bay on the east end of the south facade, stepped slightly taller than the rest of the building. The existing storefront has aluminum-framed display windows and a single wood door on the west end of the facade. The upper facade has subtle horizontal banding and a simple concrete cap. There is a garage bay located on the rear (north) facade.

**History:** The original building on the west half of this lot (111) was constructed in 1881 by Fritz Bornschiem for his bakery and restaurant, which opened in November 1881 (Ellsworth Reporter, 24 November 1881). The building bore a resemblance to the nearby Beebe Building – indicating it may have been designed by the same architect. There was a bakery at this location until at least 1943. The current building, a service station, post-dates 1943. It is occupied by DewEze.

**Integrity:** The existing facade is a good representative of alterations in the Modern Movement, with the blond brick facade adorned only by subtle raised horizontal bands. The building is a contributing member of the historic district.

**81. Ellsworth Senior Center** **Status-Non-Contributing**
**115 E. N. Main Street**
**Date of Construction: 1987**
**Legal Description:** Lots 5 & 6 & W12.6' Lot 4, Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** SOCIAL: Civic
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER
**Documentation:** Photo #20

**Description:** This building is contemporary frame construction with metal siding. A projecting wide metal band caps building. There are two small rear bays, facing the alley (north). A parking lot is located east of the building, on the northwest corner of E. North Main Street and Lincoln Avenue.

**History:** This 'Butler' building, which houses the Ellsworth Senior Center, stands on a lot once occupied by the historic 2-story Beebe Building (also known as the Ike Hall Building) and a 1-story early twentieth-century building to its east. The Beebe Building, designed by Hays architect G.R. Wolfe in the Italianate Style in 1877, was 30' X 101' dressed limestone building with a unique curved stamped metal cornice and arched windows with metal hood molds. It was built to house the general store of Jerome Beebe, who also operated general stores in the nearby communities of Wilson and Brookville (Streeter, "Ellsworth as a Texas Cattle Market). These lots were known as the Beebe Block. Early on, the lot next to the Beebe Building housed a two-story brick store managed by Larkin and Rolf. This building was destroyed by fire in 1874 along with the Veatch Hotel. The Beebe Building was condemned in 1978, after which both it (1984) and the early twentieth-century building to its east (117 E. N. Main) was demolished. ("Restoration Possible: Ike Hall Building Gets Reprieve?" Ellsworth Reporter, 19 October 1978). The existing Senior Center was then built on the site.

Westerhaus Motor Company was first listed at this location (119-125 E. N Main Street-east of the Senior Center building) in 1956. The building was destroyed by fire in 1971 ("Fire Demolishes Auto Dealership," Ellsworth Reporter, 5 January 1971). The site is now the parking lot for the Senior Center.

**Integrity:** Constructed in 1987, this contemporary building has no historic significance. It is a non-contributing member of the district.

**82. Wamhoff Garage** **Status-Contributing**
**116 N. Lincoln Avenue** (formerly 116-118)
**Date of Construction: 1924**
**Legal Description:** Lots 24-25, Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19th and EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT:
Commercial Style
One-part Commercial Block

**Description:** This one-story brick building was built as auto garage in the mid-1920s. It has a dark red brick facade with a simple stepped parapet and concrete cap. A concrete band divides the storefront from the upper facade and the brick piers framing the storefront have concrete bases. The storefront is comprised of three bays-a central entry bay and flanking display windows. The display window retain the original transoms, although the transom glass has been painted. The entry bay has been downsized with vertical wood siding and a contemporary door with sidelights serves as the building entrance. A projecting sign hangs from the upper facade, over the center bay. The building abuts the alley on the south. The building has a vaulted roof. A new brick facade has been installed on the north facade, exposed to the parking lot north of the building.

**History:** In 1888, this site was home to the W.A. Partlow Livery. It was still a livery in 1893, 1899, 1905 and 1911. The current building was commissioned by John Wamhoff and Sons to serve as a 35-car garage. The 110' X 50' building was constructed by John Snowball (Ellsworth Reporter, 20 September 1924). It opened in September 1924, just as home garages became commonplace. Obsolete by 1943, the garage had become an agricultural implements sales and service building. The building retains its appearance from its 1924 construction. The building is now occupied by the City Plumbing Co.

**Integrity:** An excellent example of Commercial Style architecture, the building retains a high degree of integrity. It is a contributing member of the district.

**83. Commercial Building** **Status-Contributing**
**118 N. Lincoln Avenue** (formerly 120)
**Date of Construction: ca. 1947**
**Legal Description:** Lots 20-23. Block 29, Original City
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Moderne
**Documentation:** Photo #21

**Description:** This one-story building is located at the southeast corner of the lot, fronting Lincoln Avenue and surrounded by a parking lot on the north and west sides. The east facade is comprised of two bays. The southeast corner of the north bay is curved and the south half is setback forming an 'L' shaped footprint. Aluminum-framed display windows span the south half of the north bay, and the south bay. The building entry is located in the center of the north bay with a brick surround. A small concrete band projects over the central entry and display window on the north bay and curves around the corner to the south. A round window is located on the north half of the north bay. The round window and curved corner are characteristic of the Art Moderne Style.

**History:** This building post-dates 1943. Its Art Moderne architecture suggests a construction date of the late 1940s or early 1950s. The building is currently occupied by Clubline and Reltele CPA.

**Integrity:** The building is the only Art Moderne style-building in downtown Ellsworth. It retains a high degree of historic integrity and is a contributing member of the district.

The adjacent parking lot, north and west of the building was once home to prominent businesses in downtown Ellsworth. Located on the NW corner of the lot at 116-118 E. 1st Street, the building (no longer extant) was built before 1888. At that time, the 3-story building was a public hall on the first floor and Masonic hall on the 2nd floor. During the early 1890s, while the hall was still under construction, the Masons faced financial troubles. The building was taken over by a local theater group, which converted it to a theater. Later the Masons were given meeting space in the Wellington Block, after which the Knights of Pythias took over the 2nd floor of this building. By 1905, the 1st floor had become known as the Opera House and the 2nd floor was occupied by the IOOF lodge. In 1908, George Seaver began renting the first floor of

the opera house as a garage (Ellsworth Reporter, 25 July 1908). The lodge remained upstairs until 1911 when they dedicated a new hall in the Wellington Block. The Golden Belt Theater opened in the building in December 1915 (Ellsworth Reporter, 15 December 1915). The building was later occupied by a tavern called "The Theater," which closed in 1982. In October, 1983, a fire severely damaged the building, which was demolished one week later (Ellsworth Reporter, 29 December 1983).

The Ira Lloyd Building at 126 W. 1st Street was built as a one-story building between 1888 and 1893, this building housed the office of attorney Ira Lloyd. It was built of bricks from the Kanopolis brick plant. Lloyd came to Ellsworth in June 1873 and was elected county attorney in 1874. Lloyd kept a diary of Ellsworth's cowtown days. In 1877, as county attorney, he prosecuted Bill Thompson for the infamous gunning down of Sheriff Whitney in 1873. Lloyd was later the president of the Ellsworth Mining Company, which found salt in the county. Lloyd purchased the lot during the real estate boom in 1887. Lloyd's reputation as a prosecutor and town booster helped get him elected to the state senate in the 1880s. After his stint in politics, Lloyd returned to his law practice full time. His brother-in-law Norris Nourse joined the practice in 1898. Lloyd added a second story to the building in 1902. He died in 1928. In 1931, Attorney Paul Aylward bought the building. George Miner joined Aylward's firm in 1942; Ron Svaty joined in 1968. The firm moved from the building in 1969. Later the building was occupied by the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce. After architects determined the building's renovation unfeasible, owners Citizens State Bank contracted to have the building razed in 1987, one hundred years after Lloyd purchased the property. ("Ellsworth Landmark to be Razed," Ellsworth Reporter, 4 June 1987).

**200 Block E. North Main Street (*NOT in proposed district*)**
The block located southeast of the proposed district boundary (between North Main and 1st Streets and Lincoln and Court Avenues) is rich in history but excluded from the district because a majority of the existing buildings retain little historic integrity. Ellsworth's earliest concentration of commercial buildings was located on North and South Main Street, the two streets flanking the railroad at the south end of the current central business district (See Section 8 – Statement of Significance for history of commercial development in Ellsworth). Following is a brief history of some of the businesses and buildings that were formerly located in this block.

Coach and Four Bowling Lanes at 203-213 E. North Main, was built in 1961 on the site formerly occupied by the White House Hotel. Arthur Larkin constructed the Grand Central Hotel in 1872 to replace the original Larkin Hotel, which burned in a fall 1869 fire ("Host of White House a Third in Its History, Ellsworth Messenger, 6 July 1944). Larkin, a native of Ireland, invested $27,000 in the construction of the building (Streeter, "Ellsworth as a Texas Cattle Market). He operated the hotel until 1885 when he leased it to Mark Putman, who changed the name to the Putman House. L.M. Ballou took over in 1888, naming the hotel the "Ballou House." In 1898, the building became known as the Jennings House after the new proprietor A. Jennings. Larkin, who gave his occupation as "Proprietor of Ballou House" in the 1900 census, took over operations again in 1900. In 1901, he painted the brick building white and re-named it the "White House." The name stuck for decades. Terry and Sperry took over management in the early twentieth century. Tom Correll bought the building from Terry and Sperry in 1911. In July 1919, Correll sold the hotel to George Wilson. At that time, according to the paper, it was the only hotel between Salina and Denver with private baths and running water in the rooms ("Host of the White House, Ellsworth Messenger, 6 July 1944; "Ellsworth, Kansas Seat of Activity," Topeka Daily Capital, 3 May 1914). In 1958, the *Topeka Capital* reported that the White House was the "Victim of Motorcar" ("Famed Ellsworth Hotel is Victim of Motorcar," Topeka Capital, 17 August 1958). Many Ellsworth businesses closed their doors or left the area when I-70 bypassed the community in the 1950s. Highway 40 tourist traffic that had sustained them was lost. The Coach and Four Bowling Lanes were built after the hotel was demolished in 1958. The guest registers for the Grand Central Hotel can be found at the Kansas State Historical Society.

The first building at 219 E. North Main was a corn crib, built between 1893 and 1899 after the demolition of the Ellsworth County Courthouse, which sat on the lots to the east. In 1899, there was a one-story pop factory and one-story dwelling on the lots to the east. By 1905, there was a larger dwelling on the northwest corner of E. North Main and Court Avenue

and the pop manufactory and bottle works was located in a new one-story building on this lot. The Ellsworth Bottling Works had been expanded by 1911. A restaurant had been added to the west side of this building by 1920. By 1928, a one-story commercial building had replaced the original building and the adjacent dwelling had been demolished

123-125 N. Lincoln Avenue (now vacant lots) was once home to two commercial buildings. 125 N. Lincoln was a two-story building built in 1879. By 1888, the building, the only commercial building on the block, was vacant. It was a grocery store in 1893 and an agricultural implements store in 1899. The building was a steam laundry in 1905, 1911, 1920, 1928 and 1943. In 1920, the building was expanded to the south with a one-story addition. According to a 1976 newspaper article, Lou Stehno bought the building in 1936, after which he lived upstairs and operated a home appliances store downstairs. Stehno sold the building to Pete Larsen in 1958. Larsen used the building for his Chevrolet Company's parts shop beginning in 1964. Both 123 and 125 Lincoln were demolished in 1976 and the lot became a sales lot for both new and used cars ("Two Historic Buildings Face Crushing Fate," (*Ellsworth Reporter* 9/9/1976).

The (Old) Ellsworth County Jail, at 120 N. Court, was built in 1873 and used for its original purpose until 1911, when a new jail and sheriff's residence was constructed at 206 N. Court (see #63 above). The 1873 jail was designed by Col. Henry Inman and built by Kinear and Kendall at a cost of $4,600. It was dedicated in 1874 with a community dance. The building was listed on the Register of Historic Kansas Places in 2003. With the help of a Heritage Trust Fund grant, it has been preserved as a ruin.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**INTRODUCTION**
The Ellsworth Downtown Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the growth and development of the community of Ellsworth, Ellsworth County Kansas (pop. 2965) from early cowtown days through post-World War II. It is also being nominated under Criterion C as a collection of buildings representing a wide range of commercial architectural styles from vernacular one-part commercial blocks to 1950s Modern designs – from substantial public structures to traditional commercial buildings. The following historic context covers the history of the city of Ellsworth from its founding to the present.

**ELABORATION**
Early Settlement
The story of early Ellsworth history is a microcosm of early Kansas history – from frontier forts and railroads to land speculation and the cattle trade. The first permanent white presence in what is now known as Ellsworth County began in 1859, when D.H. Page and Joseph Lehman opened a mail station and trading ranch where the Fort Riley and Fort Larned military road crossed the Smoky Hill River. The operation continued until 1863. In 1864, Lieutenant Allen Ellsworth established a new military post, soon named Fort Ellsworth, at the location of the abandoned ranch. Fort Ellsworth served as a home station for the Butterfield Overland Dispatch (BOD) line, established in 1865, which linked Atchison to Denver. Although the BOD line only lasted 18 months, the post, renamed Fort Harker in 1866, remained in full service until 1872, two years after the Kansas Pacific Railroad reached Denver. During its short tenure, those stationed at the fort provided protection for railroad crews and wagon trains along the Smoky Hill and Santa Fe trails.

Early businesses in what became Ellsworth County catered to Fort Harker. Among them was the Smoky Hill Dairy, opened in 1869 by Levi Sternberg whose son was stationed at the fort. Beginning in 1867, Z. Jackson supplied fresh produce to Fort Harker. Like many military installations, Fort Harker attracted the attention of investors, who soon began platting a town nearby. In the fall of 1866, Eastern Kansas speculators decided to found a town near the fort.[1] They platted the new town along the north bank of the Smoky River in January 1867.[2] When a devastating flood destroyed the original town site in June 1867, the town was moved to its current location. The new town was platted just as the first Kansas Pacific train arrived from the east on July 5, 1867.

Because the town's platting coincided with the arrival of the railroad, the first commercial district straddled the north and south sides of the rail line along the east-west Main Street. This was the location of the town's earliest businesses, which were established in rapid succession: "three months after the first house was built the following parties were engaged in business: Lockstone and Phelps, groceries and provisions; O. Hall, groceries and provisions; J.L. Bell, tinware and stoves; A. Larkin, hotel; Geiger and Company, dry goods and clothing; H.F. Hoesman had a building up but his stock of goods had not yet arrived; Vaughn and Sweezy, groceries and provisions; Andrew Schmitt, boots and shoes; Chick, Brown and Company and Mr. Nye, forwarding and commission houses."[3] Soon, the town was a trade center for both Fort Harker and Santa Fe.

Understanding the significance of their location on the Santa Fe Trail, townspeople petitioned Congress to extend the rail line to Santa Fe instead of Denver. Their pleas fell on deaf ears, however, and the tracks continued to Denver, causing the town's first real-estate bust.[4]

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[1] Robert Dykstra, "Ellsworth, 1869-1875: The Rise and Fall of a Kansas Cowtown," Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 27, no. 2 (Summer 1961).
[2] John F. Choitz, "A History of Ellsworth County" (Thesis, Fort Hays State University, 1946, republished 1967, Kansas State Historical Society, 978.1 El6 pam. v. 1 no. 10).
[3] Ellsworth Reporter, 13 January 1916.
[4] Dykstra, Ellsworth, 1869-1875.

Cowtown

Despite losing its status as a Santa Fe trade center, town boosters found a way to take advantage of Ellsworth's location on the railroad – by attracting Texas drovers herding cattle along the Chisholm Trail to rail lines to the eastern market. Early Ellsworth businessmen understood that the cattle trade could be a boon to the local economy. They were so intent on attracting drovers to the town that city fathers went out on horseback to divert traffic toward Ellsworth.

Texas longhorns were first permitted in Kansas beginning in 1867. The first town to benefit from the market was Abilene, located about 60 miles east of Ellsworth. In 1869, when the state legislature exempted a path between Ft. Cobb, Indian Territory to Ellsworth, called a state highway, from the penalties of earlier restrictive cattle laws, it opened the floodgates for the Ellsworth trade.[5] By 1870, the population of Ellsworth County had grown to 1350.[6] In 1872 alone, 40,161 cattle were shipped from Ellsworth.[7] One reporter exclaimed:

> It is a unique sight to witness a cattle train loaded from this point ... They are so perfected that the unsuspecting 'critters' are in a car before they can realize they have been most outrageously fooled. There is no banging or bruising the animals at the railroad stockyards here ..."[8]

The cattle trade was both a blessing and a curse to this young community. For business owners, especially those who outfitted and entertained cowboys, business was good. Russian Immigrant Mayer Goldsoll, who followed the cattle trade to Ellsworth from Abilene, sold an average of $30,000 per month in the summer of 1873 – and a total of $150,000 in goods for the year.[9] The three-story Drover's Cottage, with its 84 guest rooms and dining room for 100, was also an Abilene import.[10] Businesses that sprang up along Main Street also included Rueben and Sheeks Texas men's clothing, J. Ringolsky and Co's Store, D.W. Powers Bank, Minnick and Hounson's brick drug store, John Bell's Great Western Hardware Emporium (all west end of Main) – east end of Main – American House, Jerome Beebe's general store (also had stores in Wilson and Brookville), Whitney and Kendall's furniture store, Grand Central Hotel, J.C. Veatch Hotel and Restaurant, Seitz Drug (corner of Main and Douglas).[11] According to the diary of attorney Ira Lloyd in 1873, "Most of the town was on the south side of the railroad – on which street there were 2 grocery stores, one hardware store, one general store, a barber shop, a restaurant and about 20 saloons and gambling houses, and in the rear a dance hall."

Like most cowtowns, Ellsworth tried to detach its seedier businesses from downtown proper. Ira Lloyd described Ellsworth's riotous "suburb" as follows: "To the southeast of the village, by itself, commonly designated Knotchville, was the abode of the worst female characters that had ever lied in the dens of vice in Kansas City and other cities. At night, the latter place and its saloon and dance halls were frequented by hundreds of cowboys, gamblers, cohorts, criminals, and Texas cattlemen."[12] – Although physically segregated from proper society, such establishments were generally accepted as par for the course in cowtowns. Census takers made no efforts to conceal the nature of such enterprises in their records. The 1870 census notes the place of residence for three women as "house of ill fame."[13] Town leaders not only looked the other way, but profited from an arrangement that required prostitutes and gamblers to pay monthly fees to

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[5] Ibid.
[6] Choitz, "A History of Ellsworth County."
[7] F. B. Streeter, "Ellsworth as a Texas Cattle Market," Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 4, (1935), 391.
[8] Kansas City Times, 22 June 1873 (Reprinted in the Clay Center Dispatch, 22 June 1973).
[9] Dykstra, Ellsworth, 1869-1875.
[10] Streeter, "Ellsworth as a Texas Cattle Market."
[11] Ibid.
[12] "Ellsworth Was Wild Cowtown in 1800s," Salina Journal, 7 September 1975 (Reprinted excerpt from 1873 diary of Ira E. Lloyd, Ellsworth County Historical Society).
[13] Karl Gaston, "Ellsworth Mentioned in Smithsonian Article," Ellsworth Reporter, 31 January 1980 (Quote from Smithsonian article written by Jo Snell).

the city – to the tune of $300 per month.[14] In 1873, 13 people were licensed to keep saloons and three hotels sold liquor.[15]

With the help of such fees and other revenue from the cattle economy, the community embarked on its first era of public improvements. In 1871, a $15,000 iron bridge was built to span the river east of town. The first grade school building was built in 1873 at a cost of $10,000. The first brick courthouse was built in 1872 for $10,000. The county jail, a necessity in any western town, was built in 1873.[16]

By 1874, the days of the Texas cattle trade in Ellsworth County, which now boasted a population of 3,273, were numbered. State legislation, passed in 1872, enabled the county-by-county implementation of herd laws. This legislation soon pitted townspeople, whose businesses relied upon the cattle trade, against a growing rural population, whose livelihood depended upon the cessation of free grazing. Various local interests organized to rid Ellsworth County of the scourge. Among them were the "Stock Men's Protective Association" and "Farmers Mutual Protection Society of Empire Township."[17]

In the end, forces beyond either group's control halted the trade. By 1874, a nationwide depression, called the Panic of 1873, caused 6000 banks nationwide to fail and drove down cattle prices.[18] At the same time, eastern rail lines had been extended to Texas, eliminating the need to drive cattle to rail lines in Kansas for shipment to eastern markets.[19] Following the panic, Ellsworth was faced with the challenge of both rebuilding its economy and reshaping its public image - from rowdy cowtown to civilized Victorian city.

A Substantial Air

Most of the buildings that interpreted Ellsworth's cowtown days did not survive their first ten years. Like many early western commercial structures, these buildings were made of impermanent materials that were susceptible to catching and spreading fire. One of Ellsworth's first buildings, John Bell's Hardware Store, which was built in 1869, was destroyed by fire in 1875. Many of the commercial buildings on the south side of Main, including E.G. Minnick's 2-story brick building, were destroyed by fire in 1875. John Kelley's American House Hotel burned twice, in 1874 and 1877.[20] In the fall of 1879, a fire that started in the Larkin Hotel spread to surrounding buildings.[21] The Everett and Foster Mill, a three-story building built in 1877, burned in 1879.[22] In March 1877, fire destroyed what was left of the businesses on South Main Street. An 1883 account said that the "experience ... taught the people that wooden buildings were the poorest kind of protection against fire."[23] The setbacks merely strengthened the resolve of the hearty town boosters, many of whom quickly rebuilt more substantial permanent structures. The *Ellsworth Reporter* lauded John Kelley noting that "each time [he has] risen superior to misfortune and from the ashes of the last fire has risen the imposing structure, located on the corner of Douglas Avenue and South Main Street ..."[24]

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[14] Dykstra, Ellsworth, 1869-1875.
[15] Streeter, "Ellsworth as a Texas Cattle Market."
[16] Ellsworth County Clippings, v. 1, pg. 41 (Kansas State Historical Society, K978.1 El6).
[17] Dykstra, Ellsworth, 1869-1875.
[18] Nell Irvin Painter, Standing at Armageddon: The United States 1877-1919, (New York: W. W. Norton and Company, 1987), xxix.
[19] Ibid.
[20] "Ellsworth City, the County Seat of Ellsworth County. The Advantages of a Good Town," Ellsworth Reporter, 11 March 1880.
[21] George Jelinek, "90 Years of Ellsworth and Ellsworth County History," Ellsworth Messenger, 14 March 1957.
[22] "Ellsworth City, The County Seat of Ellsworth County," Ellsworth Reporter, 11 March 1880.
[23] William G. Cutler, History of the State of Kansas, (Chicago: AT Andreas, 1883).
[24] "Ellsworth: One of Kansas' most enterprising little communities," Ellsworth Reporter, February 1880 (Reprinted in the Ellsworth Reporter 20 March 1980).

Before 1875, businesses that were destroyed by fire, such as Andrew Schmitt's cowboy boot and shoe store, which burned in 1874, generally rebuilt in their original locations along Main Street.[25] By the late 1870s, however, businesses began to relocate to Douglas Avenue, which soon emerged as the principal business district. Permanent construction on the east side of Douglas began in 1876 when businessmen affected by the 1875 South Main fire joined forces to build a four-bay Union Block at 201-207 N. Douglas. 201 N. Douglas became the new home of the Powers Bank; 203 was the Phelps Grocery; 205 was Larkin's Dry Goods; and 207 was J.L. Bell's Hardware Store. The completion of the Union Block marked a milestone in Ellsworth's development that did not go unnoticed. The Ellsworth Reporter lauded, "Visitors who are struck with the architectural beauty and permanency of these structures ask whether the country really demands such extensive business house, and are answered as above."[26] Development of the west side of Douglas followed in 1877 when Tom May constructed a "two-story stone building on the northwest corner of Douglas Avenue and First Street."[27]

Local newspapers played an important role in encouraging business leaders in the Victorian West. The Ellsworth Reporter, which began chronicling the city's news in 1871, was no exception. While acknowledging the city's early setbacks, the paper celebrated its evolution toward permanence:

> Three fires have burned down most of the buildings of a few years ago, and the Ellsworth of today wears a substantial air that takes with substantial people. Six years ago the town was mostly on one street; now it is scattered over many acres and solid stone and brick buildings have been used in building new Ellsworth ... If other towns had as loyal citizens as Ellsworth there would be few discontented people."[28]

A location on Douglas Avenue, away from Main Street, the former center of drover activity, allowed businesses to cast off the cowtown image:

> "Ellsworth has had more difficulties perhaps to contend with in its growth than any other city in the state. For years it was the shipping point of Texas cattle and was habited by the rough class which generally follow in the wake of the 'trade' but gradually the dance houses, dives, and other dens of iniquity, have given way and industries of worth have taken their place."[29]

In 1880, these "industries of worth" included 7 groceries, 4 dry goods, 3 hardware stores, 3 drug stores, 3 restaurants, 2 jewelers, 1 bank, 2 lumber yards, 2 printing offices, 1 news/stationery, 2 grist mills, 3 elevators, 3 hotels, 4 agricultural implements dealers, 1 furniture store, 2 liveries, and 1 coal dealer.[30] The paper did not note the businesses of "lesser" worth, which long after the cowtown days included saloons, billiards halls, dance halls and bowling alleys, still catered to the rough element.[31]

The Douglas Avenue trend continued through the 1880s. In 1881, postmaster Z. Jackson built "quite a large block on the east side of Douglas Avenue between First and Second streets ..." which served an office building and opera house.[32] In 1882, Henry Nunamaker, who had lost two buildings to fire, built a new building at 121 N. Douglas. In December 1885, the paper announced that "over $200,000 have been expended in the past 18 months in the way of buildings and improvements."[33] The Ellsworth Reporter noted that "The large stone blocks on the two business streets show wealth and

[25] Ibid.
[26] Ellsworth Reporter, 28 September 1876.
[27] William G. Cutler, History of the State of Kansas, (Chicago: AT Andreas, 1883).
[28] Ellsworth County Clippings, v. 1, pg. 28, (Kansas State Historical Society, 978.1 El6 Clipp.).
[29] "Ellsworth City." Ellsworth Reporter, 11 March 1880.
[30] Ibid.
[31] 1888 Sanborn Map.
[32] William G. Cutler, History of the State of Kansas, (Chicago: AT Andreas, 1883).
[33] The Commonwealth, 23 December 1885.

stability."[34] In 1882, the Jackson Opera House, located in what later became the Wellington Block, was completed.[35] The First Methodist Church at 322-324 N. Douglas was built in 1885. The Central National Bank completed a building at 202 Douglas, in what later became the Wellington Block, in 1886. In 1887, the Odd Fellows built a meeting hall at the corner of First and Kansas Avenue (no longer extant). E.W. Wellington commissioned his first commercial building, the Insurance Building at 115 N. Douglas, in 1887.[36]

Ellsworth's 1880s buildup coincided with a nationwide building boom. Among the styles that proliferated in the 1870s and 1880s was the Italianate Style. Italianate commercial buildings were generally three bays wide with tall narrow windows (sometimes with arched window openings), decorative hood molds, bracketed cornices, and tall narrow cast-iron or wood storefronts. Extant examples of this style in Ellsworth include the Ellsworth County Jail, 118 North Douglas, 121 North Douglas, 207 North Douglas, 226 North Douglas and 107 E. North Main.

Many of Ellsworth's commercial buildings built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were constructed by F. C. Easterly. Easterly came to Kansas in 1880, when he was employed as both a farmer and contractor. After a few years, he left farming to devote his time to building:

> During all the time he contracted for and erected buildings all over the county, and there is not a building in the city with the exception of those on one block, that he has not either worked on or built. He built several school houses over the state also, and one or two large bank buildings."[37]

Those who developed Ellsworth's new commercial district felt a civic duty to protect their investment. Despite devastating past losses, there was no city ordinance requiring masonry buildings in commercial districts. However, the business buildings received some protection in 1886, when the city, having completed its waterworks and water tower, finally established a volunteer fire department.[38] The first volunteer fire house company, formed June 4, 1886, was sponsored by the First National Bank. Central National Bank responded to the challenge, organizing a second company on June 7, 1886. Ironically, the first fire station, housed in a two-story frame building, burned to the ground just two short years after it was built.[39]

County Seat

Organized in 1867, Ellsworth was named the county seat by the commissioners when the county was founded. Ellsworth's continued wealth and stability relied heavily on the success of the region's greatest economic force: agriculture. The area's location along the Kansas Pacific rail line, coupled with its fertile farm land, made it a hub for shipping agricultural products to the east. Like most railroads, the Kansas Pacific marketed land to farmers. In 1870, Ellsworth County had only 2,476 acres of land under cultivation. By 1872, the cultivated acreage had more than doubled to 5,723.[40] By the late 1870s, Ellsworth County was home to a large contingent of ethnic Germans and Bohemians who came from both eastern states and Europe.[41]

As county seat, Ellsworth was a regional trading center with a growing number of businesses, from harness shops to agricultural implements' dealers, catering to the agricultural market. Many stores took pride in the fact that their clerks

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[34] "Ellsworth: One of Kansas' most enterprising little communities," Ellsworth Reporter, February 1880, (Reprinted 20 March 1980).
[35] Ellsworth Reporter, 7 September 1882.
[36] Dorothy Grothusen, "Landmark Building Houses Variety of Tenants," Ellsworth Reporter, 26 January 1978.
[37] "Ellsworth, Kan. Seat of Activity," Topeka Daily Capital, 3 May 1914.
[38] "Ordinances of the City of Ellsworth," 1898 (Kansas State Historical Society, 352.9 El6).
[39] Ruby Bayse, "Early day disasters plagued Ellsworth's Survival," Hutchinson News-Herald, 15 December 1957.
[40] Craig Miner, West of Wichita: Settling the High Plains of Kansas, 1865-1890 (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, 1986), 36.
[41] "Ellsworth County," Cutler.

spoke German. The city's first grain elevator was built by Schmucker and Work in the fall of 1877.[42] By 1880, there were three elevators, including the Granger Elevator, built in the summer of 1878.[43] In 1884, The Commonwealth reported that there was more wheat shipped from Ellsworth than from any other point along the Union Pacific (formerly Kansas Pacific) Railroad between Denver and Kansas City.[44] By 1888, four grain elevators, Worth and Company, W.Z. Smith and Hopkins, J.H. Clark, and M.M. Kirkpatrick, were located along the Union Pacific line west of the depot.[45]

Like commercial buildings, agricultural buildings also suffered fire woes. In late 1879, fire destroyed the county's only flour mill, the Everett and Foster Mill. For nearly a year, until Foster Mill rebuilt and Getty and Larkins built a second mill, area farmers were forced to haul their wheat to other counties.[46]

In addition to fertile farming ground, Ellsworth was blessed with other natural resources that contributed long-term to the local economy: salt and natural gas. Locals first discovered salt on September 7, 1887. It was reported throughout the region – and in Chicago newspapers – to be the thickest vein of solid salt in the world.[47] Local boosters lured investors from Denver to create the Monarch Salt Company, which soon ordered 100,000 feet of lumber from Arkansas to build the large shaft necessary to mine the bounty.[48] Prospectors also found natural gas in 1887.

Bust

The fate of the fire station manned by bankers proved a metaphor for the times to come. By that time, both the local and national economies had suffered the first of a series of blows that resulted in an economic depression. One of the first setbacks that contributed to the looming depression on the High Plains was the Blizzard of 1886. The blustering winds, blinding snow and arctic temperatures were blamed for the deaths of an estimated 50-100 Kansans and untold number of livestock. An 1887 drought ravished farmers, many of whom had over-expanded in the abundant preceding years. The slow recovery was interrupted by a massive crop failure in 1888.[49] By 1890, creditors held mortgages for more than 60% of the state's taxable acres. Kansas creditors reported 11,000 mortgage foreclosures in the late 1880s and early 1890s.[50] Just when boosters thought the worst was over, thousands of Kansans fled the state to find new opportunity in Oklahoma during the Cherokee Strip Land Rush in 1893.

Ellsworth's economy was especially hard hit during the depression when a series of unfortunate local events exacerbated the city's woes. In July 1890, the Frisco Depot was struck by lightening and burned.[51] In 1895, soon after the building was re-built, desperate robbers blew up the Frisco safe and raided it.[52] In January 1891, the Monarch Salt Company was dissolved after miners hit a vein of water that flooded the salt shaft and pump.[53] The Cottage Hotel, which had been remodeled in 1891 to house the Ellsworth Pottery Company, burned to the ground in February 1893.[54] During the early 1890s, while they were constructing a meeting hall, the Masons faced financial troubles. The building was assumed by a local theater group, which converted it to a theater.[55]

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[42] "Ellsworth City," Ellsworth Reporter, 8 January 1880.
[43] Ibid.
[44] The Commonwealth, 23 December 1885.
[45] 1888 Sanborn Map.
[46] Cutler.
[47] Dwayne E. Hand, Salt! Salt! Salt! Is the Cry! A History of the Salt Industry at Ellsworth and Kanopolis (Ellsworth, Kansas: Ellsworth County Historical Society, 1979), 5.
[48] Ibid, 6-9.
[49] Francis Wilson, A History of Ellsworth County, Kansas, (Ellsworth, Kansas: Ellsworth County Historical Society, 1979).
[50] Miner, West of Wichita, 46. Robert Richmond, Kansas: A Land of Contrasts (Wheeling, Illinois: Forum Press, Inc., 1989), 143, 191.
[51] Ellsworth Reporter, 17 July 1890.
[52] Ellsworth Reporter, 23 August 1895.
[53] Hand, Salt! Salt! Salt!.
[54] Ellsworth Reporter, 10 December 1891, 9 February 1893.
[55] "Bijou Tavern," Ellsworth County Historical Society Clippings.

The story of Christian Henry Rammelsberg illustrates the unpredictable late nineteenth-century business cycles. Rammelsberg, a German native born in 1833, came to Ellsworth in 1878, bought the property at 107 E. N. Main, and began plans for a 2-story stone building. After completing the building in 1879, Rammelsberg began operating a dry goods store on the first floor and moved his family upstairs. In the mid-1880s, the then-successful businessman built a mansion. To support his enterprises and finance his mansion, Rammelsberg borrowed heavily against the building during the mid and late 1880s. The depression of the 1890s dealt a heavy blow to the Rammelsbergs, whose dry goods building was sold at Sheriff's Auction in 1895.[56]

Some local investors, like Jerome Beebe, saw the depression as an opportunity to grab and develop properties at bargain-basement prices. Beebe bought the American House at Sheriff's sale for $3500 in January 1890.[57] Others left Ellsworth to invest in larger markets, such as California and Chicago.[58] Laden with the burden of a growing number of bad debts, the First National Bank, one of the city's three banks, closed its doors on January 29, 1891. When its assets, ranging from its building to land in Florida, went up for auction in November 1894, no bidders could be found.[59]

The hard financial times left Kansans, particularly farmers, restless and eager for change. The Kansas Farmers Alliance, a precursor to the Kansas Populist Party, met in Ellsworth in October 1890. Among the speakers was Mary Elizabeth Lease.[60] The Populists had such a pull in Ellsworth County that the populist legislature passed legislation during the Populist War of 1893 to move the state capitol to Ellsworth County.[61]

Although private investment ground to a halt during the bust, public improvements continued. Contractors completed a new brick courthouse in August 1892.

Recovery

The end of the depression in Ellsworth came in the form of the redevelopment of the Wellington Block on the west side of Douglas Avenue between First and Second Streets. Between 1897 and 1911, Edward Winslow Wellington purchased, demolished, expanded and remodeled buildings on what soon became known as the Wellington Block. E.W. Wellington was a native of Boston, Massachusetts and a Harvard graduate who moved west in the late 1870s. After operating a sheep ranch in Ottawa County for a year, he bought 12,000 acres of land in Ellsworth County, which he soon developed into a successful ranch. Wellington named the post office near his ranch Carneiro, the name of a ghost town that still bears the name. (The name means "mutton" in Portuguese.) In 1887, Wellington moved to Ellsworth and commenced construction of the insurance building at 115 N. Douglas Avenue.[62]

Wellington began his development of the Wellington Block with the purchase and renovation of 208-210 N. Douglas, formerly occupied by Jackson's Opera House, originally constructed in 1882. A devoted Mason and grand Master of Kansas, Wellington donated the upstairs of the building to the Masons as a meeting hall. The Masons had been forced to give up their previous hall when hard times struck earlier in the decade. The fraternal organization dedicated its new hall in the Wellington Block in late 1897.[63]

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[56] "VFW Building – 109 N. Main," (History compiled by 2004-2005 VFW Trustees, Ellsworth County Historical Society).
[57] Ellsworth Reporter, 23 January 1890.
[58] "Touring Ellsworth in the 1890s," Reprinted in the Ellsworth Reporter, 13 May 1976.
[59] Ellsworth Reporter, 1 November 1894.
[60] Wilson, History of Ellsworth County.
[61] Ibid.
[62] Frank Blackmar, Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc. ... (Chicago: Standard Pub. Co, 1912). ("E. W. Wellington")
[63] Ellsworth Reporter, 1 December 1897.

By 1912, Wellington had completed the development of the entire block. Between 1895 and 1905, he built a Richardsonian Romanesque hardware store at 220-222 N. Douglas.[64] Between 1905 and 1911, he built a grocery store at 216-218 N. Douglas and another store at 212-214.[65] The Odd Fellows, who had occupied the ill-fated Masonic hall that later became the Golden Belt Theater, announced plans to build a meeting hall over the first story of the Wellington Block. They dedicated the space on January 13, 1911.[66] According to a 1912 account, Wellington was the first in town to install steam heat, plate-glass windows and cement sidewalks at his buildings.[67] Below is an account of his other contributions to Ellsworth:

> Taking great pride in the growth of his home city, Mr. Wellington built, owns and operates the sewerage system of the town. No amount of time, energy or money is too great for him to spend if it be for the betterment of the community. Mr. Wellington typifies the spirit of the West. Progress and improvement are his watchwords. He is preëminently [sic] a business man and his efforts have been crowned with well-deserved success. In addition to his large land holdings he has a business concern handling loans and insurance under the firm name of E. W. Wellington & Son. They also have an abstract office.[68]

A unique feature of Ellsworth's downtown was an underground tunnel system that connected the buildings on the north end of the 100 Block of North Douglas and the buildings in the 200 Block (Wellington Block). The tunnels feature hand-dressed sandstone walls, 2/2 double-hung windows along a formerly lit corridor that provides access to multiple buildings. The space in the basement of the Masonic Building, recently rediscovered by the property owners, includes a bowling alley with historic bowling scores on the chalkboard painted walls. Persons could access these spaces via stairs descending from sidewalks or from the basements of adjacent buildings.

The historical record provides some insight regarding the use of sub-grade spaces. Both the Union Block and Wellington Block had useable basement spaces. According to an 1878 account, the IW Phelps grocery, located in the Union Block "had a cellar under the whole building."[69] 204 N. Douglas, built on the west side of the 200 Block of Douglas Avenue before Wellington developed the remainder of the block, had a barber shop in the basement in 1888. Apparently, Wellington continued the trend when he developed the block in the 1890s. Although the basement of the Masonic Building was clearly being used for a bowling alley in the early twentieth century, the use was not indicated on the Sanborn maps.

Many downtowns had stores in buildings' lower levels. Consumers generally accessed the lower-level businesses using stairs from sidewalks. These sidewalk openings not only provided circulation space, but also provided then-necessary natural lighting to underground stores through windows along the plane of the front elevations. Over time, maintenance concerns, sidewalk repairs, reduced downtown density, and electrical lighting caused business owners to abandon the spaces. Many of the former openings were reportedly infilled when the City replaced water mains in the early 1980s.

The first two decades of the twentieth century, later dubbed the Progressive Era, brought improvements to many communities throughout the nation. During this time, many of the ideas earlier propagated by the Populists were adopted by mainstream reformers who undertook efforts to make their communities safer, cleaner, and more beautiful. Victorian commercial architectural details – large cornices, hood molds, and applied details – were supplanted by simple practical designs executed in fireproof materials.

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[64] 1895 and 1905 Sanborn Maps.
[65] 1905 and 1911 Sanborn Maps.
[66] Ellsworth Reporter, 5 May 1910, 13 January 1911.
[67] Blackmar, Kansas: a cyclopedia ...
[68] Ibid.
[69] Ellsworth County Clippings, v. 1, page 28, "The Town of Ellsworth," Kansas State Historical Society.

By 1900, a growing number of services and businesses served Ellsworth County's 9626 citizens. The Citizens State Bank opened in June 1900 at the corner of First and Douglas.[70] The Ellsworth Hospital opened January 1900. Despite damage due to a severe flood in 1903, businesses overcame the setbacks of the 1890s.[71] The Ellsworth Variety Store opened in 1909.[72] The Beatty and Santry Clothing Store opened in 1900.[73]

The progressive improvements continued during the century's second decade. By 1910, the county's population had grown to 10,444.[74] The Ellsworth IGA opened on Douglas Avenue in 1912.[75] In 1913, the J.H. Robbins Memorial Library opened.[76] A new county jail was constructed in 1911. The Citizens Bank, founded in 1900, built an imposing neoclassical building, befitting the City Beautiful Movement, at 126 N. Douglas in 1912. Three years after its construction, the Citizens Bank Building was eclipsed by the neoclassical Central National Bank, which the Topeka Daily Capital called "one of the prettiest [banks] in Kansas" in 1915.[77] After devastating losses in the 1890s, the salt mines were back in operation, with salt-manufacturing byproducts used for city improvements such as street paving.[78]

Good roads became increasingly necessary as automobiles took to the streets in Kansas towns. The following ironic entry appeared in the Ellsworth Reporter in 1896: "More hitching posts should be provided along our business streets. We noticed a half a dozen instances last Sat'y where it took almost a half hour to find a place to tie teams to ... The Standard Oil Company is locating in Ellsworth."[79] Just a few years later, hitching posts would become obsolete – due in part to the Standard Oil Company and the development of auto transportation.

The Ellsworth Reporter rang in the new auto era in July 1903 when it announced the arrival of George Tremble's new car.[80] By September 1903, Mr. Tremble and other investors had raised $20,000 to prospect for oil.[81] Soon, harness shops and other horse-related businesses gave way to garages, auto dealerships and service stations, serving both increasingly car-crazed locals and auto tourists passing through on Highway 40, known during the early twentieth century as the Victory Highway and Golden Belt road. Douglas Avenue was paved in 1919 (Ellsworth Reporter, 13 August 1919). By the 1920s, auto-related businesses proliferated in downtown. In 1908, L.H. Seaver opened the first public garage by renting space in the opera house building at 116-118 E. 1st.[82] Both the Ellsworth Garage, west of the Baker Hotel across the Union Pacific tracks and the Banfield Garage opened in 1911.[83] 116-118 N. Lincoln Ave, which had been the site of livery since before 1888, became location of new garage building opened in 1924 by John Wamhoff and Sons. The public garage craze followed a pattern established by livery stables in an era when most property owners did not own horses and few kept horses in carriage houses on their property. By 1928, there were enough public garages downtown to

[70] "Citizens State Bank," Ellsworth County Historical Society Clippings Files.
[71] Ellsworth Reporter, 28 May 1863.
[72] "More Businesses of Old Ellsworth," Ellsworth Reporter, 14 August 2003.
[73] "Beatty and Santry Broom Holder Offers Glimpse of Early Ellsworth Business," Ellsworth Reporter, 5 July 1979.
[74] 1910 U. S. Census.
[75] "Roger third Novak to Own Ellsworth IGA," Ellsworth Reporter, 7 August 2003.
[76] Marie Bower, "Memorial Library," The Echo, August 1946, p. 12, (Kansas State Historical Society, 978.1 Ec44 v. 5 no. 8 p. 12).
[77] "The Central National Bank, Ellsworth, Kansas, 1884-1915," (Kansas State Historical Society, 332.1 pam. v. 3). "New Home for Ellsworth Bank is one of the Prettiest in Kansas," Topeka Daily Capital, 25 July 1915.
[78] "Ellsworth, Kansas: Seat of Activity," Topeka Daily Capital, 3 May 1914.
[79] Ellsworth Reporter, 7 May 1896.
[80] Ellsworth Reporter, 23 July 1905.
[81] Ellsworth Reporter, 10 September 1903.
[82] Ellsworth Reporter, 25 July 1908.
[83] "Ellsworth Garage," (Clippings File, Ellsworth County Historical Society). "Businesses of Old Ellsworth," Ellsworth Reporter, 7 August 2003.

house at least 120 cars. These businesses soon became obsolete, however, as homeowners began to construct garages on their properties. Many continued to serve as service stations and auto dealerships.[84]

Farmers, who profited from increased demand of agricultural goods, particularly wheat, during World War I, created a new market for auto dealers. Their good fortune trickled down to Ellsworth business owners. The good times continued into the 1920s. By 1920, the county's population had grown to 10,379. Downtown investments included the construction of the Weber Mill, which was built of reinforced concrete in 1921 to lure investment in the community.[85] Safeway opened downtown in 1929.[86] Public improvements included the 1922 dedication of the community's $150,000 hospital, for which city leaders declared a business holiday.[87]

Decline

By the mid 1920s, however, there were signs that the economic boom was over. In May 1925, the Kanopolis State Bank closed.[88] In September 1925, the Farmers State Bank of Wilson closed its doors. The Geneseo State Bank followed suit in October 1925. Ellsworth's banks held on until November 1926, when the Ellsworth State Bank, which was chartered in July 1916 and opened at 218 N. Douglas (in the Wellington Block) in June 1917, was forced to close. Although there were some high points in the late 1920s and early 1930s, including the opening of Safeway and the discovery of natural gas in 1929 and the county's first oil strike in 1930 at Soeken #1, the local economy continued to plummet.[89] Between 1920 and 1930, for the first time in its history, Ellsworth's population declined from 10,379 to 10,132.[90] The Beatty and Santry clothing store, an Ellsworth institution since its opening in March 1900, was forced to close its store in the Masonic Building in 1931.[91]

The Central National Bank, which had survived the 1890s panic, was unable to weather this latest economic storm. After occupying 6 different buildings in its first years, the bank constructed the opulent $110,000 Classical Revival structure at 201-203 N. Douglas in 1915.[92] Unfortunately, the building could not shelter the bank from the coming storm. The Central National Bank was closed by order of the national bank examiner in March 1931. At the time "A million dollars in deposits [were] temporarily lost to Ellsworth people." It was called the "worst crash since the Tompkins bank failure in the late eighties" a reference to the 1891 crash of the First National Bank, also called the Powers Bank, of which Tomkins was a cashier. Central Bank President George Tremble stated "The underlying causes of the suspension can be ascribed to the shrinkage in values of the products of the farm, and the consequent depression of real estate values."[93] After various attempts to re-organize the bank, Tremble, a long-time Ellsworth resident and town booster, left Ellsworth for Wichita. The bank announced that it was abandoning plans to re-organize as a national bank. Burdened with the stress of the Great Depression, Tremble died in 1935. Citizens State Bank, which had constructed its own building at 126 N. Douglas in 1912, took possession of the Central National Bank Building in July 1931. In September 1931, depositors of Central National received their first of 6 dividends, which equaled 25% of their deposits. Depositors did not receive their final

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[84] Although these service stations generally no longer housed cars, the term "garage" continued to be used interchangeably with "service station."
[85] "Weber Mill Thought Key to Prosperity for Ellsworth Area," Ellsworth Reporter, 6 August 1970. (Reference to Ellsworth Reporter article on 30 June 1921.)
[86] "The Safeway Store is Leaving Ellsworth," Ellsworth Reporter (From Clippings File, Ellsworth County Historical Society).
[87] Ellsworth Reporter, 30 March 1922. "Ellsworth County's New Hospital," Topeka Capital, 2 April 1922.
[88] Ellsworth Reporter, 2 May 1925.
[89] Francis Wilson, "The Roaring Twenties – The Dirty Thirties," Ellsworth Reporter (From Clippings File, Ellsworth County Historical Society).
[90] 1920 and 1930 U. S. Census.
[91] "Beatty and Santry Broom ..." Ellsworth Reporter, 5 July 1979.
[92] "The Central National Bank ..." (Kansas State Historical Society, 332.1 pam. v. 3). "New Home for Ellsworth Bank ..." Topeka Daily Capital, 25 July 1915.
[93] "Mr. George Tremble Makes Statement," Ellsworth Reporter, 26 March 1931.

dividend until 1938. By 1943, Citizens had relocated to the Central National Bank Building and its former space was occupied by the Post Office.[94]

Like their counterparts in communities throughout the nation, the hearty citizens of Ellsworth endured the Great Depression with the help of dedicated leaders and federal aid programs. During the leanest years, Ms. Clara Williford, a veteran reformer and committed public welfare advocate, served as the city's mayor.[95] Williford was credited with landing federal funds for projects such as the Ellsworth City Hall. The new building replaced the town's original city hall, built on the same site in 1888. It was completed in 1938 with $26,636 in federal funds and $35,000 in bonds. The construction, completed according to plans by architect Charles Shaver, employed 45 men, 35 of whom were local.[96]

The local economy also benefited from the depression-era development of Kanopolis Lake, a man-made lake authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938. Project construction began in June 1940. The project, completed after World War II, provided not only flood control, but also a recreational tourist attraction that benefited the entire area.[97]

Despite efforts to improve the community and attract private investment, Ellsworth's population declined again between 1930 and 1940, from 10,132 to 9855. Although economists credit World War II with ending the Great Depression, the war forever changed the economic outlook for small towns. The population continued to decline with the start of the war, which led to a mass exodus to large war-production centers, such as Wichita, and communities with military installations. Ellsworth's closest urban center, Salina, drew residents from the surrounding regions to support its B-29 training base. The population shifts to urban and military centers resulted in a record low for unemployment of 1.2%.[98]

As in World War I, area farms profited greatly during the war. So critical were agricultural products to the war effort that farm workers were exempted from involuntary military service. The war created an unprecedented wave of support from the civilian population. Citizens were encouraged to conserve consumer goods and collect materials, such as cloth and metal, to scrap for the war effort. Owners of the building at 107 E. N. Main, which ironically later became home to the local VFW, stripped the building's iron cornice and decorative lintels for war scrap.[99] Meantime, the scarcity of materials and labor halted non-military construction. Unfortunately, these homefront efforts affected downtown. Businesses, such as grocery stores and auto dealers, that sold rationed goods, saw sales decline

Post World War II to Present

The population of Ellsworth County continued to fall off in the years following World War II. In the new military/industrial economy, the population shift to urban areas and military centers continued. The population of Salina, for instance, with its Smoky Hill Air Force Base, later named Schilling Air Force Base, exploded from 33,409 to 54,715 from 1950 to 1960.[100] College towns, like Manhattan and Lawrence, saw population growth when the GI Bill provided funding for college education for veterans. Without a military base or college, Ellsworth's population dropped by 14% from 9855 to 8465.[101]

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[94] "The Central National Pays Final Dividend," Ellsworth Reporter, 1938. (Ellsworth County Clippings, Kansas State Historical Society, 978.1 El6 Clipp.).
[95] "Its Motherly Mayor Keeps Ellsworth Happy and Alert," Kansas City Star, 23 July 1933.
[96] "City Hall Construction Sparks Economy," Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, 17 April 2003.
[97] Kansas City District, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, "History of Kanopolis Dam," (http://www.nwk.usace.army.mil/kanopolis/history.htm).
[98] U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population, 1940 to date (http://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat1.pdf).
[99] "VFW Building – 109 N. Main," (History compiled by 2004-2005 VFW Trustees, Ellsworth County Historical Society).
[100] 1950 and 1960 U. S. Census.
[101] Ibid.

Some area veterans returned to Ellsworth. Among them was A. James Dryden who founded Dryden Pottery in 1946. Dryden was the son of Pete Dryden, a local hardware dealer who operated his store at 220-222 N. Douglas. Dryden took ceramics courses at KU, then opened shop in a Quonset hut and army barracks, which he purchased using a GI Bill loan and gift from his father. In 1947, the plant produced 2000 pieces, many of them designed by local artist and architect John Seitz. In 1949, Dryden moved his entire operation, including buildings, from his original location near downtown to a second location along Highway 40. In 1956, after plans for the interstate highway system showed that the planned Interstate 70 would bypass Ellsworth, Dryden moved his operation to Hot Springs, Arkansas.[102]

Despite population declines during the 1950s, Ellsworth continued to build. New buildings employed Modern architectural styles. The most substantial example was the Ellsworth County Courthouse, dedicated in 1951. This building was the third courthouse. The first, a two-story building constructed 1873, was located on the northwest corner of E. N. Main and Court Ave south of the old jail.[103] It was replaced between 1888 and 1893 with a 2 1/2 story building on the corner of 2nd and Court Avenue. After the 1890s courthouse was completed, the original courthouse building was demolished. The current courthouse was dedicated on May 12, 1951. It was designed by Mann and Company of Hutchinson, Kansas and local architect John Seitz (b. ca. 1909). The designers used the highest-quality materials, including concrete, polished brown granite, plate glass in steel and aluminum frames, polished marble and terrazzo. The project, which cost $303,988, was funded with a mill levy and bond issue.[104] Other public investments included the construction of the Ellsworth Water District Office and a library addition, both completed in 1958, and the Ellsworth Elementary School, constructed from plans by Mann and Company in 1952.[105]

Businesses located in existing buildings and built new ones. In 1950, Duckwalls, an Abilene-based chain, opened a new store in the Masonic Building.[106] A building at 213 N. Douglas was re-faced in the late-1940s or early 1950s with a modern blond brick façade. Another building at 120 N. Lincoln was built new in the Art Modern Style. The Ellsworth Reporter moved into a new Modern building at 220 N. Court. The Southwestern Bell building at 211 N. Kansas Avenue epitomized Modern design.

Unfortunately, the community also suffered some significant setbacks during the 1950s. In 1951, Earl Wesley Scheidt stole 5 cases of dynamite and set it off in the city park. The blast caused $100,000 of damage to 100 downtown buildings.[107] In November 1955, the Lake Superior Lumber Yard caught fire, causing $90,000 in damage downtown. This represented the largest fire loss in the community's history.[108] In 1958, a devastating fire damaged the White House Hotel. When owners decided not to repair the fire-damaged building, the Topeka Capital declared the hotel the "Victim of the Motorcar."[109] In 1961, after the building was demolished, the Coach and Four Bowling Alley was built on the site.[110] In the late 1950s, Safeway, which opened in downtown in 1929, closed due to "lack of parking."[111] In 1960, Ellsworth IGA followed suit, moving from Douglas Avenue, where it had been located since 1912.[112] Between 1950 and 1960, Ellsworth's population plunged another 9% from 8465 to 7677. It dropped another 20% to 6146 by 1970.[113]

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[102] GL Dybwad and Joy V. Bliss, Dryden Pottery of Kansas and Arkansas (Albuquerque, NM: The Book Stops Here, 2001). Martha Andrews, "From the Hills of Kansas: This History of Dryden Pottery," (Ellsworth County Historical Society).
[103] 1888 Sanborn Map.
[104] "City Hall Construction Sparks Economy," Ellsworth County Independent/Reporter, 17 April 2003.
[105] "Library History," J. H. Robbins Library, (http://skyways.lib.ks.us/towns/Ellsworth/library/libhist.html).
[106] Abstract of Title, Masonic Building.
[107] "Held in Kansas Blast," Kansas City Times, 3 April 1951.
[108] "Fire Department Continues Service to Community," Ellsworth Reporter, (Recounting events of 26 November 1955).
[109] "Fire at Ellsworth Hotel Recalls Era of Wyatt Earp," Topeka Capital, 9 March 1958; "Famed Ellsworth Hotel is Victim of Motorcar," Topeka Capital, 17 August 1958.
[110] "Coach and Four," Ellsworth County Historical Society Clippings File.
[111] "The Safeway Store is Leaving Ellsworth," Ellsworth County Historical Society Clippings File.
[112] "Roger Third Novak to Own Ellsworth IGA," Ellsworth Reporter, 10 January 1980.
[113] 1950, 1960, 1970 U. S. Census.

New businesses located along the highway. The El Kan Plant, which supplied wiring harnesses for the Ford Company, opened in 1969.[114] The Chickasaw mobile home plant opened in 1973 with plans to employ 200 workers.[115] In part due to these new industries, Ellsworth County's population rose for the first time in six decades between 1970 and 1980 from 6146 to 6640.[116]

Unfortunately, by the 1980s, population decline and the resultant negative economic climate had made inevitable a meager prognosis for the deteriorating stock of historic downtown buildings. The Ellsworth Reporter informed readers that the insurance building was being used as a laundry mat.[117] In 1977, the newspaper reported the demolition of the theater building, constructed in 1877 as the first two-story stone building on the west side of Douglas.[118] Two buildings on the southeast corner of First and Lincoln Streets were demolished by Larsen Chevrolet for a new and used car lot.[119] The Beebe Building (115 E. N. Main), an architect-designed Italianate building constructed in 1877, was condemned in 1978, sold for $100 at Sheriff's auction in 1983, and was demolished in 1984, along with the early twentieth-century building to its east.[120] In 1971, a ruinous fire destroyed the Westerhaus Motor Company, causing $150,000 in damage.[121] In 1987 the Ira Lloyd Building, built by the cowtown lawyer in the 1880s, was demolished.[122]

Another casualty of the decline was the Rogers House Hotel (also called the American House and Farmers Hotel). The stone building was constructed by proprietor John Kelley in 1887. The building was given a Mission Revival Style front in the early twentieth century. In 1968, the Smoky Hills Art Foundation repaired the structure and leased to artist Charles Rogers for his gallery. Rogers bought the building in 1973. The following year, the roof collapsed, damaging plaster walls and ceilings. Following Rogers death in the 1980s, the building was demolished.[123]

Some of these lost structures were replaced with new buildings. Unfortunately, the new buildings were not equivalent to the historic buildings in quality of materials and design. The Beebe Building, a tooled stone architect-designed building, was replaced with a butler building, the senior center, in 1987.

Due in part to the dedication of the Ellsworth County Historical Society, other threatened buildings were saved. The society purchased and saved the 1878 Hodgen House and 1880s livery. It has recently stabilized the 1873 Ellsworth County Jail as a ruin. Despite continued population decline, Ellsworth citizens are re-claiming their history and rehabilitating the historic buildings that chronicle and interpret their community's intriguing story, from its days as a cowtown through the twentieth century. The City of Ellsworth has received Historic Preservation Fund grants from the Kansas State Historical Society to survey its historic downtown and nominate it as a National Register district.

**SUMMARY**

The buildings in downtown Ellsworth interpret the history of the community's permanent commercial development. The Ellsworth Downtown Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the growth and development of Ellsworth and Criterion C for its architectural significance.

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[114] "El-Kan Building Hummed with Commerce in 1970s," Ellsworth Reporter, 20 February 2003.
[115] "Governor Here for Chickasha Open House," Ellsworth Reporter, 25 October 1973.
[116] 1970, 1980 U. S. Census.
[117] Dorothy Grothusen, "Landmark Building Houses Variety of Tenants," Ellsworth Reporter, 26 January 1978.
[118] Ellsworth Reporter, 18 December 1969.
[119] "Two Historic Buildings Face Crushing Fate." Ellsworth Reporter, 9 September 1976.
[120] "Restoration Possible: Ike Hall Building Gets Reprieve?" Ellsworth Reporter, 19 October 1978.
[121] "Fire Demolishes Auto Dealership," Ellsworth Reporter, 5 January 1971.
[122] Dorothy Grothusen, "Ellsworth Landmark to be Razed," Ellsworth Reporter, 4 June 1987.
[123] "Rogers Museum Roof Tumbles," Larned Daily Tiller and Toiler, 17 April 1974; Ellsworth Reporter, 11 October 1877, 20 December 1877, 27 September 1877; "Rogers Buys Old-Time Hotel from Foundation," Ellsworth Reporter, 3 May 1973.

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Topeka Capital-Journal

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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM Coordinates Continued

5. Zone 14: 567075E 4286700N
6. Zone 14: 566915E 4286690N
7. Zone 14: 566730E 4286830N
8. Zone 14: 566710E 4286890N

Verbal Boundary Description
The historic district is approximately seven blocks in area encompassing the concentration of historic commercial and civic buildings within the central business district. Beginning at the northwest (rear) corner of the property at 212 N Kansas Avenue, proceed 1 block southeast along the south curbline of Second Street. Then proceed northeast one block along the east rear property lines along the alley between N. Kansas and Douglas Avenues. Then proceed southeast 1 ½ blocks along the south curbline of Third Street. Then proceed southwest 1 block along the west curbline of Lincoln Avenue. Then proceed 1 block southeast along the south curbline of Second Street. Then proceed 1 block southwest along the west curbline of Court Avenue. Then proceed one block northwest along the north curbline of First Street. Then proceed 1 block southwest along the west curbline of Lincoln Avenue. Then proceed 2 blocks northwest along the north curbline of N. Main Street. Then proceed ½ block northeast. Then proceed 1 ½ blocks along the east rear property lines along the alley between N. Kansas and N. Grand Avenues to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification
The district boundary encompasses the concentration of extant historic commercial and public buildings in downtown Ellsworth that retain their historic and architectural integrity. The inclusion of the Ellsworth County Courthouse in the block northwest of Douglas Avenue, and the Ellsworth County Jail and Sheriff's Residence in the block southeast of Douglas Avenue, does increase the number of non-contributing resources in the district. However, the courthouse and jail are key resources that represent an important component of downtown Ellsworth's history as the center of county government. The inclusion of the jail that is in dire need of maintenance could provide an incentive for the building's preservation and reuse. Additionally, three of the district's Modern resources are considered non-contributing due solely to their date of construction. In three years, these buildings will be fifty-years old and would be considered contributing resources (raising the percentage of contributing buildings to 60%-52 of the 87 resources).

## OTHER
The list of owners of property within the district is attached.

## DOCUMENTATION
Photo and Figure (Historic Views) references are provided by individual property under Section 7.

Figures
Numerous historic images of the district are included under 'Additional Documentation', following this section. All of the scanned images were provided by the Ellsworth County Historical Museum.

Photographs
Photographer: Brenda R. Spencer
Date: August-September 2006
Original Files: Kansas State Historic Preservation Office and author hold digital image files

| Photo # | Camera Direction | Description |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | SW | Buildings #12 – 8, west side of 100 block N. Douglas Avenue |
| 2 | NW | Former hotel (Building #3-5), west North Main Street |
| 3 | NE | Co-op Filling Station (#6), northeast corner W. N. Main Street and Kansas Avenue |
| 4 | SW | Former auto shop/garage (Building #16), Carpenters' Shop (Building #15) in background (left); southwest corner of 1st Street and Kansas Avenue. |
| 5 | W | Ellsworth County Courthouse (Building #18), constructed 1951, Mann and Co. |
| 6 | NE | City Hall/Municipal Building (#22), PWA building designed by Charles Shaver, 1938 |
| 7 | NW | West side of 200 block Douglas Avenue, Wellington Block (Buildings 23-29) |
| 8 | SW | West side of 200 block Douglas Avenue, Buildings 33-27 |
| 9 | NW | West side of 300 block N. Douglas, NW corner 3rd and Douglas (Buildings #34-39) |
| 10 | W | United Methodist Church at 3rd and Douglas, reconstructed 1951 (Building #39) |
| 11 | SE | Ellsworth Elementary School, SE corner 3rd and Douglas (Building #40) Designed by Mann & Co., 1953 |
| 12 | SE | Existing single family dwellings on E. 2nd Street (#58-59) |
| 13 | SE | J.L. Robbins Memorial Library (Building #60), SE corner of 2nd Street & Lincoln Ave. |
| 14 | SW | Old Jail and Sheriff's Residence, NW corner of 1st Street & Court Ave. (Building #63) |
| 15 | NE | Northeast corner of 1st Street & Lincoln Avenue Buildings #64-65, former garage and City Plumbing Building |
| 16 | SE | East side of 200 block N. Douglas Avenue (Buildings #43-75) |
| 17 | NE | Northeast corner of 1st Street & Douglas Avenue, Buildings #53-47 The 'Union Block'/Central National Bank on corner (now Citizen's State Bank) |
| 18 | NE | Buildings #54-56, north side of E. 1st Street |
| 19 | SE | Southeast corner of 1st Street and Douglas Avenue, Buildings #67-74 Former Seitz Drug on corner, Wellington Insurance building on right |
| 20 | NE | Northeast corner of Douglas Avenue & E. North Main Street, Buildings #76-81 |
| 21 | W | Building #83, 118 N. Lincoln Avenue |
| 22 | W | Interior view of west (front) basement wall showing former door & window openings likely leading to underground sidewalk, Building #49-209 N. Douglas |
| 23 | N | Interior view of underground "sidewalk" in basement of Masonic Building (#27) 2/2 double-hung wood windows extant fronting stone walkway |
| 24 | E | Former bowling alley in basement of Masonic Hall (Building #27) former openings on S wall to adjoining separate basement on south |
| 25 | E | Former door and window openings in east (front) wall of basement (Building #25) |
| 26 | W | Brick corbelling, a distinguishing feature of many of Ellsworth's Commercial Style buildings (Buildings #26-28-the Wellington Block) |
| 27 | NE | East side of 100 Block N. Douglas Avenue, Wellington Insurance Building (#75), listed on National Register, in foreground |
| 28 | N | Looking north up Douglas Avenue at 1st Street (Buildings #24-32 on L/#52-42 on R) |

*NOTE: All historic views provided by Ellsworth County Historical Society and Museum*

*Figure 1- North and South Main Streets on each side of Kansas Pacific Railroad Tracks at south end of Ellsworth's downtown (looking west) Photo by R. Benecke, St. Louis*

*Figure 2 – East side of 100 and 200 blocks N. Douglas Avenue, January 1886.*

*Figure 3 – Post card image of Douglas Avenue, looking north from N. Main Street, c.1900*

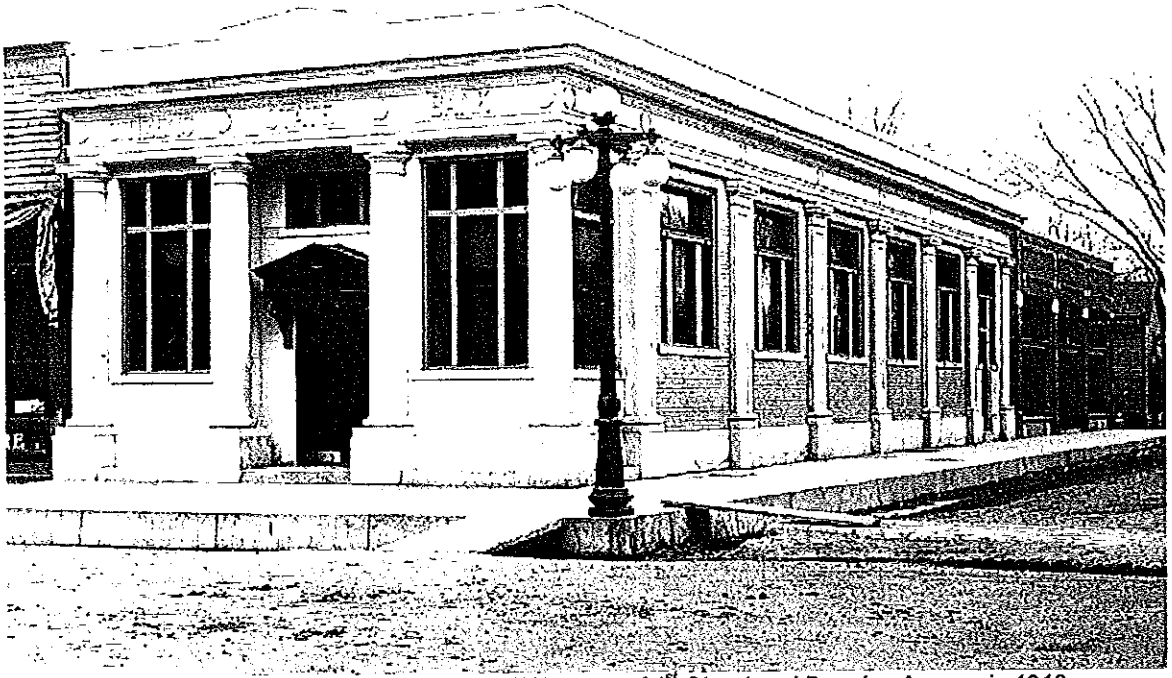

*Figure 4 – Citizens State Bank, constructed at SW corner of 1st Street and Douglas Avenue in 1912*

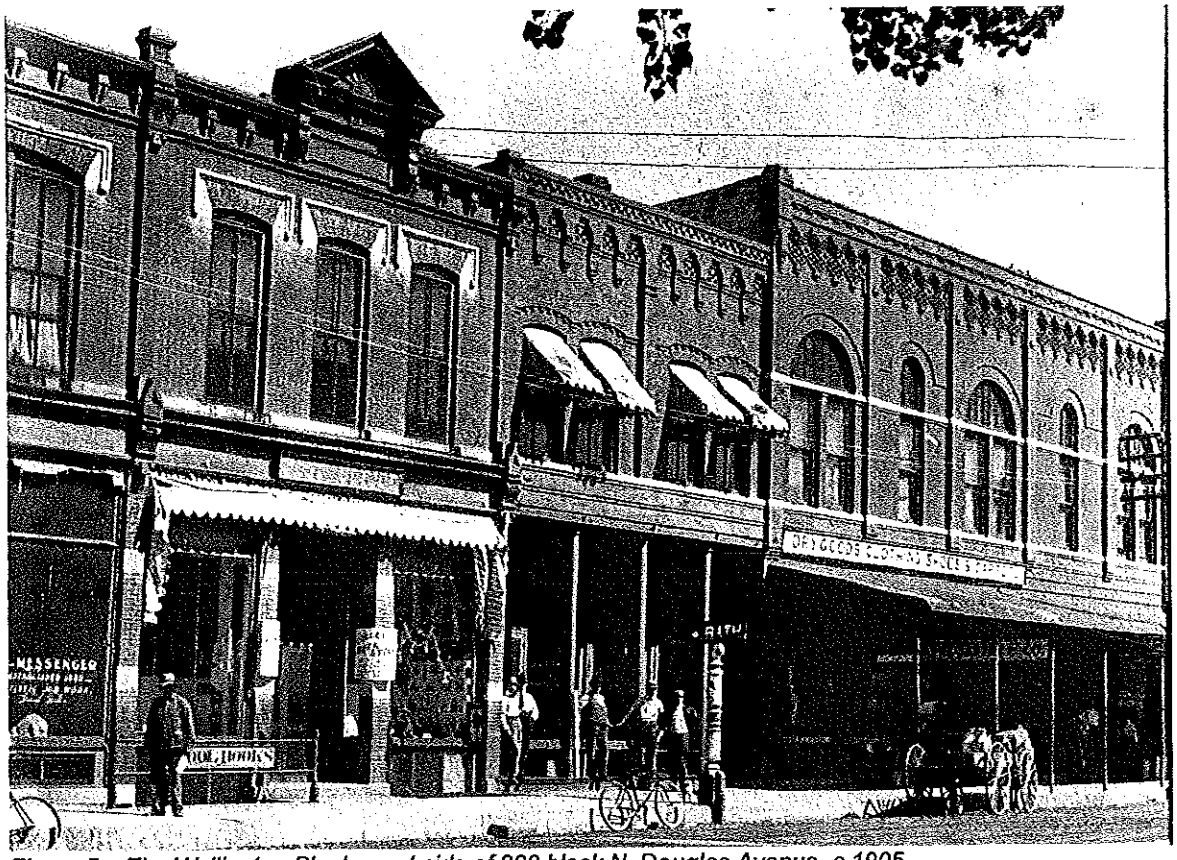


*Figure 5 – The Wellington Block, west side of 200 block N. Douglas Avenue, c.1905*

*Figure 6 – West side of 200 block N. Douglas Avenue, dated May 30, 1924*

*Figure 7 – Looking south on Douglas Avenue from 2nd Street, c.1905*

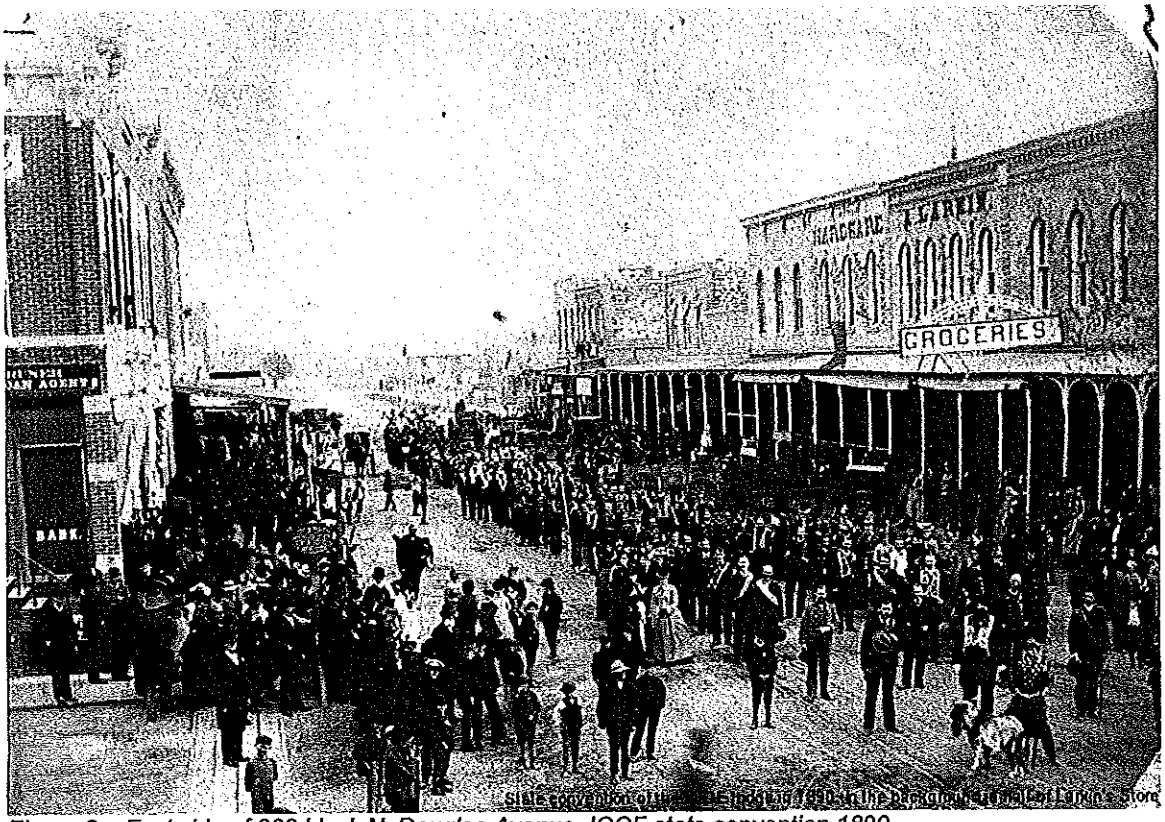


*Figure 8 – East side of 200 block N. Douglas Avenue, IOOF state convention 1890*

*Figure 9 – East side of 200 block N. Douglas Avenue mid-block c.1900*

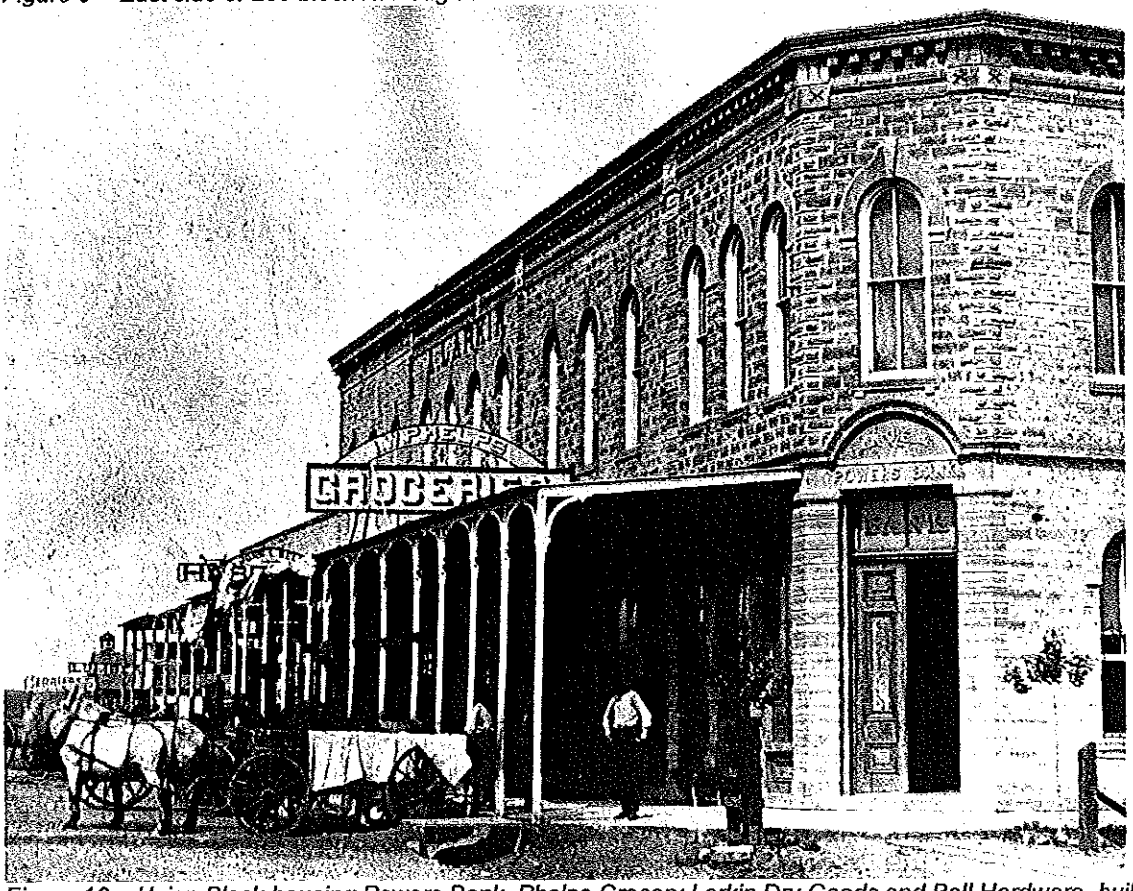


*Figure 10 – Union Block housing Powers Bank, Phelps Grocery Larkin Dry Goods and Bell Hardware, built 1876*
*Northeast corner of 2nd Street and Douglas Avenue*

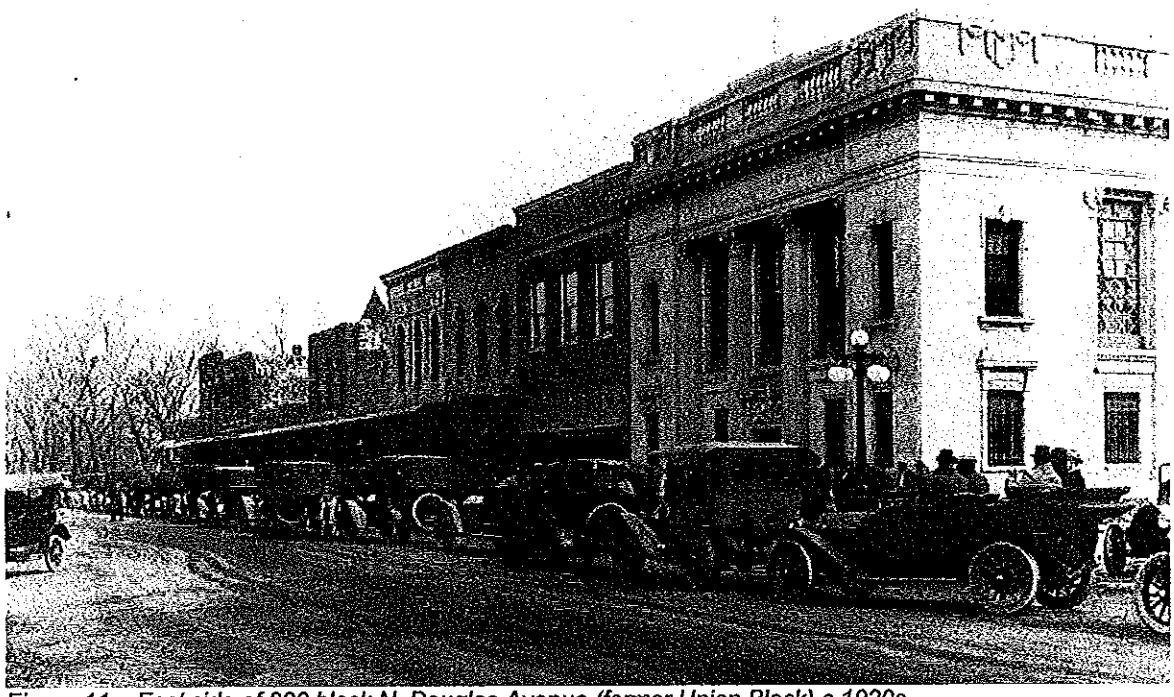

*Figure 11 – East side of 200 block N. Douglas Avenue (former Union Block) c.1920s*

*Figure 12- Looking south on Douglas Avenue, 200 and 100 blocks c. .late 1940s*

*Figure 13- Looking south on Douglas Avenue from 1st Street, c.1910*

*Figure 14 – Insurance Building constructed by E.W. Wellington 1887, occupied by Central National Bank 1905-1912*

*Figure 15 – Looking north on Douglas Avenue from Main Street, Original Seitz Drug Store on NE corner (R), c.1920s*

*Figure 16- 100 Block Douglas Avenue, looking south, 1938 flood*

*Figure 17 – Looking north on Douglas Avenue from Main Street, 1947*

## PROPERTY OWNERS

| # | Property Address | Owner Name | Owner Mailing Address | City/State/Zip |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 104-06 N. Douglas Avenue | Jeff Hoffman | 415 E. 8th | Kanopolis, KS 67454 |
| 2 | 112-114 N. Douglas Avenue | Ed and Anita Hoffhines | 311 E. 10th St. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| #3-5 | 105-111 W. N. Main Street | Graf, LLC | P.O. Box 375 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 6 | 103 N. Kansas Avenue | Ellsworth Co. Farmers Co-op | 100 N. Kansas P.O. Box 397 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 7 | 116 W. 1st Street | Ellsworth Federal Credit Union | 120 W. 1st St. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 8 | 118 N. Douglas Avenue | Jerry Paden c/o Linda Siemsen | P.O. Box 92 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 9 | 120 N. Douglas Avenue | Jerry Paden c/o Linda Siemsen | P.O. Box 92 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 10 | 122 N. Douglas Avenue | Daniel and Tammy Jo Kruse | 1766 13th Rd | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 11 | 124 N. Douglas Avenue | Judith Sherman, Nancy Hoffman | 126 N. Douglas P.O. Box 83 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 12 | 126 N. Douglas Ave. | Judith Sherman, Nancy Hoffman | 126 N. Douglas P.O. Box 83 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 13 | 110-112 W. 1st Street | Pamela Janzen c/o Flower & Gift Shop | 112 W. 1st | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 14 | 120 W. 1st Street | Ellsworth County Coop. Fed Cred. Union | 120 W. 1st St. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 15 | 100 Blk. N. Kansas Avenue | David and Marjorie Koralek | 509 Kingsley | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 16 | 202-204 W. 1st Street | Smoky Hill Electric Coop. | 208 W 1st St. P.O. Box 125 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 17 | 206-208 W. 1st Street | Smoky Hill Electric Coop. | 208 W 1st St. P.O. Box 125 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 18 | 210 N. Kansas Avenue | Ellsworth, County of | 210 N. Kansas | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 19 | 212 N. Kansas Avenue | Ellsworth, County of | 210 N. Kansas | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 20 | 120 W. 2nd Street | First Bank Kansas | P.O. Box 277 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 21 | 211 N. Kansas Avenue | Southwester Bell Telephone Co. | 823 Quincy | Topeka, KS 66612 |
| 22 | 121 W. 1st Street | City of Ellsworth | 121 W. 1st St. P.O. Box 163 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 23 | 107-111 W. 1st Street | Gary and Rita Urbanek | 405 Bradley St. P.O. Box 243 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 24 | 202 N. Douglas Avenue | Kent and Linnea Beebe | P.O. Box 24 | Kanopolis, KS 67454 |
| 25 | 204 N. Douglas Avenue | Ellsworth Area Arts Council, Inc. | 204 N. Douglas Ave. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 26 | 206 N. Douglas Avenue | Terry and Agnes Kepka c/o Seitz Drug | 206 N. Douglas | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 27 | 208-210 N. Douglas Avenue | Roehrman Renaissance, LLC | P.O. Box 423 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 28 | 212-214 N. Douglas Avenue | Cynthia and Ted Edgerle | 417 Bradley | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 29 | 216-218 N. Douglas Avenue | Cynthia and Ted Edgerle | 417 Bradley | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 30 | 220-222 N. Douglas Avenue | Roehrman Renaissance, LLC | P.O. Box 423 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 31 | 224 N. Douglas Avenue | John and Linda Strella | 323 Kunkle Dr. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 32 | 226 N. Douglas Avenue | Jeff and Kim Torkelson | 610 Webb St. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 33 | 110 W. 2nd Street | Jeff and Kim Torkelson | 610 Webb St. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 34 | 111 W. 2nd Street | Merv and Patrica Harms | 911 Stanberry St. P.O. Box 22 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 35 | 302 N. Douglas/107 W. 2nd | Merv and Patrica Harms | 911 Stanberry St. P.O. Box 22 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 36 | 304 N. Douglas Avenue | Merv and Patrica Harms | 911 Stanberry St. P.O. Box 22 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 36.5 | 306 N. Douglas Avenue | Bethphage Mission of the Great Plains | 102 E. 2nd St P.O. Box 169 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 37 | 308 N. Douglas Avenue | John and Rita Whitmer | 1302 Aylward | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 38 | 310 N. Douglas Avenue | Citizens State Bank and Trust Co. | 203 N. Douglas, P.O. Box 128 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |

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|---|---|---|---|---|
| 39 | 322-324 N. Douglas Avenue | Methodist Episcopal Church | 322 N. Douglas Ave. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 40 | 313 N. Douglas/110 E. 3rd | USD # 327 | P.O. Box 212 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 41 | 102 E. 2nd Street | Bethphage Mission of the Great Plains | 102 E. 2nd St P.O. Box 169 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 42 | 233 N. Douglas Avenue | Dale and Alice Soukup | P.O. Box 213 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 43 | 231 N. Douglas Avenue | Shaun Williams | 223 N. Douglas Ave. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 44 | 221 N. Douglas Avenue | Roger Peterson and John Kasper | 221 N. Douglas Ave. P.O. Box 398 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 45 | 219 N. Douglas Avenue | Beulah M. Woodmansee Revocable Trust | 507 N. Washington | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 46 | 215-217 N. Douglas Avenue | Pete's True value, L.L.C. | 212 N. Douglas Ave. P.O. Box 225 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 47 | 213 N. Douglas Avenue | Ken and Alice Robson | 211 N. Douglas Ave | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 48 | 211 N. Douglas Avenue | Ken and Alice Robson | 211 N. Douglas Ave | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 49 | 209 N. Douglas Avenue | Kevin and Barbara Kennedy | 517 Novak St. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 50 | 207 N. Douglas Avenue | Citizens State Bank and Trust Co. | 203 N. Douglas, P.O. Box 128 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 51 | 205 N. Douglas Avenue | Citizens State Bank and Trust Co. | 203 N. Douglas, P.O. Box 128 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 52 | 201-203 N. Douglas Avenue | Citizens State Bank and Trust Co. | 203 N. Douglas, P.O. Box 128 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 53 | 107-109 E. 1st Street | Post Rock Abstract and Title | P. O. Box 233 | Russell, KS 67665 |
| 54 | 119 E. 1st Street | Donna Behrens | 320 W. South Main | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 55 | 121 E. 1st Street | John and Dena Stoltz | P.O. Box 405 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 56 | 123 E. 1st Street | Roger Novak Trust | 2420 Edgehill | Salina, KS 67401 |
| 57 | 206 N. Lincoln Avenue | Roger Novak Trust | 2420 Edgehill | Salina, KS 67401 |
| 58 | 122 W. 2nd Street | Danile and Susan McKeirnan | P.O. Box 254 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 59 | 118 W. 2nd Street | Eric Swegle | 118 E. 2nd St. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 60 | 219 N. Lincoln Avenue | The Board of Directors of the Free Public | 219 N Lincoln | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 61 | 220 N. Court Avenue | Cynthia and Ted Edgerle | 417 Bradley | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 62 | 220 N. Court Avenue | Cynthia and Ted Edgerle | 417 Bradley | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 63 | 206 N. Court Avenue | Michael and Dawn Olson c/o Geraldo Minton | 2919 Coral Shores Dr. | Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33306 |
| 64 | 201-203 N. Lincoln Avenue | Roger Novak Trust | 2420 Edgehill | Salina, KS 67401 |
| 65 | 205 N. Lincoln Avenue | Alan and Gloria Marez | 416 N. Kansas Ave. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 66 | 207 N. Lincoln Avenue | Ruby Deiser and John McCue | 207 N. Lincoln | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 67 | 112 E. 1st Street c.1935 | Alan and Gloria Marez | 416 N. Kansas Ave. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 68 | 110 E. 1st Street | Alan and Gloria Marez | 416 N. Kansas Ave. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 69 | 108 E. 1st Street | Jose Adan and Carla Mendez | P.O. Box 342 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 70 | 125 N. Douglas Avenue | R D and Twila Mitchell | 309 E. 10th St. | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 71 | 123 N. Douglas Avenue | Christina Kay Goding Revocable Trust | 1897 Ave. H | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 72 | 121 N. Douglas Avenue | John Barr III | 121 N. Douglas | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 73 | 119 N. Douglas Avenue | Kenneth and Carolyn Kohls | 119 N. Douglas, P.O. Box 126 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 74 | 117 N. Douglas Avenue | Merv and Patrica Harms | 911 Stanberry St. P.O. Box 22 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 75 | 115 N. Douglas Avenue | National Drover's Hall of Fame Association | P.O. Box 423 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 76 | 111 N. Douglas Avenue | Kevin Shoemaker | 1004 Paul Ln | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 77 | 101-103 N. Douglas Avenue | Ellsworth Rural Water District # 1 | 103 N. Douglas | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 78 | 109 E. N. Main Street | Ellsworth County VFW Post 6485 | 109 E. North Main | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 79 | 103 E. N. Main Street | David and Marjorie Koralek | 509 Kingsley | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 80 | 105 E. N. Main Street | David and Marjorie Koralek | 509 Kingsley | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 81 | 115 E. N. Main Street | Ellsworth County Nutrition Site | 115 E. North Main | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 82 | 116 N. Lincoln Avenue | Ricky L Kempke c/o City Plumbing | 120 N. Lincoln | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |
| 83 | 118 N. Lincoln Avenue | Citizens State Bank and Trust Co. | 203 N. Douglas, P.O. Box 128 | Ellsworth, KS 67439 |

## Ellsworth Downtown Historic District

NORTH
Aerial photo provided by Ellsworth County Appraisers Office used as base map

Proposed District Boundary
Contributing Structure
Non-Contributing Structure

## Ellsworth Downtown Historic District

NORTH
Aerial photo provided by Ellsworth County Appraisers Office used as base map

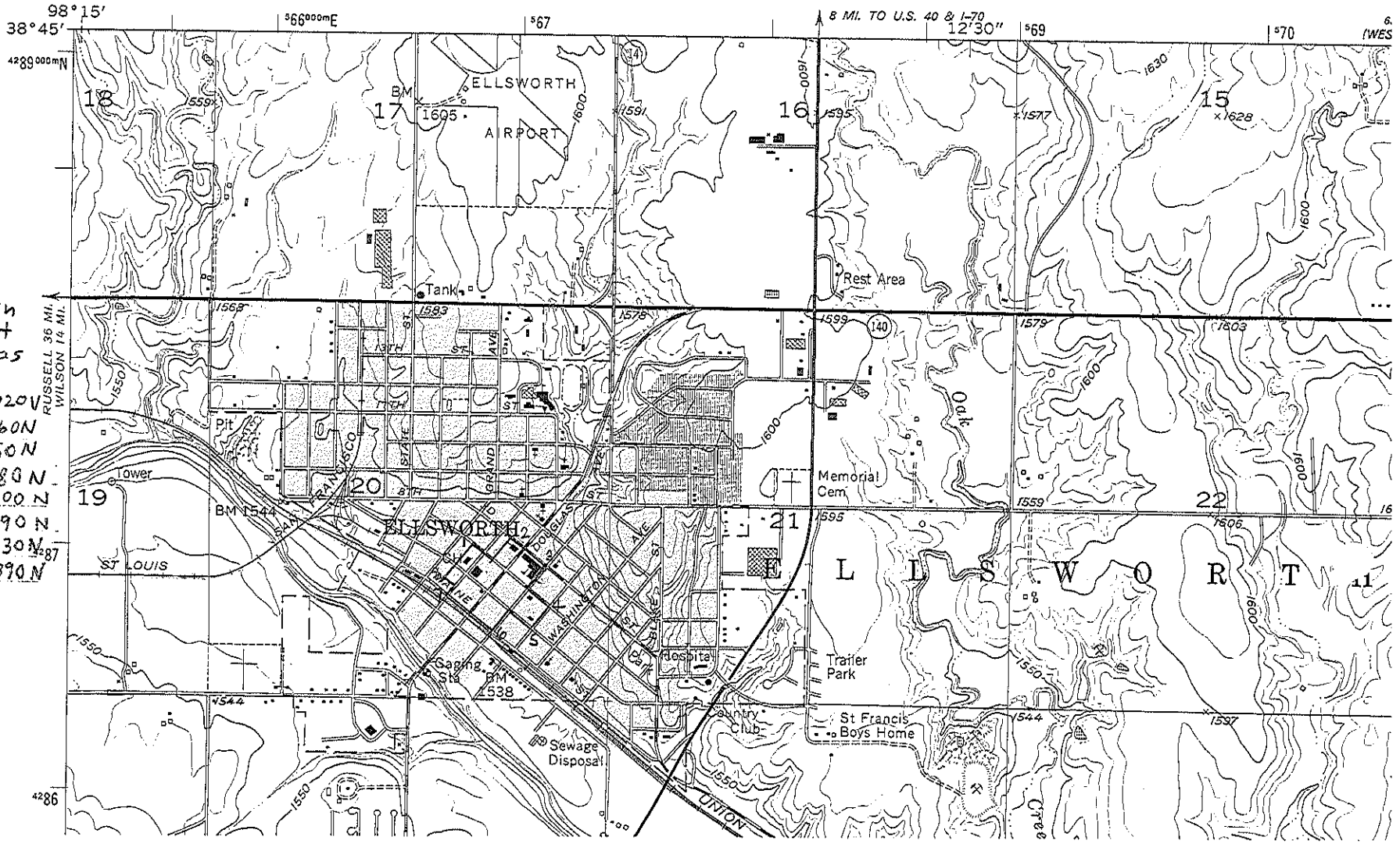
Proposed District Boundary
Contributing Structure
Non-Contributing Structure

^ Photo Directionals – See corresponding photo log
Note: Photos 22-25 are interiors.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE C

6361 IV SE
(BLACK WOLF)




Ellsworth Downtown
Historic District
Ellsworth Co., Kansas
UTM - Zone 14
1 - 566830 E 4287020 N
2 - 566970 E 4287060 N
3 - 567125 E 4286950 N
4 - 567140 E 4286780 N
5 - 567075 E 4286700 N
6 - 566915 E 4286690 N
7 - 566730 E 4286830 N
8 - 566710 E 4286890 N