NPS Form 10-900
Oct. 1990

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

131-5030-0016

NATIONAL REGISTER
LISTED

SEP 07 2006

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

Historic name Seneca Main Street Historic District

Other name/site number

2. Location

Street & number 301-607 Main, 304-612 Main, 25 N. 6th, 26 N. 4th ☐ not for publication

City or town Seneca ☐ vicinity

State Kansas Code KS County Nemaha Code 131 Zip code 66538

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Patrick Zollner DSHPO June 5, 2006

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:)

Seneca Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Nemaha County, Kansas
County and State

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	
40	16	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
41	16	total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter Categories from instructions)

Commerce/trade
Government/city hall, post office
Social/meeting hall
Religion/church

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/trade
Government/city hall, post office, library
Social/meeting hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Italianate, Romanesque, Rennaissance
19th & 20th Century Revivals/Beaux Arts, Classical
19th & 20th Century American Movement/Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: Stone, Concrete
Walls: Brick
Wood, Concrete block
Roof: Asphalt/
Other:

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

Seneca Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Nemaha County, Kansas
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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

- [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

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Architecture

Period of Significance

circa 1880--1950

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

George A. Shaul, City Hall builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository:

Seneca Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Nemaha County, Kansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 12

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	751130	4413340
2	14	751540	4413370
3	14	751550	4413240
4	14	751140	4413220

☐ 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 Dale E. Nimz

Organization For the City of Seneca Date September 23, 2005

Street & number 1928 Countryside Lane Telephone 785-842-8992

City or town Lawrence State KS Zip code 66044

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Name See attached list.

Street & number Telephone

City or town State Zip code

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503

Architectural Description

Summary

The Seneca Main Street central business district is located on Main Street from First to Seventh Streets. Before the improvement of U. S. Highway 36 to the north in the late 1930s, traffic moved through the business district. The main railroad line parallels Main Street one block south on a right-of-way originally platted as Baltimore Street.

The Seneca Main Street Historic District includes most of the commercial buildings in the business district which are concentrated on Main Street between Third and Sixth Streets (see attached map for exact boundaries.) Generally, the north and south boundaries of the district extend to the alleys behind Main Street, but include one building on North Fourth and one on North Sixth Street just north of the alley. The east boundary is defined by a change in the character of the buildings on Main Street to twentieth century commercial and residential buildings east of Third Street. Also, the west boundary of the historic district is defined by a change to scattered modern commercial buildings and residences. The business district is located on a generally level area. There is diagonal parking along the brick paved street with concrete sidewalks. Most of the extant buildings have identical setbacks with the building front extending to the sidewalk. Brick is the primary building material with some stone, concrete, and concrete block. Generally, buildings are one and two stories tall. Several larger and more elaborate historic buildings anchor the ends of blocks with smaller one and two-story buildings in the center of the blocks.

Most of the buildings in the district are *two-part and one-part commercial blocks*. As defined by Richard Longstreth, the two-part commercial block is the "most common type of composition used for small and moderate-sized commercial buildings throughout the country."[1] These buildings feature a distinction between the storefront level and an upper zone. Most storefronts have symmetrically arranged facades with large display windows flanking a recessed entry. Second story windows are usually smaller and narrower than those on the first floor. The one-part commercial block has only a single story which is similar to the lower zone of the two-part commercial block. These commercial buildings generally have low-sloping or flat roofs behind raised parapets.

The buildings in the district represent three main architectural classifications: Late Victorian, Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals, and Early 20th Century American Movements--Commercial Style. These styles reflect the stages of Seneca's development from the permanent building boom of the 1880s and

[1] Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington, DC: Preservation Press, 1987), 24.

1890s into the first decades of the twentieth century. The district includes twenty-eight buildings that were constructed before 1901 and twenty-one buildings constructed between 1901 and 1950. Seven buildings in the district were constructed after 1945. Also, the circa 1919 brick streets (listed as a structure) are a significant part of the district.

The extant architectural styles of the Seneca Main Street Historic District are:

Gothic Revival - 1
Italianate - 6
Romanesque Revival - 13
Rennaissance Revival - 2
Classical Revival/Colonial Revival - 3
Commercial - 14
Beaux Arts - 1
Art Deco - 1

Within the Seneca Main Street district, only the Post Office is already listed on the National Register. Including the Post Office, there are fifty-five resources in the district. Significant architectural character is still evident representing the commercial and architectural development of Seneca's historic business district. There are forty contributing buildings, sixteen non-contributing buildings, and one contributing structure, the c. 1919 brick streets. Of the non-contributing buildings, four were constructed during the period of significance. Some historic buildings in the district have been demolished and replaced. The result is some modern infill construction distinguished by contemporary architectural styles and materials. However, more than 70% of the buildings in the district have substantial architectural integrity and represent the significant historical periods and associations.

Buildings evaluated as contributing usually have undergone alterations over time. Many of the alterations reflect changes common to historic commercial buildings as storefronts and facades were modernized with contemporary materials and signs. Some of the alterations detract from or obscure the historic architectural character of certain buildings. However, many of these alterations are reversible. Rehabilitation of these buildings might change their evaluation and eligibility for rehabilitation tax credits. Acceptable alterations include: windows which are covered but retain the original openings and recessions; additions which are obviously secondary to the main block; alterations to non-street-facing elevations; and storefront alterations provided that the transom outlines and other major architectural divisions are evident.

The following inventory list of buildings includes the address, construction and alteration dates in parenthesis, and historic name if documented. Also, there is a brief description of each building with architectural style, if evident.

Inventory

The following properties are included in the historic district.

1. Seneca Theater. 301 Main Street, circa 1927, contributing.

The Royal Theater was constructed in1927 on the site of an opera house block dating back to circa 1885. This is a rectangular two-story brick Commercial style building with a barrel roof. The building has a three-bay front with recessed panels, central and side entrances, and a projecting theater marquee. The mezzanine and second floor has 3/1 wooden double-hung windows. The rear wing has a steep gable roof. The shaped brick parapet, raised brick piers and other features of this two-part commercial block are characteristic of early twentieth century commercial style architecture. The first floor storefront has been altered with a modern glass entry, windows and wood sheathing. Central mezzanine windows have been covered with plywood.

2. 305 Main Street, circa 1925, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick Commercial style building with a three-bay front and central entrance. The red brick façade has an ornamental stone parapet and transom trim, a parapet with a raised central gable and a rectangular stone plaque surmounting the entrance. There is a flat roof and parapet. The storefront has been altered with a modern metal entrance door flanked by four-part storefront windows. The storefront transom has been covered.

3. 307 Main, circa 1924, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story tile Commercial style building with a flat roof and parapet. The building has a three-bay front with central entrance flanked by display windows. The façade had ornamental recessed brick panels and a parapet with raised central gable. The storefront has been altered with modern paired metal entrance doors, covered sidelights, and modern two-part display windows. The storefront has been parged with concrete stucco.

4. 315 Main, circa 1924, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick Commercial style building with a flat roof and parapet. The building has a three-part storefront with a central entrance flanked by display windows. There is an ornamental red brick front with a stone belt course. The façade has a central plaque surmounting the entrance, ornamental tan brick grids, and a shaped parapet with stone cap and a raised central gable. Alterations include modern paired metal entrance doors and sidelights, modern display windows, and a metal-covered transom.

5. 317 Main, circa 1911, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick Commercial style building with a flat roof and parapet. The building has a three-part front with a central entrance flanked by paired display windows and an ornamental glass transom. The facade has an ornamental stone base and ornamental raised brick end piers and eave cornice detailing. There is a rectangular horizontal plaque surmounting the entrance and a stone parapet cap. Alterations include modern metal entrance doors and sidelights.

6. 319 Main, circa 1924, contributing.

This is rectangular one-story brick Commercial style building with a flat roof and parapet. The building has a two-part front with a side entrance and a two-part display window. The façade is defined by raised brick piers and a smooth-cut parapet cap. There is a wooden glazed entrance door with the original transom covered.

7. 323 Main, circa 1885, non-contributing

This is a rectangular one-story brick Italianate style building with a flat roof and parapet. The ornamental cast iron storefront has a side entrance and elaborate ornamental metal eave cornice with a central pediment. Alterations include a modern metal entrance door and modern horizontal windows set in brick infill. The storefront transom has been covered with corrugated metal.

8. A. J. Felt Block. 327 Main, 1880, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Italianate style commercial block with a flat roof and parapet. There is a one-story rear wing. There is an ornamental cast iron double storefront with a recessed central second floor stair and entrance flanked by central storefront entrances. The storefronts have paired glazed wooden entrance doors flanked by display windows surmounted by a projecting storefront

cornice. The second floor front and west side windows have 1/1 wooden double-hung sash. Windows have ornamental cast iron Italianate hoods. In the front façade there is a projecting metal eave cornice with brackets and a central raised brick gable in the parapet surmounting the second floor entrance. Alterations include storefront transoms covered with plywood and modern vents installed above storefront entrances. In the west façade, the first floor openings have been filled with brick. Also, there is a one-story rear addition.

9. 26 North Fourth Street, 1924, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick Commercial style building with a double storefront.

10. Ace Hardware. 401 Main, 1959, non-contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick masonry and concrete block commercial block at the corner of a row. The building has a flat roof and parapet. There is a three-bay storefront with a central entrance flanked by metal display windows and sheltered by a projecting flat metal awning.

11. 405 Main, circa 1896, non-contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick commercial building in a row. It has a flat roof and parapet. The modern brick storefront has three bays with a central entrance. The storefront has a modern wood frame hipped awning covered with shingles. Originally, this was a two-story building. Most of the second story was removed in 1959 after two adjacent buildings collapsed and damaged the upper story of this building.

12. 407 Main, circa 1885, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story wood-frame commercial building in a row with a flat roof and parapet. The storefront has a side entrance and paired display windows. The storefront is sheathed with glass panels on the first floor. The second floor is sheathed with weatherboard. On the second floor, the are three 1/1 double-hung windows with ornamental window hoods. Alterations include a modern glazed entrance door and transom and a modern hipped wood frame and shingle awning.

13. 409 Main, circa 1885, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Renaissance Revival style commercial building in a row with a flat roof and parapet. The storefront has three bays with a recessed central entrance and glazed wooden entrance door flanked by large display windows flanking entrance. The second floor façade has ornamental raised brick quoins, flat brick arches, and slightly projecting paneled and corbelled brick detailing at the eave. Alterations include a storefront transom and second floor covered with plywood.

14. 413 Main, 1908, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-and-a-half story brick Renaissance Revival style commercial building in a row with a flat roof and parapet. The storefront has four bays with a central entrance flanked by large display windows. The upper storefront has ornamental tan brick quoins and a raised central brick panel with ornamental piers, a corbelled brick eave cornice and stone parapet cap. There is a central wooden attic window surmounted with an ornamental flat arch and a metal plaque embossed with the name, Snyder, and the date, 1908. Alterations include a side entrance bay covered with plywood, storefront bulkheads covered with plywood, a modern glazed metal entrance door, and a modern wood frame and shingle shed awning.

15. 415 Main, circa 1896, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick Romanesque style commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The storefront has two bays with a side entrance and a two-part display window. The façade has ornamental stone base blocks, a terra cotta frieze panel surmounting storefront, brick eave detailing with raised semicircular end piers, recessed brick niches, a projecting corbelled brick gable feature with a stone belt course and stone parapet cap. Alterations include a modern glazed metal entrance door with a cloth awning.

16. 417 Main, 1888, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Romanesque style commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The storefront has four bays supported on ornamental cast iron posts with a central and side entrance and two display windows. The façade has four ornamental brick panels surmounting the storefront and a stone belt course under the second story windows. The second floor windows have 2/2 wooden double-hung sash. There are semicircular brick arches and stone end blocks above the windows and raised brick eave detailing with a central date plaque (1888). Alterations include a recessed modern glazed metal entrance door with transom and a modern cloth awning. The storefront transoms are covered with wooden lattice.

17. National Bank. 419 Main, circa 1901, circa 1930, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick commercial building in a row with a flat roof and parapet. The front is a smooth-cut stone Art Deco style façade. The façade has a three-bay front with two side entrances. There is an enframed three -part window wall with 1/1 wooden double-hung windows centered in the façade and flanked by second floor windows. The two glazed wooden entrance doors are surmounted by transoms. The façade has ornamental vertical grooved stone detailing above the entrances and accentuating the window wall. There is a three-part wooden panel with chevron ornament in the window wall between the first and second story. There is corbelled horizontal detailing above the second floor windows and an irregular ornamental stone parapet cap.

18. Seneca Variety. 425 Main, 1969, non-contributing.

This is a modern rectangular one-story brick and concrete block commercial building with a flat roof and parapet. The building has a main three-bay storefront with an additional side storefront bay west and a taller bay to the east. The main storefront has paired central metal entrance doors flanked by metal display windows surmounted by a projecting flat metal awning.

19. First National Bank. 427 Main, 1889, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story Richardsonian Romanesque style brick commercial block with a flat roof and parapet at the end of a row. The building has a raised basement. The asymmetrical façade has a recessed side entrance and prominent corner circular tower. There are large and small round-arched first floor front windows. In the corner tower and on the second floor, the windows have 1/1 double-hung wooden sash. The main entrance door is wood. The elaborate ornamentation includes rough-cut stone lintels and round arched openings, multi-paned round-arched window transoms, a projecting central window bay on the second floor outlined with raised brick piers, a terra cotta panel and raised gable with multi-colored brick ornament, and stone eave detailing. Four pinnacles on raised brick piers crown the parapet. There is a metal eave cornice on the front and side facades. The corner tower is surmounted by a conical roof covered with wood shingles and an ornamental spire. Alterations include modern aluminum storm windows. The first floor front windows have been partially filled and the side windows have been covered with wood shake shingles.

20. 501 Main, circa 1885, 1939, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick commercial building with a flat roof and parapet at the end of a row. There is a rear wing or addition facing Fifth Street. The main south façade is Commercial style and the east façade has Italianate detailing. The original block was constructed about 1885 and the front was remodeled about 1939. The building has a three-bay front with a recessed central entrance f\lanked by display windows. There are two rear entrances in the side façade. The second floor front has 1/1 wooden double-hung windows. The rear wing has an ornamental second floor projecting oriel window. Ornamentation includes a front storefront cornice, raised brick panel and eave detailing. The side façade has projecting round-arched Italianate window hoods and raised brick eave cornice detailing. Alterations include a modern metal entrance door and a modern flat metal awning. The storefront transom and side windows have been covered. Openings in the rear wing have been filled with wood shake shingles.

21. Fashions Unlimited. 503 Main, 1961, non-contributing.

This is a one-story doublefront commercial block in a row with a flat roof and parapet. The brick front has recessed paired central entrance doors flanked by display windows. There is a modern full-length cloth awning.

22. 507 Main, circa 1889, non-contributing.

This is a one-story brick commercial block in a row with a flat roof, brick end piers and a central parapet between raised piers. The storefront has been altered with a side entrance and three casement windows set in a wood frame and plywood front. The upper façade has a wood shingled awning with three projecting wood vent dormers.

23. 509 Main, circa 1889, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Romanesque style commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The storefront has two bays with a recessed side entrance. There are first floor display window and a multi-paned transom. There is an ornamental cast iron post supporting the storefront lintel, stone pier caps, second floor stone sills and round-arched window lintels. The second floor openings are accentuated by stone ornament in three raised brick piers. There is a stone parapet cap and elaborate corbelled brick eave detailing. Alterations include a modern metal storefront awning and white metal storm doors. The second floor window openings have been altered. There is one large fixed and one 1/1double-hung sash.

24. Citizens State Bank. 511 Main, circa 1885, contributing.

This is the east half of a rectangular two-story brick commercial block in a row with similar Italianate style detailing. The building has a flat roof and parapet. This storefront has four bays with a central entrance flanked by display windows and a side entrance to the west. On the second floor, there are 1/1 wooden double-hung windows. The main entrance has paired glazed wooden doors and the side entrance has a paneled wooden door. Ornamentation includes cast iron storefront posts and cornice, stone pier bases, stone window sills and hoods on the second floor and a corbelled brick eave cornice. Alterations include display windows partially covered with wood shingle awnings and an eave cornice covered with corrugated metal.

25. 513 Main, circa 1885, contributing.

This is the west half of a rectangular two-story brick commercial block in a row with similar Italianate style detailing. The building has a flat roof and parapet. The building has a three-bay storefront with a recessed entrance flanked by display windows. The storefront is surmounted with four second floor windows. Ornamentation includes cast iron storefront posts and stone sills and window hoods on the second floor. Alterations include a modern metal entrance door, bulkheads covered with plywood, a storefront transom covered with corrugated metal and shingles, and an eave cornice covered with corrugated metal. The second floor window openings have been partially filled and modern double-hung windows installed.

26. 515 Main, circa 1896, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick Romanesque style commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The storefront has four bays with a recessed central entrance flanked by display windows. Storefront ornamentation includes projecting brick piers as well as an elaborate pressed metal eave cornice with brackets, dentil molding and a raised central gable with the Burnett name in the cornice. Alterations include a modern metal entrance door and sidelight, art glass bulkheads, and a closed side entrance. The storefront transom has been covered with corrugated metal.

27. 517 Main, circa 1896, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick Romanesque style commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The storefront has a three-bay front with a recessed central entrance flanked by display windows. Ornamentation includes cast iron storefront posts, raised brick piers above the storefront and

an elaborate pressed metal eave cornice with brackets and a central raised gable with the date 1895 in an ornamental panel. Alterations include a modern metal entrance door and sidelight and modern cloth awnings. The storefront transom has been covered with plywood.

28. 521 Main, circa 1925, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick Commercial style store building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The storefront has a three-bay front with a central entrance. Ornamentation above the storefront includes raised brick panels and brick piers, a central stone plaque in the raised central parapet, and a stone parapet cap. Alterations include a modern metal storefront with a central entrance door flanked by paired display windows and covered transoms. The central plaque may be related to the building's use as the Seneca Post Office before 1939.

29. Seneca City Hall. 525 Main, 1916, contributing.

The City Hall is a two-story Beaux Arts style institutional building with a flat roof and parapet at the end of a row. The building is constructed of brick and hollow clay tile masonry in an ell form. There is a three-bay symmetrical front with three recessed entrances. Both the front and side facades have paired 1/1 wooden double-hung windows. There are four glazed wooden entrance doors. Ornamentation includes central round-arched openings to the south and west with ornamental brick surrounds. Both facades have a belt course and round-arched raised brick second floor openings with stone keystones, a projecting eave cornice, and smooth-cut parapet cap. The front has a central recessed panel with stone plaque. Alterations include a modern one-story brick and block rear addition with a large garage door opening facing west. In front there is a concrete ramp and metal railing providing access to the main entrance. The northwest entrances have been filled with modern metal windows and panels.

30. Masonic Temple. 25 North Sixth, 1918, non-contributing.

The Masonic Temple is a detached Classical Revival style institutional building facing Sixth Street to the west. The building has a rectangular form with side bays projecting north and south. This is a one-story stucco building on a raised brick basement. The building has a three-bay front with a monumental central entrance flanked by small ornamented leaded glass windows and 1/1 wooden double hung windows with ornamented leaded glass. The basement has small hatch windows. There are paired ornamental wooden entrance doors with leaded glass glazed panels. Other ornamentation includes the pedimented entrance portico on four columns with the name Masonic Temple set in metal letters in the

frieze. The entrance has concrete steps with flanking brick piers. The north and south façades have a central recessed panel with paired flat columns flanking small window. Generally, the building has good architectural integrity except for the modern corrugated metal gable roof that was added on top of the original flat roof behind parapet.

31. Emergency Services. 601 Main, 2000, non-contributing.
This is a modern detached rectangular one-story institutional building constructed of concrete block masonry with brick trim. The building has a gable roof. There is a three-bay front with a central entrance flanked by sidelights and large fixed windows. The entrance door, sidelights, and windows are framed with metal.

32. Seneca Post Office. 607 Main, 1939, contributing.

The Post Office is a detached brick Classical Revival style institutional building. The building is one story with a raised basement. It has an ell plan with the main block oriented east and west. The building has a five-bay front with a central entrance flanked by paired windows. There is a hipped roof covered with standing seam metal roofing and surmounted with a central glazed wooden cupola. There are 8/8 paired windows and paired metal entrance doors surmounted with a multi-paned transom. Ornamentation includes the fluted entrance door surround, smooth-cut stone flat window lintels, and a smooth-cut belt course. The name United States Post Office and Seneca, Kansas are spelled out in metal letters fastened to the brick façade.

33. 304 Main, 1920, contributing.

This is a detached rectangular one-story brick and concrete block Commercial style building with a flat roof and parapet. The building has a three-bay paneled front. Ornamentation includes raised brick piers, brick panels, a raised brick storefront molding and corbelled brick eave detailing. Alterations include the modern metal entrance door in the central bay and large two-part display windows in each bay.

34. 314 Main, circa 1924, non-contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story concrete block commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has a two-bay front with a side entrance and large two-part display windows. The storefront has been stuccoed. Alterations include a modern 15-light entrance door and transoms that have been covered with plywood.

35. 316 Main, 1895, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Romanesque style building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The front façade has a two-bay front with a side entrance. Ornamentation includes a smooth-cut stone belt course between the first and second floors, raised grooved brick end piers, rough-cut stone round-arched second floor lintels, ornamental brick panels, corbelled and pierced brick eave detailing, rough-cut stone belt courses, and a raised gable parapet surmounting the entrance bay. The first floor storefront and the second floor windows have been modernized. There is a modern entrance door and a large display window. The storefront transom has been covered with board and batten. Modern second floor windows are set in openings infilled with brick masonry.

36. Nemaha County School District. 318 Main, 1976, non-contributing.

This is a modern rectangular block brick and concrete block one-story commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. There is a double storefront with two central entrances. Each entrance door is flanked by four casement windows. There is a shed awning covered with wood shingles.

37. 320-322 Main, 1910, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick Commercial style building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. There is a double storefront. Each has three bays with a side entrance flanked by two-part display windows. There is a glazed wooden entrance door to the west. The fronts are defined by raised brick piers and there is a smooth-cut stone parapet cap. Alterations include a modern glazed metal entrance door to the east and storefront transoms covered with plywood.

38. 324 Main, 1910, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick Commercial style building with a flat roof and parapet at the end of a row. The building has a two-bay front set back from the street. Ornamentation includes exposed steel storefront lintels, raised brick panels above the windows, raised brick piers and a projecting stone parapet cap. The former garage entrance has been filled with plywood and a sliding modern metal door. The entrance door has been altered. In the west side façade, the transoms have been filled with plywood and some modern windows have been installed in reduced openings.

39. Kennard & Vickers Block. 402 Main, 1888, rebuilt 1902, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Romanesque style commercial block with a flat roof and parapet at the corner of a row. The building has a four-bay front with an additional storefront bay in the east façade. There are central and side entrances. Ornamentation includes cast iron posts supporting the storefront, a belt course under the second floor windows, round-arched and flat arched lintels decorated with molded brick, ornamental brick paneling, corbelled and recessed eave brick detailing with rough-cut stone parapet cap, and a corner pyramidal cupola surmounted with a metal crest. On the second floor, there are 1/1 wooden double-hung windows with transoms. Alterations include modern brick bulkheads, transoms covered with plywood, and the alteration of some second floor windows.

40. 406-408 Main, 1884, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Italianate style commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has seven bays comprising a double storefront with a central entrance to the second floor. The storefronts have recessed entrances flanked by display windows. The second floor windows are 1/1 wooden double-hung sash. The ornamentation includes cast iron posts and a storefront lintel. The second floor windows have projecting stone window sills and round-arched window hoods with an ornamental keystone. There are projecting brick corner quoins on the second floor and an ornamental recessed paneled brick cornice. Alterations include modern glazed metal entrance doors and a solid paneled second floor door. Storefront transoms have been covered with wood shingles.

41. 410 Main, 1900, non-contributing

This is a rectangular two-story brick commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has a three-bay storefront with a central entrance flanked by display windows. The storefront has brick bulkheads and two-part windows surmounted by a multi-paned transom. Ornamentation includes brick end piers with ornamental rough-cut stone bases and accent blocks. Alterations include a modern metal entrance door and transom. The second floor façade has been rebuilt with modern brick masonry and two fixed 12-light windows have been installed.

42. 414 Main, 1888, non-contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has a three-bay storefront with a central entrance flanked by display windows. On the second floor, there are two paired wooden double-hung windows. Ornamentation includes a smooth-cut belt course above the second floor windows and parapet cap. The storefront has been altered with modern

brick masonry. The second floor façade has been stuccoed. There is a modern glazed metal entrance door and metal display windows.

43. Sunflower Patch. 416 Main, 1986, non-contributing.

This is a modern one-story commercial building with a brick masonry front. The building has a three-bay front with a glazed metal entrance door flanked by two display windows.

44. 418 Main, 1895, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Classical Revival commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The storefront has three bay divided by two ornamental cast iron posts. The storefront has two side entrances flanking a large display window surmounted by transoms. On the second floor, two 1/1 wooden double-hung windows flank a projecting bay window with an ornamental sill, fluted side molding and hipped roof with dentil molding. The building front has tooled stone pier blocks, rough-cut accent blocks, molded brick courses ornamenting the storefront, grooved brick end piers, a rough-cut belt course and window hoods. The eave has dentil brick detailing, projecting piers, and a corbelled eave cornice.

45. 420 Main, 1884, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Italianate style commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has a three bay storefront with a central entrance flanked by display windows. There are four second floor bays with four 1/1 wooden double-hung windows. Ornamentation includes raised brick window hoods and façade blocks. Alterations include a modern glazed metal entrance door and display windows. The storefront transom has been covered with corrugated metal and the eave cornice has been covered.

46. 422 Main, circa 1900, non-contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick commercial building wit a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has a three-bay storefront with a central entrance flanked by display windows. There are brick end piers with corbelled brick ornament. Alterations include a modern metal entrance door with a sidelight flanked by display windows. There is mock stone sheathing on the storefront bulkheads. The transoms have been covered. There is board and batten sheathing with a mock shed awning at the eave. According to appraisal records, this store front was remodeled in 1956.

47. 426 Main, circa 1895, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Romanesque style commercial block with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has a double storefront with a central entrance to the second floor and a side entrance to the west. Ornamentation includes a rough-cut stone belt course under the second floor window sills, two projecting round brick arches above the windows with stone end blocks, a central window with flat arched lintel. The second floor is divided by projecting brick piers and there is paneled and corbelled eave brick detailing. The first floor storefront bulkheads and transom have been covered with black art glass. There is a modern glazed metal storefront entrance door flanked by metal display windows with triple display windows to the east. There is a modern metal entrance door to the second floor. The second floor window openings have been reduced and filled with 1/1 wooden double-hung sash.

48. Harsh Drug Store. 430 Main, 1960, non-contributing.

This is a modern rectangular brick and concrete block one-story masonry commercial building with a flat roof and parapet at the corner of a row. The building has an asymmetrical three bay storefront. There is a projecting glazed metal entrance bay with double doors flanked by two-part display windows.

49. United Bank & Trust. 502 Main, 1959, non-contributing.

This is a modern rectangular brick one-story commercial building with a flat roof and parapet at the corner of a row. The building has a two-bay front with a corner entrance and an overhanging metal-covered eave. There is a glazed metal entrance foyer flanked by display windows.

50. 506-508 Main, circa 1889, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Italianate style commercial block with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has an eight bay front with a recessed central entrance to the second floor and side storefront entrances. There are glazed wooden entrance doors, a four-part display window to the east and a one-part window to the west, and storefront transoms. On the second floor, there are 2/2 wooden double-hung windows. Ornamentation includes six paneled cast iron storefront posts, round arched brick second floor window openings, and a projecting pressed metal eave cornice with ornamental panels and dentil molding. Alterations include a storefront cornice covered with corrugated metal, modern metal storm doors, and reduced second floor window openings.

51. 510-512 Main, circa 1904, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Romanesque style commercial block with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has a three-bay front with a recessed central entrance to the second floor as well as recessed side storefront entrances. There are two-part display windows on the first floor and on the second floor there are two paired and three single 1/1 wooden double-hung windows. The central entrance has a glazed wooden door. Ornamentation includes an elaborate façade with tooled stone pier blocks, rough-cut stone capitals, grooved piers, raised parapet end piers with recessed panels and tooled stone caps. The central entrance is surmounted by a date (1904) in leaded glass. There is a leaded glass transom to the west. Above the storefront, there is a molded brick belt course, two projecting second floor bay windows with elaborate pressed metal ornament and hipped roofs, a smooth-cut stone belt course below the second floor windows, and round-arched molded brick central window lintels. The central attic window has a rough-cut stone sill with a molded brick flat arch lintel. There is elaborate brick eave ornamentation with brick piers, corbelled and paneled brick eave detailing and a central raised gable with corbelled brick detail and rough-cut stone cap. Alterations include two modern glazed metal storefront entrance doors and a transom covered with plywood to the east.

52. 514 Main, 1895, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Romanesque style commercial block with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has a four-bay storefront with a central and side entrance. There are display windows on the first floor and a round-arched 1/1 wooden double-hung central window flanked by two 1/1 wooden double-hung windows. There are paired glazed wooden central entrance doors and a single glazed wooden side entrance door. Ornamentation includes brick brick bulkheads and ornamental multi-paned transoms over the doors and the display windows. The storefront has a exposed steel beam lintel with a molded brick panel and smooth-cut stone belt course under the second floor windows. These windows are accentuated by a rough-cut stone molding, flat lintels and a round-arch above the central window. There are end pier blocks ornamented with rough-cut stone blocks, grooves, and an elaborate brick detailed eave cornice with corbelled brick. The cornice has a recessed pierced brick panel surmounted with a central gable on projecting brick piers. There is a rough-cut stone parapet cap

53. 516-518-520-522 Main, 1926, contributing.

This is a rectangular one-story brick and concrete block Commercial style commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The building has a four-bay storefront. The two end fronts have two-part

display windows and the two center fronts have one display window. These are surmounted by rectangular transoms. There are five glazed wooden entrance doors surmounted by transoms. Ornamentation includes raised brick piers dividing the storefront bays, brick panels outlined by raised brick, a shaped parapet with four raised gables. Alterations include one central storefront transom that has been covered and three metal storm doors have been installed.

54. 524 Main, 1900, contributing.

This is a rectangular two-story brick Italianate style commercial building with a flat roof and parapet in a row. The storefront has four bays with central and side entrances. There are display windows in the first floor storefront and four 1/1 wooden double-hung windows on the second floor. The 15-light wooden side entrance door has an overhead transom. Ornamentation includes cast iron storefront posts, smooth-cut stone sills and projecting window hoods, and an elaborate projecting pressed metal eave cornice with brackets and molding. The storefront has been altered with modern brick bulkheads, metal display windows, a metal entrance door, sidelights, and transom. The storefront has a modern fixed shed awning covered with wooden shingles.

55. Koelzer Lumber Company. 532 Main, circa 1911, 1919. Contributing

This is a rectangular one-story rusticated concrete block Commercial style building with a flat roof and parapet at the corner of a row. Behind the storefront facing Main Street, there are several outbuildings including a concrete block lumber shed with a monitor roof paralleling Sixth Street. The storefront has eight bays in three sections. The two end sections have a central entrance and the center section has a side entrance. The entrances are flanked by display windows. The sections to the east have three-part transoms and a section to the west has one-part transoms. There are two glazed wooden entrance doors. There is a smooth-cut parapet cap. A central entrance and two windows facing Sixth Street have been covered with plywood.

56. Seneca Universalist Church. 606-612 Main, 1867, contributing.

This is a detached rectangular one-story stone Gothic Revival style institutional building with a steep gable roof. The building is constructed of coursed smooth-cut stone blocks. There is a three-bay front with a central entrance flanked by two round-arched stained glass windows. There is a paneled wooded entrance door. Ornamentation includes a prominent wood-frame bell tower with a steep hipped roof centered in the ridge. Also, there are round-arched raised window and entrance hoods in the front façade, a raised gable end molding, and a quatrefoil attic window in a circular opening. The bell tower

has molded corners, a projecting balustrade, round-arched openings, an eave dentil molding, and roof cresting. The original church building is connected to a modern one-story library addition with a glazed metal arcade.

57. Brick streets. Brick paving from 3rd to 6th Street, circa 1919, contributing.

Significance

The Seneca Main Street Historic District, located between Third and Sixth Streets, Seneca, Nemaha County, Kansas, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significant historical association with the commercial and social development of Seneca during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. In the regional economy of trading goods, services, and commodities, Seneca was important as the Nemaha County seat and a market town. The history of the business district and community reflects important stages of development in the community's history. These stages were associated with the period of agricultural and rural dominance in Kansas during the late nineteenth century and the state's progress during the early twentieth century.

The Seneca Main Street Historic District also is eligible for listing under Criterion C for architecture because the related types of properties in the district represent reflect the pattern of significant events in community history. Although there are almost no surviving buildings from the early settlement period, the location and centrality of the Main Street business district was established early in the community's history. The importance of the business district was reinforced in 1870 when the railroad built its line through town paralleling Main Street. As a whole, the district is a relatively well preserved example of the building types and methods of construction characteristic of these periods. The Seneca Main Street Historic District is significant in local history and may have state significance as an example of similar business districts throughout the state.

While the population of Seneca has remained nearly constant for some sixty-five years, the businesses in the Main Street District have changed. The construction of U.S. Highway 36 at the north edge of the town has attracted many businesses and considerable commercial activity to the north. However, banks, retail stores, professional offices, and a grocery store remain in the Main Street District.

Chronology

Several early trails and roads crossed the area that became Nemaha County. Explorer John C. Fremont led an expedition through the area in 1842 and Mormons used Fremont's route as they moved west toward Utah in1847. Two years later, the "49ers" followed the same trail as they rushed to the new California gold fields. Many emigrants also headed to Oregon and passed through the area in the 1840s and 1850s as they journeyed from St. Joseph, Missouri, to connect with the Oregon Trail west of Seneca at Marysville, Kansas. On the military road laid out in 1849 west from Fort Leavenworth, soldiers and supplies traveled to Fort Kearney and on to Salt Lake. The Overland stage and freight line of the 1850s,

which originated in Atchison and passed through the new settlement of Seneca, eventually became the Pony Express route of 1861.[1]

Early settlers of Nemaha County were primarily northerners from Illinois, but there were settlers from other states such as New York, Ohio, Indiana, and Iowa. Further immigration into the county brought families from Germany and Switzerland. German proper names still abound in Seneca. Other European nationalities represented in Nemaha County were Irish, English, Southern Europeans, Scottish, Swedish, Norwegians, Danish, and French.[2] Nemaha County was organized in 1855 with a population of only 99 residents. By 1870 the county population was 7,339. Seneca had a population of 6 in 1858 and an estimated population of 800 to 1,000 in 1870.[3]

With a constant demand for services from travelers, Kansans responded. The Smith Hotel in Seneca, for example, became one of the best-known hotels in northeast Kansas Territory. John Smith established the hotel in 1858 at the present-day location of Fourth and Main Streets. [This is now the center of the Main Street historic district.] The building also served as a restaurant and school. Although the Pony Express mail delivery system lasted only eighteen months, from 1860 to 1861, Smith's Hotel was one of Kansas's home stations.[4] The station keeper was the backbone of the Pony Express event though the keepers did not receive as much attention in later history as the Pony Express riders. Seneca was an indispensable service point. Beside the Pony Express, and the Overland stage line, the local post office, established in December, 1858, was a mail station on the overland mail route with entrepreneurial John Smith as postmaster.

During the territorial period, the struggle to secure Kansas as a "free state" was nationally significant. Because the outcome was critical to both Northern and Southern sympathizers, many settlers came to Kansas to support one side or the other. Most of the Nemaha County settlers supported the Free State cause.

Prosperity in Nemaha County depended not only on the procession of travelers that used the services of towns and hamlets in the county, but also on early agricultural production. There were many difficult early years of farming, but by 1876 Nemaha County was fairly well settled and there was no free land

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[1] "Project Report: Seneca Main Street Historic Survey," 6
[2] Ralph Tennal, History of Nemaha County, Kansas (Lawrence, KS: Standard Publishing Company, 1916), 75. Nativity data from 1875.
[3] Dale Nimz and Cathy Ambler, "Project Report: Seneca Main Street Historic Survey," Prepared for the City of Seneca and the Kansas Historic Preservation Office (August 30, 2004), 3-4.
[4] William G. Cutler, History of the State of Kansas, "Nemaha County, Part 3," (Chicago, IL: A. T. Andreas, 1883), at www.kancoll.org/books/cutler/nemaha/nemaha-co-p3.html.

left. The progress in increasing farm production was documented in agricultural reports as early as 1878.

In 1858 the territorial legislature approved a special election to select a permanent county seat in Nemaha County. Each town offered what it could to attract votes. Most offered town lots because lots could be sold for cash, which could help a new town finance its public buildings and services. Seneca offered to build a courthouse and donate it to the county as well as a number of town lots. The town's candidacy was helped along by the number of free state settlers. After a series of votes in 1859, Seneca was chosen as the permanent county seat. The town's location and the promise of a permanent place for conducting county business was enough to attract residents. By 1864 Seneca's population had grown to 301.[5]

From a fledgling town site called "Rock Castle" to the Nemaha County seat, Seneca's early development was typical of many settlements that began through the efforts of a town company. J. B. Ingersoll first claimed the site in 1857 and gave the "Rock Castle" name to his hoped-for community. Ingersoll was joined by several other men in promoting the town: Samuel Lappin, Charles G. Scrafford, Royal Torrey, and Finley Lappin. These men formed a town company, surveyed and platted the lots, and changed the name to "Seneca."[6]

Seneca's first building was a dog trot or double-pen log cabin which served as a grocery, hotel, register of deeds office, dwelling, shoe shop, and carpenter shop. Most early buildings were log or wood frame. Saw mills were established early and John Smith, proprietor of the Smith Hotel began a saw mill operation in 1858. Seneca thrived on the continuing stream of westward immigrants. By 1865 Seneca had three general stores, one hardware store, one jewelry store, a grist and saw mill, two hotels, and a newspaper with "the entire number of buildings, business houses, dwellings, schoolhouse and public buildings, being fifty-six."[7]

It is impressive that a railroad was built in Nemaha County as early as 1870. Every Kansas town sought a railroad line because most new towns would not survive without the access to agricultural markets, trade opportunities, and passenger traffic. For those living near or in Seneca, for example, a round trip by ox cart to St. Joseph, Missouri, the nearest market place, would take a week. Just as important at the railroad was the telegraph that came with it and connected all communities across the nation.

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[5] Tennal, History of Nemaha County, 79.
[6] Local historian Ralph Tennal believed that the source of the name "Seneca" may have been from the Seneca Indians or the Roman statesman. See History of Nemaha County, 79. However, Finley Lappin emigrated to Kansas from north central Ohio, where "Seneca" was the name of an adjacent county. See Michael Philbrick, "Seneca: 125 Years Ago," (Seneca, KS: G&R Printing, September 1995).
[7] Cutler, "Seneca, Part I," History of the State of Kansas, 5.

The St. Joseph and Denver Railroad Company came to Seneca because C. G. Scrafford, Samuel Lappin, and fifty-three other property owners agreed to guarantee the right of way (one hundred feet wide) and to donate the depot grounds (ten acres) in Seneca. Train service brought new residents and new construction. As one observer mentioned, "the coming of the St. Joseph and Denver Railroad stimulated building of a hundred new houses, representing an investment of $100,000."[8] With the railroad and the county seat, leaders of Seneca secured for their town a reasonable expectation for future growth and prosperity.

As completed, the line, later leased to the Union Pacific, Eastern Division, connected to the B & M Railroad at Marysville to the west, and to the Missouri Pacific at Hiawatha to the east. Eventually, the line was constructed to Hastings and Grand Island, Nebraska, and renamed the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad in 1885. The railroad came through the heart of Seneca, parallel with the east-west Main Street and divided the town with the business district and county property near the tracks on the north side and residential districts further north and south of the tracks. The Union Pacific Railroad still runs freight trains through Seneca several times a day.

On May 17, 1870, Seneca was incorporated as a city of the third class and trustees were appointed until municipal elections could be held in 1871. Before 1870 Seneca was part of Richmond Township and had no municipal government of its own. Seneca's "city" status marked its new independence, and at the same time, its new civic responsibilities.

In two historic photographs of the 400 block of Seneca's Main Street from 1870, most of the buildings shown were one-story wood frame structures. There were a few brick buildings (the first constructed in 1861). The community had dirt streets graded just low enough to keep water out of stores and raised board sidewalks generously wide at ten feet.[9]

In the 1880s, the population of Kansas increased and the economy boomed. Seneca also prospered. As the town was described in 1883, "Seneca, the county seat of Nemaha County, is favorably situated on high rolling prairie land, surrounded on all sides by well cultivated farms and pleasant groves... The city is well built. There are, in Seneca, very many handsome residences... while the business portion of the place is rapidly approaching the appearance of that which belongs to a city." By 1890 the town had

[8] "Anniversary Edition," Seneca Courier-Tribune (15 December 1938), 201.
[9] Michael Philbrick, "Seneca: 125 Years Ago," (Seneca, KS: G&R Printing, September 1995), 4, 6, 7.

a well-established central business district, churches, schools, and railroad connections. One observer commented, "the business portion is built up like a city four times its size."[10]

Many businesses in the Main Street district had moved from early wood frame buildings into more substantial brick ones by 1890. One of the brick landmarks was the First National Bank, designed by John G. Haskell, architect of the Kansas capital building, in 1889. Several storefronts on Main Street have cast iron thresholds and fronts that were manufactured by the Butler Foundry in Seneca. Development of the businesses and buildings on Main Street from the late nineteenth through the early twentieth century was recorded in the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company's maps for Seneca dating from 1885 through 1924. These show that most of the business buildings were constructed during this period and that more and more of them were constructed of brick. As an observer commented in 1895, "most of the business houses are large, elegant structures of modern design with plate glass fronts, heated by steam and lighted by electricity and are built of pressed brick. Upon the whole, the city presents an attractive appearance, and shows nineteenth century enterprise and genuine American progress."[11]

In the early twentieth century, technological innovation caused important changes in the Seneca Main Street district. By 1911 the town had a public waterworks and electric power plant. Kansans welcomed innovations such as the airplane, automobile, and the tractor. There was increasing demand for good roads. Cities and town invested in infrastructure, especially street paving. Brick paving was most effective at curing the ever-present mud, dust, and ruts along Main Street. Easy to lay and long lasting, vitrified brick streets provided a solution for street paving that was used in many Kansas towns. By 1924 Seneca had five miles of brick paving.

The growth of automobile transportation was reflected in the construction of service buildings on Seneca's Main Street as garages and auto dealers replaced livery stables. In 1922 the Williams Tractor Company was a dealer for Dodge Brothers automobiles and trucks. The Jerome Motor Company was a Ford dealer.[12]

During the early twentieth century, the Seneca community experienced a civic improvement revival in which leaders promoted the idea that the town needed to clean up its appearance. This revival coincided with national ideals about city beautification that were popular in major metropolitan areas and towns throughout the United States. The Seneca Business Men's Club led "A Model Seneca" campaign. The organization successfully promoted Jake H. Cohen as a write-in candidate for mayor of Seneca. As

[10] Cutler, "Seneca, Part I," History of Kansas, 3 of 5; John Lethem, Historical and Descriptive Review of Kansas Volume 1. The Northern Section. (Topeka, KS: John Lethem, 1890), 139.
[11] Souvenir of the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad Illustrated W. P. King, compiler. (St. Joseph, MO: Lon Hardman Press, 1895), 2.
[12] Atlas of Platbook of Nemaha County (Des Moines, IA: G. W. Anderson Publishing, 1922), 44.

mayor from 1906 to 1910, Cohen encouraged a schedule of fix-up and clean-up days. As a local historian concluded in 1916, "the movement was the best thing that Seneca had done for years, and she is still feeling the effects of it."[13] The movement provided benefits for the town, but community leaders also believed that civic improvement attracted new residents, businesses, and customers to town.

One achievement of this period occurred in 1916 when the town cleared several wood frame buildings from Main Street and constructed an elegant city hall for city offices and the fire department as well as public meeting rooms and restrooms. Later, the new Masonic Temple was constructed in 1917 just north of City Hall on the east side of Fifth Street.

In the great Depression of the 1930s, banks failed, individuals lost the savings and homes, and farmers lost their land. Between 1930 and 1938, scores of Nemaha County farms were sold at auction. To make matters worse, the drought from 1934 to 1937 and an infestation of grasshoppers brought hard times. Many federal programs were established to reduce unemployment and stimulate the economy. Federal financial aid assisted with the construction of a new Seneca Post Office built on Main Street in 1938-1939. This is one of twenty-four post offices listed on the National Register as part of a Kansas Post Office Art work thematic resources nomination.

Trends that affected the Seneca Main Street after World War II were the movement of population from farms to cities, the development of the federal interstate highway system, and the decline of railroads. During this period, railroad passenger service to Seneca ended and the passenger depot was demolished. Although there are fewer farms and farm residents in Nemaha County, agriculture remains the base of the local economy. The Seneca Main Street still is an active business district anchored by public services including the City Hall, Post Office, Library, and the nearby Nemaha County Courthouse and medical offices.

Architectural History

Based on the Seneca Main Street Historic Survey, the major periods of development on Main Street occurred from 1858 to about 1880, from 1880 to about 1900, from 1900 to 1940, and from 1940 to the present. The commercial architecture of the area is representative of Kansas architecture during these periods of development. Buildings constructed in the late nineteenth century represented the Late Victorian Italianate, Romanesque, and Renaissance styles. Buildings constructed in the early twentieth century include examples of the Beaux Arts and Classical Revival styles. Also, there are a number of early twentieth century commercial style business buildings.

[13] William H. Wilson, The City Beautiful Movement (Baltimore, OH: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989), 302; Tennal, History of Nemaha County, 88.

Architectural styles prevalent in the district: # Late Victorian Italianate, # Romanesque, # Rennaissance ... Some of the most prominent buildings in the District date from the early twentieth century from (1901 to 1940), ... City Hall, Masonic Temple, Post Office.

Inventory

The following properties are included in the historic district.

1. Seneca Theater. 301 Main Street, circa 1927, contributing.

Although the Opera House Block was built on this site before 1885, most of the building was demolished in 1927 when the Royal Theater was constructed on the site by M. P. Lamb. The shaped brick parapet and other features of this two-part commercial block are characteristic of early twentieth century commercial style architecture. The upper floor was used as the Royal Hotel in the 1930s and later converted to apartments. John H. Kongs was listed as the property owner in 1954 and 1965. The earlier Opera House Block was built by Charles G. Scrafford and his partner, J. H. H. Ford., who established a general store. Scrafford was an original partner in the Seneca town company and served as the town's first mayor. He also established the first bank in Seneca. Later after 1889, the building housed the Opera House Grocery, P. J. Asenbacher, proprietor. At that time, the block was "the leading place of amusement in the city."

2. 305 Main Street, circa 1925, contributing.

This one-story brick Commercial style replaced an earlier wood-frame building shown in the 1911 and 1924 Sanborn Insurance maps. The Goodrich-Thompson Garage and tire shop occupied the building in 1930 and in 1939 when they sold implements, tractors and trucks. Charles and Helen Haug were listed as the owners in 1954 and 1965.

3. 307 Main, circa 1924, contributing.

This building was recorded in the April, 1924 Sanborn map as an auto sales business with an office in the southeast corner and a repair shop in the rear. In 1930, the property owner was John Kongs. In April, 1932, 307 Main was listed as the Clifford Jerome Hardware Company in the telephone directory. Jerome may have rented because John Kongs was the owner in 1939 and the use was hardware and implement sales. Joseph H. Strathman was the owner in 1954 and 1965; the building was listed as a garage in 1954 and a store building in 1965.

4. 315 Main, circa 1924, contributing.

This property was listed as a vacant lot in 1917. The building use was recorded in the 1924 Sanborn map as auto sales with an office in the southwest corner. The business was listed as Williams-Snyder Auto Sales in 1930, Monteith Chevrolet Company in 1932, and Snyder Auto Sales and Service in 1939. Thomas McKinney was the owner in 1954 and Savilla Winterscheidt in 1965.

5. 317 Main, circa 1911, contributing.

This building was recorded in the 1911 and 1924 Sanborn maps as a garage. The business was listed as the Hart Motor Company in 1932. The business was still auto sales and service in 1939.

6. 319 Main, circa 1945, contributing.

A one-story detached building was shown at this location in the 1924 Sanborn map. 319 Main was listed as the Koelzer Garage in 1932. According to the 1965 appraisal record, this brick facade was constructed in 1945 between the two adjacent structures without its own party walls. Arthur Usher was listed as the owner in 1954 and 1965.

7. 323 Main, circa 1885, non-contributing.

This building was recorded as a bank in the 1885 and 1896 Sanborn maps. The original façade is shown in a line drawing from the 1887 Atlas. The property was a hardware store in 1901, a pool room in 1911 and a billiard parlor in 1930. The property was an office in 1954 with Ruby H. Hash as the owner in 1954 and 1965.

8. A. J. Felt Block. 327 Main, 1880, contributing.

Soon after coming to Seneca in January, 1880, Andrew J. Felt built this two-story brick block with a double storefront at a cost of $8,000. Later, Felt served as lieutenant governor of Kansas from 1889 to 1893. The Felt Block is an elaborately detailed and well-preserved example of the Italianate style with a cast iron storefront. In 1885 the building housed a grocery with printing on the second floor to the east and a variety store with offices to the west. In 1896 the store to the east was vacant with printing on the second floor and a clothing store with offices on the second floor to the west. From the 1921 to 1987, G. John and Edward Strathman operated their Department Store in the building. There were dry goods,

groceries, a photography studio, electrical repair, a mechanical shop, and printing press in the building. The Felt Block is now occupied by the Pony Express Museum.

9. 26 North Fourth Street, 1924, contributing.

When this property was recorded in the 1924 Sanborn map, the building had auto sales to the south and auto repair to the north.

10. Ace Hardware. 401 Main, 1959, non-contributing.

11. 405 Main, circa 1896, non-contributing.

This was recorded as a two-story store building with a rear elevator in the 1924 Sanborn map. The business was listed as a men's furnishings store in 1917 and as the Buehler Clothing Company in 1932. Emmett Mealy was the property owner in 1954. When the adjacent buildings to the north collapsed in 1959, the roof and second story of this building were damaged and most of the second story was removed.

12. 407 Main, circa 1885, contributing.

This property was recorded as a two-story building in the 1885 Sanborn map. The business was recorded as a clothing store in the 1896, 1901, and 1911 Sanborn maps. The business was a restaurant and confectionary in 1917, the Blue Goose restaurant in 1932 and a restaurant in 1939. The property owner in 1930 and 1939 was Mrs. Emma Enderlein. Bernard Kampert was the owner in 1954 and William F. Woltkamp was the owner in 1965.

13. 409 Main, circa 1885, contributing.

This property was recorded as a two-story brick general store in the 1885 Sanborn insurance map. The business was a grocery in 1889 and 1896. The business was a hardware store with a tin shop in the rear and Turner Hall on the second floor in 1901. The business was a furniture store from at least 1911 to after 1939. W. R. Woltkamp was listed as the owner in 1932 and William F. Woltkamp as the owner in 1954. Harry D. Gudenkauf was the owner in 1965.

14. 413 Main, 1908, contributing.

This storefront has the name "Snyder, 1908" in the cornice. The business to the east was listed as a barbershop and the business to the west was listed as a doctor's office in the 1911 Sanborn insurance map. The building housed city offices and an electrical supply shop in 1917. In the 1924 Sanborn map, there was a store to the east and an office to the west. 411 Main was listed as the Florence Ann Shoppe, ladies wear and millinery, in 1932 and 1939. 413 Main was the office of Dr. H. G. Snyder, the property owner, in 1939. Richard W. Woltkamp was listed as the property owner in 1954. Alta Mae Carman was the owner in 1965.

15. 415 Main, circa 1896, contributing.

This one-story brick building was listed as a boot and shoe store in the 1896 Sanborn insurance map. The business was listed as a bank in the 1901 Sanborn map. The building housed a real estate and insurance office in 1911. The building housed a barber in 1917 and 1930, an office in 1933, and a restaurant in 1939. C. E. Carman was the property owner in 1933 and in 1954.

16. 417 Main, 1888, contributing.

This property was recorded as a two-story brick bakery in the 1889, 1896, 1901, and 1911 Sanborn insurance maps. The business was a restaurant in 1917 and the Criterion Café in 1932 with offices on the second floor. J. L. Northcott was the property owner in 1954 and 1965.

17. National Bank. 419 Main, circa 1901, 1930, contributing.

This property was recorded as a two-story brick bakery in the 1896 Sanborn insurance map and what appears to be the same building was described as a bank in the 1901, 1911, and 1924 Sanborn maps. 419 Main was the address for the National Bank of Seneca in 1932. Dr. S. A. McCool and dentist John C. Grindle had offices on the second floor in 1939.

The National Bank was established in 1897 as a successor to the Bank of Nemaha County established in 1891. By 1916 this was the largest bank in town, leading in capital, loans, and the volume of business. The property owner was the National Bank in 1954 and Citizens State Bank in 1965. The stone Art Deco style façade appears to date from about 1930.

18. Seneca Variety. 425 Main, 1969, non-contributing.

19. First National Bank. 427 Main, 1889, contributing.

The First National Bank building was designed by noted Kansas architect John G. Haskell, and constructed by contractor Lewis Wetmore in 1889. The bank organization began with Lappin and Scrafford's Bank established in 1870. They sold their old banking rooms to A. H. Burnett in January, 1884 and purchased this site. The name was changed to the First National Bank in 1887 with prominent local merchant, George W. Williams, as president. The First National Bank moved into their landmark building in the spring of 1889. Later in 1916, John G. Clark occupied the building. The property was listed as a bank through May 31, 1933, but was recorded as a beauty shop and office in 1939. William W. Kinsley was listed as the property owner in 1954 and 1965.

20. 501 Main, circa 1884, 1939, contributing.

This two-story brick building was recorded as a general store in the January, 1885 Sanborn insurance map. The rear block facing Fifth Street appears to have been added between 1889 and 1896. In 1901, 1911, and 1924, the building housed a general store with lodge hall on the second floor as well as a rear warehouse with a photography shop on the second floor. The business was listed as Wempe Dry Goods and clothing in 1930. Elmer Eitner has the photography shop in 1932. Since the property was listed as the J.C. Penny Company in 1939, the storefront may have been remodeled at that time.

21. Fashions Unlimited. 503 Main, 1961, non-contributing.

22. 507 Main, circa 1928, non-contributing.

Although there was a two story building on the west half of Lot 6 from 1889 to 1901, the property was vacant in the 191 and 1924 Sanborn insurance maps. This building was constructed between 1924 and 1930 when the business was listed as a grocery. W. J. Donaldson was listed as the owner in 1954 and 1965.

23. 509 Main, circa 1889, contributing.

This building was constructed between 1889 and 1896 when it was recorded as a hardware store in the 1896 Sanborn insurance map. This use continued through 1939 when Ray Eley was the proprietor. John W. Luebbe was the owner in 1954 and 1965.

24. Citizens State Bank. 511 Main, circa 1884, contributing.

This two-story brick building was recorded as a bank in the Sanborn maps from 1885 to 1924. The property was recorded as the Citizens State Bank from 1930 to after 1954. The Citizens State Bank

began in September, 1894 by a reorganization of the Scoville Exchange Bank established in 1888. C. C. K. Scoville was president and A. L. L. Scoville, a hardware merchant, was vice president. C. C. Scoville sold his interest to his associates in 1920. Joseph H. Strathman was the property owner in 1965.

26. 513 Main, circa 1884, contributing.

The west half of the two-story brick block was recorded in January, 1885 as a dry goods and grocery store with offices on the second floor. This business continued through 1901. In 1911 the business was a hardware store with a one-story rear warehouse. The business again was Levick and Sons Grocery from 1930 to after 1939. Mildred M. Firstenberger was the property owner in 1954 and 1965.

25. 515 Main, circa 1896, contributing.

This one-story brick building was recorded as a dry goods store in the 1896 and 1901 Sanborn insurance maps. The Burnett name is presented in the metal eave cornice. From before 1911 to 1939, this business was listed as the Strathman-Firstenberger Racket Store in fire insurance records. Joseph H. Strathman was the property owner in 1954 and 1965.

26. 517 Main, circa 1895, contributing.

This storefront has an 1895 date in the metal cornice. The business was recorded as bakery and restaurant in the 1896, 1901, 1911 Sanborn insurance maps. The business was the Sunflower Bakery in 1932. Otto Kelm was the owner from before 1930 to 1965. The property owners were Otto Kelm and John Grintle in 1954.

27. 521 Main, circa 1925, contributing.

This building may have been built for a Post Office in 1925. The Post Office was recorded in this location in 1930 before the current Post Office was completed in 1939. The building housed offices in 1941. Robert V. Vardy was the property owner in 1965.

28. Seneca City Hall. 525 Main, 1916, contributing.

In July, 1916, Seneca's citizens voted almost unanimously in favor of bonds for the erection of a new city hall and municipal building that would cost $20,000. The building was designed to house city offices, the fire department, a public restroom and assembly room. Later, the community library

occupied space in the building. Local resident George A. Shaul was the contractor. At the time, local historian Ralph Tennal commented that the edifice was "modern in every respect and will be a matter of pride to every Senecan when completed."

29. Masonic Temple. 25 North Sixth, 1918, non-contributing.

The Seneca Masonic Temple was constructed in 1917 and dedicated January 1, 1918.

30. Emergency Services. 601 Main, circa 2002, non-contributing.

31. Seneca Post Office. 607 Main, 1939, contributing.

This building is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Federal financial aid contributed to the construction of the new Post Office in 1938. According to the building cornerstone, Louis Simon was the supervising architect and Neal Melich was the supervising engineer. This is one of twenty-four post offices listed as part of a Kansas Post Office Art Work Thematic Resources nomination (1936-1942) for its mural "Men and Wheat." The Post Office was selected in a national competition to receive a mural from the Treasury Department's Section of Fine Arts. The Seneca Post Office is an example of one of many smaller class C or D type post offices that received artwork in Kansas.

32. 304 Main, circa 1920, contributing.

Although a construction date of 1920 for this building was noted in the 1924 Sanborn insurance map, fire insurance records listed a garage on this property in 1917. The property was vacant in 1911. This building was the C. C. Firstenberger garage in the 1930s. The Nemaha Coop Association was the property owner in 1954.

33. 314 Main, circa 1924, non-contributing

This property was recorded as a vacant lot in the 1911 Sanborn insurance map. There was a one-story store building on the property in 1924. The business was a tire and battery shop in 1930. Local residents reported that the building housed Luebbe's Café later in the 1930s. The business was a café in 1954 when Durwood and Curtin were the property owners. Florence Shoemaker was the owner in 1965.

34. 316 Main, 1895, contributing.

The construction date for this two-story brick block was noted in the 1896 Sanborn insurance map. The business was a furniture store in 1896, 1901, and 1911. The business was recorded as a battery repair shop in 1924. Jermane and Emery were the owners in 1930. The business was the Kansas Pipe and Gas Company office with a dwelling on the second floor in 1930 and 1932. Charles J. Jermane was the property owner in 1954. Jane B. Emery and Jermane were the owners in 1965.

35. Nemaha County School District. 318 Main, 1976, non-contributing.

36. 320-322 Main, 1910, contributing.

This one-story two-part building was recorded in the 1911 Sanborn insurance map. The east half was recorded as a hardware store and warehouse: the west half was a restaurant in 1911. The east half was a blacksmith shop and the west half was a produce station in 1924. 320 Main was a cleaning and pressing and tailor shop in 1930. 322 Main was vacant in 1932. Polly Ann Leedy owned the east half and R. E. Foltz owned the west half in 1954 and 1965.

37. 324 Main, 1910, storefront altered circa 1932, contributing.

This one-story brick building was recorded in the 1911 and 1924 Sanborn maps without a setback from the street. The front was altered later and moved back several feet from the street. The east half was an office in 1911; the west half was a printing office with a tailor shop in the northeast corner. In 1924 the east half was a store and the west half housed a printing shop with another store in the northeast corner. In the April, 1932 telephone directory, the business at 324 Main was the Hanna Poultry and Egg Company, but the Skelly Oil Company, auto service, was listed at the property by October 21, 1932. The property owner was the Skelly Company in 1954 and 1965.

38. Kennard & Vickers Block. 402 Main, 1888, rebuilt 1902, contributing.

This is a landmark business block; it is one of the buildings associated with prominent early settler George W. Williams (1848-1917). Williams began a successful hardware business in 1870 and built this building between 1885 and 1889. He was involved in several area banks and acquired thousands of acres of farm land. As a local history concluded, Williams "has taken an active and substantial part in the work of creating a great county from a wilderness of prairie and wild land."

According to the 1889 Sanborn insurance map, Kennard & Vickers operated the "Great Variety" store in this building. This was a general store with offices on the second floor. The building was damaged by a fire on January 18, 1890. The proprietors rebuilt, but the building was damaged by a second fire on

February 5, 1902, when J. E. Hatch owned the property. The building housed a hardware store in 1911 and W. P. operated a department store at 404 Main in 1932. From about 1930 until after 1965, the Knights of Columbus had a lodge hall on the second floor. The Knights of Columbus were the property owners in 1954 and 1965.

39. 406-408 Main, 1884, contributing.

This building was recorded in the 1885 Sanborn insurance map as the Commercial House hotel in front with an adjacent wood-frame dining room to the east. Also, the rear housed an office and billiard room east and the Post Office to the west. In 1889, the businesses were boots and shoes to the east and the Post Office. In 1896, the businesses were a jeweler to the east and boots and shoes to the west. In 1911, the businesses were millinery to the east and boots and shoes to the west with a cobbler in the rear. In 1932 Kill's Plumbing & Heating Company occupied 406 Main and the B&M Shoe Store occupied to 408 Main. Gordon Alvis was the property owner in 1954 and Ruth Alvis was the owner in 1965.

40. 410 Main, 1900, non-contributing.

There was a one-story building on this property constructed between 1885 and 1889. This two-story brick block was recorded in the 1901 Sanborn insurance map. The second floor facade has been considerably altered.

41. 414 Main, 1888, non-contributing.

This two-story brick building was recorded in the 1889 Sanborn insurance map. The first floor façade has been considerably altered.

42. 416 Main, 1986, non-contributing.

43. 418 Main, 1895, contributing.

This building was recorded in the 1896 Sanborn insurance map as a clothing store. The business was a billiard parlor in 1911 and 1917. By 1930 this was the F. A. Jenkins grocery and meat market. Myrtle Jenkins was the property owner in 1954 and 1965.

44. 420 Main, 1884, contributing.

This building was recorded in the 1885 Sanborn insurance map as a grocery. In 1896 and 1901, the building housed the Post Office with offices on the second floor. The building housed a jewelry store from about 1911 to after 1939. The Sperling Jewelry Store was listed at 420 Main in 1932. Ida May Shreve was the property owner in 1954 and George Shreve was the owner in 1965.

45. 422 Main, circa 1900, non-contributing.

This one-story building was recorded in the 1901 Sanborn insurance map. According to appraisal records, the storefront was remodeled in 1956.

46. 426 Main, circa 1895, contributing.

This two-story brick block was recorded in the 1896 Sanborn insurance map. There was a restaurant to the east with printing on the second floor and a meat market to the west with a dwelling on the second floor. By 1911 the restaurant remained with a drug store to the west. In the 1930s, there was a plumbing and heating business to the east and a clothing store to the west. Dr. H. G. Snyder had his office at 4261/2 Main in 1932. Snyder was the property owner in the 1930s. J. L. and E. G. Northcott were the property owners in 1954 and 1965.

47. Harsh Drug Store. 420 Main, 1960, non-contributing.

48. United Bank & Trust. 502 Main, 1959, non-contributing.

49. 506-508 Main, circa 1889, contributing.

This building was recorded in the 1889 Sanborn insurance map as the Commercial House hotel with a parlor, dining room, and kitchen on the first floor to the east and an office on the second floor to the west. This appears to be the building shown in an illustration from the 1887 Atlas. G. H. Rohenkohl was the proprietor of the Commercial House at this time. In 1896, the building housed a racket store to the east and a grocery to the west. By 1901, there was a printing office to the east with a telephone office on the second floor and the racket store to the west. In 1911 the building housed the Post Office to the east and a millinery store to the west. The Post Office remained in 1924. 508 Main was the address for Heffron Millinery in 1932. From about 1917 to after 1939, the telephone exchange was located on the second floor. John W. Luebbe and others was the owner in 1954 and 1965.

50. 510-512 Main, circa 1904, contributing.

This building has a construction date set in leaded glass over the central entrance. In 1911 the first floor of the two-story brick building to the east was vacant with a printing office on the second floor. The first floor to the west housed a grocery with a club room on the second floor. In 1917 there was a millinery store to the east with a printing office on the second floor and a grocery to the west with offices and a club room on the second floor. In 1930 there was a dry goods store, Boeding Economy Store, to the east with an office and dwelling on the second floor. To the west the printing office of Emery-Jordan, publishers of the Courier-Tribune occupied the building. In 1932 W.F. and J.O. Thompson had their real estate office at 5101/2 Main. Attorney R. M. Emery, Jr. had his office at 5121/2 Main. H.E. Johnson owned 510 Main in 1954. Alice and Roy Vorhees owned 512 Main. Florence Koelzer owned 510 Main in 1965. The Seneca Publishing Company, Alice Vorhees and James Adriance, owned 512 Main in 1965.

51. 514 Main, 1895, contributing.

This two-story brick building was recorded in the 1895 Sanborn insurance map and appraisal records corroborate the 1895 construction date. The building housed a clothing, boot and shoe store in 1896 and 1901. There was a lunchroom on the first floor in 1911. The building housed a meat market in 1917 with office s and the firemen's hall on the second floor. From about 1930 to after 1939, J. M. Thomson's optometry office occupied the first floor. The second floor was vacant in 1930. Lenta C. Thompson and Ethyl Corby were owners in 1954 and 1965.

52. 516-518-520-522 Main, 1926, contributing

This one-story building with a four-part storefront replaced four small one-story wood frame buildings recorded in the 1924 Sanborn insurance map. The construction date was documented in tax appraisal records. Jermane Music House occupied 516 Main in 1932. Abbie W. Kennard's insurance office occupied 520 Main. Dr. D. H. Piper's office occupied 522 Main Charles A. Germane owned 516 Main in 1954 and 1965. Polly Anna Leedy owned 518 Main in 1954 and 1965. J.O. Thompson owned 520 Main in 1954. Louise Houston owned 522 Main in 1954 and J. Howard Gilbert owned 522 Main in 1965.

53. 524 Main, 1900, contributing.

This two-story brick building was recorded in the 1901 Sanborn insurance map and corroborated form tax appraisal records. The building housed a grocery with rear warehouse in 1911 and 1924. There was a lodge hall on the second floor in 1917. The business was listed as Floyd & Jack's Grocery in 1932. Joseph H. Strathman was the property owner in 1954 and 1965.

54. Koelzer Lumber Company. 532 Main, 1911. Contributing

The J. H. Hatch Lumber yard was located on this property in 1885 and the property was recorded as the Holton Lumber Company in 1901. J. P. Koelzer came to Seneca to work for the Holton Lumber Company and soon bought the Seneca lumber yard which has been operated by the Koelzer family since that time. The rusticated concrete block store building now standing on the corner was depicted in the 1911 Sanborn insurance map from plans. The adjacent two-part store front was constructed before c. 1919 and the middle section (which closed a driveway shown in the 1911 map) was recorded on the 1924 Sanborn map. Other warehouse buildings in the rear of the property probably date from the early twentieth century. In 1930 the Koelzer Lumber Company office occupied the two end offices. The next storefront housed a cobbler and the storefront to the east, 526 Main, housed Waller Electric Company.

55. Seneca Universalist Church. 606-612 Main, 1867, circa 1998, contributing.

One of the earliest surviving buildings in Seneca and on Main Street is the old Universalist Church, now the Seneca Free Library. The Universalists and other religious congregations intended to establish a landmark for the young community and they accomplished this goal. In effect, this building was the beginning place for organized religious congregations in Seneca. Although religious congregations met in the 1850s, Seneca had no church buildings before construction of the Universalist Church in 1867. On April 30, 1867, residents held a meeting to consider building a church. The Universalists organized, pledged $1,600 and let a contract in May for construction of a building. They purchased a site on the south side of Main Street in an excellent location. Stone masonry was finished October 20, 1867 and the building was occupied for the first time on January 1, 1868, but the church was not fully completed for several more months. The first religious services in the new church building were held July 17, 1869. The building was used by the Methodists, Baptists, and Congregationalists in common until other churches were built. Catholics organized St. Peter and Paul Church in 1869. The Congregationalists built a church in 1870 and the Methodists in 1877.

The Universalist Church was described as thirty-nine by fifty-five feet in size, thirty-two feet from foundation to gable with a belfry thirty feet in height. Costing about $7,500, the church was a "commodious and handsome edifice." The old church has mixed features of both the Gothic Revival and Italianate architectural styles.

In the early twentieth century, the Seneca Free Library was organized in May, 1917. After the Universalists disbanded about 1920, the city of Seneca purchased the old church building after approval

in the April, 1928 city election. Finally, the library moved from rooms in City Hall to the old church in July, 1931.[14] The library building was rehabilitated and a compatible addition constructed about 1998.

[14] "Anniversary Edition," Seneca Courier-Tribune December 15, 1938, 166, 183.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated historic district begins at the northeast corner of Lot 7, Block 70, Original Town of Seneca and runs south along the property line and Third Street across Main Street to the southeast corner of Lot 8, Block 4, Scrafford's Addition. Then the boundary runs west along the south property line crossing Fourth and Fifth Streets to the southwest corner of Lot 11, Block 82. Then the boundary runs north along the west property line crossing Main Street, then west along the south property line to the west line of Lot 3, Block 73, and then north to the northwest corner of Lot 3. The north boundary runs east along the property line crossing Fifth Street to the southwest corner of Lot 72, then north to the northwest corner of Lot 72, then east along the property line to the northeast corner of Lot 11, Block 72, then south along the property line to the southeast corner of Lot 11. The boundary runs east along the property line crossing Fifth Street to the southwest corner of Lot 10, Block 71, then north to the northwest corner of Lot 10, Lot 71, then east to the northeast corner of Lot 8, Block 71, then south to the southeast corner of Lot 8, Block 71. The boundary runs east across Fourth Street along the property line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

This boundary constitutes the area that was historically the core of the Seneca commercial district and the largest concentration of remaining buildings that retain their integrity. The north and south boundaries extend to the alleys behind Main Street but include one building on North Fourth and one on North Sixth Street just north of the alley. The east boundary is defined by a change in the character of the buildings on Main Street to twentieth century commercial and residential buildings east of Third Street. Also, the west boundary of the historic district is defined by a change to scattered modern commercial buildings and residences.

Property Owners

Property owners are listed for each building in the Seneca Main Street Historic District by the address of the building and according to the property inventory number listed in Section 7 and the map.

1. **Seneca Theater, 301 Main**
   Naismith Rental Inc.
   % Ray Huninghake
   314 N. 7th Street
   Seneca, KS 66538

2. **305 Main Street**
   Community National Bank
   P.O. Box 210
   Seneca, KS 66538

3. **307 Main Street**
   James Heinen
   Heinen Tractor
   307 Main Street
   Seneca, KS 66538

4. **315 Main Street**
   Omer Haug
   Ray's Auto Supply
   317 Main Street
   Seneca, KS 66538

5. **317 Main Street**
   Omer Haug
   Ray's Auto Supply
   317 Main Street
   Seneca, KS 66538

6. **319 Main Street**
   James Heinen
   Heinen Tractor
   307 Main Street
   Seneca, KS 66538

7. **323 Main**
   Roger Jorgensen
   323 Main
   Seneca, KS 66538

8. **A. J. Felt Block, 327 Main Street**
   Pony Express Preservation Society
   327 Main Street
   Seneca, KS 66538

9. **26 North Fourth Street**
   George Taylor
   Taylor Chevrolet
   26 N. 4th Street
   Seneca, KS 66538

10. **Ace Hardware, 401 Main**
    Ace Hardware
    401 Main
    Seneca, KS 66538

11. **405 Main Street**
    Spanky's,
    405 Main
    Seneca, KS 66538

12. **407 Main Street**
    Dr. James Whittaker
    P.O. Box 130
    Seneca, KS 66538

13. **409 Main Street**
Daryl Funk
D's Décor
409 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

14. **413 Main Street**
Robin Ranieri
Ranieri Studio
413 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

15. **415 Main Street**
Galen Hammes
Gifts & Such
415 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

16. **417 Main Street**
Christopher Engelken
Little Raskals
417 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

17. **National Bank, 419 Main**
Richard Massieon
419 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

18. **Seneca Variety, 425 Main Street**
Seneca Variety
425 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

19. **First National Bank, 427**
Main Street
Richard S. Karnowski
427 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

20. **501 Main Street**
Sharon Deters
Little Steps
P.O. Box 45
Seneca, KS 66538

21. **Fashions Unlimited, 503 Main Street**
Fashions Unlimited
503 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

22. **507 Main Street**
Nemaha County Abstract & Title Company, 507 Main, Seneca, KS 66538

23. **509 Main Street**
Roger Holthaus
Buggy Days
509 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

24. **Citizens State Bank, 511**
Main Street
Barbara Huninghake
Rachel Annes
511 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

25. **513 Main Street**
Michael Rettele
Pearson Plumbing
513 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

26. 515 Main Street
Deters Furniture of Seneca
Seneca Furniture
515 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

27. 517 Main Street
Robert Schulte
Anita's Fashion Boutique
517 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

28. 521 Main Street
Linda Broxterman
Soul Provider
521 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

29. **Seneca City Hall, 525 Main Street**
Seneca City Clerk
City of Seneca
P.O. Box 40
Seneca, KS 66538

30. Masonic Temple, 25 North Sixth
Seneca Lodge No. 39
C/o Melvin Gustin
1586 120th Rd
Seneca, KS 66538

31. Emergency Services, 601 Main Street
Seneca City Clerk
City of Seneca
P.O. Box 40
Seneca, KS 66538

32. Seneca Post Office, 607 Main Street
United States of America
Seneca Post Office
607 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

33. 304 Main Street
Nemaha County Cooperative Association
223 E. Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

34. 314 Main Street
William O'Keefe
314 Main
Seneca, KS 66538

35. 316 Main Street
Courtland Dodds
316 E. Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

36. Nemaha County School District, 318 Main Street
Nemaha County School District
318 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

37. 320-322 Main Street
Joe Schmelzle
324 E. Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

38. 324 Main Street
Joe Schmelzle
324 E. Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

39. Kennard & Vickers Block, 402 Main Street
Olenhouse Crop Consultants
P.O. Box 10
Seneca, KS 66538

40. 406-408 Main Street
Linda Brannan
408 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

41. 410 Main Street
Danielle Anderson
906 Walnut
Seneca, KS 66538

42. 414 Main Street
The Total Look
414 Main
Seneca, KS 66538

43. Sunflower Patch, 416 Main Street
Sunflower Patch
416 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

44. 418 Main Street
Louise Downing
201 S. 14th Street
Seneca, KS 66538

45. 420 Main Street
Roger Haverkamp
1608 96th Road
Goff, KS 66428

46. 422 Main Street
Property Owner
422 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

47. 426 Main Street
James B. O'Connor
Katie's Kloset
426 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

48. Harsh Drug Store, 420 Main Street
Harsh Drug Store
420 Main
Seneca, KS 66538

49. United Bank & Trust,
502 Main Street,
United Bank & Trust,
502 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

50. 506-508 Main Street
Lynn Witters
State Farm Insurance
P.O. Box 27
Seneca, KS 66538

51. 510-512 Main Street
Seneca Memorial Post #7458
VFW
P.O. Box 221
510 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

52. 514 Main Street
William Heurter
514 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

53. 516-518-520-522 Main Street
Mary Ann Haugsness
Leisure Time Crafts
516 Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

John Nordhus, Jr.
One Fine Day
P.O. Box 21
Seneca, KS 66538

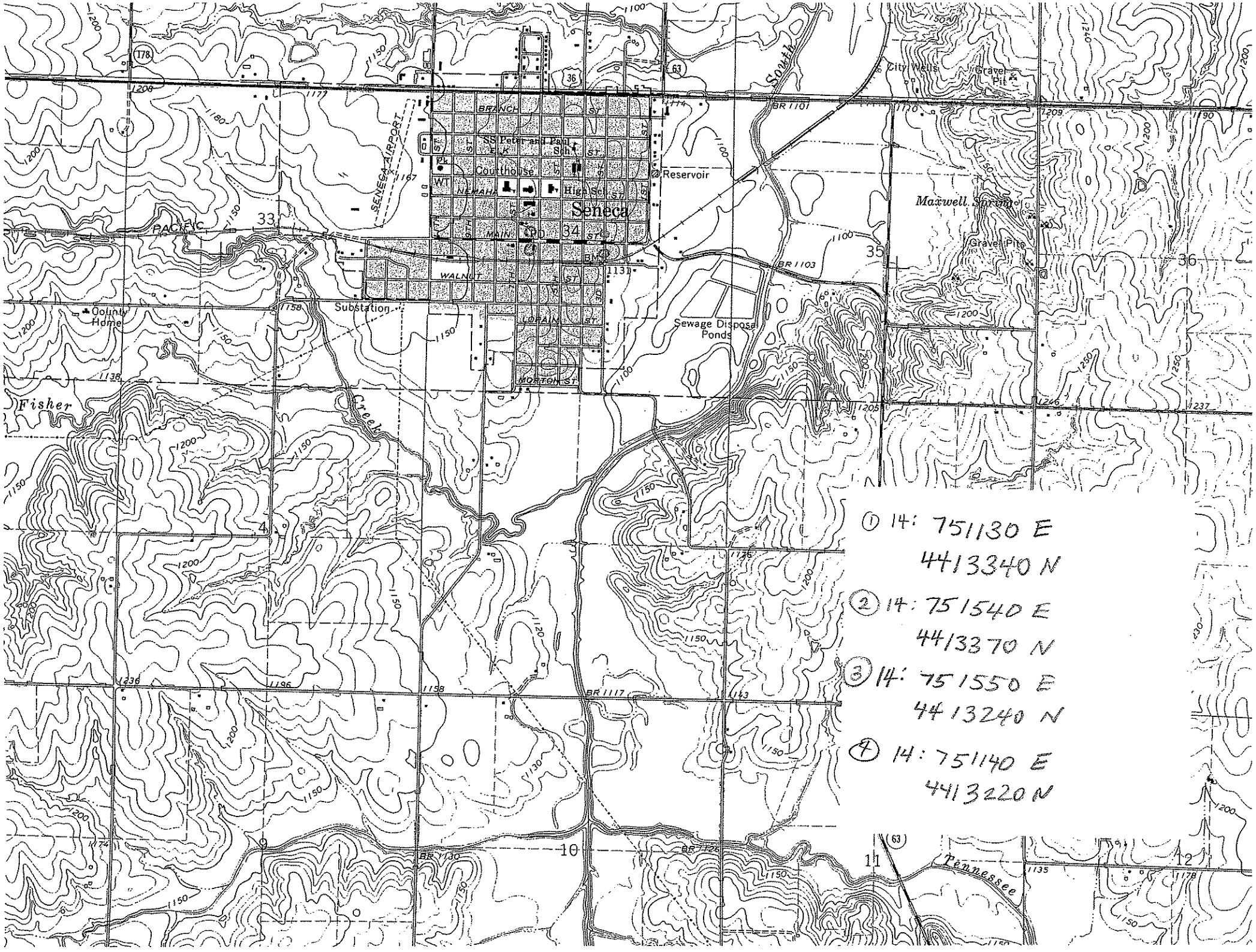
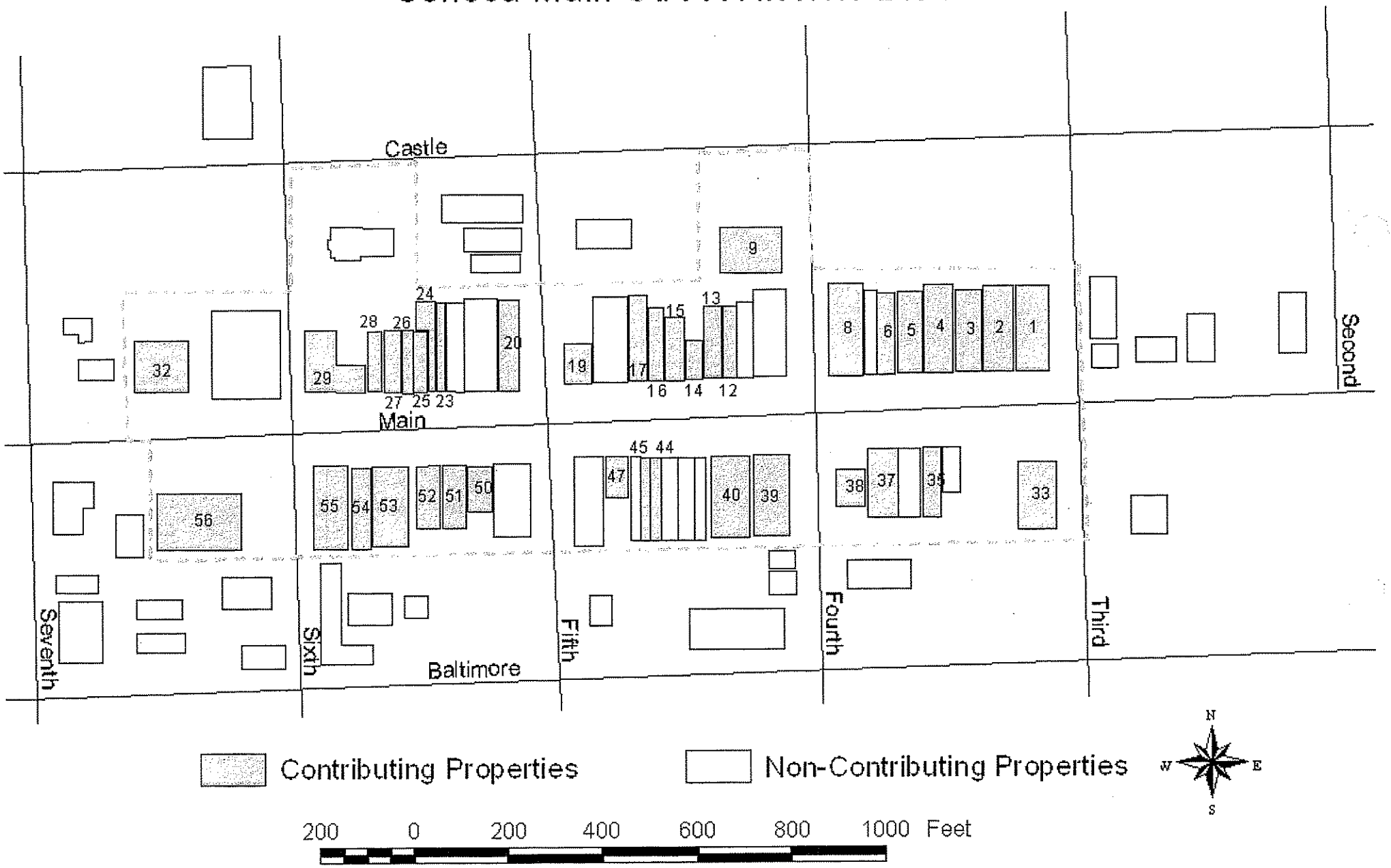
Richard Massieon
Gallery of Hair & Gifts
P.O. Box 193
Seneca, KS 66538

John Korpi
610 N. 9th Street
Seneca, KS 66538

54. 524 Main Street
Max Huerter
524 ½ Main Street
Seneca, KS 66538

55. Koelzer Lumber Company, 532 Main Street
Virginia Koelzer
402 N. 7th Street
Seneca, KS 66538

56. Seneca Universalist Church, 606-612 Main Street
Seneca City Clerk
City of Seneca
P.O. Box 40
Seneca, KS 66538


Seneca
SS Peter and Paul Sch
Courthouse
High Sch
Reservoir
City Wells
Gravel Pit
Maxwell Spring
Gravel Pits
Substation
County Home
Sewage Disposal Ponds
SENECA AIRPORT
PACIFIC
BRANCH ST
NEMAHA ST
MAIN ST
WALNUT ST
LOGAN ST
MORTON ST
South
Fisher Creek
Pennessee
BR 1101
BR 1103
BR 1117
BR 1130
BR 1126
33
34
35
36
4
10
11
12
① 14: 751130 E
4413340 N
② 14: 751540 E
4413370 N
③ 14: 751550 E
4413240 N
④ 14: 751140 E
4413220 N

Contributing Properties
Seneca Main Street Historic District