NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 **Newton Main Street Historic District II**

Historic name

Other name/site number

2. Location **Newton, Kansas**

Street & number 411 - 825 N. Main Street & 414 - 726 N. Main ☐ not for publication

City or town Newton ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Harvey Code 079 Zip code 67114

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.)

Richard D. Lankard September 22, 2003

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:)

Name of Property Newton Main Street Historic Dist II County and State Harvey County, KS

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [x] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
~~55~~ 56	~~12~~ 11	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
~~55~~ 56	~~12~~ 11	total

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

Previously listed in the National Register
See Continuation Sheet N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade
Government/Post Office, County Office
Social/Meeting Hall
Religion/religious facility
Recreation & Culture/Theater
Transportation/rail related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade
Government/County Offices
Social/Meeting Hall
Religion/religious facility
Recreation & Culture/theater
Transportation/rail related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian
Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements
Modern Movement

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation – brick, limestone
Walls – Brick with limestone trim
Roof – asphalt, stone: slate
Other – limestone, concrete, metal, terra cotta

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

Name of Property Newton Main Street Historic Dist II County and State Harvey County, KS

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

Property is:

- [x] **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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1879 - 1953

Significant Dates

1909, 1914, 1929

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sam Greenebaum, E.H. Harrison, C.W. Terry

James Knox Taylor

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- [ ] preliminary determination of individual lising (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] Previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [x] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:

Name of Property Newton Main Street Historic District II County and State Harvey County, KS

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **11 acres**

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

Zone	Easting	Northing
1		
2		
3		
4		

☐ 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 Kathy L. Morgan and Lori L. Durio

Organization Morgan Consulting Date May 31, 2002

Street & number 1207 W. 14th Street Telephone 316-267-8821

City or town Wichita State Kansas Zip code 67203

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 Continuation Sheet

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

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

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

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, Renaissance Revival
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Neo-Classical Revival, Second Empire, Jacobean Revival, Georgian Revival, Mooresque
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial

SUMMARY

The Newton Main Street Historic District (1879- 1953) is located within the boundaries of the City of Newton, Harvey County, Kansas. The boundaries encompass 67 buildings: 55 contributing (two individually listed National Register buildings and four key-contributing buildings) and 12 non-contributing, nearly all are commercial in nature. The 11-acre district is linear, taking in both the east and west side of N. Main Street from the railroad track to Eighth Street. Main Street is the central street in the historic commercial business district. Newton is located in south central Kansas, approximately 16 miles north of Wichita bisected by Highway 50 and Interstate 135. Harvey County population was reported at 32,869 in 2001 with Newton accounting for 17,200.

The focus of the nomination is the traditional Main Street character of North Main Street with the buildings oriented east and west on rectangular lots, generally 25 feet wide by 150 feet deep. Many of the upper stories were historically used for residential purposes. Today, many of these upper stories are vacant or used for storage. The contributing structures reflect the architectural styles of the late 19th century and the early decades of the 20th century. They display brick and limestone clad facades almost exclusively. The scale is generally two-story, with occasional one-story buildings and some larger landmarks. Building setbacks are zero lot line in the 400, 500, 600 and 700 blocks. The 800 block has varying lot setbacks that can be attributed to the demolition of historic buildings during urban renewal period of late 1960s and early 1970s replace with modern infill buildings. The non-contributing rate is 18%, most of which is due to inappropriate alterations and "slip covering" of historic buildings.

STYLISTIC OVERVIEW (styles organized by most prevalent)

Early 20th Century Commercial (39%)

This stylistic reference is to small-scale commercial buildings, mostly one-story, constructed in the first three decades of the 20th century. Generally clad in brick veneer, these buildings tend to be quite simple in form and design, with symmetrical facades and straight or stepped parapets. Ornament is quite scarce, consisting of patterned brick, brick corbelling, terra cotta, ceramic tiles, and simple cast stone decoration. Upper-story windows are generally one over one in configuration, with double or single hung wooden sash. Scaled for typical Main Street design, they often share party walls and form a continuous line of commercial structures. (411-419 North Main, photographs # 1 –

2; 709-13 North Main, photographs # 18, 19) They are most often two-story buildings, with a storefront on the ground floor. The storefront often incorporates transom windows above display windows, with a central entry door. (616 North Main, photograph # 31) Awnings over the storefronts are also typical. This style reflects the average, modest local businessperson in a traditional Main Street setting of the early 20th century, in situations where an existing building was not being used. So popular was this "modern" design that sometimes even ornate historic buildings were re-worked to give them this clean simple appearance (508 North Main, photograph # 26; 513 North Main, photograph # 8; 701 North Main, photograph # 17; 703-05 North Main, photograph # 17)

Italianate (20%)

This style dominated American architecture from 1850 through the 1880s. It was particularly common in the expanding towns of the Midwest. It began in England as part of the Picturesque movement, a reaction to the formal classical ideals in art and architecture that had been fashionable for about two hundred years. The style was further popularized by the influential pattern books of Andrew Jackson Downing. The style is characterized by tall, narrow windows, usually two over two lights, commonly arched or curved. They frequently are topped by crowns or hoods, or surrounded by decorative frames. Elaborate cornices along the top of buildings, ornamented with single or paired brackets, are common. These decorative elements can be rendered in masonry, wood, or metal. Cornices are often paired with quoins along the edges of buildings. Projecting bay windows of either wood or masonry are also a hallmark of the style. On Newton's Main Street, the Italianate style is executed exclusively in masonry, with brick, stone, wood and metal ornamentation. (421-27 North Main, photographs # 3, 4; 612 North Main, photograph # 31; 627 North Main, photograph # 16; 708-10 North Main, photograph # 36; 715-17 North Main, photograph # 19; 815 North Main, photograph # 22) Wood examples were likely lost as a result of efforts to fireproof the buildings on Main Street.

1930s Era Commercial (6%)

Similar to early 20th century commercial buildings, these structures date from the 1930s and are even more plain, reflecting Depression-era design. Reflective of Art Deco or Streamline Moderne, the materials are often blond brick with few architectural details. In the Newton Main Street historic district, nearly all of these buildings are 1930s renovations of earlier buildings, and they are all rendered in brick veneer. (511 North Main, photograph # 7; 519-21 North Main, photograph # 9; 613-23 North Main, photographs # 14, 15; 625 North Main, photograph # 16; 704 North Main, photograph # 35; 716 North Main, photograph # 38)

Renaissance Revival (4%)

This style, seen from the turn of the century through the 1930s, is a later interpretation of the wildly popular Italianate style of the 19th century. It tends to be a more accurate depiction of its antecedents, the buildings of the

Italian Renaissance. Renaissance Revival style buildings are invariably masonry veneer or stucco. They often feature rustication on the ground floor, corner quoins, and substantial parapets. Another indicator of this style is its varying treatment of window styles for each floor, and the use of ground floor arched openings mixed with flat top openings above. Two of the most important Renaissance Revival buildings on Newton's Main Street are right across the street from each other, at 500 and 501 North Main (photographs # 24, 5.) The former Newton Post Office at 725 North Main (photograph # 20), dating from 1909-10, is another excellent example.

Beaux Arts (4%)

This majestic and highly ornamented style was popular from about 1885 to 1930. It is noted for its high level of lavish decoration, such as garlands, floral motifs, shields and quoins. Walls are typically masonry, usually of light colored stone or stucco. The first floor is often rusticated. These buildings also feature columns or pilasters with elaborate capitals. Ornate cornices at the roofline are typical, as are window crowns and surrounds. Newton's best example of this style is located at 526 North Main, the former First National Bank of Newton, dating from 1915 (photograph # 29). Historic photographs show the building in its original design. The very unusual and distinctive building located at 611 North Main (photographs # 13, 14), a Sam Greenbaum design, is a highly ornamented building whose facade is covered with colorful terra cotta is also an example of this style.

Mid-Century Modern (2%)

This term refers to design popular from the 1940s through the early 1960s. It highlights asymmetry and the use of modern materials, including metals. This style is seen in Newton in the Fox Theater at 518 North Main, (photograph # 28) which features redwood panels set in a wide aluminum frame covering the upper portion of the building. It is highlighted by a large off-center stylized neon sign.

NeoClassical (1%)

This was a popular style in American architecture from the 1890s up to about 1950. It began with the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. The style combines elements of the Georgian, Adam, and Greek Revival traditions. It incorporates classical columns and symmetrical facades. Frequently there is a wide frieze band beneath the cornice, which often features dentils or modillions. Windows are generally double hung with six over six, or one over one sashes. Ornament may include swags and garlands, elaborate capitals, broken pediments and roof-line balustrades. Exterior materials are nearly always brick, stone and/or cast stone. The First Methodist Episcopal Church at 801 North Main (photograph # 21) is an elaborate example of this style.

Mooresque (1%)

This eclectic style was seen from the 1880s through the early 20th century. Mooresque or Byzantine details were applied to the facade of a masonry or masonry veneer, stone or stucco building, giving it an unusual, exotic appearance. In Newton, this style was used in the 1931 renovation of the Masonic Temple building at 106 E. Broadway (photograph # 34.) It features an elaborate stone door surround, with the door set within a Moorish arch. It also has stained glass windows and additional stone or cast stone ornament.

Georgian Revival (1%)

This style emulates early American Georgian architecture. Newton Main Street has only one example, at 524 North Main (photograph # 29). Unfortunately, the first floor has been obscured. However, the second floor retains the original red brick facade with stone keystones above the windows, typical of the style. It is highly symmetrical and quite simple in adornment.

Non-contributing (18%)

This category includes buildings that are less than 50 years old and seriously altered historic buildings. Each building was individually examined and a professional judgment call was made as to where alterations were extensive enough to warrant non-contributing status. As most buildings had had alterations made to the ground floor to accommodate modern commercial needs, this was often overlooked if the building still retained enough character-defining features, for instance, on the upper floors. Where the alterations were so glaring or so thorough as to obscure the historic appearance, the building was judged non-contributing. In some instances, buildings were less than 50 years old and thus were non-contributing, including three modern bank buildings. None of these newer buildings exceed the general height of historic Main Street buildings, although some of them do exceed the scale and setback.

Breakdown by Styles:

Early 20th Century Commercial	25 buildings	37%
Italianate	13 buildings	20 %
1930s Era Commercial	4 buildings	6%
Renaissance Revival	*3 buildings	4%
Beaux Arts	3 buildings	4%

Neo-Classical	1 building	1%
Mid-Century Modern	2 buildings	2%
Mooresque	1 building	1%
Georgian Revival	1 building	1%
Jacobean Revival	*1 building	1%
Non-contributing	13 buildings	20 %

(*denotes that number includes one individually listed National Register building. It is included to give a complete stylistic overview of the district.)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTIONS

1. 411 North Main (Block 43, lot 9) **Contributing** - This is a two-story, three-bay masonry building. The ground floor has been altered, and the second floor windows are obscured by painted panels. However, their cast stone sills are still visible. The building terminates in an asymmetrically stepped parapet with a cast stone coping, typical of early 20th century commercial design. The parapet wall is ornamented by a single, round cast stone tile. Sanborn Insurance maps appear to date this building to between 1915 and 1926. At that time, the second floor of this building served as the Murphy Hotel, along with 409-417 North Main. (409 North Main has been demolished.) Photographs # 1, 40

2. 413 North Main (Block 43, lot 8) **Contributing** - This is a two-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor has been altered with modern plate glass windows and the transoms are covered. The second floor has paired 1/1 double-hung windows with cast stone sills under metal awnings. The building terminates in a stepped parapet with cast stone coping. It is ornamented with three cast stone diamond-shaped tiles. Sanborn Insurance maps appear to date this building to between 1915 and 1926. At that time, the second floor of this building served as the Murphy Hotel, along with 409-417 North Main. Photographs # 1, 40

3. 415 North Main (Block 43, lot 7) **Contributing** - This is a two-bay, two-story masonry building, nearly identical to the building next door at 417 North Main. The ground floor has been somewhat altered, mainly by the addition of plate glass windows and the covering of the transoms. On the second floor, the original window openings have been partially infilled to accommodate smaller, 1/1 modern windows. Above each

window is a diamond-shaped cast stone tile. The parapet is very simple. Sanborn Insurance maps appear to date this building to between 1915 and 1926. The second floor of this building served as the Murphy Hotel, along with 409-417 North Main. Photographs # 2, 40

4. 417 North Main (Block 43, lot 6) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building, nearly identical to the building next door at 415 North Main. The ground floor has received only minor alterations, and the transom is covered by a sign. The second floor has 1/1 double-hung windows with cast stone sills. Above each window is a diamond-shaped cast stone tile. The parapet is very simple. Sanborn Insurance maps appear to date this building to between 1915 and 1926. The second floor of this building served as the Murphy Hotel, along with 409-417 North Main. Photographs # 2, 40

5. 419 North Main (Block 43, lot 5) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor has been altered, particularly the north side window. The transoms are covered. However, it does retain the door and transom that access the second floor. The second floor windows are boarded over, but their cast stone sills are still visible. The building has decorative patterned brickwork above the windows. The parapet is slightly gabled. Photographs # 2, 40

6. 421 North Main (Block 43, lot 4) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building in the Italianate style. It is nearly identical to the three buildings to its north, 423, 425 & 427 North Main. Date of construction is ca. 1880s. The ground floor has been considerably altered, mainly by the addition of stone cladding and the covering of the transoms. However, the door and transom to access the second floor remain. On the second floor, long, narrow 1/1 double-hung windows are set in segmentally arched openings, with stone sills and keystones. The bays are separated by brick pilasters, and above each window is an inset panel. Above that is a row of saw toothed brick and a row of brick dentils. Above this is another row of saw toothed brick and a row of corbelling which reach all the way across the building, forming a small cornice along the parapet. Photographs # 3, 40

7. 423 North Main (Block 43, lot 3) **Contributing** - This is a four-bay, two-story masonry building in the Italianate style. It is nearly identical to the building to its south and the two buildings to its north, 421, 425 & 427 North Main. Date of construction is ca. 1880s. The ground floor has been considerably altered by the addition of brown brick veneer, modern plate glass windows, and a cedar shake awning roof. The second floor has been stuccoed, resulting in the loss of the cornice embellishment above the windows. The long, narrow 1/1 double-hung windows are set in segmentally arched openings, with stone sills and keystones. The bays are separated by brick pilasters, and above each window is an inset panel. Photographs # 3, 40

8. 425 North Main (Block 43, lot 2) **Contributing** - This is a four-bay, two-story masonry building in the Italianate style. It is nearly identical to the two buildings to its south and the building to the north, 421, 423 &

427 North Main. Date of construction is ca. 1880s. The ground floor has been considerably altered by large expanses of plate glass and the removal of the entry door. A large awning obscures the transoms. This building now shares a half of a bay with the building next door at 427 North Main. On the ground floor, this bay was originally a door to the second floor, but it has now been made into a window, although the recess remains. On the second floor, long, narrow 1/1 double-hung windows have been replaced by single pane glass or by plywood. However, these are set in the original segmentally arched openings, with stone sills and keystones. The bays are separated by brick pilasters, and above each window is an inset panel and above that is a row of saw toothed brick and a row of brick dentils. Above this is another row of saw toothed brick and a row of corbelling which reach all the way across the building, forming a small cornice along the parapet. Unfortunately, the original bricks in the inset panels have been painted. This building is the site of the first jewelry store in Newton, established by Mr. Kates in 1900. It then became the Sterba Jewelry Store, owned by Mr. Sterba who was the general watch inspector for the middle division of the Santa Fe Railroad. Photographs # 4, 40

9. 427 North Main (Block 43, lot 1) **Contributing** - Originally known as the Hart building, this structure was built ca. 1879 by a Mr. Hart, according to the Kansas Historic Resources Inventory Form. It is a three-bay, two-story masonry building in the Italianate style. It is nearly identical to the three buildings to its south, 421, 423 & 425 North Main. The ground floor has been considerably altered by large expanses of plate glass and a diagonal corner entry. A large awning obscures the transoms. This building now shares a half of a bay with the building next door at 425 North Main. On the ground floor, this bay was originally a door to the second floor, but it has now been made into a window, although the recess remains. On the second floor, long, narrow 1/1 double-hung windows have been replaced by single pane glass or by plywood. However, these are set in segmentally arched openings, with stone sills and keystones. The bays are separated by brick pilasters, and at the top of each pilaster is a small heart. Above each window is an inset panel, and above that is a row of saw toothed brick and a row of brick dentils. Unfortunately, the original bricks in the inset panels have been painted. The building terminates with an ornate bracketed metal cornice. The building is twenty-three-bays long on W. 5th Street, but only the first twelve bays have the metal cornice. After these first twelve bays, there are additional storefronts on the ground floor, facing onto W. 5th Street. Photographs # 4, 40

10. 501 North Main (Block 38, lots 13, 14) **Contributing** - Known as the J. A. Randall building, this is a three-bay, three story masonry building sited on a corner lot. It was designed by architect C. W. Terry of Wichita in the Renaissance Revival style and dates from 1911-12. One of the more high-style buildings in the district, it is clad in red brick with elaborate white glazed terra cotta ornament. The ground floor has been altered by large plate glass windows and enameled metal panels, although it does retain its entry door to the upper floors. The second and third floors have 1/1 double-hung windows, one in each of the outer bays and a group of four slightly narrower ones in the slightly recessed center bay. They have white glazed terra cotta sills and lintels. The second floor lintels are quite elaborate, featuring scrolled keystones below egg and dart molding.

Rusticated brick pilasters separate the bays and ornament the outer corners of the building. The third floor lintels are part of a continuous glazed terra cotta band around the building and have the same scrolled keystones as the second floor lintels. Above the center windows is a glazed terra cotta plaque displaying the name of the building, "J. A. Randall." Above this is a large and very ornate glazed terra cotta cornice, with egg and dart molding, dentils and elaborate modillions. This striking cornice continues down the W. 5th Street facade, as do the second and third floor windows. This side facade is nine bays long, and the second and third floor windows are paired. The ground floor on this facade features three round arched, double-hung windows with glazed terra cotta sills and heavy lintels that share the same scrolled keystone as the second and third floor lintels. Further down the facade are two additional storefronts. The one at the rear has a round arched doorway with a glazed terra cotta surround and beltcourse, indicating that this was probably an original entry. Photographs # 5, 41

11. 505 North Main (Block 38, lot 12) **Non-contributing** - This is a two-bay, two-story building that appears to be a historic building that has been heavily altered. It now resembles a "Swiss chalet" with a modern ground floor storefront. Records do not indicate when this alteration occurred. Photographs # 6, 41

12. 507 North Main (Block 38, lot 11) **Contributing** - This is a two-story commercial building that appears to be heavily altered. The ground floor has a modern brick and plate glass store front with a deeply recessed entry. The second floor is covered in enameled metal panels with a projecting blade sign. It appears that this building was originally paired with the building next door at 509 North Main and they shared the center stair to the second floor. From discussion with the property owner, this high quality 1950s façade was added around 1950. Photographs # 6, 41

13. 509 North Main (Block 38, lot 10) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building that originally included the building to its south, 507 North Main. They shared the center bay, which contains the stair access for the second floor. This bay is now the southern bay of 509 North Main, which is much more narrow than the other two-bays. The ground floor has been substantially altered and the brick on the second floor has been painted. The second floor windows are covered with plywood. The bays are separated by brick pilasters. Above each window is an inset rectangular bay, with corbelling above. The parapet is simple, with a small projecting gable between the two northern bays. Evidence suggests that this building may have been constructed in 1893 by Mr. H. M Walt for his clothing business. The current property owner has corroborated that the original windows are behind the plywood covering. Photographs # 7, 41

14. 511 North Main (Block 38, lot 9) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor has been altered and is shaded by a half-round canvas awning. The second floor is clad in two colors of brick. The windows are covered, however the original windows exist behind the covering. The parapet is ornamented with three bands of the darker colored brick. Between the top two bands the colored brick forms a

checkerboard pattern, which is punctuated by three cast stone diamond-shaped tiles. This building was constructed after 1901. The facade reflects a 1930s commercial appearance. Photographs # 7, 41

15. 513 North Main (Block 38, lot 8) **Contributing** - This is a two-story, three-bay masonry building, very simple in design and ornamentation. The ground floor has been altered with a modern plate glass storefront system and the transoms have been covered, but the door to access the second floor remains. The second floor windows are covered, but original window remain behind the covering. The building terminates in a simple stepped parapet. The building is shown on the 1896 Sanborn Insurance map, dating it to ca. 1890. In 1918 it was purchased and remodeled by the Newton Music Company and they gave it a "modern front" with an early 20th century appearance. Photographs # 8, 41

16. 515-517 North Main (Block 38, lots 6, 7) **Non-contributing** - This is a large, two-story building that has been almost completely obscured by modern alterations. The ground floor has been replaced by a modern plate glass storefront system and the second floor is covered with metal panels. There are two mesh panels inserted into the solid metal panels, and through these it is possible to see two historic arched windows, hidden behind the mesh. The building is noted on the 1884 Sanborn Insurance map as the "Diamond Block," and at the turn of the century, the public library was housed on the second floor of 517 North Main. Photographs # 8, 41

17. 519-521 North Main (Block 38, lots 4, 5) **Contributing** - This is a two-story, four-bay masonry building with two storefronts. Both have been altered and the transoms are covered. The second floor windows are covered, but original windows are intact behind the covering. The two inside bays have one window each, while the two outer bays have paired windows. Above the windows, the brick is set in a rectangular pattern. The building terminates in a stepped parapet with cast stone coping. Both Sanborn Insurance maps and historic photographs date this building to 1878. However, it was substantially remodeled in 1930, and that appears to be the date of the current facade. Photographs # 9, 41

18. 527 North Main (Block 38, lots 1-3) **Non-contributing** - This is a modern two-story bank building, clad in brick veneer. It is currently the site of the Midland National Bank. It is unadorned architecturally. Photographs # 10, 41

19. 601 North Main (Block 33, lots 13, 14) **Non-contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building dating from ca. 1890. Unfortunately, the front facade is covered by metal panels and the ground floor has been replaced with a modern aluminum and glass storefront system. It housed the Hanlin-Lewis Mercantile Company from 1892 until at least the 1920s. Historic photographs reveal the facade which was added in 1911. The W. 6th Street facade is still visible and remains unchanged from its 1921 renovation, with the exception of the corner of the storefront and the rear entrance door. Photographs # 11, 42

20. 605 North Main (Block 33, lot 12) **Contributing** - This is a two-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor has been altered and the transom is covered. The second floor windows are covered, but original windows remain intact behind the covering. At the upper corner of each lintel is a small, square cast stone tile. Above the windows are two brick patterned rectangles, with a matching tile at each corner. The building terminates in a simple parapet. Although the 1896 Sanborn Insurance map shows a similar building on the site housing dry goods, this building appears to date from the 1920s. Photographs # 11, 42

21. 607 North Main (Block 33, lots 10, 11) **Non-contributing** - This is a two-story masonry building that is almost completely obscured by later alterations. The ground floor now has a modern glass and aluminum storefront, and the second floor is covered in metal panels. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate that this building 609 North Main was originally a part of 611 North Main, and they shared a central stair. That portion of the building is still visible, and shows masonry with cast stone quoins and coping. This may indicate that the historic facade remains under the slipcover. Sanborn Insurance maps show the 609-611 North Main building on site in 1896 and refers to it as the "Bank Block." 607 North Main is also existing, but is shown as a separate but attached structure. Photographs # 12, 42

22. 611 North Main (Block 33, lot 9) **Key Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building with particularly outstanding colored terra cotta tile work designed by Sam Greenbaum. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate that this building was originally a part of 609 North Main, and they shared a central stair. Sanborn Insurance maps show the 609-611 North Main building on site in 1896 and refers to it as the "Bank Block." The central, shared part of the original building is still visible, but has a different brick and is substantially different stylistically from this building. Therefore it is not known if this is the ca. 1890s building with dramatic alterations or if it is a new building, dating from after 1922. The ground floor storefront has had minor alterations, with modern bulkheads installed and the multi-light transom boarded over and partially obscured by a sign. The majority of the exceptional terra cotta tile remains intact and in excellent condition. The ground floor is clad in teal green blocks, with a band of paler green tiles with small yellow sunflowers forming a large segmental arch around the store front. An identical band separates the first floor from the second, and two large sunflowers in relief and full color highlight the upper corners of this teal green section. The second floor is clad in narrow blond bricks, with some decorative geometric brickwork. There is a pair of windows on either side of a center single window. The windows are 1/1, with multi-light transoms above. Above them is a band of the pale green tile, made up of two rows of tile with two different designs in relief. In the parapet is a round terra cotta tile of pale green with raised ornament. The parapet is quite decoratively shaped, with curved terra cotta scrolls forming the transition between the steps. The entire parapet has pale green terra cotta coping. The building is stylized Beaux Arts. Photographs # 13, 14, 42

23. 613 North Main (Block 33, lot 8) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor has been altered, the transom is covered, and a large projecting blade sign extends out the full height of

the second story. The second floor windows are covered, but retain their cast stone sills and the cast stone square tiles at the upper corners of the lintels. The second floor is clad in tri-colored brick with dark brick accents, such as the band that forms the lintels. It is ornamented with decorative geometric brick work and small, square cast stone tiles. The parapet is stepped and outlined with the dark brick. The bays are not symmetrical; the brick sections between the windows and between the windows and the buildings next door vary in width. This building was on its site in 1896, but it was remodeled in 1930, along with 615, 617 and 619 North Main. That is the date of the current facade. Photographs # 14, 42

24. 615 North Main (Block 33, lot 7) **Contributing** - This is a two-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor has been altered and the transoms are covered. On the second floor, paired windows are obscured behind mesh screens. The second floor is clad in brick with limited geometric brickwork. Small, square, white tiles mark the upper corner of each lintel, and a single tile is located above them. The building terminates in a stepped parapet. This building appears to be on its site in 1901, but it was remodeled in 1930, along with 613, 617 and 619 North Main. That is the date of the current facade. Photographs # 14, 42

25. 617 North Main (Block 33, lot 6) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor is severely altered. The second floor has three 1/1 windows, but they appear to be smaller than the originals. The building has no ornamentation and terminates in a simple parapet. This building appears to be on its site in 1896, but it was remodeled in 1930, along with 613, 615 and 619 North Main. That is probably the date of the current facade. Photographs # 15, 42

26. 619-23 North Main (Block 33, lots 3-5) **Contributing** - This is a six-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor is altered and has an aluminum and glass storefront. The transom is covered. The second floor has paired 1/1 wood windows with cast stone sills. It is clad in two-toned brick with some geometric brickwork, accented by white cast stone or ceramic tiles. The building terminates in a stepped parapet. Once known as the "Boyd Building," it dates from at least 1919. This building appears to be on its site in 1896, but was remodeled in 1930, along with 613, 615 and 617 North Main. That is probably the date of the current second floor facade. Photographs # 15, 42

27. 625 North Main (Block 33, lot 2) **Key Contributing** - This is a two-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor has a centered, recessed storefront entry and a side door to access the second floor. With the exception of aluminum framing around plate glass windows, it appears to have few modern alterations. A flat fixed awning shields the ground floor, and there are two multi-light transoms still intact. The second floor facade is clad in two-toned brick with some geometric brickwork. There are two pair of 1/1 wood windows. The building has a flat parapet. This building appears to be on its site in 1896, but appears to have been remodeled in the 1930s, similar to 613 - 619 North Main. That is probably the date of the current facade. Photographs # 16, 42

28. 627 North Main (Block 33, lot 1) **Key Contributing** - Referred to in the 1920s as the "C.C. Mack building," this is a two-bay, two-story Italianate masonry building sited on the corner of Main and Broadway. The ground floor has a recessed center entry with a plate glass storefront, shaded by a flat fixed awning. The three panel, multi-light transom has purple colored glass insets and an additional panel appears on the Broadway side facade. The second floor, front facade, has two one-over-two windows with stone sills and lintels. Above the windows is a white stone rectangle with illegible lettering. Above this are two rectangular recessed brick panels, and then a stepped parapet with stone coping. On the Broadway side facade is another recessed brick panel, immediately after which the brick changes. The building is ten bays deep on Broadway. The first floor openings are all closed. The second floor windows are 2/2, set in segmentally arched openings. They have stone sills and stone keystones and cornerstones in the lintels. The fourth bay back was a door with a transom, but this opening is now closed in. It once accessed an exterior stair for the second floor. The rear of the building is limestone, three-bays wide, and dates from 1896-1901. The openings on this facade are segmentally arched but have all been altered in some way. There is also what appears to be a chimney intact at this area of the building. The front section of the building dates from before 1896. Beginning in 1902, the second floor was leased to the Newton Elks' Lodge on a longterm lease. This building is also the location of Newton's oldest continuously operating retail business, Anderson's Book Store, which started in 1894. It was previously located at 422 North Main Street, but relocated when that building was demolished in 1929 for the Santa Fe Depot. Photographs # 16, 42

29. 701 North Main (Block 28, lot 14) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building, sited on a corner, built after 1914. The ground floor has been altered with a modern storefront, shaded by a flat fixed awning, with covered transom. The second floor has three 1/1 wood windows with cast stone sills. The building terminates in a flat parapet with brick corbelling. This corbelling wraps around the building and runs all the way down Broadway to the end of the building. The building is thirteen bays deep on Broadway. There are seven chimneys or what appear to be chimneys projecting above the parapet on this facade. The windows match those on the front facade, and there is a metal fire stair at one of them. There are three additional, altered storefronts at the rear of this facade, facing Broadway. A plaque notes this as the site of the Newton Opera House, which burned in 1914. Photographs # 17, 43

30. 703-05 North Main (Block 28, lots 12, 13) **Key Contributing** - This is a four-bay, two-story building. The ground floor is altered but retains its multi-light transoms. The second floor is clad in brick, and has 1/1 windows with cast stone sills. There is a row of dentils above the windows. The parapet is quite high, and is decorated with recessed brick panels. This building dates to between 1914 and 1918. In 1918 it was the location of the Rich Mercantile Company. Photographs # 17, 43

31. 707 North Main (Block 28, lot 11) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story building, clad in light tan

brick. The ground floor has been altered but retains the door to access the second floor. This door retains its transom, although the rest of the transom is boarded over. The second floor has a pair of 1/1 wood windows in the center bay, with one 1/1 wood window on either side. The building has some decorative geometric brickwork, and a tall but simple parapet with terra cotta tile coping. This building first appears on the 1915 Sanborn Insurance map, and is shown as a grocery. This dates it to between 1901 and 1915. Photographs # 18, 43

32. 709 North Main (Block 28, lots 9, 10) **Contributing** - This is a four-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor has been substantially altered and the transom is covered. However, the door to access the second floor remains intact, as does its transom with ornamented metal panel above. On the second floor, the masonry has been painted. The bays are separated by brick pilasters and each contain a pair of 1/1 windows with stone sills. Above the windows is a row of brick corbelling. Above this is a row of dentils. The parapet is capped with stone coping. This building is identical to the one next door at 713 North Main. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate a construction date of 1901-1915. Photographs # 18, 43

33. 713 North Main (Block 28, lot 8) **Contributing** - This is a two-bay, two-story masonry building, identical to the one next door at 709 North Main. The ground floor has been severely altered and substantially recessed. The second floor masonry is painted. There are two pairs of 1/1 windows with stone sills. Brick pilasters separate the bays. Above the windows is a row of brick corbelling. Above this is a row of dentils between brick and stone banding. In the center of the parapet wall is a square stone plaque bearing the letter "N." The parapet is capped with stone coping. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate a construction date of 1901-1915. In 1916, it housed an "Auto Service Station." In 1922, the service station business installed a radio and became the first business in Newton with a radio. Photographs # 19, 43

34. 715 North Main (Block 28, lot 7) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building in the Italianate style. The ground floor is severely altered and substantially recessed, joining that of 713 North Main in appearance. On the second floor, the masonry is painted. The center bay contains a pair of 1/1 wood windows, flanked by single 1/1 wood windows in the outer bays. All windows are set in segmentally arched openings and have stone sills. The building features a large, ornate metal cornice. Photographs # 19, 43

35. 717 North Main (Block 28, lot 6) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building in the Italianate style. Although it is missing its metal cornice, it is almost identical to the adjacent building at 715 North Main. The ground floor has been altered and the transom is covered. On the second floor, the masonry is painted. The center bay contains a pair of 1/1 wood windows, flanked by single 1/1 wood windows in the outer bays. All windows are set in segmentally arched openings and have stone sills. The building terminates with a simple flat parapet, which probably has lost a metal cornice. Photographs # 19, 43

36. 725 North Main (Block 28, lots 1-4) **Contributing** - This was built as the Newton Post Office in 1909-10 in the Renaissance Revival style. The contractor was Carl A. Nelson and the architect was James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury from 1897 to 1912. The building was completed in October, 1910, and officially opened on October 17, 1910. Historic photographs are available to document the original appearance of the building. In form, the building is a center block of three-bays with a one bay wing on each side. It is a freestanding structure, raised on a basement. It is clad in light brown brick and a lighter colored stone. Its design gives it a tripartite appearance, with a raised stone base, brick body, and large stone cornice at the top. The three center bays have round arched openings with stone keystones. In the center is a pair of entry doors, accessed by wide steps that have a pair of decorative cast iron light poles set on the knee walls. Unfortunately, the globes are missing. On either side of the door, there are windows set in the arched bays. Unfortunately, all of the original doors and windows have been replaced. Quoins ornament the corners of the building. It also has a heavy stone cornice, featuring dentils, modillions and a stepped parapet. Photographs # 20, 43

37. 801 North Main (Block 23, lots 10-14) **Contributing** - This building was constructed in 1915-17 as the First Methodist Episcopal Church. It was dedicated on June 17, 1917. Two stories over a full basement, this masonry building displays the Neoclassical style. It is clad in red brick with heavy stone (or cast stone) trim. Initially three-bays wide, a fourth bay was added after 1963. The slightly projecting central bay is a two-story portico and contains the entrance, which is accessed by a substantial stairway. A broken pediment surmounts the entryway, which has stained glass transoms, and above this are three large arched stained glass windows. The large portico is supported on two pair of Corinthian columns with capitals that feature angels arising from the acanthus leaves between the volutes. The cornice of the pediment is trimmed with heavy denticulation and the tympanum is ornamented with what appears to be an open bible surrounded by floral motifs in relief. The front windows are all stained glass, currently shielded by 1/1 storm windows. In the side bays, the first floor windows have arched stone pediments on scrolled brackets. Second floor windows have stone lintels that form a continuous band. Above them is a crenelated stone band which relates to the rhythm of these windows. The stone cornice around the top of the building is punctuated by a regular rhythm of raised ornament. The fourth bay, which destroys the symmetry of the original building but maintains its style, is marked by a full length modern stained glass section with a pedimented entry on the ground floor and a stone cross at the top. The building is crowned by a central projecting octagonal dome that is covered in green terra cotta tile and surmounted by an urn finial. The dome has stained glass windows that match those of the front windows. The building has a bay structure on the W. 7th Street facade similar to that of the front facade but larger and less ornate. The center bay has three very large arched stained glass windows, and there are multiple ground floor entrances. Photograph # 21

38. 815 North Main (Block 23, lot 7) **Contributing** - This two-story, three-bay masonry building dates between 1886 and 1896. It is one of the more high style Italianate buildings remaining on Main Street. The ground

floor has received some alterations, but it retains the door to the upper floor. A substantial cornice separates the first floor from the second. On the second floor, there is an ornamented, projecting three sided bay. The front window opening is arched, and the two side windows of the bay are long, narrow rectangles. The top of the bay is surrounded by a bracketed cornice, above which is a cast iron railing. The windows on either side of the bay are also in arched openings, but unfortunately, all of the arched windows have been removed and replaced with flat top windows. Above these arched windows are particularly ornate cornices. The second floor is capped by a large decorative bracketed metal cornice, featuring urn finials on each end. Above this is a diamond patterned shingle roof, which looks like the bottom section of a double-pitched mansard roof. There remains one metal cornice cap at one end above this shingled section. The 1896 Sanborn Insurance map indicates that this was a two-story building with a framed roof, and shows a dwelling on the second floor and furnished rooms on the third. The 1915 map shows a third story, which this building appears to share with the three story building next door at 813 North Main as the Bethel Business College. The adjacent three story building was demolished some time after 1963. The south wall of the current building, which would have been the party wall between the two buildings, is now stuccoed. It is probable that the rest of the mansard roof was removed at the same time as the demolition of 813 North Main. The north wall displays its limestone construction and retains two chimneys. Photograph # 21

39. 817 North Main (Block 23, lot 6) **Contributing** - This is a very simple one-story commercial building. The storefront has had some alteration, but the transom framing remains. The front facade is clad in blond brick and has a simple parapet. It first appears on the 1926 Sanborn Insurance map, which dates it between 1915 and 1926. Photograph # 22

40. 819 North Main (Block 23, lots 3-5) **Contributing** - This building, constructed in 1929, was Enn's Super Service, Newton's first service station. It has an unusual diagonal front facade, connected to the recessed service bay area. Clad in two-tone blond brick, it features geometric brickwork and has a stepped parapet. The storefront has had some alteration and the transoms are covered. Modern garage doors fill the service bays. Photograph # 23

41. 825 North Main (Block 23, lots 1, 2) **Non-contributing** - This building was originally part of Enn's Super Service, Newton's first service station, at 819 North Main. It was constructed in 1929 and originally reflected the Mission style and had a clay tile roof. It is now covered in diagonal wood siding and has a wood shingle roof. It retains the diagonal corner entry. Photograph # 23

42. 414 North Main (Block 42, lots 1-8) **NR listed** – The Santa Fe Depot was built in 1929-30, designed by E. H. Harrison in the "Jacobean Revival" style. It replaced the 1880-82 Second Empire style Arcade and Harvey House hotel. Photograph # 24

43. 500 North Main (Block 39, lots 13, 14) **NR listed** - Railroad Building and Loan Building was constructed in 1925, designed by Sam Greenebaum in the Renaissance Revival style. Photographs # 25, 44

44. 504 North Main (Block 39, lot 12) **Non-contributing** - This two-story building is completely obscured by modern alterations. The ground floor has modern plate glass display windows with a deeply recessed center entry. The upper floor is covered by enameled metal panels. A large blade sign and flat fixed awning further add to the alterations. The Sanborn Insurance map of 1884 shows a two-story masonry building on this site, which housed the Newton post office, as well as a bookstore and a jewelry store. The building next door at 506 North Main shared the similar slipcover until recently. Removal of the slipcover revealed the historic building underneath. As these two buildings appear to be closely related, it could very well be that the historic ca. 1880 building is extant under the slipcover. This is a high quality 1950s façade that could gain significance and be considered a contributing structure to the district in a few years. Research did not recover any information regarding the remodel date of the existing storefront. The original window openings were blocked in with cinder blocks. Photographs # 26, 44

45. 506 North Main (Block 39, lot 11) **Contributing** - This ca. 1880 masonry building displays the Italianate style. It is three-bays wide and two stories tall. The ground floor has been altered and the segmentally arched transom is covered. The brick on the second floor has been painted. The second floor windows are 1/1 replacement windows. It is likely that these changes were made when the metal 1950s slipcover was removed. The windows are set in segmentally arched openings with keystones in the lintels. Above each window is an inset panel. The bays are separated by brick pilasters. Brick corbelling ornaments the simple cornice. This building is quite similar in design to those at 421-427 North Main, and shares a similar construction date with them. In 1913 this building housed the Star movie theater. Although it suffered fire damage in 1914, repairs were made and the theater was reopened. Photographs # 26, 44

46. 508 North Main (Block 39, lot 10) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building with stone or cast stone ornamentation. The ground floor has been altered and the transom covered. The second floor has three 1/1 double hung windows, but the lower sash of each has been covered with plywood. Above each window is a rectangular stone panel set in a molded stone frame. Above these is a stone cornice band accented with floral castings along a rope molding. The building terminates in a stepped parapet with stone coping. In the center of the parapet is a stone cartouche set on a circular stone tile. The 1884 Sanborn Insurance map notes a building on this site under construction, with a projecting second floor bay. From 1900-04 it housed the Newton Music Store, and then the Palace of Sweets for many years. If this is the 1884 building, it received a substantial renovation in the early 20th century, with Beaux Arts style ornament applied to an otherwise simple commercial building, which would not have been uncommon. Photographs # 26, 44

47. 512-514 North Main (Block 39, lots 6 - 9) **Contributing** - This is a two-story masonry building that consists

of a central three-bay block with a one bay wing on each side. The ground floor has been altered and the transoms are covered. The second floor features ornamental brickwork further decorated with white ceramic tile work above the transoms. The windows are covered with the exception of one, which is 1/1. (However, the Kansas Historic Resources Inventory Form dated 1998 shows windows in the main bay to be paired 2/1 with transoms.) The parapet steps down at each wing and has a cast stone coping. This building appears to have been built between 1901 and 1915 as the McManus Department Store and reflects typical early 20th century commercial design. Photographs # 27, 44

48. 518 North Main (Block 39, lots 4, 5) **Contributing** - This is the Fox Theater, constructed in 1915. This building is the oldest continuously operating theater in Newton. The original theater on this site was The Gem, built in 1910, but it burned in 1914. It was rebuilt and opened as the Royal Theater. In 1921 it was enlarged and renovated extensively and then reopened as the Regent Theater. The current Mid-century Modern facade probably dates to the 1950s and has a blond brick recessed ground floor. The second floor is clad in redwood panels with a wide aluminum metal frame and features a stylized projecting neon sign. Photographs # 28, 44

49. 522 North Main (Block 39, lot 3) **Contributing** - This is a two-story, four-bay masonry building. The ground floor is greatly altered and the transoms are covered. The second floor windows are 1/1. The building is ornamented with geometric patterned brickwork, interspersed with white ceramic tile. It appears to date from the early 20th century. Photographs # 29, 44

50. 524 North Main (Block 39, lot 2) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor has been altered and the transom is covered by stone panels that extend from the building next door at 526 North Main. The second floor windows are one-over-two and they have stone sills as well as stone keystones in their lintels, giving it a slightly Georgian Revival appearance. Two stone bands form a simple cornice. The parapet is stepped with a stone coping. A similar building appears on the 1884 Sanborn Insurance map, which could be this building, although it appears somewhat newer. Photographs # 29, 44

51. 526 North Main (Block 39, lot 1) **Contributing** - This two-story masonry building in a restrained Beaux Arts style was constructed in 1915 for the First National Bank of Newton to replace the earlier bank on the site which burned in 1914. The building still bears the name "First National Bank" in incised letters in the cornice. The ground floor has been substantially altered, but historic photographs are available that show its original design. The building is faced with a light buff colored brick, no doubt meant to resemble stone. The second floor has a central window, slightly recessed, made up of one center window flanked by two smaller windows. On either side of these windows is a square recessed panel topped by a rectangular plaque displaying cast or carved stone garlands. Above this is the cornice, which contains the above-mentioned name of the building. This is surmounted by heavy denticulation and additional molding, ending in a raised parapet. On the E. 6th Street facade, for the first six-bays, the ground floor windows have been infilled, although their outlines are

still clearly visible. The second floor windows remain. The remaining four-bays have additional ground floor storefronts and paired second floor windows. The cornice on this side facade is much simpler, consisting of a band punctuated by flat circles. Photographs # 29, 44

52. 606 North Main (Block 32, lots 10-14) **Non-contributing** - This is a large modern bank building, mainly two stories with a one-story section on the front corner. It is currently home to Bank of America. It is clad in brick veneer and cast concrete panels. Part of this site, 604-608 North Main, was the location of the 1884 Lehman Building, which later became the Kansas Hotel. Part of it was the site of the Merchant's Hotel (100-108 E. 6th Street), and the Kansas State Bank (600 North Main.) In 1896, 602 North Main was a bowling alley. All of these buildings were demolished for the current structure, probably in the 1970s. Photographs # 30, 45

53. 610 North Main (Block 32, lot 9) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building. The ground floor has been substantially altered and joined with that of the building next door at 612 North Main. A wood shingled roof awning shields both storefronts, obscuring any possible transoms. The second floor windows are covered but their cast stone sills and brown brick lintels remain. The second floor is clad in tri-colored brick and exhibits some decorative geometric brickwork, interspersed with small, square white tiles. The building terminates in a simple parapet. This building appears as a grocery on the 1901 Sanborn Insurance map, but it underwent a renovation in 1920, which appears to be the current facade. Photographs # 31, 45

54. 612 North Main (Block 32, lot 8) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building in the Italianate style, dating to ca. 1880. The ground floor has been substantially altered and joined with that of the building next door at 610 North Main. A wood shingled roof awning shields both storefronts, obscuring any possible transoms. The second floor windows are segmentally arched 2/2, wood double-hung. They have stone sills and elaborate arched, molded cornices. Each side of the facade displays substantial stone quoins. Above the windows is a row of five chevrons, inset into the brick. The building terminates with a large, ornate metal cornice, featuring dentils and brackets. This building housed a harness shop from approximately 1880 into the 1920s. Photographs # 31, 45

55. 614 North Main (Block 32, lot 7) **Non-contributing** - This three-bay, two-story building is completely obscured by alterations. The ground floor has a modern storefront, and the second floor is covered by metal panels. Three mesh panels indicate windows. 1896 Sanborn Insurance maps indicate a similar building on this site, operating as a restaurant and bakery, but it is not known if this is the same building. Photographs # 31, 45

56. 616 North Main (Block 32, lot 6) **Contributing** - This three-bay, two-story masonry building may date from as early as ca. 1880, but was remodeled in 1919. Since that time it has been the site of the financial business of the Regier family, which continues today. The ground floor has received minor alterations, mainly modern

doors and windows, and an awning obscures the transoms. However, it retains its original (1919) ground floor configuration, with each opening separated by a brick pilaster, and inset brick panels below the windows. Between the first and second floor is a long rectangular panel which once held signage. The second floor windows are 1/1, with cast stone sills and lintels. Corbelling outlines the stepped parapet, which has cast stone coping. A small metal box affixed to the front facade, just below and to the side of the window, is an old burglar alarm, still intact. Photographs # 31, 45

57. 618-626 North Main (Block 32, lots 1-5) **Non-contributing** - This is a one-story, modern bank building, clad in concrete panels. The three-bays on Main Street have no fenestration. The south side of the building has semi-detached drive thru service lanes. The eight bays on Broadway have tinted plate glass windows. It is currently home the Central National Bank. There is a surface parking lot at the rear. Photographs # 32, 45

58. 700-02 North Main (Block 29, lots 13, 14) **Contributing** - This is a four-bay, two-story masonry building sited on the corner of Main and Broadway. Built in 1879, it was extensively remodeled in 1931. The front facade received further alteration later in 1961, and the brick on this facade is different from the rest of the building. The ground floor has since been altered even more, and the transoms are covered. The second floor windows are multi-light metal windows with a protruding cast stone continuous sill. The lintels are also cast stone and form a solid continuous band. Above this is a rectangular cast stone plaque that reads, "1879 Masonic Lodge 1961." A simple parapet is capped by cast stone coping. This section of the building is four-bays deep on Broadway, and the windows are identical to those on the front facade. The second floor of this building houses the Masonic Lodge. It is accessed by a Broadway Street entrance. In 1896, this building also housed the County offices. A historic photograph from 1922 shows it as the Knowlton Drug Store. There is another altered storefront on the Broadway façade - 106 E. Broadway (Block 29, lots 13, 14). Constructed in 1879, this building underwent a major renovation in 1931. It is effectively the rear portion or final three-bays of the Main Street building with primary access to the Masonic Lodge upstairs on E. Broadway. Clad in multi-colored brick with some geometric patterning, it is accented with stone or cast stone ornament. The first floor has a substantial stone plinth along the bottom. The entry bay projects out slightly. The doorway has an elaborate stone surround around a pair of stained glass doors with transoms and abbreviated stained glass sidelights. The door surround also boasts a pair of period light fixtures. The door is set within a Moorish arch, surrounded by quoins and a stepped cornice. In the stone panel above the doors is inscribed, "1879 - 1931" with a Masonic symbol. On one side of the doors is a short 1/1 window, and on the other is a long narrow 1/1 window. Both of these windows are capped by a stone lintel. Beyond the doorway are two altered storefronts, which now house a law office. The transoms are covered. A simple stone band separates the first floor from the second. On the second floor, each bay has a pair of stained glass windows, currently covered by storm windows. The pair above the doorway features a small stone balconette with wrought iron railing. The second floor windows have small, square stone tiles accenting the corners of their brick lintels, which are then topped by a continuous stone band. In the center bay, the parapet displays a large stone panel engraved with

"MASONIC TEMPLE" and what appears to be an eternal flame emblem. On either side of this panel is a diamond-shaped stone tile. The rest of the parapet is simple, with stone coping. Photographs # 33, 34, 35, 46

59. 704 North Main (Block 29, lot 12) **Contributing** - This is a very simple, one-story building with a modern storefront, covered transoms and brick cladding from 1931. Photographs # 35, 46

60. 706 North Main, (Block 29, lot 11) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building, vaguely Italianate in style. The ground floor is altered. The transoms appear to be bricked in. The second floor features a central projecting three-sided bay, wood frame, with three 1/1 windows. This bay has a new metal roof. On either side of this bay are two 1/1 windows with stone sills and lintels. The south side of the building has stone quoins. The building terminates with a decorative brick cornice. Sanborn Insurance maps seem to date this building to between 1901 and 1915. A metal slipcover was removed from this facade in 1998, and the current second floor renovation occurred at that time. Photographs # 36, 46

61. 708 North Main (Block 29, lot 10) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry Italianate building. The ground floor has been altered and the transom is covered. The second floor has a pair of 2/2 windows in the center bay, with a single 2/2 window on either side. These windows are set in segmentally arched openings with stone sills and decorative woodwork within the arches. It terminates in an ornamental brick cornice. It is very similar in style to the building next door at 710 North Main. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate these two buildings on site in 1884. Photographs # 36, 46

62. 710 North Main (Block 29, lot 9) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building in the Italianate style. The ground floor remains incredibly intact, with large 2/2 display windows with paneled bulkheads and cast iron pilasters at the slightly recessed entry. The entry doors are a pair of arched-top glass doors with panels below, and they share a large single-light transom. The second floor has a pair of 2/2 windows in the center bay, with a single 2/2 window on either side. These windows are set in segmentally arched openings with stone sills, formed brick lintels and decorative woodwork within the arches. The building terminates in an ornamental brick cornice. It is very similar in style to the building next door at 708 North Main. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate these buildings on site in 1884. Photographs # 36, 46

63. 712 North Main (Block 29, lot 7) **Non-contributing** - This two-bay, two-story building has been covered in stucco. The ground floor is severely altered. The second floor has a pair of 1/1 windows in one bay, and a single 1/1 window in the other. These windows are small and non-historic. All detail has been covered or removed. It is identical to the building next door at 714 North Main. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate similar buildings on this site in 1896, but it cannot be determined if the current buildings are the ones shown on the map. Photographs # 37, 46

64. 714 North Main (Block 29, lot 7) **Non-contributing** - This two-bay, two-story building has been covered in stucco. The ground floor is severely altered. The second floor has a pair of 1/1 windows in one bay, and a single 1/1 window in the other. These windows are small and non-historic. All detail has been covered or removed. It is identical to the building next door at 712 North Main. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate similar buildings on this site in 1896, but it cannot be determined if the current buildings are the ones shown on the map. Photographs # 37, 46

65. 716 North Main (Block 29, lots 5, 6) **Contributing** - This is a two-story, six-bay building. The ground floor has been heavily altered. The second floor is clad in brick and displays some geometric brickwork. The six windows are fixed, single-light modern windows. The parapet is capped with terra cotta tile coping. The building dates to at least 1919, and underwent a substantial renovation in 1930. This is probably the date of the current second floor facade. Photographs # 38, 46

66. 722 North Main (Block 29, lots 3, 4) **Contributing** - This is a seven-bay, two-story masonry building, with elements of the Italianate style. The ground floor has been severely altered and the transoms are covered, but this building once had a center entry for the second floor. On the second floor, the masonry has been painted. The windows are 1/1, and either had transoms or, more likely, have non-original sash that are too short. The center bay has narrow, paired windows. All windows are segmentally arched with stone sills and lintels. The parapet is very plain, suggesting a missing metal cornice. The building dates from at least 1914, probably earlier. Photographs # 38, 39, 46

67. 726 North Main (Block 29, lots 1, 2) **Contributing** - This is a one-story, brick building sited on a corner. The front facade has recently been renovated, it was covered in metal and modern ceramic tile. Photographs # 39, 46

The Newton Main Street Historic District II (c. 1879- 1953) is significant under National Register criteria A for its association with the growth and development of Newton and under criteria C for its architectural significance. District II is one of two historic commercial business districts and reflects the evolution of commercial and institutional design from the 1870s up to the 1950s. Composed primarily of commercial structures with a few institutional and governmental buildings, District II parallels the economic development of Newton and the surrounding area and showcases the architectural styles found in Newton during its founding and growth years of the late 19th century through the 20th century. The buildings of District II range from highly ornamented, high-style architecture, which reflect the relative importance of their original uses to the community, to simple, unadorned structures from the 1930s, indicative of the small town business struggling through the Great Depression. While many of the buildings are noteworthy in their own right, taken collectively as a group erected over a span of many years, they form a record of the evolution of commercial and institutional design in Newton from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. The District contains 55 contributing buildings and 12 non-contributing buildings, with four vacant/parking lots. Two properties located in District II are already listed individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

SUMMARY

Rediscovering Newton: An Interpretive Architectural History, by Christy Davis chronicles the boom and bust periods of Newton's history which is directly associated with the historic fabric remaining within the Newton Main Street Historic District. Twenty-five of the structures date from the 1870s through the 1880s. There was a small resurgence in the mid-1890s as a result of the reorganization of the Santa Fe Railroad. There are at least 12 buildings that were built circa 1896. Newtonians were cautious with the new growth and maintained a steady growth from 1896 through 1910. It was during this time the funding for the Carnegie Library was obtained and the first Newton post office was built in the Renaissance Revival Style. The City Beautiful Movement also influenced the development of Newton's historic fabric as more people from all socio-economic strata had access to architect designed structures. The next two decades, 1920s –1930s, accounted for several storefront renovations and approximately 12 new buildings.

TRANSPORTATION

Newton's founding as a railroad town and cattle railhead establishes its importance under criterion A. The Main Street is still bisected by expansive railroad tracks, and the individually listed Santa Fe train depot remains one of the visual anchors of downtown. In 1863, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe received a grant of three million acres to complete a railroad across the state by 1873. Originally the leg was to be completed between Emporia and Wichita.

However, a land dispute with the Osage Indians brought the railhead to a location north of Wichita and established the new town of Newton. Santa Fe Superintendent Thomas J. Peter platted the town into a precise grid pattern, ignoring any land contours, following the checkerboard system allowed by the Land Ordinance of 1785. This allowed for more rapid land sales, which promoted towns springing up almost over night. In 1890, the economy failed due in part to the unstable financial conditions of the railroad.. In 1894, the Santa Fe Railroad created a successful plan to save the company from certain demise. Again in Newton, as the financial troubles contributed to the bust of 1890, the reorganization breathed life into the community when Newton became the division point for the Santa Fe Railroad in the mid 1890s.

Following the Civil War, entrepreneurs began the practice of gathering large herds of Texas Longhorn cattle and driving them to the closest rail terminal to be shipped to the Upper Mississippi Valley where there was a large demand for beef. An impetus for the development of railheads was the "Texas Fever" caused by tick infestation that longhorn cattle carried and which was deadly to the breeds raised in Kansas. With the rail expansion into the Kansas plains, Kansas towns fit the requirements for locating the trade. According to the account in ***Kansas: The First Century***, edited by Dr. John Bright (1956), the Kansas Territorial Legislature barred Texas longhorns in several counties. This legislation underwent several changes until 1867 when the Kansas legislature passed a bill that significantly limited intrusion of Texas longhorns into Kansas. The law stipulated that no one could drive Texas cattle into Kansas between March 1 and December 1, except into that part of Kansas that lay south and west of McPherson.

Abilene took advantage of this phenomenon and in 1867 built the cattle pens needed to hold the thousands of head of cattle, marking the beginning of the cattle trade in Kansas. The town of Newton, KS was founded in 1871, when the Santa Fe Railroad reached this geographic point in its trek southward. With this, Newton displaced the famed Abilene, KS as the new railhead for cattle coming from Texas. With Newton as the railhead, the cattle drive was shortened significantly by seventy miles. Cattle railhead towns were known for their image as fairly lawless places, full of opportunists, cowboys and railroad laborers, and the establishments that catered to them - bars, saloons and women of questionable reputations. But the cattle boomtown of Newton lasted only one year, replaced by Wichita when the rail line, continuing its expansion, completed a spur there in May, 1872.

According to an account in ***Kansas: The First Century*** (page 265, vol. 1), Newton's brief connection to the cattle trade during 1871 was tumultuous. There were reportedly eight gambling halls and 27 establishments that sold liquor. Approximately 200 houses were built or in the process of being built during that time.

The citizenry of Newton also understood the importance of a good road system with the advancement of motorized travel. A group of Kansas advocates began planning the route in June 1911. The route, known as the Meridian Highway, connecting Kansas cities along its route, was completed in 1919. In 1925, this road became United States

Highway 81. In her master's thesis, Davis reports that the accommodation of the automobile through public and private investment accounted for in part, the economic boom of the 1920s.

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The early railhead settlement of Newton is still reflected in its Main Street, which is bisected by the massive train tracks and punctuated by the 1929-30 Santa Fe depot at 414 Main. The depot, designed by E. H. Harrison in the "Jacobean Revival" style, is individually listed on the National Register. This depot replaced the earlier 1880-82 Second Empire style Arcade Hotel and Harvey House on the same site. Newton's important role as the county seat and focus of the surrounding area is also centered on its Main Street, which was the location for the Court House, Post Office, Masonic Temple, various churches, public library, train depot, mill, theaters, hotels and most of the retail establishments. Many of these buildings and indeed some of these institutions still exist on Newton's Main Street.

Early Development

After the arrival of the railroad in Kansas, there were three basic plans that Kansas towns followed – those oriented to the river, those with a public square, and those with a central main street. The original plat for the town of Newton was filed on August 19, 1871, with supplemental plats in 1873 and 1875 completing a full square of 640 acres. It was founded as the railhead of the Santa Fe railroad. Santa Fe Superintendent Thomas J. Peter platted the town in a variation of the third aforementioned plan, with Main Street being the east/west dividing street and First Street as the north/south dividing street. Both of these streets were to be 100 feet wide and the railroad would cross Main Street, cutting through the town. The layout was linear, following the typical layout of New England towns. The declaration of incorporation for the town of Newton was dated February 22, 1872. The town was named after Newton, Massachusetts, a suburb of Boston, which was home to many of the Santa Fe Railroad stockholders. Newton's glory as a railhead town was brief, and it was replaced in that capacity by Wichita in May, 1872. However, the Santa Fe Railroad selected Newton as its main division point in 1873, which ensured the continued viability of Newton as a railroad town.

Newton became the seat of Harvey County in 1872 and served the commercial, social and institutional needs of the surrounding rural agricultural area. It continued to be settled as part of the westward expansion of the United States by both American and European pioneers. One of the most influential groups of settlers was the Mennonites who came here from Russia and Germany and are widely credited with bringing Winter Red Wheat to Kansas.

Also in 1879, the Masonic Temple building, (106 E. Broadway), located at the corner of Broadway and North Main, was constructed. While the ground floor and corner retail area served many different community purposes over the years, the second floor was always reserved for the Masons. The building was substantially remodeled in 1931, when it was given its current Mooresque appearance.

Early Twentieth Century Development

Newton continued to develop through the late 1890s into the turn of the century. The 1884 Sanborn Insurance Map notes the population of Newton at 5,500. In 1896, they noted it at 6,000. Continuing to grow, it was up to 7,000 in 1901 and to 8,000 in 1909. This was a time of expansive civic development, as Newton's Main Street expanded its role in the community. Civic-minded members of the community promoted a number of projects inspired by the City Beautiful Movement, which gained popularity in the last decade of the 1800s. The first project undertaken was a public library and in 1903, which is individually listed on the National Register. In 1905, Congress passed a bill authorizing funds for a post office in Newton. The purchase of five lots for this purpose was recorded on January 14, 1907. The contractor was Carl A. Nelson and the architect was James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury from 1897 to 1912. Construction began in January 1909 and the building was completed in October 1910. The Renaissance Revival style Newton Post Office at 725 North Main Street officially opened on October 17, 1910. Reflecting the continuing retail strength of Main Street and its service to the surrounding area, the J. A. Randall building, 501 North Main Street was built in 1911-12. This substantial three-story building was designed by architect C. W. Terry of Wichita in the Renaissance Revival style. One of the more high-style buildings in the district, it is clad in red brick with elaborate white glazed terra cotta ornament, reflecting the prosperity of commercial Newton. In addition, Main Street was home to the Newton Elks' Lodge (established 1901) at 627 N. Main, numerous restaurants, such as the Sunflower Café, opened in 1918 at 610 N. Main, a variety of theaters and a bowling alley. Retail establishments included the Sterba Jewelry Store, 425 N. Main, opened in 1900 and run by Mr. Sterba, who was the general watch inspector for the Middle Division of the Santa Fe Railroad, and W. A. Krueger General Merchant, 224-26 N. Main, established at that site in 1895.

The variety of retail on Main Street is indicative of the importance of the District in meeting the consumer needs of Newton and the surrounding community – millinery, furniture, saddles and harnesses, clothing, grocers, tobacco, drugs, jewelry, feed and grain, agricultural implements, books, hardware, even a marble shop. Available services included banks, insurance, barbers, photographers, tailors and dressmakers. There were many hotels, including the famous Arcade Hotel, which began as the Harvey House in 1882. This was located in the Second Empire style railroad depot (1880), which was remodeled in 1899. (It was demolished in 1930 for the current depot.) The Newton Harvey House Hotel was the second in what would become a chain of Harvey House Hotels throughout Kansas. There was a Catholic Church, an Episcopal Church and a Presbyterian Church. The Harvey County Courthouse was at 820 N. Main, occupying a portion of the site that the 1960s Harvey County Courthouse sits on today. Newton's Main Street exemplified the commercial and institutional heart of the community, and its development and architecture clearly reflected this importance.

In August, 1914, the town suffered a major fire and lost of a substantial portion of Main Street, including a significant

structure, the Ragsdale Opera House. Many of the buildings today were rebuilt in 1915 on the site of those lost to fire. For example, the current Fox Theater at 518-20 North Main was originally The Gem Theater, built in 1910, but burned in 1914. It was rebuilt in 1915 and opened as the Royal Theater. In 1921, it was enlarged and renovated and then reopened as the Regent Theater. This building operated as a theater for approximately 80 years. The former First National Bank of Newton, 526 Main, was originally built in the 1880s. The First National Bank of Newton was chartered in 1882. After the fire of 1914 destroyed the bank building, the current building was erected on the same site in 1915. The First Methodist Episcopal Church, 801 North Main, was constructed in 1915-17 after the devastating fire. Dedicated on June 17, 1917, this remains one of the most impressive buildings on Main Street and gives testament to the institutional importance of the Main Street District in Newton, particularly during the early decades of the twentieth century. This building is still used by the First United Methodist Church of Newton. A major addition was added to the church after 1963. The site of the Ragsdale Opera House, 701 North Main, is now a two-story commercial building dating from 1915.

By 1926, the population of Newton had grown to 10,000. The 1920s witnessed continued construction and development in Newton, reflected in the dates of the two individually listed National Register buildings on Main Street, the 1929 Santa Fe Depot at 414 North Main and the 1925 Railroad Building and Loan building at 500 North Main. Main Street's growth and adaptation to the needs of its community parallels the development of early twentieth century technology. For example, Sharp Motor Sales erected a building at 716-18 North Main in 1919 to sell Dodge cars. The Auto Service Station at 713 North Main installed a radio in 1922 and became the first business in Newton to do so. Bethel Business College was located in the upper floors of 815 N. Main, filling a new educational niche that catered to a growing non-agricultural segment of the population.

There continued to be activity on Newton's Main Street through the 1930s and 1940s. Construction on the current Santa Fe Depot was begun in 1929-30. Numerous commercial buildings underwent "modern" renovations in the 1930s, including the 1879 Masonic Temple. During World War II the USO club was located at 421 N. Main Street, continuing the tradition of locating popular community activities on Main Street. It was not until the 1950s that Newton's Main Street, like so many other downtowns across America, began to lose its popularity and its place of importance in the community. During the 1950s and 1960s, demolitions removed some of the historic buildings, most importantly the First Presbyterian Church and the Harvey County Courthouse in the 800 block of North Main. Others were covered with slipcovers on their facades in an attempt to "modernize" them, and many storefronts were altered throughout recent decades to adapt them to modern uses. However, in the last few years, some of these slipcovers have been removed and the façades behind them restored.

ARCHITECTURE

The craftsmanship and design exhibited in many of the Main Street buildings, both elaborate 19th century Italianate examples and more simple early 20th century commercial examples, reflect a vibrant community that served the

townspeople, the railroad, and the surrounding farmlands and rural residents. Newton's Main Street served not only their commercial and retail needs, but was also the location of religious and educational institutions, numerous hotels and theaters, the opera house, the post office, the county courthouse, the train depot, and the Masonic Temple and other fraternal organizations. Indicative of its ability to grow and change with the times and adapt to serve the needs of the town and surrounding community, records reflect that at one time everything from saddles and harnesses to automobiles could be purchased on North Main Street and the first two blocks of Broadway.

Late Nineteenth Century Commercial Architecture

When Newton was founded as the railhead of the Santa Fe Railroad in 1871, its first buildings were wood frame and somewhat temporary. The first stone building in Newton was heralded with great fanfare in 1873. Now demolished, it was located at the corner of N. Main and 5th Streets and for many years served as the Reese Drug Store. The next year, 1874, saw the construction of the Lehman Store at 604 N. Main, a substantial, two-story brick and stone building, also demolished.

As the town of Newton grew and the surrounding rural area was settled, the rough and tumble railhead cattle town became more developed, with more substantial buildings, generally of brick, lining the Main Street. By the end of the nineteenth century, some buildings were exhibiting the high styles of the Victorian Age, such as Italianate and Queen Anne, while others made stylistic references to these styles by borrowing a few of their basic elements and applying them to basic commercial structures. A high style Italianate example of the Victorian Age is the building at 815 N. Main, (b. 1886-96). A substantial cornice separates the first floor from the second, where there is an ornamented, projecting three sided bay. The front window opening is arched and the two side windows are long narrow rectangles. The top of the bay is surrounded by a bracketed cornice, above which is a cast iron railing. The other windows are also arched and are topped by particularly ornate cornices. The second floor is capped by a large decorative, bracketed metal cornice, featuring urn finals on each end. This building originally had a mansard roof, the top of which was removed when the adjacent building was demolished. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate that this building always had separate uses for the ground floor and the upper floors. As was typical for many Main Street commercial buildings throughout the United States, the ground floor of this building was always commercial, while the upper floors were originally residential. 612 N. Main (b. 1880) exhibits high style Italianate items such as stone sills and elaborate arched molded cornices above its segmentally arched windows, and there are stone quoins on each side of the façade. It also has a large, ornate metal cornice featuring dentils and brackets. Other buildings, such as those at 421-425 N. Main (b. 1880s), 506 N. Main (v. 1880), and 627 N. Main (b. 1880s) display typical Italianate features in their brick facades, such as long narrow windows set in segmentally arched openings, rows of brick dentils and brick corbelling.

Early Twentieth Century Commercial Architecture

The turn of the century ushered in more classically inspired architectural design in Newton, just as it did around the country. The World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 gave birth to the Neo-Classical Revival style and the City Beautiful Movement. This movement encouraged classically styled buildings for civic uses, and Newton eagerly embraced it.

In 1909-10, Newton built its first major post office at 725 N. Main. Designed by James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect, its Renaissance Revival style also demonstrates many of the tenets of the City Beautiful Movement. Sited on a prominent corner adjacent to the imposing First Methodist Episcopal Church and across from the Harvey County Courthouse, its community importance and embodiment of civic pride could not fail to be noticed. The First Methodist Episcopal Church (801 N. Main) was also built in the Neo-Classical style in 1915. One of the most impressive buildings on Main Street, its monumental columns, substantial stairs and rooftop dome signify its prominence as a community icon.

Even the business and retail community were affected by the City Beautiful ideas. The J. A. Randall building (501 N. Main), built in 1911 and designed by Wichita architect C. W. Terry, exhibits the Renaissance Revival style. This substantial three-story masonry building dominates its corner lot. The red brick contrasts with the elaborate white glazed terra cotta ornament. It features scrolled keystones, egg-and-dart molding and rusticated brick pilasters. The glazed terra cotta cornice is particularly striking. Down the block, the First National Bank of Newton built a new bank in 1915 at 526 N. Main in a classically inspired style that incorporated some Beaux Arts elements. Although the ground floor has been substantially altered, historic photographs remain to show the original design. The building is faced with a light buff colored brick, no doubt meant to resemble stone. Ornament includes a rectangular plaque with carved stone garlands, and a parapet with heavy denticulation and molding.

A devastating fire swept through downtown Newton in August, 1914. Many buildings were lost, including the Ragsdale Opera House (701 N. Main). When the buildings were rebuilt, many followed a simple design vocabulary, with brick facades and a modicum of ornamentation. There are a large number of these early twentieth century commercial style structures on Main Street in Newton. They shun the decorative elements of the late nineteenth century and instead have simple features such as patterned brickwork, inset tiles and stepped parapet walls. This design vocabulary appears to have been popular in Newton throughout the 1920s. Good examples are found at 200 N. Main, 411-419 N. Main, 512-14 N. Main, 522 N. Main, 605 N. Main, 701 N. Main, 703-05 N. Main and 707 N. Main. A high style exception to this is the aforementioned First National Bank building (526 N. Main). This simple commercial style was also frequently used for updating older buildings and giving them a more modern appearance. 513 N. Main was built ca. 1890, but in 1918 it was purchased and remodeled by the Newton Music Company, who gave it "modern front." 610 N. Main appears as a grocery on the 1901 Sanborn Insurance map, but it underwent a renovation in 1920 after it became the Sunflower Café, with a banquet hall on the second floor. 616 N. Main may date from as early as ca. 1880, but was remodeled in 1919, when it became the site of the Regier family financial business. The façade retains much of its 1919 appearance.

There are two exceptional buildings worthy of note from the 1920s on Newton's Main Street. The first is the Railroad Building and Loan building at 500 N. Main, which dates from 1925. It was designed by the architectural firm of Greenbaum, Hardy and Schumacher in the Renaissance Revival style. Sam Greenbaum was a Newton native who designed a number of buildings in Newton. It is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The second exceptional 1920s building on Main Street in Newton is found at 611 N. Main. This is a three bay, two story masonry building with particularly outstanding colored terra cotta tile work. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate that this building was originally a part of 609 North Main, and they shared a central stair. Sanborn Insurance maps show the 609-611 North Main building on site in 1896 and refer to it as the "Bank Block." The central, shared part of the original building is still visible, but has a different brick and is substantially different stylistically from the tiled building at 611 N. Main. Therefore it is not known if this is the ca. 1890s building with dramatic alterations or if it is a new building, dating from after 1922. The ground floor storefront has had minor alterations, with modern bulkheads installed and the multi-light transom boarded over and partially obscured by a sign. But the majority of the exceptional terra cotta tile remains intact and in excellent condition. The ground floor is clad in teal green blocks, with a band of paler green tiles with small yellow sunflowers forming a large segmental arch around the storefront. An identical band separates the first floor from the second, and two large sunflowers in relief and full color highlight the upper corners of this teal green section. The second floor is clad in narrow blond bricks, with some decorative geometric brickwork. Above the windows is a band of pale green tile, made up of two rows of tile with two different designs in relief. In the parapet is a round terra cotta tile of pale green with raised ornament. The parapet is quite decoratively shaped, with curved terra cotta scrolls forming the transition between the steps. The entire parapet has pale green terra cotta coping. This is the only building like this in Newton, and is likely the only one of its kind. The color and detail of the tile and the unique regional design incorporating the sunflower make this an exceptional building.

Through the 1930s, some building activity continued on Newton's Main Street. This decade saw the construction of one of the most important buildings on Main Street. The 1929-30 Santa Fe Depot at 414 N. Main replaced the old Second Empire style depot and hotel. The new depot was designed by E. H. Harrison in the Jacobean Revival style on the site of the old depot. Located at the heart of Main Street on the railroad tracks, this building remains intact today and is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. At the other end of the spectrum, a very simple one story commercial building was constructed at 704 N. Main in 1931. Much of the other activity centered around the updating of older storefronts in an attempt to lure customers with a new, "modern" appearance. 519-21 N. Main dates from 1878, but the front facade was substantially remodeled in 1930. The three buildings at 613-619 N. Main were built in the 1890s, but all three received new facades in 1930. Next door, 625 N. Main received a similar treatment. The most important 1930s alteration is found on the Masonic Lodge at 700-02 N. Main, on the E. Broadway Street façade. Built in 1879, it was remodeled extensively in 1931 to give it an exotic Mooresque design. The doorway has an elaborate stone surround around a pair of stained glass doors with transoms and abbreviated

stained glass sidelights. The door surround also boasts a pair of period light fixtures. The door is set within a Moorish arch, surrounded by quoins and a stepped cornice. In the stone panel above the doors is inscribed, "1879 - 1931" with a Masonic symbol. The unique design and special emphasis placed on this entrance marked the importance of the Masonic Lodge to the community and the pride the Lodge placed on their downtown address.

One building of note that reflects the architecture and design of the 1950s is the Fox Theater at 518-20 N. Main. The original theater on this site was The Gem, built in 1910, but it burned in the fire of 1914. It was rebuilt and opened as the Royal Theater in 1915, which is the date of the present building. In 1921 it was enlarged and renovated extensively, then reopened as the Regent Theater. The current Mid-century Modern facade dates from the 1950s and has a blond brick recessed ground floor. The second floor is clad in metal panels with a wide aluminum metal frame and features a stylized projecting neon sign. Its clean lined modernity stands out in this otherwise traditional streetscape and is an excellent example of its time period.

Summary

Remarkably, the streetscape of Main Street, Newton has remained mostly intact and even retains some historic uses, such as Anderson's Book Store, the county courthouse (although in a newer building), the First Methodist Episcopal Church and the Fox Theater. The Newton Main Street Historic District exhibits local significance as the railhead and then the main division point for the Santa Fe railroad, and as the Main Street for both the town of Newton and the surrounding rural area. It also qualifies for local significance for its intact architectural character with buildings from the 1870s through the 1950s, aligned along both sides of the wide street, forming a dense wall of historic commercial buildings from one end to the other. The street is still bisected by the ever-present railroad tracks and punctuated by a number of architectural landmarks, four of which are already individually listed on the National Register.

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UTM COORDINATES

(1) 14 645120 4212040

(2) 14 645280 4212150

(3) 14 645120 4212740

(4) 14 645220 4212580

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Newton is the county seat of Harvey County, which is the fourth smallest county in the state. Located within 50 miles of the geographic center of the state, it is bounded by McPherson County to the north, Marion and Butler Counties to the east, Sedgwick County on the south, and Reno County on the west.

Newton Main Street Historic District II begins at the railroad tracks bisecting Main Street and continues north to the intersection of Eighth and Main, including both sides of the street, except for 405 N. Main and 800 N. Main. It is a linear district containing 11 acres. Alleys bound the district to the east and west, with the exception of the northern block, which is bound by Main Street on the east. Seventh Street forms the district's northeastern boundary. The southeast corner of the district is bounded by Fifth Street to the north and railroad right of way to the southeast.

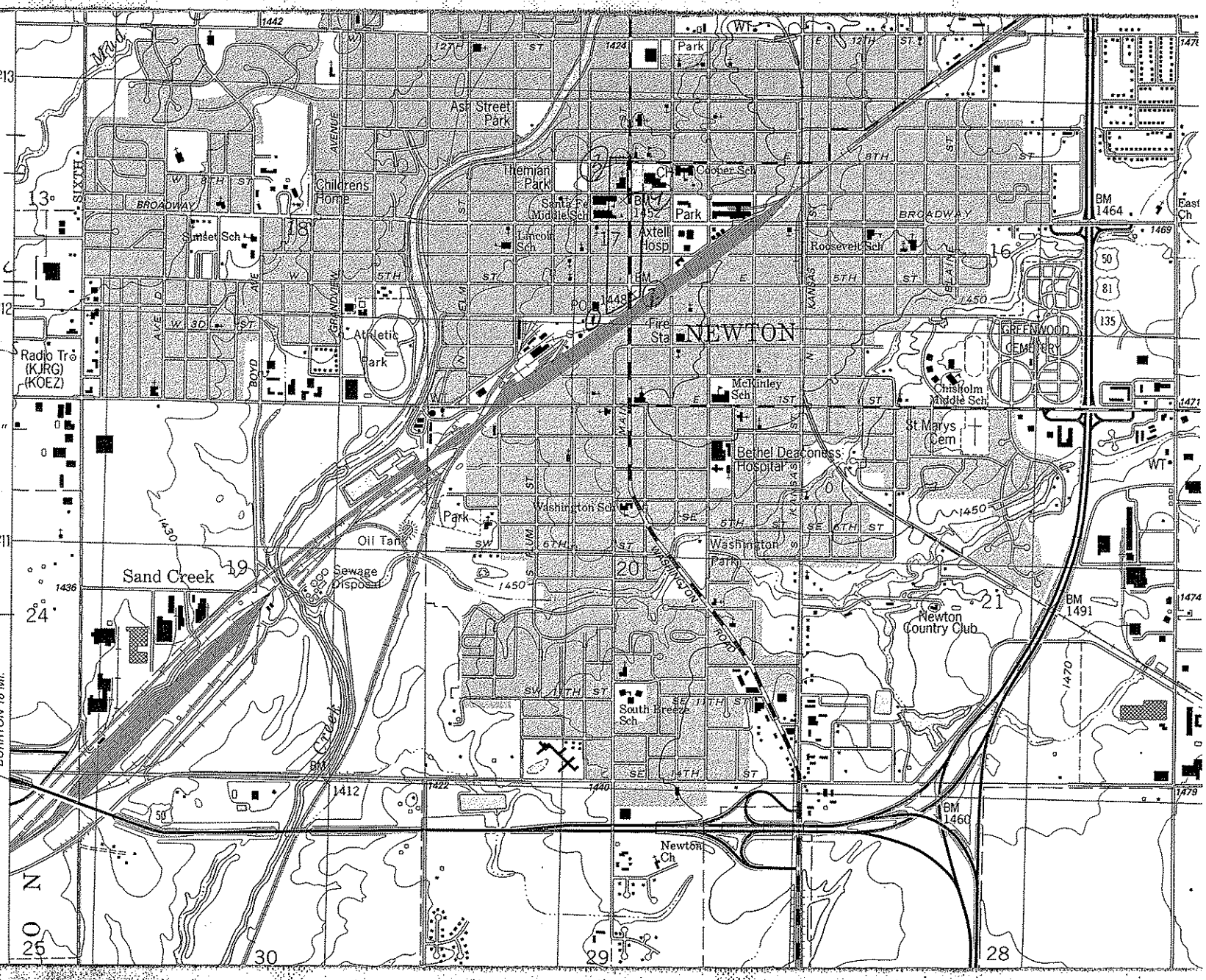
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the properties along Main Street beginning at the railroad tracks bisecting Main Street and continues north to the intersection of Eighth and Main, including both sides of the street, except for 405 N. Main and 800 N. Main. It is a linear district containing 11 acres.

NEWTON MAIN
STREET HISTORIC
DISTRICT 4
UTM Coordinates

① 14 0645120
4212040 2' 30"

② 14 0645280
4212150

③ 14 0645120
422740

④ 14 645220
4212580