

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Downtown Smithville Historic District

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number	<u>Roughly bounded by Bridge Street, Church Street, Commercial Street and Meadow Street</u>	N/A	not for publication
City or town	<u>Smithville</u>	N/A	vicinity
State	<u>Missouri</u>	Code	<u>MO</u>
County	<u>Clay</u>	Code	<u>047</u>
Zip code	<u>64089</u>		

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A B X C D

Mark A. Miles

MARCH 3, 2014

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles, Deputy SHPO

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Downtown Smithville Historic District  
Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri  
County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
30	7	buildings
0	1	sites
0	1	structures
		objects
30	9	<b>Total</b>

### Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/ TRADE: Business

COMMERCE/ TRADE: Specialty store

COMMERCE/ TRADE: Financial Institution

COMMERCE/ TRADE: Department store

SOCIAL: Meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

(See page 5 of jacket)

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/ TRADE: Business

COMMERCE/ TRADE: Restaurant

COMMERCE/ TRADE: Specialty store

SOCIAL: Meeting hall

RELIGION: Religious facility

EDUCATION: school

(See page 5 of jacket)

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Gothic Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Neo-Classical Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE: Limestone

walls: BRICK

CONCRETE

roof: ASPHALT

other: WOOD METAL

STUCCO STONE

☒

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES

Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

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 listing.)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is 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 its 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

☒ **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

**Areas of Significance**

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

Circa 1885- 1964

**Significant Dates**

N/A

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: **Smithville Historical Society**  
**Missouri Valley Special Collections, Kansas**  
**City Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

Downtown Smithville Historic District  
Name of Property

Jackson County, Missouri  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 9.3

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	<u>39.388562</u> Latitude:	<u>-94.580796</u> Longitude:	3	<u>39.387942</u> Latitude:	<u>-94.580224</u> Longitude:
2	<u>39.388562</u> Latitude:	<u>-94.580224</u> Longitude:	4	<u>39.387942</u> Latitude:	<u>-94.579880</u> Longitude:

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

       NAD 1927    or           NAD 1983

1	<u>      </u> Zone	<u>      </u> Easting	<u>      </u> Northing	3	<u>      </u> Zone	<u>      </u> Easting	<u>      </u> Northing
2	<u>      </u> Zone	<u>      </u> Easting	<u>      </u> Northing	4	<u>      </u> Zone	<u>      </u> Easting	<u>      </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (On continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Rosin, Principal; Kristen Ottesen, Associate; Lauren Rieke, Historic Preservation Specialist  
organization Rosin Preservation date October 2013  
street & number 215 W. 18<sup>th</sup> Street #150 telephone 816-472-4950  
city or town Kansas City state Missouri zip code 64105  
e-mail lauren@rosinpreservation.com

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



**Downtown Smithville Historic District**  
Name of Property

**Jackson County, Missouri**  
County and State

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log:

**Name of Property:** **Smithville Historic District**

**City or Vicinity:** **Smithville**

**County:** **Clay**

**State:** **Missouri**

**Photographer:** **Brad Finch, F-Stop Photography**

**Date**

**Photographed:** **October 8, 2013**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 23:** South side of the 100 block of East Main Street. View southwest.
- 2 of 23:** Park along north side of the 100 block of East Main Street. View northwest.
- 3 of 23:** Intersection of Main Street and Commercial Street. View northeast.
- 4 of 23:** Intersection of Main Street and Commercial Street. View southeast.
- 5 of 23:** 100 block of North Commercial Street. View west.
- 6 of 23:** 100 block of East Church Street. View west.
- 7 of 23:** 100 block of West Church Street. View east.
- 8 of 23:** East side of the 100 block of North Bridge Street. View southeast.
- 9 of 23:** West side of the 100 block of North Bridge Street. View northwest.
- 10 of 23:** Park along north side of the 100 block of East Main Street. View northeast.
- 11 of 23:** North side of the 100 block of West Main Street. View northwest.
- 12 of 23:** North side of the 100 block of West Main Street. View northeast.
- 13 of 23:** South side of the 100 block of East Main Street. View southeast.
- 14 of 23:** West side of the 100 block of South Bridge Street. View southwest.
- 15 of 23:** 100 block of South Bridge Street. View north.
- 16 of 23:** Northeast corner of Bridge Street and Meadow Street. View northeast.
- 17 of 23:** North side of the 100 block of East Meadow Street. View northwest.
- 18 of 23:** 100 block of South Commercial Street. View north.
- 19 of 23:** East side of the 100 block of South Commercial Street. View southeast.
- 20 of 23:** 113-117 East Main Street. View south.
- 21 of 23:** 200 East Main Street, main (south) elevation. View north.
- 22 of 23:** 201 North Bridge Street, main (west) elevation. View east.
- 23 of 23:** 110 West Main Street. View northeast.

Downtown Smithville Historic District

Jackson County, Missouri

Name of Property

County and State

**Figure Log:**

Include figures on continuation pages at the end of the nomination.

**Figure 1:** District boundaries. *ArcGIS 2013.*

**Figure 2:** Contextual Map. *ArcGIS 2013.*

**Figure 3:** Photo Map

**Figure 4:** Contributing Properties Map

**Figure 5:** Sanborn Fire and Insurance Map, 1920.

**Figure 6:** Sanborn Fire and Insurance Map, 1928.

**Figure 7:** South side of the 100 block of East Main Street, n.d. View southeast. *Source: Smithville Historical Society.*

**Figure 8:** South side of the 100 block of East Main Street after a flood, c. 1950. View southwest. *Source: A Pictorial History of Smithville.*

**Figure 9:** West side of the 100 block of North Bridge Street, n.d. *Source: Smithville Historical Society.*

**Figure 10:** 104 South Bridge Street (Bank Block building), n.d. *Source: A Pictorial History of Smithville.*

**Figure 11:** Smithville Community Hospital, 1936. *Source: A Pictorial History of Smithville.*

**Figure 12:** Smithville Community Hospital, 1942. *Source: Smithville Historical Society.*

**Historic Function (cont.)**

RELIGION: Religious facility

HEALTH CARE: hospital

FUNERARY

DOMESTIC: Single-family dwelling

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Theater

**Current Function (cont.)**

HEALTH CARE: clinic

DOMESTIC: Single-family dwelling

LANDSCAPE: Park

VACANT

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

## SUMMARY

The Downtown Smithville Historic District is in the heart of the City of Smithville, Clay County, Missouri. The irregular 9.3 acre district contains twenty-eight contributing and eleven non-contributing resources that form the historic commercial center of the city. The boundaries encompass properties roughly flanking both sides of East Main Street, North and South Bridge Street and South Commercial Street; as well as one block on Church Street, the north side of West Main Street and the north side of East Meadow Street between Mill and Smith streets. This area developed as Smithville's primary business and civic district after the town's founding in 1822. The existing buildings date from circa 1885 to the late twentieth century, with construction booms in the late 1880s and the 1900s. To the south and east, the landscape quickly transitions to residential neighborhoods. State Highway 169 traverses west of the district, and the Little Platte River flows north of the area. Two-lane streets lined with concrete sidewalks form the grid that organizes the town center. A non-historic park, created after the loss of buildings in the disastrous 1965 flood, occupies nearly one-half block in the center of the district, fronting East Main Street between Bridge Street and Commercial Street. Dense streetwalls of commercial buildings abut the sidewalks west and south of the park along North and South Bridge Street and East Main Street. These unified streetwalls at the core of the district transition to free-standing structures along the periphery. Most of the buildings in the Downtown Smithville Historic District are vernacular one- and two-story commercial blocks with flat roofs and brick cladding. Ornamental materials, including terra cotta, wood and aluminum, provide minimal detailing at cornices and storefronts. The one- and two-part commercial block forms have well-defined ground floor storefronts. A few buildings exhibit formal architectural styling, including two churches and one commercial building. Buildings in the district continue to house a variety of functions essential to the changing economy of Smithville, including specialty stores, financial institutions, and automobile-related businesses. The non-contributing resources include properties that do not retain sufficient integrity due to alterations; those that have not yet reached the fifty-year threshold for historic significance; or that do not match the commercial context for which the district is nominated. Overall, the district retains integrity and communicates the commercial development of Smithville, Missouri throughout the period of significance.

## ELABORATION

### LOCATION AND SETTING

The Downtown Smithville Historic District encompasses approximately 9.3 acres in Smithville, Clay County, Missouri. With a population near 8,500, the City of Smithville lies midway between the larger metropolitan areas of Kansas City, Missouri to the south and St. Joseph, Missouri, to the north. Smithville Lake, a regional recreational center, lies northeast of the city. Outside the city center, the setting quickly changes to a rural landscape of open agricultural areas. The Downtown Smithville Historic District lies near the center of the city limits. The intersection of Bridge Street (north-south) and Main Street (east-west) defines the epicenter. This intersection marks the "0" line, both north-south and east-west, on the orthogonal grid of Smithville. The main thoroughfare of State Highway 169, and its more recent associated commercial development, runs along the west edge of the city, just west of the district (Figure 2). The Little Platte River flows just north of the district. There are residential neighborhoods and smaller commercial nodes southeast of the district as well as north of the river.

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

In the historic district, concrete sidewalks line the two-lane streets that organize the blocks. The roads are wide enough to accommodate parallel parking on either side of the driving lanes. The blocks within the historic district are relatively flat. Outside the boundary of the concentrated commercial core, building types quickly transition to residential uses.

The Downtown Smithville Historic District includes seventeen properties along North and South Bridge Streets between Church Street and Meadow Street plus the church at the northeast corner of Church and Bridge Streets; thirteen properties along East and West Main Street between Mill Street and the church at the northeast corner of the intersection of Commercial and Main Streets; two properties along North and South Commercial Streets between Church Street and Meadow Street; and three properties along Meadow Street between Bridge and Commercial Streets (Figure 1).

The buildings lining North and South Bridge Street and East Main Street (the core of Smithville's historic commercial area) present a dense cohesive street wall of brick commercial buildings between one and two stories tall with shared party walls (Photos 1, 8- 11, 13-15). All buildings occupy between one and two city lots. The buildings directly abut concrete sidewalks, presenting a cohesive streetscape of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture.

Several auto-related resources dot the east and south sides of the historic district (Photos 4, 15-19). These have an inherently different setting to accommodate vehicular access. The free-standing buildings are set back from the sidewalk and surrounded by paved lots on the primary elevations and grassy or gravelly lots on the rear elevations. Although not auto-related, the three buildings on the north side of the 100 block of West Main Street are also freestanding and surrounded by yards. Like most buildings in the district, the former drug store at 106 W. Main Street directly abuts the public sidewalk.

The churches at 201 N. Bridge Street (Photo 22) and 200 E. Main Street (Photo 21) sit near the center of large parcels. The church at 201 N. Bridge Street has a pastoral setting, its large grassy lawn abutting the banks of the Little Platte River.

A city park occupies the north side of the 100 block of East Main Street (Photos 2, 10). This has been open space since a catastrophic flood devastated downtown Smithville in 1965. The Chevrolet dealer used it as a car lot until the mid-1970s. A modern stage stands at the center of the park. A modern building housing restrooms occupies the east end of the park.

## RESOURCES

Dating from circa 1885 through the late twentieth century, most of the buildings in the Downtown Smithville Historic District are simple, one- and two-story structures. The traditional building material is brick. Of the thirty-nine resources in the Downtown Smithville Historic District, twenty-eight are contributing and eleven are non-contributing. Several different property types with shared physical or associative characteristics exist within the historic district.

The buildings are predominantly commercial with twenty-two of the thirty-nine resources identified as such. These resources exhibit three building forms: one-part commercial blocks, two-part commercial blocks, and free-standing commercial blocks. The variety of businesses housed in these buildings reflects the needs of a thriving town. They represent functional subcategories such as businesses, specialty

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

stores, financial institutions, businesses or department stores. The sixteen non-commercial resources in the historic district represent a range of functions. Two were constructed as churches, one as a post office, one as a movie theater, one as a hospital, one as a single-family residence and garage, and two as social halls. The final non-commercial resources are the city park and its associated restroom and stage. Many of these historic functions align with the current building use. Commercial uses include functional subcategories of businesses, restaurants, specialty stores. One commercial building now houses a health care office. One church remains an active congregation; the church other is used as a school. The meeting hall at 119 N. Bridge Street, the single-family residence, and park still retain their original functions. Some buildings are vacant.

The majority of commercial building forms represented in the historic district are one-part commercial blocks (19), two-part commercial blocks (5), and free-standing commercial blocks (4). Four resources are categorized as having no style, one is a national folk form, and five have no applicable form (park, stage, churches, and hospital). Simple utilitarian designs with subtle stylistic influences define the vast majority of the buildings in downtown Smithville; a few buildings exhibit more distinct formal architecture styling. These include the two churches and one commercial building.

The buildings were constructed over a period of time from circa 1885 through the 1990s. The majority of the resources in the historic district were constructed before World War I, with building phases in the late 1880s and the early 1900s. A third building phase shortly after World War I included the construction of institutional buildings – the two churches and the hospital. Beginning in the 1940s, the construction of automobile-related buildings occurred around the periphery of the historic commercial center.

#### INTEGRITY

The Smithville Historic District retains sufficient architectural integrity to convey the evolution of Smithville's commercial core during the period of significance. The commercial buildings and the streetscapes they create define the distinct setting and visual character of the historic district. The predominantly commercial buildings were constructed over a period beginning circa 1885 through the 1990s. The dense core of buildings at the center of the district showcases the typical downtown streetscape of early commercial districts, and is significant as the only commercial area of this kind in Smithville. The transition to automobile-related resources on the outer perimeter of the district reflects the influence of transportation on the city. Still in their original location and setting at the center of the city, the resources as a whole form a cohesive downtown business district. The design, materials and workmanship of the resources represent the progression of construction technologies and stylistic trends that shaped the district. As determined by the functional requirements of each building, most are one- and two-part commercial block forms with simple stylistic details reserved for the cornice, entrances and storefronts. Overall, the district communicates feelings about and associations with the continuum of commercial development in Smithville from the late nineteenth century to the present day.

The most conspicuous alterations reflect the modernization of first-story display windows and entrances. Many of these alterations have left the original openings and spatial relationships of the storefront intact. Where left exposed, the upper stories usually retain their historic integrity and original appearance. Many of these changes occurred during the period of significance and have become historic in their own right.

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

DISTRICT PROPERTIES<sup>1</sup>

**104 N. BRIDGE ST.**

c. 1890

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This two-story two-part commercial block has brick cladding and a flat roof (Photo 9). The primary elevation faces east. Aluminum-framed display windows fill the center of the first story. Single pedestrian doors pierce each end of the front elevation. The south doorway has a modern paneled metal door. The north doorway has an aluminum-framed glazed door. A non-historic awning clad with wood shingles spans the front elevation above the first story. Three single window openings with segmental brick arches pierce the second story, defining the façade's three bays. Replacement double-hung windows with nine-over-nine applied muntin grids fill the window openings. Alterations include modifications to the historic storefront, and a one-story addition on the rear (west) elevation. It appears to be a garage, as an overhead door fills the wide doorway on the west elevation.

**106 N. BRIDGE ST.**

IOOF Lodge Hall; Smithville City Hall

c. 1890

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This two-story two-part commercial block has red brick cladding and a flat roof (Photo 9). Stylistic elements, including the cornice and second floor windows, exhibit Italianate influences. The historic doorway remains on the south end of the primary (east) elevation. An arched wood fanlight surmounts the modern wood door. The letters "IOOF" are displayed in the transom glass. The original storefront opening fills the remainder of the first floor. An altered configuration of brick infill with aluminum windows, doors, and transoms fills the opening. On the second floor, second story window openings define four bays. They have limestone sills and segmental brick arches. Historic one-over-one double-hung wood windows fill the openings. A decorative board with scrolled fretwork fills the arch above the windows. Two bands of patterned brickwork span the width of the front façade just above the second story windows. An ornamental metal cornice with brackets, dentils, and finials spans the top of the parapet.

**110 N. BRIDGE ST.**

c. 1895

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block has red brick cladding and a flat roof (Photo 9). Four engaged pilasters define three bays on the primary (east) facade. The storefront has been altered with paired aluminum-framed glazed doors in the central bay flanked on each side by aluminum framed display windows. Brick knee walls and vertical board and batten siding fill the remainder of the historic storefront openings. An ornamental parapet that features corbelled, denticulated brickwork caps the building.

**111 N. BRIDGE ST.**

C.C. Kindred Motor Company

c. 1910

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

<sup>1</sup> Resource descriptions are taken from the database of the *Downtown Smithville Historic Resources Survey*, prepared by Rosin Preservation, LLC in 2013.

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

This one-story one-part commercial block has red brick cladding and a flat roof (Photo 8). Equally spaced brick pilasters that divide the display windows define four bays on the primary (west) façade. The entry fills the south bay, which was historically the vehicular entry bay. It has a modern door flanked by sidelights. The three north bays have a modern configuration of aluminum-framed display windows on brick knee walls with canvas awnings that extend across the top of the windows. South of the display window in the third bay from the south is a recessed, secondary door. Simple ornamentation across the entire façade includes the stepped parapet, dentiled brick corbel that spans the parapet, and slightly recessed shaped panels above the storefront. When combined with the storefront to the north (former theater) the building presents a symmetrical façade with unified decorative parapet elements.

**112 N. BRIDGE ST.**

c. 1895

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block has red brick cladding and a flat roof (Photo 9). The three historic bays created by brick piers define the primary (east) elevation. A replacement multi-light wood door with a multi-light sidelight fills the central doorway. Modern aluminum-frame display windows on brick knee walls flank each side of the doorway. Non-historic board and batten fills the remainder of each bay. A row of dentiled brickwork spans across the top of the storefront. The ornamental parapet features corbelled, dentiled brickwork.

**114 N. BRIDGE ST.**

c. 1890

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block appears to be a continuation of the building/façade to the north (116 N. Bridge St.), as the parapets have the same decorative treatment, this roofline is shorter (Photo 9). It has red brick cladding and a flat roof. The historic single storefront opening is has partial brick infill. An aluminum-framed display window and a wood door with a glazed panel pierce the brick infill. The parapet is the defining feature of this simple façade. It features diamond-shaped brick pattern executed in buff-colored brick. Corbeled, dentiled brick spans the top of the parapet.

**116 N. BRIDGE ST.**

c. 1890

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block appears to continue into the building/façade to the south (114 N. Bridge St.), as the parapets have the same decorative treatment, though this roofline is taller (Photo 9). It has red brick cladding and a flat roof. The storefront retains its historic three-bay configuration. It the center bay is a single door. Modern infill and wood door fill the doorway but the historic two-light wood transom remains. Large display windows on non-historic brick knee walls flank the doorway. The display windows retain historic wood-framed windows with single-light windows below topped by three-light transoms. The parapet is the defining feature of this simple façade. It features diamond-shaped brick pattern executed in buff-colored brick. Corbeled, dentiled brick spans the top of the parapet.

**117 N. BRIDGE ST.** The State Theater

c. 1910

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

This one-story one-part commercial block has red brick cladding and a flat roof (Photo 8). A recessed opening spans primary (west) elevation. The historic configuration consisting of paired doorways flanking a projecting central ticket booth remain, although with altered materials. Stucco clads the inset walls and the projecting ticket booth. Wood siding clads the wall above the opening. Replacement paired multi-light doors flank the ticket booth. The brick parapet wall retains its historic configuration and materials. Short pilasters on each end of the parapet project slightly above the coping. Two recessed brick panels, slightly inset in the parapet wall, cap the storefront. A dentiled brick cornice above the brick panels further ornaments the parapet. When combined with the storefronts to the south (former auto garage) the building presents a symmetrical façade with unified decorative parapet elements. The somewhat visually unified buildings are separate and historically had separate uses.

**118 N. BRIDGE ST.**

c. 1990s

Non-contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-part commercial block has brick cladding on the primary (east) and north elevations (Photo 9). Synthetic stucco clads the rear (west) elevation. The primary elevation has a stepped parapet outlined in soldier bricks. The parapet conceals a standing-seam metal-clad gable roof. Centered on the front elevation, a glazed transom tops paired aluminum-framed glazed doors of the main entrance. On each side of the doorway, three single-light aluminum-framed display windows pierce the walls of the front elevation. The modern building appears to have been constructed in the 1990s.

**119 N. BRIDGE ST.** Masonic Hall c. 1905

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This two-story two-part commercial block is rectangular in plan with brick cladding and a flat roof (Photo 8). The primary (west) facade is composed of four bays defined by the storefront configuration and the doorway at the south end of the façade. A doorway on the south end of the front elevation provides entry to the stairs that access the second floor. The three north bays contain a central recessed paired doorway flanked by display windows. Cast iron posts flank the central doorway and a metal cornice spans the width of the façade above the chamfered storefront. Modern paneled doors fill all three doorways on the first story. Wood display windows fill the storefront. Wood panels fill the openings above the glazing. Dentiled brickwork ornaments the walls under the storefront openings. The division of the storefront generally mirrors the bays of windows above. Replacement one-over-one vinyl windows fill the second story window openings. Buff brick accents on the second floor include quoins and a beltcourse above the windows. A metal cornice ornaments the top of the parapet.



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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**201 N. BRIDGE ST.** First Christian Church 1927

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

The two-and-one-half story Gothic Revival style church has a raised basement and red brick cladding (Photo 22). A decorative brick pattern ornaments the parapet walls just below the limestone coping. A clay-tile-clad gable roof tops the building. A large addition, similar in form and materials, abuts the north side of the original rectangular church, creating an overall L-shaped plan. The primary elevation faces west.

Three sections organize the west elevation. The first section encompasses the addition. It has three bays with replacement multi-light windows on the first and second floors. Brick pilasters with limestone caps rise between each bay. A wide limestone beltcourse spans each bay between the pilasters.

The south two sections comprise the original church. The second section has three square blocks that project from the facade. The north block has a front gable roof. It has one bay on the west side with rectangular opening on the first floor and a lancet arched opening on the second floor. A single bay on the north side has a rectangular opening on each floor. Stained glass fill all openings. The center block is a tall square entrance tower with a flat roof. A flight of thirteen wide steps flanked by brick cheek walls access the recessed main entrance. "Christian Church" is inscribed in the segmental arched limestone canopy above the entrance. Historic multi-light wood doors fill the doorway. A large lancet window filled with stained glass pierces the wall above the entry. The south block has a flat roof. The west and south sides of the block each have a single bay with narrow rectangular stained glass windows on the first and second floors. A separate entrance accesses the south side of this block at ground level.

Three bays with historic stained glass windows on the first floor define the third section of the west facade. A square tower, described below, rises at the southwest corner. Basement fenestration patterns mimic the upper floors. Brick pilasters with limestone caps rise between each bay. A wide limestone beltcourse spans each bay between the pilasters.

A large stained glass lancet window pierces the center of the south elevation. Two square towers with flat roofs define each corner of this elevation. Narrow rectangular stained glass windows pierce the south and side (east/ west) elevation of each tower. Tapered recessed brick panels rise above each opening. A separate entrance accesses the south side of this east tower at ground level. Similar to the west elevation, brick pilasters define four bays on the south side of the east elevation. A small gable roof block projects from the second bay. Simulated fachwerk clads the upper half of the block. Rectangular openings filled with stained glass pierce each bay. The same limestone beltcourse continues between the pilasters. Basement fenestration patterns mimic the upper floor. A square tower, described above, rises from the southeast corner.

An addition fills the northeast corner of the church. It is square in plan and takes its design cues from the historic church. A truncated hipped roof clad with red clay tiles tops the red brick walls. Fenestration patterns and window configurations complement the window openings on the historic church. It has similar brick pilasters, limestone beltcourse, coping and fachwerk. The north elevation of the building has two center bays with a single rectangular opening on each floor.

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**101 S. BRIDGE ST.**

c. 1920

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block has an address on Bridge Street but primary façades front both Bridge and Main Streets (Photo 13). It has brick cladding and a flat roof. Recessed behind arched brick openings is the canted corner. The arches spring from a central brick pier and span to the north and west elevations, creating two arched openings. A decorative brick cornice ornamented with a sawtooth course and dentiled corbeling spans the top of the parapet the length of both the north and west facades. The north and west bays each have historic wood-frame display windows with four-light transoms. On the canted corner, a glazed transom tops a central single historic wood-framed glazed door. Narrow historic display windows flank the doorway. The west elevation has three blocks, which step down slightly in height from north to south. Red brick clads the north façade and the first two bays on the west facade. The remaining bays on the west façade are clad with painted stucco, although the ornamental brick on the parapet remains unstuccoed. The south block on the west elevation has a non-historic storefront comprised of a central doorway flanked by two windows. A wood-shingle-clad hipped awning spans the width of the storefront.

**104 S. BRIDGE ST.**

Bank of Smithville; Citizens Bank and Trust

1889

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This two-story two-part commercial block has red brick cladding and a flat roof (Photo 14). The north and east elevations are both primary facades. The storefront retains historic wood display windows topped by leaded glass transoms, though some modifications have occurred. The chamfered entrance on the corner contains a replacement glazed aluminum door with original wood sidelights and transom. Sawtooth brickwork adorns the wall just above the storefront on the east elevation and the first bay on the north elevation. Historic one-over-one double-hung wood windows fill the second story window openings. Wood panels cover the upper sashes of each window. A continuous limestone sill under the second story windows lines the east and north elevations. A wider beltcourse connects the limestone window headers at the second story. An ornamental parapet with dentiled brickwork and a metal cornice tops the building. Two one-story shed-roof additions project from the rear (west) elevation toward alley. The masonry block addition on the south end of the elevation appears to be present in the 1920 Sanborn map.

**105 S. BRIDGE ST.**

c. 1920

Non-contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story building has a flat roof (Photo 15). Non-historic wood siding clads the front (west) elevation and stucco clads the south elevation. The asymmetrical façade has two bays defined by the central doorway and a display window to the north. Paired doors fill the doorway. The use of ornamental wood trim creates a sense of historicism. Wood pilasters with corbeled tops flank the doorway and display window. Dentiled trim spans the top of the display window and a gabled trim piece above the doorway. A central gable with scalloped cladding and dentiled trim rises above the top of the parapet.

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**108 S. BRIDGE ST.** Post Office 1895

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block has brick cladding and a flat roof (Photos 14, 15). The primary (east) elevation has four bays defined by brick pilasters that divide window and door openings. The brick pilasters appear to be non-original but they are in place in a photo from 1941.<sup>2</sup> The symmetrical façade has two central individual openings with doors. Non-historic doors with multi-light windows in the upper half fill the doorways. Wood fills the transoms above the doors. Display openings filled with historic wood-framed single-light fixed windows flank the doors. The windows rest on non-original brick knee walls. Wood panels fill the transoms above. Red brick, trimmed with an ornamental metal cornice, clads the parapet walls. The same brick cladding and continuous metal cornice visually unifies this building with the building to the south.

**110 S. BRIDGE ST.** Post Office c. 1890

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block has brick cladding and a flat roof (Photos 14, 15). The primary (east) elevation has three bays defined by slender cast iron columns that divide the storefront openings. Modern wood paneling fills the two south bays. The south bay has a fixed single-light display window shaded by an awning. The central bay retains the form of the historic recessed entry with the historic cast iron floor. Non-historic paneled doors with multi-light windows in the upper half pierce the canted walls in the recess. The north bay retains historic fabric including a wood-frame single light display window topped by a large four-light transom. The display window rests on a paneled wood knee wall. A historic metal cornice ornaments the top of the parapet. The same brick cladding and continuous metal cornice visually unifies this building with the building to the north. It originally served as the Smithville Post Office.

**113 S. BRIDGE ST.**

c. 1950

Non-contributing Resource

*Description:*

This building has an irregular plan comprised of three interconnected blocks (Photo 16). Situated along the south end of the complex, the main rectangular block has a gabled roof. The second rectangular block runs north-south from the northeast corner of the main block. It has painted masonry block walls and gable roof. A one-story block with a corrugated metal-clad flat roof abuts the north elevation of the first block and intersects the west elevation of the second block. It has corrugated metal cladding.

The primary (west) façade has two sections defined by brick blocks. Synthetic stucco clads most of the façade. Stone veneer clads the lower portion of the façade. The north portion is shorter and fronts the metal-roofed block. It has three bays comprised of a single window opening, a doorway and another single window opening. The south portion is taller and fronts the east-west gabled block. It has four bays comprised of a paired window opening, a single window opening, a doorway, and a paired window opening. Single-light vinyl windows fill the window openings. Metal awnings shade each window and door opening. The center of the parapet on the south portion of the façade projects higher to obscure the gable end of the roof behind it.

<sup>2</sup> Toni Lapp and Donna Whitham, *Pictorial History of Smithville: 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Smithville*, (Marceline, MO: Heritage House Publishing, 1992), 31

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**118 N. COMMERCIAL ST.**

c. 1966

Non-contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story utilitarian building has a rectangular plan and is topped by a shallow gable roof (Photo 5). Corrugated metal clads the roof and the walls. Small square windows pierce the north, south, and east elevations. Historic metal four-light awning windows fill the window openings. A pedestrian doorway is located at the west end of the south elevation. Six large vehicular openings filled with metal overhead doors pierce the west elevation.

**101 S. COMMERCIAL ST.**

c. 1966

Non-contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story utilitarian building vertically corrugated metal clads the walls (Photo 4). Corrugated metal covers the slightly gabled roof. The front (west) façade has five bays defined by vehicular and pedestrian doorways and a window. On the north end of the elevation a pedestrian door accesses the office. An aluminum-framed two-light slider window fills the opening south of the office doorway. Three large vehicular bays define the south end of the elevation. A pedestrian doorway into the garage area pierces the wall between the two south vehicular doors. Slab doors with single lights in the upper half fill the pedestrian doorways. Metal overhead doors fill the vehicular openings.

**117 S. COMMERCIAL ST.**

c. 1945

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story commercial building has an L-shaped plan comprised of four interconnected blocks with flat roofs (Photo 19). All walls, with the exception of the setback on the primary (west) elevation are painted masonry block. The industrial building has no distinct styling. The most distinguishing feature is a deep overhang that projects from the top of the wall, wrapping around the front (west) and south sides. A series of squared posts support the edge of the flat roof, which is comprised of wood purlins topped with corrugated metal. The asymmetrical front elevation has nine bays. The south three bays are clad with yellow brick and are set back slightly from the main façade. It has a central doorway flanked by display windows. At the north end, a historic multi-light steel window fills the squared window opening. In the next bay south a modern overhead door fills a vehicular doorway. Two one-over-one hung windows pierce the wall south of the vehicular bay. Paired doors in a pedestrian doorway pierce the next bay south. Finally, another single one-over-one hung window fills the next bay south before the setback. A masonry block wing with a flat roof projects from the north side of the east elevation. A garage entrance filled with a metal overhead door and a pedestrian entrance with a wood door, access the south elevation of the rear wing.

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**0 E. MAIN ST.** Landscape: Park c. 1975 Three Non-contributing Resources

*Description:*

This city park occupies half of a city block (Photos 2, 10). The park has open area in the center with mature deciduous trees dotting the edges of the park along Main, Bridge, and Commercial Streets. Grass surrounds the central paved area. Landscaped beds with evergreen trees anchor the southwest and southeast corners. A non-contributing covered stage sits at the center of the park. The rectangular structure stands on a raised concrete platform and has a metal frame and roof. A non-contributing brick building on the east side of the park houses restrooms. The one-story building has a U-shaped plan and a flat roof with a parapet. Three metal doors on the east elevation access the building.

**103 E. MAIN ST.** c. 1920 Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block is rectangular in plan and has a flat roof (Photo 1). It has red brick cladding. A storefront opening with three bays spans the first story of the primary (north) elevation. Recessed within the east bay are replacement aluminum-framed paired glazed doors. Similar aluminum-framed display windows fill the center and west bays. A historic, wood-frame five-light transom, with dentiled molding along the bottom, spans the width of the storefront opening. Decorative brickwork ornaments the parapet. A central rectangular panel in the parapet is composed of header, stretcher, rowlock and soldier courses. A sawtooth course spans the façade just below the dentiled, corbelled ornament at the frieze. This decorative brickwork extends uninterrupted onto the façade of the building to the west. A one-story, shed roof concrete block addition abuts the rear elevation.

**105 E. MAIN ST.** 1891 Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block has a rectangular plan and a flat roof (Photo 1). It has red brick cladding. The storefront on the primary (north) elevation appears to retain its historic three-bay configuration with a central doorway flanked by large display windows. The central doorway has a modern paneled wood door with a narrow glazed sidelight. A wood panel partially covers the glazed transom. The display windows have historic two-part wood sashes that rest on non-historic brick knee walls. Historic red brick, ornamented with two rows of corbelled, dentiled brick, clads the parapet.

**107 E. MAIN ST.** c. 1900 Non-contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block is rectangular in plan and has a flat roof (Photo 1). It has red brick cladding. An altered assembly of brick and window/ door openings fills the historic storefront on the primary (north) elevation. An aluminum-framed glazed door fills the east bay of the storefront. Two aluminum-framed single-light display windows on brick knee walls fill the center and west bays. A non-historic wood-shingled awning spans the width of the façade above the storefront. Replacement brick appears to comprise the parapet.

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**109 E. MAIN ST.**

c. 1900

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story one-part commercial block is rectangular in plan and has a flat roof (Photo 1). It has red brick cladding. An altered assembly of brick and window/ door openings fills the historic storefront on the primary (north) elevation. A glazed aluminum door fills the east bay. Paired glazed aluminum display windows fill the west bay. A wood-shingled awning spans the width of the façade above the storefront opening. A strip of sheet metal spans the façade above the storefront. At the top of the historic parapet a one-step corbel spans the width of the façade. A shed roof addition with corrugated metal cladding abuts the south elevation.

**111 E. MAIN ST.**

c. 1900

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

The one-story one-part commercial block has a flat roof and a plain façade clad with red brick (Photo 1). Non-historic infill replaces the historic storefront assembly on the primary (north) elevation. Window and door openings set in wood frames define three bays. Recessed in the east bay is the doorway. The central and west bays each have a single-light fixed window topped by long, rectangular two-light windows. Modern brick clads the knee wall and the transom. A steel lintel spans the width of the building above the storefront. Historic brick clads the parapet above the lintel. A simple denticulated brick cornice spans the top of the parapet. A masonry block shed roof addition projects from the south elevation.

**113 E. MAIN ST.**

c. 1890

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story, one-part commercial block has flat roof and an ornamental Italianate façade composed of a large storefront topped by a decorative metal cornice (Photo 21). The façade has three bays defined by the storefront configuration. Paired wood doors with full-light glazing fill the central chamfered entry. The historic cast iron deck and tongue and groove ceiling remain in the recessed entry. Replacement wood-framed display windows fill the flanking storefront openings. Large wood-framed two-light transoms top the display windows. The large decorative metal cornice has brackets, dentils, banding with scrolled pattern, and foliated medallions. This façade matches the next two facades to the east (115 E. Main St. and 117 E. Main St.).

**115 E. MAIN ST.**

c. 1890

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story, one-part commercial block has a flat roof and an ornamental Italianate façade composed of a large storefront topped by a decorative metal cornice (Photo 21). The façade has three bays defined by the storefront configuration. Paired wood doors with full-light glazing fill the central chamfered entry. The historic cast iron deck and tongue and groove ceiling remain in the recessed entry. Replacement wood-framed display windows fill the flanking storefront openings. Large wood-framed two-light transoms top the display windows. The large decorative metal cornice has brackets, dentils, banding with scrolled pattern, and foliated medallions. This façade matches the adjacent flanking facades (113 E. Main St. and 117 E. Main St.)

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**117 E. MAIN ST.**

c. 1890

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story, one-part commercial block has flat roof and an ornamental Italianate façade composed of a large storefront topped by a decorative metal cornice (Photo 20). The façade has three bays defined by the storefront configuration. Paired wood doors with full-light glazing fill the central chamfered entry. The historic cast iron deck and tongue and groove ceiling remain in the recessed entry. Replacement wood-framed display windows fill the flanking storefront openings. Large wood-framed two-light transoms top the display windows. The large decorative metal cornice has brackets, dentils, banding with scrolled pattern, and foliated medallions. A rectangular metal sign flanked by foliated brackets projects above the cornice. This façade matches the next two facades to the west (113 E. Main St. and 115 E. Main St.)

**119 E. MAIN ST.**

J.A. Brooks Building

1903

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This two-story two-part commercial block is rectangular in plan and has a flat roof (Photo 1). Red brick clads the walls. Defined by the storefront configuration, the front (north) elevation has five bays. The storefront on the first story retains its historic cast iron framing (cast iron posts and sills). The central recessed entry with its cast iron deck/floor also remains. Altered fenestration with multi-light picture windows and transoms fill the storefront. Modern paired paneled wood doors fill the central doorway in the recessed entry. Modern hung windows with six-over-six applied muntin grids fill the four historic window openings on the second story. A historic block modillion metal cornice spans the top of the front parapet. Historically known as the J.A. Brooks Building, "Brooks 1903" is spelled out on the cornice. Five asymmetrically arranged bays define the east elevation. A combination of non-historic windows and doors fill each opening. Window openings on each elevation have painted limestone sills and headers. A one-story addition spans the rear (south) of the building. Above it, a second story wood deck spans the width of the building.

**200 E. MAIN ST.**

Methodist Episcopal Church

c. 1925

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This two-story former Methodist Episcopal Church now functions as a school (Photo 21). The Neo-Classical Revival style building has bilateral symmetry on the primary (south) elevation. It has a raised limestone foundation and red brick cladding. An asphalt shingle-clad side-gabled roof tops the building. A small addition projects from the north elevation.

Three blocks organize the south elevation. The first block has three bays. Two two-story arched openings fill bays 1 and 2. Replacement paired casement windows with transoms fill each opening. A small rectangular three-light window fills the first floor of the third bay.

A two-story portico projects from the second block. Four fluted ionic columns support the front-gable roof. An oculus window pierces the gable. A staircase with limestone knee walls spans the width of the portico. The block has three bays. Three arched openings on the first floor are filled with replacement paired multi-light French doors. Opaque panels fill the arched transoms. Modern twelve-light windows fill three historic rectangular openings on the second floor. Rectangular openings pierce the first and second floors

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

on the east and west sides of the projecting block. Historic multi-light sashes with storm glazing fill the openings. The third block mirrors the first. The small rectangular opening has brick infill.

A two story block with a gable roof projects slightly from the center of the west elevation. Brick pilasters organize the block into three bays filled with two-story arched openings. A single two-story arched opening flanks each side of the block. The center opening has brick infill. Historic multi-light windows with storm glazing fill the remaining openings.

Six asymmetrically arranged bays with two-story arched openings organize the north elevation. The same configuration of modern casement windows fill bays 1 through 4. Historic multi-light windows with storm glazing fill bays 5 and 6. A one-story rectangular addition projects from near the center of the north elevation. It has a front gable roof and non-historic siding. Window and door openings pierce each elevation.

A two-story block with a gable roof projects from the east elevation. Two openings pierce the east side of this block. A single opening pierces the south side of this block. Historic multi-light sashes with storm glazing fill each opening.

**106 W. MAIN ST.**

c. 1955

Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story commercial building has a rectangular plan and is Modern in style (Photo 11). It has a shallow front-gabled roof with a wood lap-siding-clad gable end. A patio along the east side of the building is covered by a shed roof that closely follows the slope of the main roofline. Red brick veneer clads the front (south) façade. It has an asymmetrical arrangement, with a large area of aluminum-framed display windows and doorway grouped on the west end and a blank wall on the east end.

**108 W. MAIN ST.**

c. 1900

Non-contributing Resource

*Description:*

This one-story single-family house has a rectangular plan topped by an asphalt-shingle roof. The roof has an irregular form created by additions over the years (Photo 11). The original core of the national folk form house has a T-front plan with a cross-gable roof. The front gable with cornice returns is still evident on the front façade. Flanking the front gable, two blocks with shed roofs extend the body of the house east and west. Groups of fenestration define three bays on the front elevation. A three-sided bay window projects from the center of the elevation. A row of three windows fills the bay on the west (left) end. A ribbon of windows and the door enclosing the porch fill the east bay. Although now enclosed, the porch is evident at the southeast corner of the house. A tapered square wood post and the concrete block walls/piers are still visible. Aluminum siding covers the walls. A variety of windows include historic one-over-one wood windows covered with storm windows, one-over-one vinyl windows, and aluminum windows. A one-story addition with a gable roof and aluminum siding projects from the west side of the rear (north) elevation. A one-story garage is located at the northeast corner of the property. The rectangular building has a front gable roof and is clad in siding. Both resources are non-contributing because they does not fit the primary commercial context of the district.



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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**110 W. MAIN ST.** Smithville Community Hospital 1936 Contributing Resource

*Description:*

This two-story building has an irregular plan comprised of a series of rectangular blocks (Photo 23). Two courtyards are located at the center of the building. A three-story rectangular addition anchors the southwest corner of the complex. Glazed masonry blocks clad the simple, unadorned walls of the each elevation, although stucco clads the three-story block. Single window openings in the first and second stories define regular bays on each elevation. Historic six-over-one double-hung wood windows fill the original window openings. Centered on the front (south) elevation is the entrance. A non-historic portico with a flat roof spans four bays in the center of the front elevation, including the doorway. Plywood covers the doorway. Glazed clay tile caps the straight parapets.

**100 E. MEADOW ST. (Building A)** Standard Service Station c. 1935 Contributing Resource

*Description:*

Two separate buildings are associated with this address. Constructed as an auto service station this one-story building has a simple, utilitarian form and detailing. It has a flat roof and painted brick and masonry block walls. Brick quoins trim the corners on the cropped corner. In a historic photo the unpainted block appears to be glazed and is lighter in color than the brick. The cropped corner features the pedestrian entry into the office area (Photo 17). Two display windows flank the central doorway. A modern paneled door fills the doorway. Historic single-light wood framed windows fill the window openings. An asphalt shingle clad awning spans the top of the entry and windows. Four large vehicular bays filled with replacement metal overhead doors pierce the south elevation. On the west elevation two small historic windows pierce the otherwise blank elevation

**100 E. MEADOW ST. (Building B)** c. 1945 Contributing Resource

*Description:*

Two separate buildings are associated with this address. Constructed as an automobile service station, this one-story building appears to still function as a vehicular service garage (Photo 18). The building has a flat roof and red brick cladding. It has rectangular plan with a notch out of the northeast corner. Two blocks organize the primary (south) elevation. The west block is taller and accommodates two vehicular openings filled with replacement metal overhead doors. The east block is shorter and contains the office area. An aluminum-framed storefront assembly fills the bay at the east end. The storefront wraps the southeast corner and has one bay of glazing on the east elevation. A second single-light window pierces the center of the east elevation.

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Smithville Historic District
Name of Property
Clay County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### SUMMARY

The Downtown Smithville Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion A for the area of COMMERCE and Criterion C for ARCHITECTURE. The historic district encompasses twenty-eight contributing resources and eleven non-contributing resources built between circa 1885 and the 1990s. The nominated buildings and the streetscapes they compose form the historic commercial core of Smithville. They illustrate the evolution of the community from a trading post on the edge of the Western frontier to a small but thriving rural city located midway between the larger metropolises of Kansas City and St. Joseph. The historic district has been the central business area of Smithville since its founding in 1822. Construction booms in the late 1880s and the early 1900s established much of the existing building stock. The nominated buildings housed a variety of commercial functions essential to the development of the growing city. Diverse businesses supported the local economy, including financial institutions, taverns, blacksmiths, general stores and groceries. Upper floors housed fraternal lodge halls and professional offices. Religious buildings, and later a hospital, formed a buffer between downtown and the surrounding residential neighborhoods. The advent of the automobile era and the establishment of major transportation routes in the 1920s brought changes to the built environment as free-standing commercial buildings began to occupy larger lots on the blocks surrounding the dense core of the business district. These buildings housed new automobile-related functions, such as car dealerships, garages and filling stations. Beyond the district boundaries, non-historic commercial and religious resources form a buffer between Smithville's historic commercial center and the community's residential neighborhoods. The nominated resources also illustrate the architectural trends common to the commercial centers of small cities. At the heart of the Downtown Smithville Historic District one- and two-part commercial block buildings form cohesive streetwalls. Most are simple one- and two-story masonry buildings with minimal vernacular styling, as was typical of the period. Two historic churches and one commercial building are the only examples of high-style design in the district. They showcase the aesthetic trends popular during the period of significance, including Italianate, Gothic Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, and Modern Movement design. The distinct functional and visual character of the district documents the historic commercial development of Smithville. The period of significance begins circa 1885 with the estimated construction date of the earliest extant building and ends in 1964, the established closing period for periods of significance where activities begun historically continue to have significance and no specific end date can be defined.

### ELABORATION

#### COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF SMITHVILLE

Humphrey "Yankee" Smith founded Smithville in 1822 as Smith's Mill. Born in New Jersey in 1774, Smith lived in New York before moving to Missouri in the late 1810s. In 1822, shortly after Missouri statehood, Smith, his wife, and seven children settled on 160 acres along Smith's Fork of the Little Platte River. Although further away from the Missouri River than most settlements, Smith chose this location because of its proximity to government Indian agencies and to new settlers, which could provide steady business for the water-powered flour mill he built two years later next to the cabin using equipment he brought from New York. The family operated the mill, east of the historic district near the present-day intersection of Main and Liberty streets, from 1824 until 1853, when Col. Lewis Wood purchased it. Smith also started the first store in Smithville in 1828, adjacent to his mill and home. His son Calvin managed the store. It

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Smithville Historic District
Name of Property
Clay County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

eventually passed into the hands of Calvin's son, Erastus, and finally to Mounce Byrd, a local businessman, in 1880.<sup>3</sup>

The town grew dramatically in 1826 with the arrival of a group of ninety-three immigrants from Kentucky.<sup>4</sup> The following years brought several more settlers to the nascent town, including merchants Henry Owens and James Lerty. By 1835 the community had a way station for horses and a post office. The U.S. Land Office granted eighty acres of the original townsite to Calvin Smith, son of Humphrey Smith, in 1836, and the town was officially renamed Smithville in their honor.<sup>5</sup> In 1843 the Church of Christ, later the First Christian Church, and the Methodist Church were the first religious organizations established in Smithville. Just five years later, the Church of Christ congregation erected a simple, unassuming brick church on the edge of the commercial district for \$1,000.<sup>6</sup>

While flooding would become an all too regular event in downtown Smithville, a major flood in 1844 did not discourage the townspeople and development continued in the commercial district. An 1846 account noted that the town had "one or two stores, blacksmith and wagon shop and the everlasting saloon."<sup>7</sup> The population reached 250 by 1850, and then nearly doubled over the next decade as settlers flocked to the edge of the frontier before the Civil War.<sup>8</sup> The growing population supported an increasing assortment of businesses in the commercial center during these years. Notable additions included William Peddicord's grocery and a cabinet shop owned by Robert Kern.<sup>9</sup> In 1867, Smithville incorporated for the first time. The incorporation was amended in 1868, and the town was again incorporated in 1878 due to an error in the amendment. Construction and growth continued after incorporation.

Sustained population and economic growth through the 1870s and 1880s supported a boom in the construction of commercial buildings. By 1889, with the local population reaching 800, the Smithville business district boasted "many fine buildings" of recent construction.<sup>10</sup> New businesses that opened during this period included hardware and drug stores, a harness and saddle shop, restaurants and butcher shops. The first local bank, the Bank of Smithville, was founded in 1885. Originally housed in the back of the Mounce Byrd store at the southeast corner of Bridge and Main streets, the bank built a large two-story brick building in 1889 at 104 S. Bridge Street, later known as the Bank Block Building (Figure 9).<sup>11</sup> In addition to the bank, this building housed several dentists and J.E. Adams Drugs and Medicines.<sup>12</sup> Around 1891 Jeff Breckenridge constructed a brick building at 105 E. Main Street to house his grocery store.<sup>13</sup> In 1895 construction began on a building at 108 S. Bridge Street to house the post office and Howard Barber Shop.<sup>14</sup> There was also a furniture factory, a jewelry store and several furniture stores, in addition to a saloon and pool hall. The downtown commercial district was thriving.

<sup>3</sup> None of these early buildings related to Humphrey Smith are extant.

<sup>4</sup> Mrs. Howard Taylor and Mrs. Harold Harris, *Notes from Yesterday*, (1966), 10.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, 29.

<sup>6</sup> This building was demolished in 1926 in order to construct the current building at 201 N. Bridge Street.

<sup>7</sup> Taylor and Harris, 30.

<sup>8</sup> Smithville Historical Society, *Progress-A-Rama*, Smithville, MO, August 6-12 1967, (1967), 4

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, 4.

<sup>10</sup> Taylor and Harris, 47.

<sup>11</sup> Taylor and Harris, 46-47.

<sup>12</sup> This building is extant.

<sup>13</sup> Taylor and Harris, 48. This building is extant.

<sup>14</sup> Taylor and Harris, 50. This building is extant.

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Smithville Historic District
Name of Property
Clay County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

As the town grew, so too, did the organized social life of its citizens. Many of these organizations met in upstairs spaces of downtown commercial buildings. Both the Masons and the International Order of Odd Fellows (I.O.O.F.) erected buildings in the commercial district and rented the first floor commercial spaces to business tenants. The I.O.O.F. Lodge, organized in 1872, constructed 106 N. Bridge Street in 1890. The I.O.O.F. lodge hall occupied the second story, while John S. and Crawford Morton operated Morton's Store in the first floor commercial space. The Masons, established before the Civil War, constructed a meeting hall at 119 N. Bridge Street in 1905.<sup>15</sup> Like the Odd Fellow, the Masonic lodge hall was on the second floor above a commercial storefront occupied by the offices of *The Smithville Star* newspaper.<sup>16</sup>

As occurred in most small towns, religious buildings were built on the edge of downtown Smithville, forming a buffer between the commercial district and residential neighborhoods. The Smithville Baptist Church, organized in 1873 with the help of Rev. Livingston, built their first church in 1882, a frame building, at a cost of \$1,700.<sup>17</sup> In 1886 the Smithville Church of Christ, now known as the First Christian Church, also expanded, constructing "one of the handsomest brick churches in the county" at 201 N. Bridge Street.<sup>18</sup> In 1926-1927 the parish demolished this building and replaced it with the larger, extant Gothic Revival Style building, which was better able to accommodate the growing congregation (Photo 23).

Smithville experienced a second construction phase in the early 1900s as the prosperous commercial district evolved into a modern town center (Figures 4, 5, 6, 8). New concrete sidewalks lined the south side of Main Street in 1904.<sup>19</sup> There were three stone crossings installed at the intersection of Main and Bridge Streets, and many businesses had electric lights.<sup>20</sup> As evidenced by the number of extant resources in the Downtown Smithville Historic District, commercial development was also widespread during this period.

The commercial buildings in the Downtown Smithville Historic District housed numerous and diverse businesses during this period, filling all the needs of a typical small town. The two-story "Brooks Building" was constructed in 1903 at 119 E. Main Street.<sup>21</sup> An opera house would occupy the upper floor. Also constructed in 1904, the Adkins Building on Bridge Street, originally housed M.G. Everett's grocery and meat market. In 1907 a "fireproof" building replaced two derelict buildings -- Arelius Owen's c. 1870 blacksmith shop and another building constructed just after the Civil War.<sup>22</sup> There were also saw mills, coal dealers, an ice plant, a drugstore, a shoe store, and a hardware store.<sup>23</sup> In 1914 Justus Drugs opened in the former J.E. Adams Drug Store space in the Bank Block Building, where the company remained until constructing a new building on the edge of downtown in 1955.<sup>24</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Ibid, 83. This building is extant.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, 163-164.

<sup>17</sup> H.H. Woodson, *History of Clay County*, (Topeka, KS: Historical Publishing Co., 1920), 199.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid, 198.

<sup>19</sup> Taylor and Harris, 81.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, 82.

<sup>21</sup> This building is extant.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, 88.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, 112. Kansas City Times, August 13, 1982. Digital copy at [http://www.kchistory.org/cdm4/item\\_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/Mrs&CISOPTR=866&CISOBX=1&REC=4](http://www.kchistory.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/Mrs&CISOPTR=866&CISOBX=1&REC=4), (accessed November 20, 2013).

<sup>24</sup> Lapp and Whitham, 124. This building is extant.

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Smithville Historic District
Name of Property
Clay County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

The Sanborn Map published in 1920 shows a diverse array of business filling the commercial blocks in Smithville's business district. A printing office and bakery occupied the first floor of the Masonic Lodge building (119 N. Bridge Street) and a movie theater operated at 117 N. Bridge Street. Across Bridge Street there was a drug store, a hardware store, a general merchandise store, and a grocery and meat market (104-116 N. Bridge Street). The south side of East Main Street had a drug/ wallpaper store (109), a barbershop (113), an undertaker (117), and several grocery and general merchandise stores.<sup>25</sup>

When the stock market crashed in the fall of 1929, Smithville had a population of 902. The ensuing years of the Great Depression were difficult in Smithville, as they were in small, rural communities across the country. Severe drought conditions during the 1930s destroyed crops, causing farmers to lose their land in foreclosure. The tight economic times also put a damper on leisure travel, which impacted the four hotels along Smithville's stretch of the Jefferson Highway. A strong spirit of perseverance, cooperation and benevolence helped local business owners survive this difficult period. Merchants worked long hours and were willing to barter goods and services with their customers.<sup>26</sup>

The opening of the Smithville Community Hospital in 1938 under the direction of Drs. Arch E. Spelman and J. Leonard Dixon marked the first hospital to operate in the region north of Kansas City (110 W. Main Street, Figures 10, 11).<sup>27</sup> Located on the edge of Smithville's commercial center, the original \$11,000 eleven-bed facility grew quickly.<sup>28</sup> By 1948 the hospital included a nurse's home, laundry facilities, and beds for thirty patients. In 1962 Dr. Spelman donated land for a new seventy-three bed hospital outside of downtown on U.S. Highway 169, where the St. Luke's Northland Hospital now stands, though the original 1938 building remained an intrinsic element of the downtown Smithville.<sup>29</sup>

The disastrous flooding that had plagued the city from its earliest days continued well into the twentieth century. Damaging floods were recorded in 1915, 1947, and 1950, impacting the businesses in the commercial district (Figure 7), but the worst flood on record struck Smithville in 1965. In the commercial district, water rose as high as twelve feet, causing \$30 million in damages.<sup>30</sup> Numerous businesses closed after the flood, including three grocery stores, a feed store, a general store, a hardware store, a candy store, a chicken hatchery, the Ford dealership, and a gas station.<sup>31</sup> Some of these businesses relocated to the commercial district developing at a higher elevation along Highway 169, where they could not only avoid future flooding but also take advantage of increased automobile traffic.<sup>32</sup>

Although the city had discussed the idea of a dam for decades, the 1965 flood was the catalyst for developing flood control measures to protect downtown Smithville from future catastrophic events. After years of planning, the Smithville Dam and Lake opened in 1983, dramatically altering the commercial landscape of the city and the downtown commercial district by eliminating much of the surrounding farmland and providing for new economic opportunities focused on recreational activities.<sup>33</sup> U.S. Highway 169 was widened to accommodate the new traffic patterns, and the merchant make-up in downtown

<sup>25</sup> All buildings are extant.

<sup>26</sup> Frank Justus, personal communication to Ed Holicky, 25 June 2013.

<sup>27</sup> This building is extant.

<sup>28</sup> Lapp and Whitham, 69.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> Lapp and Whitham, 3.

<sup>31</sup> Justus.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

<sup>33</sup> Lapp and Whitham, 3.

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Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Smithville shifted to focus on recreational and leisure customers. Restaurants, antique stores, and specialty shops now fill most commercial buildings.

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Smithville Historic District
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N/A
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**THE IMPACT OF THE AUTOMOBILE ON THE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF DOWNTOWN SMITHVILLE**

Smithville began to feel the influence of the automobile early in the twentieth century. A 1906 account noted that four automobiles drove through town.<sup>34</sup> Road improvements used oil to smooth the road beds in the early 1910s. Crushed stone, added by the mid-1910s, created a hard surface ideal for motoring. These improvements to the downtown infrastructure made the area more accessible to the automobile, which would ultimately be expressed in an evolving commercial architecture that catered to these businesses.

Before the end of the decade several auto-related businesses opened in Smithville. In 1915 two automobile garages operated in Smithville, including the Interstate Trail Garage.<sup>35</sup> A busline from Smithville to Kansas City started in 1917, and in 1919 C.F. Heathman opened a tire repair shop behind the Riverside Garage on North Bridge Street.<sup>36</sup> The exact locations of these businesses are unknown.

Also around this time road planners announced that the Jefferson Highway would pass through Smithville. This road was part of the early National Highway System, designed to connect major cities and provide a north-south military supply route. The Jefferson Highway stretched from New Orleans, Louisiana to Winnipeg, Manitoba, running directly through towns and cities along its path. It was not uncommon for the location of existing hard-surfaced roads to determine the route, rather than the shortest distance between any two points. The crushed stone road in Smithville likely influenced the alignment of the route. A spot along one of the newly designated national roads brought many economic benefits to small rural communities like Smithville, and towns vied for the opportunity to be part of this new phenomenon. Smithville sent a representative, Elder Loos, to the Interstate convention in New Orleans to assure Smithville's selection as part of the Jefferson Highway route.<sup>37</sup> The high level of competition often meant that a single highway offered multiple alignments between major cities, as evidenced by the two routes the Jefferson Highway followed between Kansas City and St. Joseph.

Surveying for the Jefferson Highway began in 1919, and the road was completed in 1922.<sup>38</sup> It substantially impacted the growth and commercial development of Smithville. Not only did it connect merchants and farmers with larger market centers in the surrounding areas, but it brought large numbers of vehicles into town, supporting local commerce in the downtown district. By the 1920s the automobile was the preferred means of transportation in Smithville. The first auto dealership, the C.C. Kindred Motor Co., began selling Chevrolets in 1922. This commercial building still stands at 111 N. Bridge Street, although the dealership has relocated to the west side of Smithville on U.S. Highway 169. By the 1929 Smithville City Directory listed seven auto-related businesses. In addition to the C.C. Kindred Motor Company, these included the Barmann Motor Company, the Jefferson Highway Garage and Standard Service Station, the Heathman Tire and Filling Station, the Smithville Repair Shop, Skelly Oil Company, and Sinclair Refining Company.<sup>39</sup>

<sup>34</sup> Taylor and Harris, 90.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid, 112.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid, 132.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid, 113.

<sup>38</sup> "Smithville- a town with a past worth remembering," *Sun Chronicle*, July 31, 1996, 20. Missouri Valley Special Collections, Vertical File.

<sup>39</sup> "Telephone Directory, March 1929, Smithville, Gashland, Paradise Missouri." Mid-Continent Public Library, Midwest Genealogy Center. These properties are listed only by name; the exact location is unknown.

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N/A
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Another major roadway, U.S. Highway 169, was commissioned in 1930. By the end of the decade it passed just west of downtown Smithville, en route between Tulsa, Oklahoma and International Falls, Minnesota. Like the Jefferson Highway, U.S. Highway 169 supported local commerce in the downtown business district and the auto-related businesses in Smithville. Although the focus shifted out of the historic commercial district to the land lining the new highway, several commercial buildings constructed outside just outside the historic core also supported automobile industry. The resources at 100 E. Meadow Street and 117 S. Commercial Street, constructed circa 1935-1945, continue to represent this period with their characteristic utilitarian form, vehicular bays, and small office areas.

Authorization of the Federal Aid Highway Act in 1956 added a network of freeways to the National Highway System. Smithville sat roughly midway between Interstate 29 (approximately 10 miles to the west) and Interstate 35 (approximately 10 miles to the east). Both opened in the late 1950s to mid-1960s, siphoning additional traffic from the Smithville area.

**ARCHITECTURE IN THE SMITHVILLE COMMERCIAL DISTRICT**

The majority of resources in the Downtown Smithville Historic District are simple commercial buildings with minimal ornament that reflects a vernacular interpretation of the architectural styles popular at the time of their construction. These are best described by the functional categories of one-part commercial block, two-part commercial block, and free-standing commercial block. Only three buildings in the district exhibit formal architecture styling. These include the two churches and one commercial building. The churches fall within the National Register category of Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Revivals and the commercial building illustrates Modern Movement design.

One-Part Commercial Block

The one-part commercial block is a simple one-story cube with a decorated façade. Most examples in downtown Smithville have narrow street frontage and the façade comprises little more than plate glass windows and an entrance with a cornice or parapet spanning the width of the façade. These buildings share party walls with adjacent buildings. The row of buildings at the center of the 100 block of East Main Street illustrates the one-part commercial block form. The three adjoining buildings at 113, 115, and 117 E. Main Street share Italianate design influences but are defined by the one-part commercial block form.

Two-Part Commercial Block

Slightly more complex than their one-story cousins, two-part commercial blocks are typically two- to four-stories in height. They have a clear visual separation of use between the first-story customer service/retail space and the upper-story office, meeting room, or residential uses. Similar to one-part commercial block buildings, the styling of the first story focuses on the storefront glazing and entrance(s). The design of the upper stories identifies the building's architectural influences. A prime example of a two-part commercial block is 106 N. Bridge Street, which has Italianate influences defined by a dentiled, bracketed cornice and segmental arched window openings.

Free-Standing Commercial Block

The free-standing commercial block form is related to the one-part commercial block, but is a separate property type. It is more commonly a late-twentieth century commercial development that occupies a lot independent of the surrounding streetscape. Examples of the Free-Standing form house government



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offices, banks, auto service stations and convenience stores, fast food restaurants, and a variety of retail and professional businesses. In downtown Smithville these generally house auto-related businesses.

Late-Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth Century Revivals

Late-Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth Century Revival styles became popular at the end of the nineteenth century when large architect-designed residences began recreating popular European styles of the past. The general public was alerted to this trend in 1893 at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, which featured historically accurate interpretations of European styles. The exposition grounds and buildings showcased a variety of historic forms, such as Charles B. Atwood's Neo-Classical design for the Palace of Fine Arts and the Beaux Arts style Administration Building by Richard Morris Hunt. The buildings exposed thousands of visitors to the principles and precedents of Greek, Roman and other European architectural styles.<sup>40</sup> Subsequently, classical ideals and designs were adapted to both residential and commercial buildings across the country. Unlike earlier revival movements, this movement was more academically motivated and the resulting buildings more-closely resembled their historic forms. After American soldiers returned from World War I historic English and French European traits entered the architectural vocabulary, joining classical Greek and Roman, Gothic, Federal and Georgian precedents in a stylistic grouping referred to as the late nineteenth and early twentieth century revival styles. These styles remained popular in the United States until the late 1940s and early 1950s.

In the United States, the Neo-Classical Revival style was one of the popular iterations of the historical revival movement that drew primarily from Greek and Roman precedents. The ancient roots allowed for greater flexibility of design and function. Character-defining features of the Neo-Classical Revival style include symmetrical facades; smooth, light colored finishes across solid wall planes; projecting porticoes; classical order columns; and classical ornament, such as pilasters, pediments and dentil molding.<sup>41</sup> The former church at 200 E. Main Street is a Neo-Classical Revival design, defined by the prominent two-story portico with ionic columns and oculus window, pedimented gable roof, symmetrical façade, and multi-light windows on the side and rear elevations.

The Gothic Revival was an earlier revival style that enjoyed renewed period of expression beginning at the end of the nineteenth century. Originating from the architecture, morals, and values of the Middle Ages, Gothic architecture experienced resurgence in England alongside the romantic movement of the early 1800s. Because of its religious connotations, the Gothic Revival style was often employed for churches, but was readily adapted to a wide range of building forms, including college campuses, country houses, and commercial buildings. In the mid-eighteenth century the style evolved into the more elaborate High Victorian Gothic. The end of the nineteenth century saw the return of a simpler Gothic Revival, and the style was used for churches throughout the United States until the start of World War II.<sup>42</sup>

Defining features of the Gothic Revival style include lancet arches; asymmetry; steep, gable roofs, often with towers; bay and oriel windows; and intricate tracery and trefoil patterns. The Gothic Revival style of the First Christian Church of Smithville (201 N. Bridge Street) is defined by the prominent lancet arch

<sup>40</sup> Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture since 1870: A Guide to the Styles*, (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1996), 168.

<sup>41</sup> Whiffen, 167.

<sup>42</sup> John C. Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers Jr., *What Style Is It?: A Guide to American Architecture*, (Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003), 48-53.

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Smithville Historic District
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N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

windows, steeply pitched clay-tile clad roof, limestone coping, and crenellated cast stone canopy above the main entrance.

Modern Movement

The Modern Movement genre encompasses a variety of architectural styles developed in the mid-twentieth century that broke from the historical revival styles of previous eras. Beginning in the 1920s and continuing into the 1970s, architects sought inspiration from the innovations of man and machine rather than from the architecture of the past or nature. The goal was to create completely new forms that reflected the energy, creativity, and engineering ingenuity of the age. Individual styles within the movement, such as the International Style and New Formalism, stripped buildings of all formal ornament. Clean lines, open floor plans, form construction, and man-made materials became the main components of architectural expression.<sup>43</sup>

While these styles were predominantly used for large-scale, free-standing commercial buildings in urban areas, they were also adapted to smaller commercial structures. The one-story building at 106 W. Main Street (Photo 11) has Modern Movement styling defined by the asymmetrical façade, brick veneer, and shallow-pitched gable roof.

**CONCLUSION**

The Downtown Smithville Historic District, anchored by the intersection of Bridge and Main Streets, represents the commercial development of Smithville from a small town in the late nineteenth century into a thriving rural city in the late twentieth century. The district represents the largest extant group of Smithville's historic commercial buildings, and as such, it tells a unique and important story about the patterns of development in the city as a whole. The buildings define the commercial history of the community and provide tangible reminders of the past that created a unique sense of place. The diversity of functions, architectural styles and property types enhances the visual character of the district. From dense streetwalls to free-standing buildings, they showcase the evolution of construction technology and building trends that occurred throughout the country. The on-going continuum of development reflected by the district highlights its importance to the social and economic strength of the city during the period of significance.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>43</sup> Rosin Preservation, LLC, 18.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid, 31.

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Smithville Historic District
Name of Property
Clay County, Missouri
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**LATITUDE/ LONGITUDE COORDINATES**

<b>E-</b> Latitude: 39.387522	Longitude: -94.579880
<b>F-</b> Latitude: 39.387522	Longitude: -94.579404
<b>G-</b> Latitude: 39.386302	Longitude: -94.579404
<b>H-</b> Latitude: 39.386302	Longitude: -94.580796
<b>I-</b> Latitude: 39.386719	Longitude: -94.580862
<b>J-</b> Latitude: 39.386719	Longitude: -94.581240
<b>K-</b> Latitude: 39.387122	Longitude: -94.581240
<b>L-</b> Latitude: 39.387122	Longitude: -94.582307
<b>M-</b> Latitude: 39.387577	Longitude: -94.582307
<b>N-</b> Latitude: 39.387577	Longitude: -94.581377
<b>O-</b> Latitude: 39.387942	Longitude: -94.581377
<b>P-</b> Latitude: 39.387942	Longitude: -94.580796

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The district boundary includes the area indicated by the black line and shaded areas in Figure 1.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The district boundary encompasses the area of predominantly commercial resources at the heart of historic downtown Smithville, Missouri. Outside the boundary, the building types quickly transition to residential uses.

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

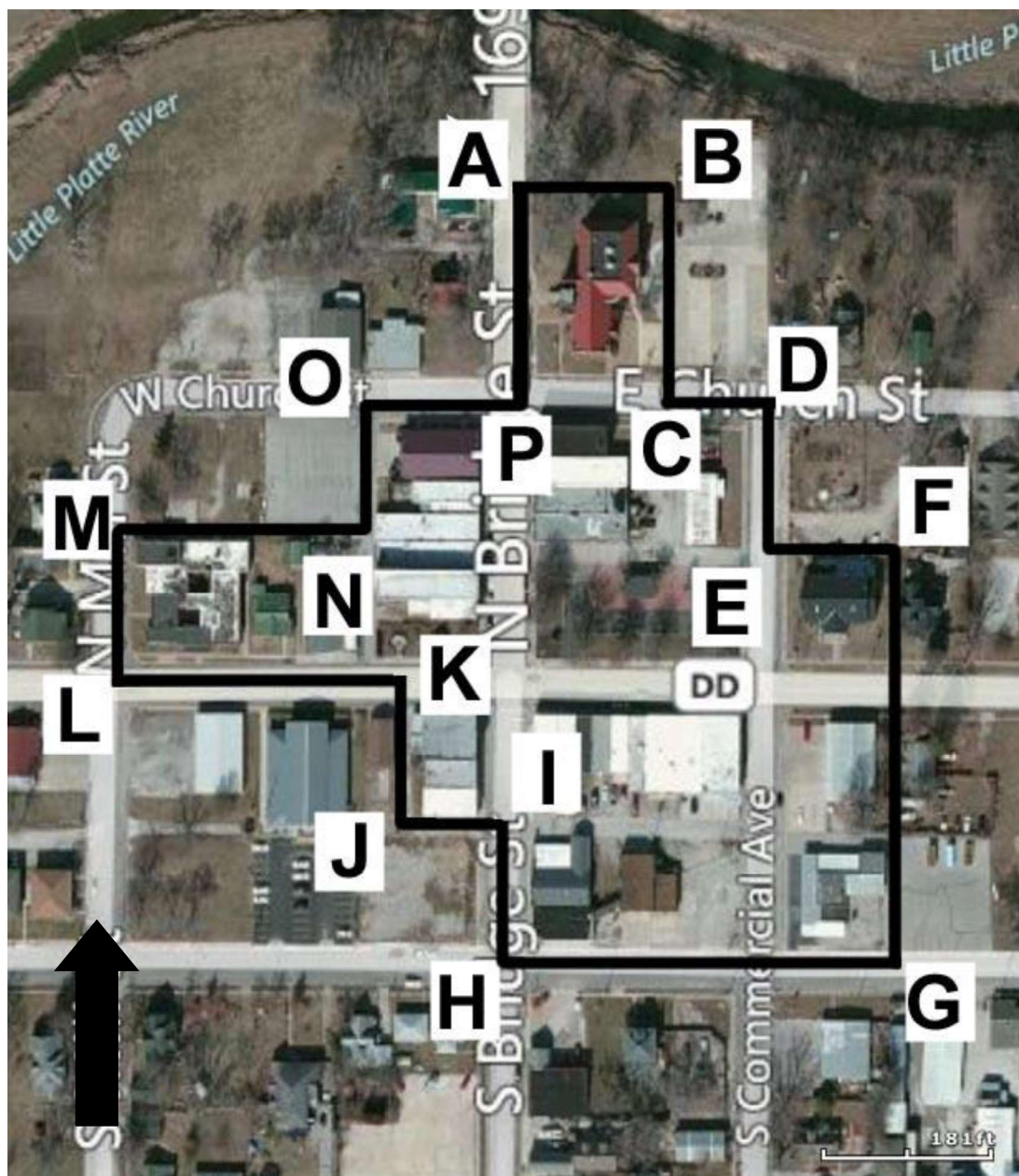
Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 1:** District boundaries. *ArcGIS 2013.*



<b>A-</b>	Latitude: 39.388562	Longitude: -94.580796	<b>J-</b>	Latitude: 39.386719	Longitude: -94.581240
<b>B-</b>	Latitude: 39.388562	Longitude: -94.580224	<b>K-</b>	Latitude: 39.387122	Longitude: -94.581240
<b>C-</b>	Latitude: 39.387942	Longitude: -94.580224	<b>L-</b>	Latitude: 39.387122	Longitude: -94.582307
<b>D-</b>	Latitude: 39.387942	Longitude: -94.579880	<b>M-</b>	Latitude: 39.387577	Longitude: -94.582307
<b>E-</b>	Latitude: 39.387522	Longitude: -94.579880	<b>N-</b>	Latitude: 39.387577	Longitude: -94.581377
<b>F-</b>	Latitude: 39.387522	Longitude: -94.579404	<b>O-</b>	Latitude: 39.387942	Longitude: -94.581377
<b>G-</b>	Latitude: 39.386302	Longitude: -94.579404	<b>P-</b>	Latitude: 39.387942	Longitude: -94.580796
<b>H-</b>	Latitude: 39.386302	Longitude: -94.580796			
<b>I-</b>	Latitude: 39.386719	Longitude: -94.580862			

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Downtown Smithville Historic District

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Clay County, Missouri

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 2:** Contextual Map. ArcGIS 2013.





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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

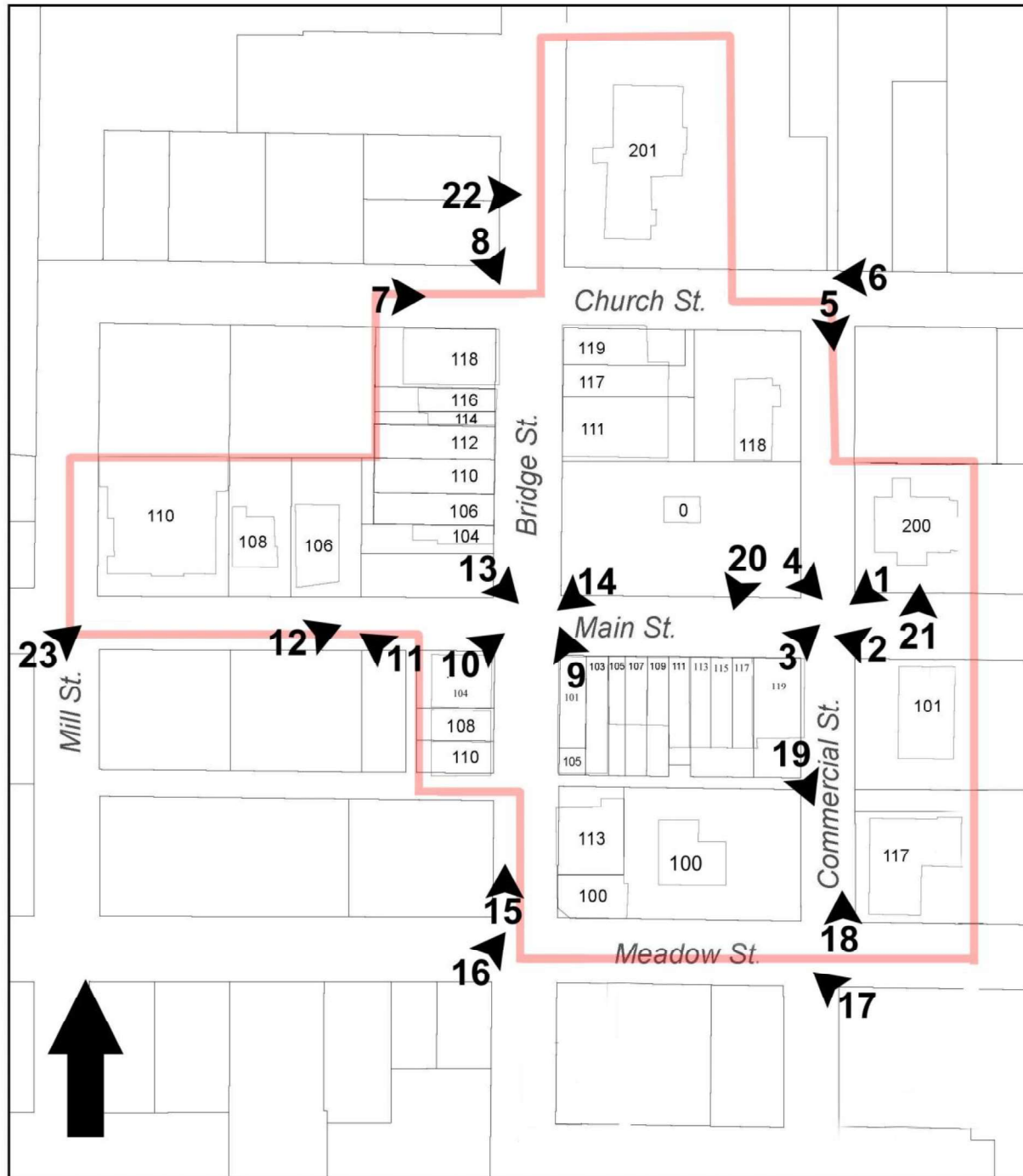
Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 3:** Photo Map



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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 4:** Contributing Properties Map.





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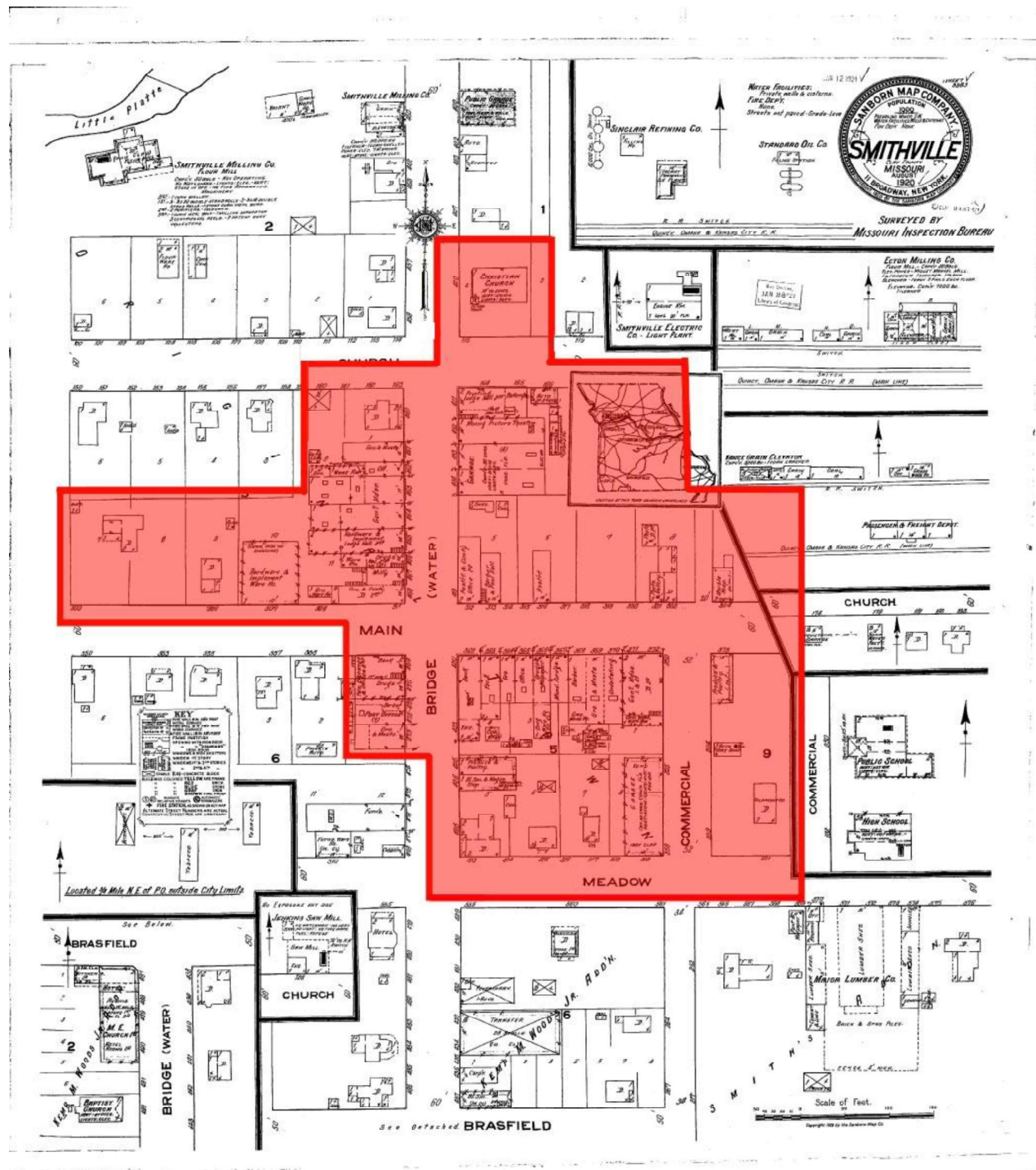
Section number Figures Page 31

Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property  
Clay County, Missouri  
County and State

N/A  
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 5: Sanborn Fire and Insurance Map, 1920.



National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

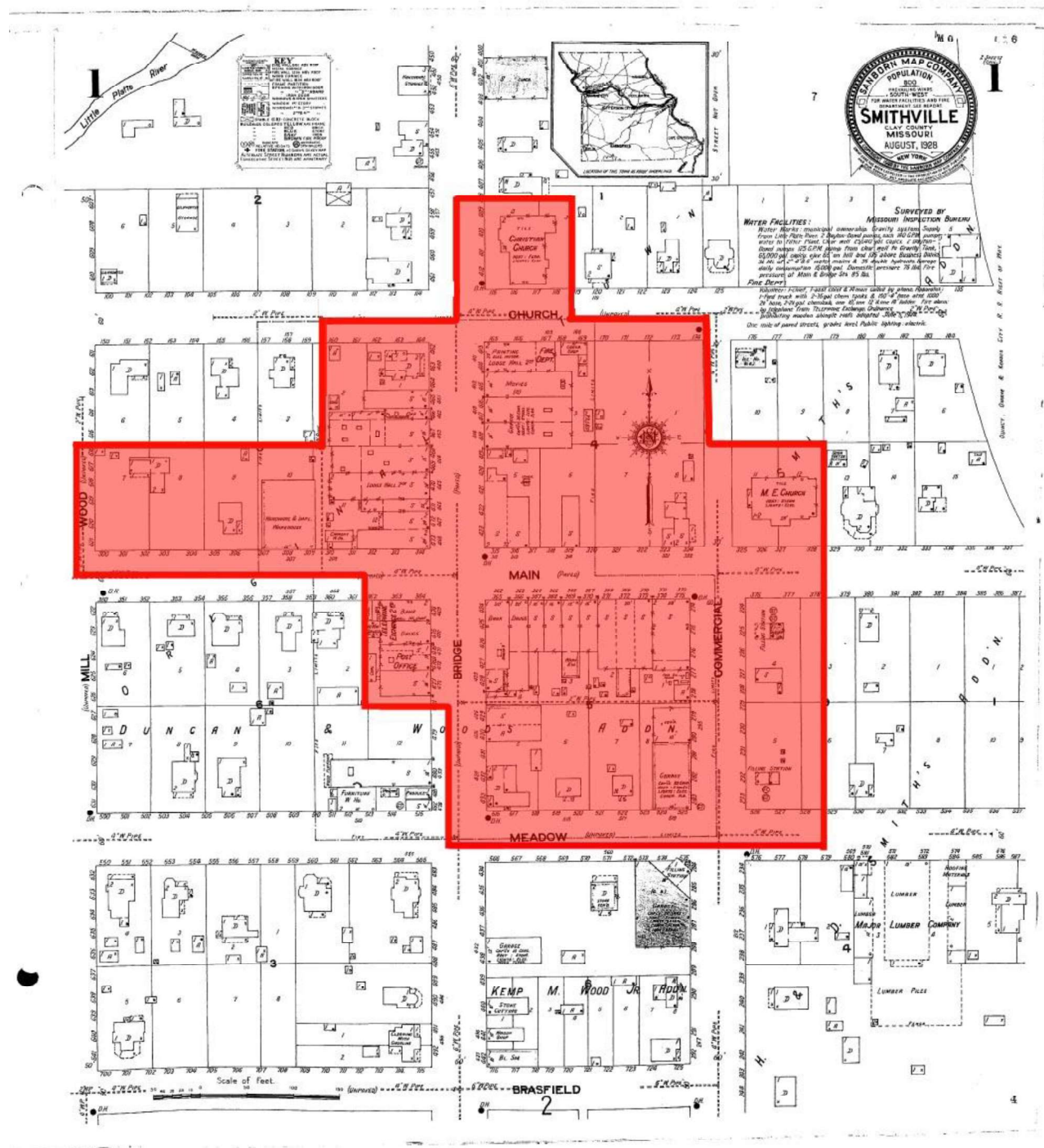
Section number Figures Page 32

Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property  
Clay County, Missouri  
County and State

N/A  
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 6: Sanborn Fire and Insurance Map, 1928.





National Register of Historic Places  
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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 7:** South side of the 100 block of East Main Street, n.d. View southeast. *Source: Smithville Historical Society.*



**Figure 8:** South side of the 100 block of East Main Street after a flood, c. 1950. View southwest. *Source: A Pictorial History of Smithville.*



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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 9:** West side of the 100 block of North Bridge Street, n.d. Source: *Smithville Historical Society*.



**Figure 10:** 104 South Bridge Street (Bank Block building), n.d. Source: *A Pictorial History of Smithville*.





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Downtown Smithville Historic District

Name of Property

Clay County, Missouri

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**Figure 11:** Smithville Community Hospital, 1936. *Source: A Pictorial History of Smithville.*



**Figure 12:** Smithville Community Hospital, 1942. *Source: Smithville Historical Society.*



































































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