NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

123-0820-0037 ~~123-0820-0022 / 0036~~

historic Wisconsin Street Historic District

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 700 Block of Wisconsin Street ___ not for publication

city, town Cawker City ___ vicinity of

state Kansas code 020 county Mitchell code 123

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple--See Inventory, #7

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Mitchell County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Beloit state Kansas 67420

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Kansas Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1971 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Kansas State Historical Society

city, town 120 West Tenth, Topeka state Kansas 66612

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	X unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in Cawker City, Mitchell County, Kansas (pop. 640), the Wisconsin Street Historic District (ca. 1871-1926) is comprised of fourteen buildings and one site. This concentration of eleven, two story, brick, limestone, and frame Italianate structures; three, two story, brick early Twentieth Century Commercial Style structures; and one limestone paved alley represents the historical core of Cawker City's commercial center. The Italianate structures that predominate in the district share many stylistic similarities in their arched and hooded window treatments, corbelled cornices, and cast iron storefronts. The Twentieth Century Commercial Style structures are compatible in their materials, proportions, and functions with the Italianate structures. The limestone paved alley is representative of the dominant pedestrian paving employed in Cawker City between 1870 and 1910 and remains as the only example from this period. All of the properties within the proposed district are contributing and maintain a moderate to high degree of architectural integrity.

Platted in the traditional gridiron plan, the city is laid out on a 640 acre tract divided into quarters or wards. Sixteen avenues run from east to west, with Wisconsin Street being the center and major east to west thoroughfare. Sixteen avenues run from north to south, with Lake Street, formerly Pennsylvania Avenue, being the center and major north to south thoroughfare. The proposed district is located in the block just east of the Wisconsin Street and Lake Street intersection.

At one time, warehouses, hardware stores, and agricultural implement stores extended to the west and southwest of the extant commercial core, toward the Missouri Pacific Depot, which stands four blocks to the southwest of the proposed district. Cawker City's commercial district also extended to the east and southeast of the extant commercial core where hotels, additional offices, and the opera house were located. Residential growth has occurred in the northwest and southeast quandrants, leaving much of the 640 acre town site undeveloped.

Major fires in 1879 and 1882 drastically altered the commercial district, destroying eleven of the one & two story frame structures which dominated Wisconsin Street. A single two story, frame Italianate structure remains from this period. Most of the two story, brick and limestone Italianate structures which form the core of the proposed district were constructed to replace the burned buildings. The three Twentieth Century Commercial Style buildings included in the district replaced earlier frame buildings.

Inventory of Buildings

123-0820-

-0022 1. Harris Building--731 Wisconsin, ca. 1876, contributing

Limestone construction, two story, three bay, Italianate, with ornate pressed metal Neo-classical front. The building was substantially changed in 1903 when its height was increased by 6' and the metal cladding added. Flat roof.

Owner: Dick Wise
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0023 2. Lundy & Everson Drug Store--729 Wisconsin, ca. 1889, contributing
Brick front, limestone bearing wall construction, two story, three bay Italianate, with cast iron storefront made by Sweet & Grinder, Concordia, Kansas. The brick on the second floor has been stuccoed over. Flat roof.

Owner: Lelia Reames
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0024 3. Brant Building--727 Wisconsin, ca. 1926, contributing
Brick front, limestone bearing wall construction, two story, three bay, commercial style with intact prism glass over shop windows and door. The building is very well maintained. Flat roof.

Owner: John Kyle
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0025 4. Berry Block--721,723 & 725 Wisconsin, ca. 1879, contributing: key building
Two story, six bay Italianate with brick front, limestone bearing wall construction with six arched Italianate limestone window hoods at upper floor and case iron storefront made by John Scranton, Atchison, Kansas. A restoration project is planned in conjunction with the Bank (#5). Flat roof.

Owner: Farmers and Merchants State Bank
P.O. Box 6
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0026 5. Bank Building--719 Wisconsin, ca. 1871-1879, contributing: key building
Two story, three bay Italianate with brick front, limestone bearing wall construction with limestone appointments including three arched Italianate limestone window hoods, sawtooth corbelled brick cornice (matched on buildings 14 & 15) and cast iron storefront made by Seaton & Lea, Atchison, Kansas. In July 1881 the entire original building front was removed and the present facade built. The Farmers & Merchants State Bank was established in this building in 1883. The existing vault and teller counter were built in 1886. In 1963 the storefront was altered but is scheduled to be restored. Flat roof.

Owner: Farmers and Merchants State Bank
P.O. Box 6
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0027 6. St. Joe Store--715 & 717 Wisconsin, ca. 1871-1883, contributing
Two story, six bay Italianate with limestone front and limestone bearing walls. The original ornate cornice is missing. Flat roof.

Owner: Dick Koster
P.O. Box 354
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0028 7. Commercial State Bank--732 Wisconsin, ca. 1904, contributing
Two story, three bay, Commercial Style with brick front, limestone bearing wall construction with 45 degree bevelled corner. Cast iron storefront on north and west sides, large arched opening on west. Storefront and arched opening has been bricked in on west side but the Wisconsin Street facade retains its original character. Cast iron storefront made by Riverside Iron Works, Kansas City, Kansas. Flat roof.

Owner: Elmer Smith
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0029 8. The Cut Above--730 Wisconsin, ca. 1904, contributing
Two story, two bay, commercial style with brick front and cast iron storefront. The original one story building has had a second story added to it (date unknown). The upper addition is similar in quality to the bank building (#10). Flat roof.

Owner: Joni Frazier
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0030 9. Churchill and Kennedy Block--726, 728 Wisconsin, ca. 1879, contributing: key building
Two story, five bay Italianate with wood front, heavy timber/balloon frame construction with stone fire wall on the east. Ornate Italianate wood detailing includes an arched center cornice, paired bracket cornices and arched window hoods. Brick veneer has been added at the first floor (date unknown) but restoration would seem to be a simple matter. Otherwise the building is unaltered though minor detail repair and painting is needed. This is a very rare example in Kansas of wood storefront dating from this period. Flat roof.

Owner: Ruth Miller
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0031 10. Maddock Building--724 Wisconsin, ca. 1879, contributing
Limestone front building, two story, three bay Italianate with arched Italianate limestone window hoods at both levels and limestone belt and top cornice. Essentially undamaged, this is a fine example of limestone work of the period. It was built concurrently with its neighbor to the east following the fire of April 1879. Flat roof.

Owner: Joe Heinen
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0032 11. Moulton Block--720 & 722 Wisconsin, ca. 1879, contributing
Two story, six bay Italianate limestone front building with arched limestone window hoods at the second level and cut limestone and cast iron storefronts. The stone carving includes the Star of David motif. The ornate upper cornice was torn off during a storm in 1884 and replaced with the present simple limestone cornice. Flat roof.

Owner: Tracy Thull
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0033 12. Alley--20' strip of land west of lot 3, block 7, 4th ward, ca. 1870-1910 contributing
The alley is paved with limestone pavers of varying sizes and thicknesses set in earth. Limestone was the pedestrian paving of the period 1870-1910 and though the paving date of the alley is not known, it seems to be the only extant example from that period. Thus it adds to the historic fabric of the district and suggests the method for future repaving of the district.

-0034 13. Smith's Bakery--718 Wisconsin, ca. 1879, contributing
Two story, three bay, Italianate with limestone front, arched Italianate limestone hoods, "rope" cornice and belt cornice (seen on several buildings in town), and cut limestone storefront. Essentially undamaged, this is a fine example of limestone work of the period. Flat roof.

Owner: Joyce Thille
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0035 14. Tuthills Furniture Store--716 Wisconsin, ca. 1880, contributing
Two story, three bay Italianate brick front with limestone bearing wall construction. Arched Italianate window hoods, sawtooth brick corbel cornice (seen on buildings 5 & 15) and a cast iron storefront. This building is very similar to the bank (#5)

across the street and with buildings #4, 5, & 15 sets a very cohesive language in brick which defines that aspect of the district. The first floor fenestration has been altered. Flat roof.

Owner: Richardson Manufacturing Company
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kansas 67430

-0036 15. Riley Store--714 Wisconsin, ca. 1879, contributing
Two story, three bay Italianate. Originally a one story cut limestone front building, the second story of brick with arched Italianate limestone hoods and sawtooth brick cornice (see #14) was added in 1880. The building blends the use of limestone and brick, demonstrating their compatability. With the exception of the storefront glazing, the building is unaltered. Flat roof.

Owner: Richardson Manufacturing Company
General Delivery
Cawker City, Kanss 67430

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	X exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates ca. 1871-1926 **Builder/Architect** Alexander Parker and others

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wisconsin Street Historic District (ca. 1871-1926) is being nominated to the National Register under criteria A and C for its historical association with the development of Cawker City and for its architectural significance. Platted in the classic gridiron plan in the spring and summer of 1871, Cawker City was incorporated as a third class city in March, 1874. Cawker City is representative of the many speculative towns which were built in Kansas during the Nineteenth Century in anticipation of the railroad. The nominated district comprises the remaining contiguous cluster of commercial structures which formed to the town's center. Major fires in 1879 and 1882 drastically altered the commercial district, destroying eleven of the one and two story frame structures which dominated Wisconsin Street. A single two story, frame Italianate structure remains from this period. Most of the two story brick and limestone Italianate structures which form the core of the proposed district were constructed to replace the burned buildings. The district also includes three examples of the early Twentieth Century Commercial Style.

Cawker City is laid out on a 640 acre tract that was purchased in quarter sections in March and April, 1870 under the provisions of the Homestead Act (1862). The four 160 acre tracts were purchased for $10.00 each by E. Harrison Cawker, for whom the town is named, and James P. Rice, both from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and R.J.F. Kshinka and John J. Huckell, both from Pennsylvania. These men were responsible for the first buildings constructed in Cawker City, settling permanently in the area as farmers and businessmen.

The Missouri Pacific Railroad's Central Branch reached Cawker City in 1879, providing a direct shipping point for agricultural products such as grain and livestock. Census figures from 1880 list Cawker City's population at 1,039, by 1890 it had dropped to 898. A high percentage of these early settlers were northern and eastern European immigrants attracted to the area by the inexpensive agricultural land made available through the Homestead Act. However, the entrepreneurs and professionals highlighted in the 1883 and 1890 histories of the community were native born, emigrating from the northern and eastern United States.

An example of such an entrepreneur is Alexander Parker (1829-?), who settled in Cawker City in 1870 and was responsible for two buildings within the proposed Wisconsin Street Historic District as well as several others in town that no longer stand, including the Cawker City Opera House (ca. 1887, d. @1950). Born in New York State, Parker moved west to Indiana and Ohio. In 1849 he went out to California, returning to Ohio, moving then to Missouri, then to Illinois, and returning to Missouri before comming to Cawker City. Purchasing land within the town site, Parker opened the St. Joe Store, a general mercantile store, in 1871 (715-717 Wisconsin Street). In 1878 he established Cawker City's first bank, A. Parker and Co., which he sold to a concern affiliated with the American National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri in 1881. Thereafter the bank was known as the First National Bank of Cawker City and was located to the southeast of the proposed district. Parker sold the St. Joe

Store in 1883 and formed Cawker City's second bank, the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, in 1884 (710 Wisconsin Street). Further information relating to Parker's contribution to Cawker City has yet to be determined but clearly he played an important role in the development of the community, representing a motivated and enterprising entrepreneur who linked his fortunes with this boom town and reaped the benefits of its initial surge.

In 1890, Cawker City had two banks, two grain elevators, two flour mills, various hardware and agricultural implement stores, five drugstores, four general stores, various specialty stores, several restaurants, an opera house, two hotels, five lawyers, two coal dealers, and four blacksmiths. The U.S. Government Land Office that had been established in 1872 to open up the Northwestern Land District had been moved further west to Kirwin in 1874 but a local "land" office continued to operate in the community until 1905 (location: 727 Wisconsin Street).

The buildings which comprise the Wisconsin Street Historic District represent the boom period in Cawker City's history, which spanned the fifty-five years between 1871 and 1926. These structures stand as the remaining cohesive group of commercial buildings that once stretched west and south of the core district. The ten, two story, brick and limestone and one, two story frame Italianate commercial buildings that dominate the district share many stylistic similarities in their arched and hooded window treatments, corbelled cornices, and cast iron store fronts. The three two story, Twentieth Century Commercial Style brick buildings that are included in the district are compatible in their materials, proportions and functions with the eleven Italianate structures that are included in the district. The limestone paved alley is representative of the dominant pedestrian paving employed in Cawker City between 1870 and 1910 and remains as the only example from this period. The district retains a moderate to high degree of architectural integrity and represents a strong physical link with the founding and booming of Cawker City.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 7.2 Acres

Quadrangle name Cawker City

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	548767	4373340
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The Wisconsin Street Historic District is a 7.2 acre rectangle comprised of fourteen buildings and one site. The district is comprised of both sides of the 700 block of Wisconsin Street, bounded by Lake Street to the west and adjacent property lines to the east, north and south. The nominated properties stand on lots 6,7,8 & 9

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

state	code	county	code
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Martha Gray Hagedorn, Architectural Historian

organization Kansas State Historical Society date 1-27-86

street & number 120 West Tenth telephone 913-296-5264

city or town Topeka, state Kansas 66612

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Joseph M. Snell

title Executive Director
Kansas State Historical Society date April 28, 1986

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GPO 911-399

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Cawker City Free Press, 29 March 1879; 5 April 1879; 30 September 1880; November 1880; 31 January 1883; 6 May 1886; 14 April 1887; 5 May 1887.

Cawker City Ledger, 19 March 1904; 2 June 1904.

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"Notice of the Removal of the Land Office from Cawker City to Kirwin, Kansas." 7 November 1874.

Reps, John W. The Making of Urban America. (Princeton,N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1965).

State of Kansas. Census, 1880; Population.

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State of Kansas. Tract Books, V. 58, pp. 163-166.

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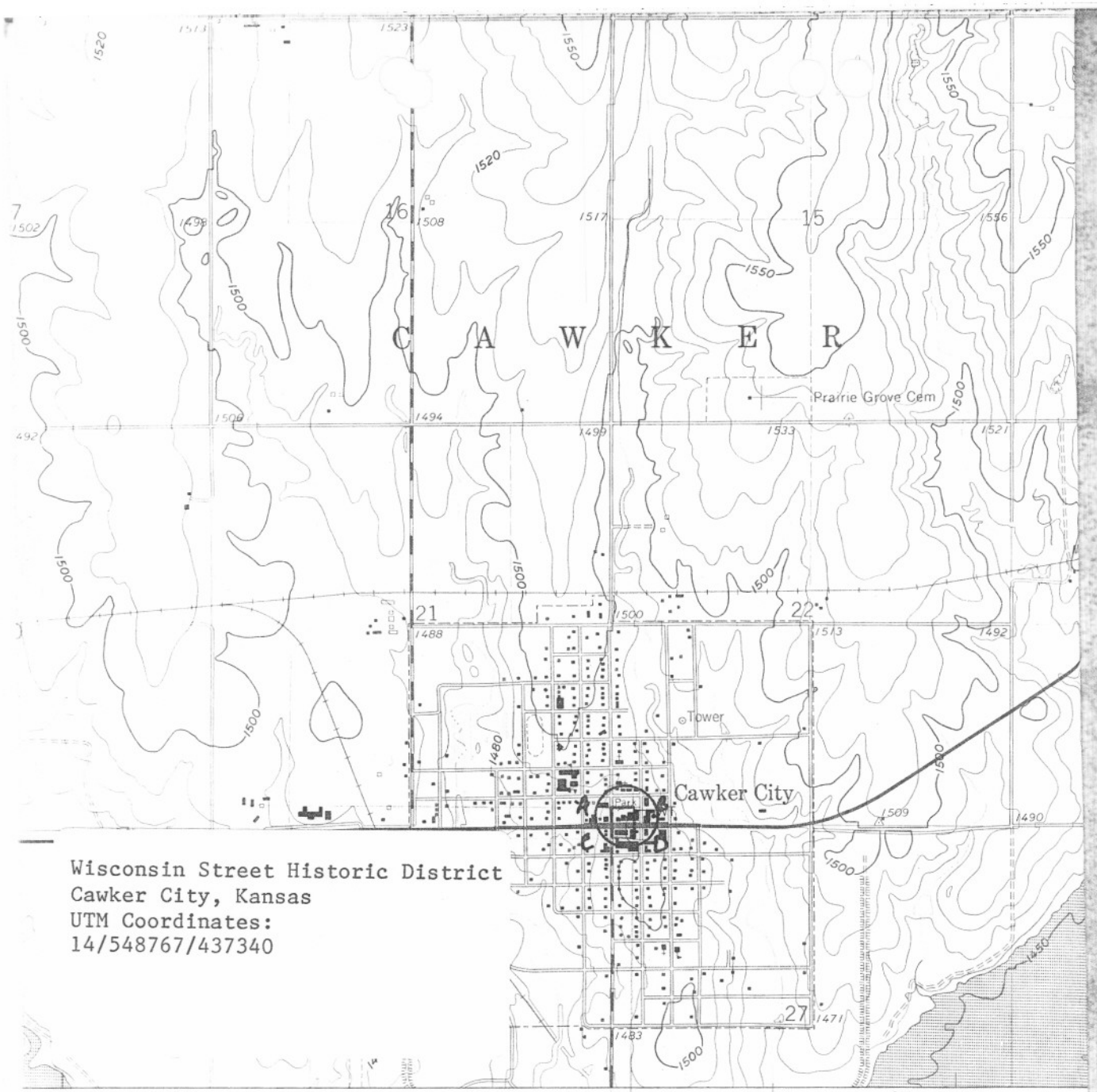
Ware, John. "Wisconsin Street Historic District." (National Register nomination draft, 1985).

of block 49 in the 1st Ward of Cawker City and lots 3,4,5, & 6, of block 7 in the 4th Ward of Cawker City.



Wisconsin Street Historic District
Cawker City, Kansas
UTM Coordinates:
14/548767/437340

SCALE 1:24 000

1 ½ 0 1 MILE

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LAWRENCE, KANSAS 66044
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in
aerial photographs t
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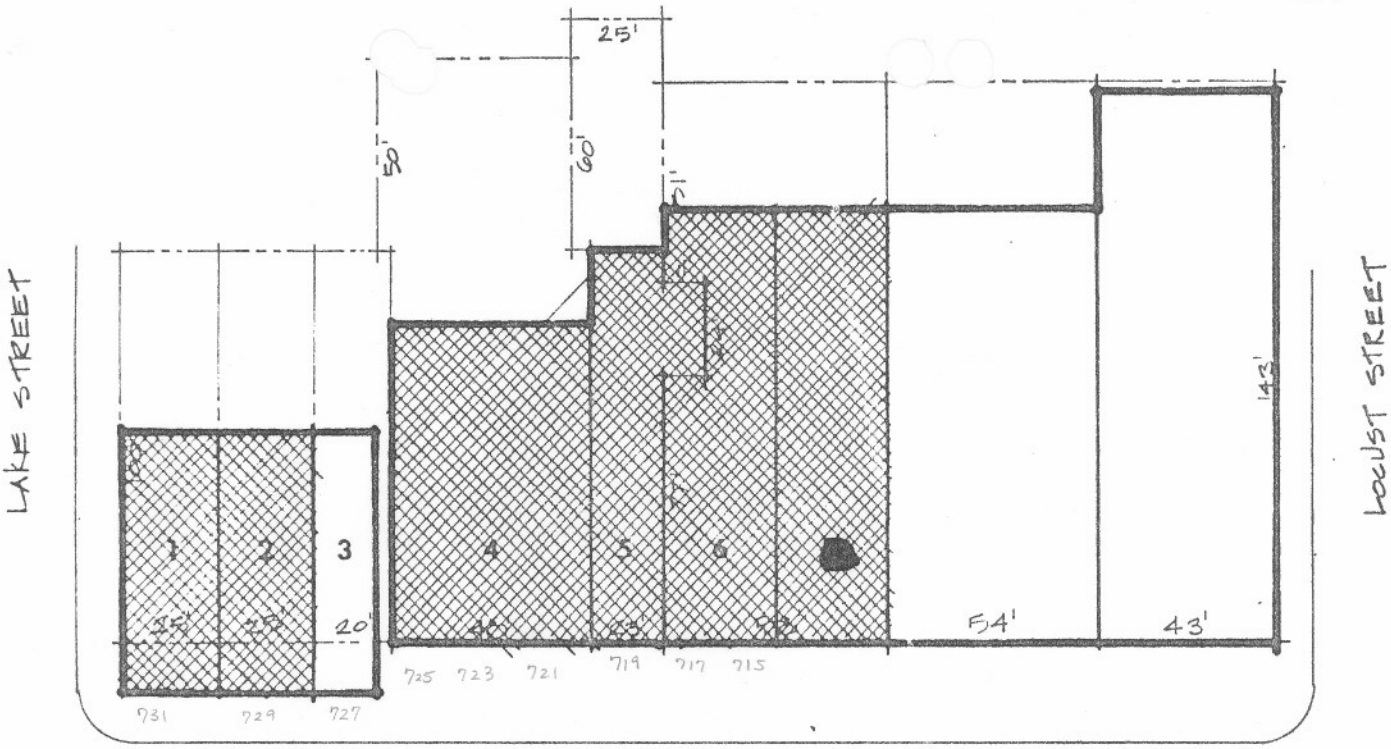
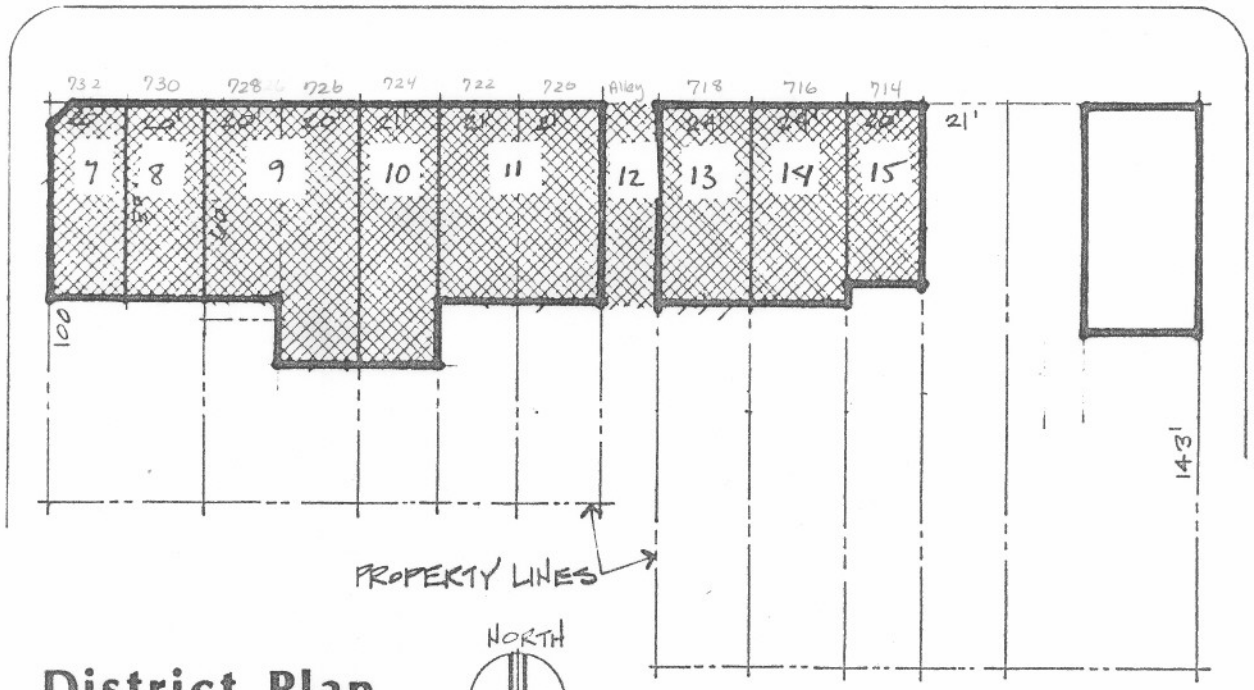


700 BLOCK
WISCONSIN STREET



District Plan
1" = 50'

BASED ON MITCHELL CO. APPRAISER'S MAPS

WBBA ARCHITECTS
125 North Emporia Suite 100 Wichita, Kansas 67

Wisconsin Street Historic District
Cawker City
Kansas