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 I**

Historic name

Other name/site number

2. Location **Newton, Kansas**

Street & number 200 through 214 and 203 through 301 N. Main ☐ not for publication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. Pankratz September 23, 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 I County and State Harvey County, KS

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] 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	
9	2	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
9	2	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
Education/library
Industry/manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade
Museum
Industry/Manufacturing facility

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; Metal: Copper; Terra Cotta
Other – limestone, concrete, metal

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 I 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:

- [ ] **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- 1932

Significant Dates

1879, 1903

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

William Rose, Carnegie Library 1903

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 I County and State Harvey County, KS

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.24 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,
LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial

SUMMARY

The Newton Main Street Historic District I (c. 1879- 1932) is located within the boundaries of the City of Newton, Harvey County, Kansas. The boundaries encompass 11 buildings: 9 contributing and 2 non-contributing. Two of the buildings are individually listed. The 4.24 acre district is linear, taking in both the east and west side N. Main Street from Second Street up and including 301 N. Main. 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, 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 two larger landmarks. The 200 and 300 blocks have 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 (28%)

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. 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. (200 North Main, photograph # 1) 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.

Italianate (18%)

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. (204-06 North Main, photograph # 2) Wood examples were likely lost as a result of efforts to fire-proof Main Street.

Renaissance Revival (9%)

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. There are two buildings located at 209 and 219 North Main, (photograph # 5) which exhibit tiled roof overhangs with boxed eaves featuring wooden brackets, small projecting tower-like elements above the roofline, and at 209 North Main, a stone veneered facade.

1930s Era Commercial (9%)

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. (214 North Main, photograph # 3)

NeoClassical (9%)

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. There is one highly detailed NeoClassical building within the district – the individually listed Carnegie Library at 203 North Main (photograph # 4).

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. 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	3 buildings	28%
Italianate	2 buildings	18 %
1930s Era Commercial	1 building	9%
Neo-Classical	*1 building	9%
Renaissance Revival	1 buildings	9%
Second Empire	*1 building	9%

Non-contributing	2 buildings	18%

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTIONS

1. 200 North Main (Block 50, lots 13, 14) **Contributing** - This is a four-bay, two-story masonry commercial building sited on a corner lot. The front facade of the ground floor has large plate glass display windows, although the transom area is covered by a large sign. The second floor has paired, 1/1 double-hung windows, which are inset between brick pilasters with corbelling above them. The building terminates in a simple banded parapet. This building is noted as under construction on the Sanborn Insurance map of 1909. In 1921, it was the Newton location of the J. S. Dillon and Son's grocery. Photograph # 1

2. 204-06 North Main (Block 50, lots 11, 12) **Contributing** - This is a seven-bay, two-story masonry commercial building that is made up of two identical three-bay sections joined in the center by a single bay. Italianate in style, it is one of the most fanciful and high-style of all the buildings remaining on Main Street, particularly from the 19th century. It is noted as under construction on the 1886 Sanborn Insurance map. The ground floor has been somewhat altered, but the basic design is a shop-front window flanking both sides of a central doorway. The transoms have been covered. The center bay contains the door to the second floor, where the building's ornamentation is concentrated. Here, each side has three-bays consisting of a 1/1 double-hung window on either side of a projecting wood frame bay. The plane of the single windows is slightly recessed and each bay is separated by a simple brick pilaster, and has a row of brick corbelling across the top. These single windows are set in segmentally arched openings, each accented by a keystone. The rectangular bay contains a pair of 1/1 windows on the front and a smaller 1/1 window on each side. The windows are enframed with raised wooden panels, with an inset wooden panel below each one. Above each of these windows in the projecting bay is a band of saw-toothed trim. The bays themselves are capped by steeply hipped roofs that project out slightly at the eave, which is boxed. The building is capped by a parapet that has an ornate metal cornice. The cornice features three large pointed finials, of which two remain. Photograph # 2

3. 208 North Main (Block 50, lots 9, 10) **Contributing** - This is a simple one-story masonry building with a stepped parapet typical of early 20th century commercial design. The openings on the front facade appear to have been altered and now contain two plate glass windows, one pedestrian door and one garage door. The building dates from the 1920s. Photograph # 2

4. 212 North Main (Block 50, lot 8) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building in the Italianate style. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate a construction date of 1886-1896. In 1896 it is listed as a bakery. The ground floor has been altered by the addition of a modern storefront. The second floor retains its original window openings, although they have been partially in-filled to accommodate small modern windows. The second floor bays are separated by brick pilasters and topped by a row of brick corbelling. The center bay contains a large segmentally arched opening with paired windows. The outer bays contain rectangular openings, each with a single window. These three openings are capped by wide, rough faced stone lintels. The building terminates with a large metal cornice that features a triangular pediment over the center bay, paired brackets, and semi-circular finials. Photograph # 3

5. 214 North Main (Block 50, lot 7) **Contributing** - This is a three-bay, two-story masonry building. Sanborn Insurance maps indicate a construction date of 1886-1896. In 1896 it is listed as a general store, and in 1946 as a movie theater. The ground floor has been altered by the addition of a modern storefront. The current second floor facade is probably not original and appears to date from the early 20th century as it exhibits a design that reflects the 1930s commercial era. It has three 1/1 double-hung windows with cast stone sills. It features two tone brickwork with occasional cast stone tiles and has a simple stepped parapet. Photograph # 3

6. 203 North Main (Block 51, lots 12, 13, 14) **NR listed** - Carnegie Library - Dating from 1903-04, it was designed in the Neo-Classical style by Kansas City architect William Rose. It is now used as the Harvey County Historical Society museum. Photograph # 4

7. 209-15 North Main (Block 51, lots 7, 8, 9, 10) **Contributing** - This is a one-story commercial building that houses Petersen's funeral home. For many years in the early 20th century, this was the site of the Newton Air Dome, an open air movie theater with a seating capacity of 1,000 people. The 1926 Sanborn Insurance map shows the Air Dome replaced by a one-story auto sales building, probably the present structure. The cast stone was added to the front facade in 1932. The modern tinted plate glass windows and a large canvas awning were added later. It retains a multi-hued red tiled roof overhang at the cornice, supported on paired brackets with a gabled pediment stepping out at the center, vaguely Spanish Revival in feeling. Photograph # 5

8. 217 North Main (Block 51, lot 6) **Contributing** - This two-story, two-bay building bears a marble plaque in its parapet that reads, "Bachmann 1924," indicating a construction date of 1924. The 1926 Sanborn Insurance map indicates a two-story store. It appears now to be part of the funeral home next door at 209-15 North Main. It is clad in two different colors of brick and has paired 8/8 double-hung windows on the second floor. The building terminates in a simple parapet with cast stone bands and the above-mentioned marble plaque.

The ground floor has a modern window and door, and shares the canvas awning of 209-15 North Main next door. Photograph # 5

9. 219 North Main (Block 51, lot 5) **Non-contributing** - This is a one-story commercial building probably dating from the mid-1920s. The front facade has been altered but it retains its red tile roof overhang at the cornice, supported on paired brackets. It is similar in style to 209-15 North Main, although the roof pitch of the tiled overhang is different, as is the tile itself. Photograph # 5

10. 227 North Main (Block 51, lot 1) **Non-Contributing** - This modern, one-story commercial building is sited on a corner lot that once was the site of the Newton Hotel. It currently houses a medical office (general dentistry). Photograph # 6

11. 301 North Main (Block 51, lots 15-33, Odd Block 51, lots 1-8, Block 46) **NR listed** - Newton Milling Company - Known as the Warkentin Mill, this Second Empire style building was constructed in 1879. Photograph # 7

The Newton Main Street Historic District I (c. 1879- 1932) is significant under National Register criteria A for its historical association with the growth and development of Newton and criteria C for its architectural significance. Composed of commercial structures with one institutional/ governmental building, the small district 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 district buildings 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 9 contributing buildings and 2 non-contributing buildings. Two properties located in District I are already listed individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Carnegie Library (203 N. Main) and Newton Milling Company (301 N. Main).

Founding Roots

Newton was founded as a railroad town and cattle railhead. 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. The accommodation of the automobile through public and private investment accounted for in part, the economic boom of the 1920s.

Early Development

After the arrival of the railroad in Kansas, there were three basic plans that Kansas towns followed – those oriented to a 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.

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.

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. In August, 1914, the town suffered a major fire that affected most of the commercial area north of the railroad tracks. Newton's Main Street exemplified the commercial and institutional heart of the community, and its development and architecture clearly reflected this importance. By 1926, the population of Newton had grown to 10,000. Main Street's growth and adaptation to the needs of its community parallels the development of early twentieth century technology.

There continued to be activity on Newton's Main Street through the 1930s and 1940s. Numerous commercial buildings underwent "modern" renovations in the 1930s. 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. 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.

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. The building at 204-06 N. Main (b. 1886) is a two-story brick structure that displays the Italianate style and is one of the most high style 19th century buildings remaining on N. Main Street. Although the ground floor has been somewhat altered, the basic commercial block form of shop front windows with transoms flanking both sides of a central doorway remains. The expression of style is concentrated on the second floor, with two projecting rectangular, wood frame bays that feature wood panels and saw-toothed trim. There are also segmentally arched windows with keystones, brick corbelling, and a very impressive metal cornice with three large pointed finials, of which two remain. 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.

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. The Carnegie Library (203 N. Main), designed by architect William Rose in the Neo-Classical style was built in 1903. It is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Its location anchors the southern end of Main Street and its monumentality has made it a landmark for the community since its construction. This

simple commercial style was also frequently used for updating older buildings and giving them a more modern appearance.

Summary

Remarkably, the streetscape of Main Street, Newton has remained mostly intact and even retains some historic uses. The Newton Main Street Historic District I exhibits local significance as an early commercial center. The modestly sized district also qualifies for local significance for its intact architectural character with buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The street is still bisected by the ever-present railroad tracks, separating District I from its larger sister district to the north.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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UTM COORDINATES

14 0645206 4212092

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 **I** begins at the intersection of Second and Main, including both sides of the street, and continues north terminating on the east side of the street with 214 N. Main and on the west side of the street with 301 N. Main. The 4.25 acre district is bounded to the south by 2nd Street, adjacent property lines and railroad and public right-of-way form the remaining boundaries.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains an eleven building group of properties that have contributed to the growth and development and architecture of Newton, Kansas. This building group is part of a larger district that is bisected by a wide expanse of railroad tracks, isolating it from the larger component. In addition, a series of non-contributing buildings and vacant lots standing to the north of the district further remove it from its larger companion.

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(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 11 Page 1

Newton Historic District I
name of property
Harvey County, Kansas
county and State

Property #	Property Street Name	Property Owner name	Property Owner address	Property Owner city st zip
200	N. Main	Kelly R. Hayes	200 N. Main	Newton KS 67114
203	N. Main	Harvey County Historical Society	PO Box 4	Newton KS 67114
206	N. Main	Carl H. Wiebe, Ann L. Wiebe	2815 S. Kansas Road	Newton KS 67114
208	N. Main	Ann L. Wiebe	5814 S. Kansas Road	Newton KS 67114
212	N. Main	Angelo Carrion	613 N. Plum	Newton KS 67114
214	N. Main	Ann L. Wiebe	5814 S. Kansas Road	Newton KS 67114
215	N. Main	Gregg Petersen	1213 Parkwood Ln	Newton KS 67114
217	N. Main	Gregg & Joan Petersen	1213 Parkwood Lane	Newton KS 67114
219	N. Main	Craig & Marilyn King	219 N. Main	Newton KS 67114
229	N. Main	Pamela & Stephen McCullough	5 Circle Drive	Newton KS 67114
301	N. Main	Lloyd Smith	PO Box 452	Newton KS 67114

Photographs

Kathy L Morgan, Photographer
Negatives are kept by the City of Newton, 215 W. 6th Street, Newton, Kansas, 67114

1. February 24, 2002
   Camera Direction: East

2. February 24, 2002
   Camera Direction: East

3. February 24, 2002
   Camera Direction: East

4. February 24, 2002
   Camera Direction: West

5. February 24, 2002
   Camera Direction: West

6. February 24, 2002
   Camera Direction: West

7. February 24, 2002
   Camera Direction: West

8. 200 Block N. Main, east side
   Camera Direction: Northeast

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

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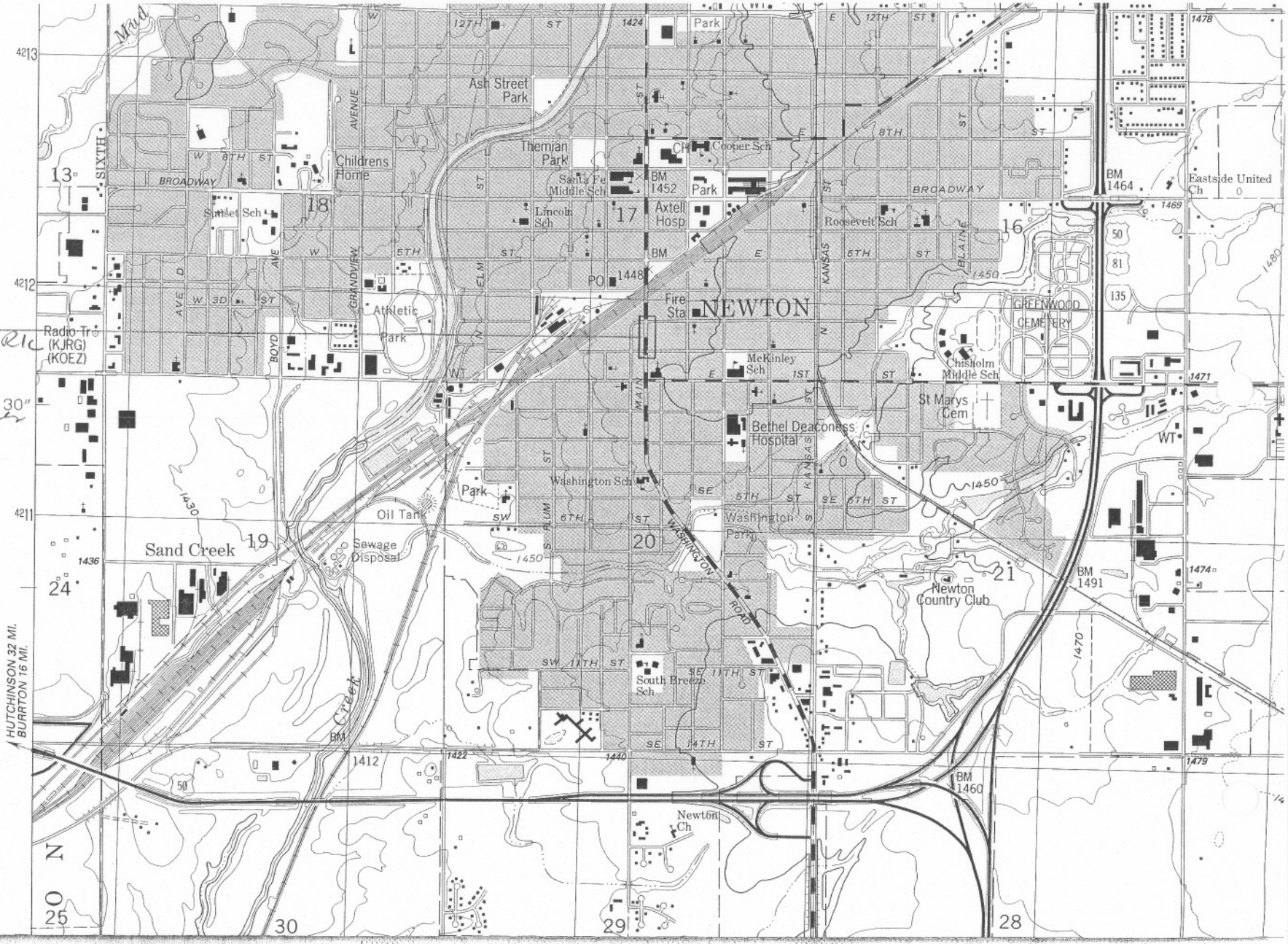
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 11 Page 3

Newton Historic District I
name of property
Harvey County, Kansas
county and State

NEWTON MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT I
UTM Coordinates
14 0645206
4212092