

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name n/a

other names/site number Edina Double Square Historic District [preferred]

2. Location

street & number along portions of Main and East Lafayette streets [n/a] not for publication

city or town Edina [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Knox code 103 zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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 [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally.  
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ])

Signature of certifying official/Title Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ])

Signature of certifying official/Title

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

[ ] entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].

[ ] determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet [ ].

[ ] determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

[ ] removed from the  
National Register

[ ] other, explain  
See continuation sheet [ ].

Signature of the Keeper

Date

### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	35	3
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
		0	4
		0	0
		35	7

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in the National  
Register.

0

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Function

Commerce/Trade/specialty store  
Commerce/Trade/financial institution  
Commerce/Trade/department store  
Government/courthouse  
Education/school

#### Current Functions

Commerce/Trade/specialty store  
Commerce/Trade/restaurant  
Government/courthouse  
Vacant/not in use

### 7. Description

#### Architectural Classification

Italianate  
Moderne

#### Materials

foundation stone  
walls brick  
roof asphalt  
other cast iron  
wood

### Narrative Description

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

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

☒ **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

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Areas of Significance

Commerce

Politics/Government

Education

Architecture

### Periods of Significance

circa 1865-1945

### Significant Dates

n/a

### Significant Person(s)

n/a

### Cultural Affiliation

n/a

### Architect/Builder

Ittner, William B./Weishar and Stablein

## Narrative Statement of Significance

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

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

### Bibliography

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

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

# \_\_\_\_\_

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

# \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other:

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10.5 acres

### UTM References

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	570400	4446680	15	570560	4446680
C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	570560	4446420	15	570460	4446420

[X] See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title see continuation sheet

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state MO zip code \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

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

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

### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

### Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state MO zip code \_\_\_\_\_



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Edina Double Square Historic District [preferred]  
Knox County, Missouri

**Summary:** Located in Edina, Knox County, the Edina Double Square Historic District consists of forty-two properties--thirty-eight buildings and four structures--and is centered around the community's two public squares. The district extends along East Lafayette and Main streets on the west and south sides of the public squares. Of the thirty-eight buildings within the district boundary, thirty-five are counted as contributing and three are counted as noncontributing; all four structures are counted as noncontributing. The district includes the town's courthouse square upon which sits the Knox County Courthouse, designed by William B. Ittner, nationally recognized St. Louis school architect, and constructed in 1934-35 under the auspices of the Public Works Administration. The second public square houses the public school and gymnasium, as well as three of the noncontributing structures, a pavilion, bandstand, and water tower. Most of the buildings which comprise the historic district are one, two, or three story brick buildings with flat roofs, which sit on the sidewalk line. They are narrow and deep in dimensions, sharing party walls with their adjoining neighbors. A number of buildings possess rear additions. Historically, first floors were used for commercial enterprises; upper stories housed apartments or offices. In addition to the courthouse, several commercial buildings also hosted the offices of county government prior to construction of the present courthouse. Architecturally, the buildings are generally vernacular commercial buildings, often distinguished by Italianate detailing and which vary primarily in their facade architectural detailing. The buildings date from circa 1865 1945.

**Narrative:** The historic district is arranged around and adjacent to Edina's two public squares. Only the east side of the courthouse square along Fourth Street between Monticello and East Lafayette streets has been excluded; those buildings which front on Fourth Street are commercial but of recent construction or significantly altered (see photo 15). Thirty-five buildings contribute to the historic significance of the district. With the exceptions of the courthouse and three, one-story commercial buildings at the north end of North Main Street, the buildings are generally late nineteenth and early twentieth century brick vernacular commercial buildings. They are primarily the products of several short-term building epochs, the high point of which was the construction of the "Magic Block" (100 block of N. Main Street), a block-long streetscape of tall, narrow and deep, cast-iron-fronted commercial outlets. Most of the buildings in the district have undergone alterations in recent years, particularly with regard to storefront design on the first story facades. However, overall, second story facades remain intact and most buildings retain a high level of original architectural detailing, design and historic fabric. Three commercial buildings within the district's boundaries do not contribute to the area's historic character due to alterations. The four noncontributing structures are a bandstand, a 4-H pavilion, and a water tower, all located on the public school square and all of recent construction, and a remnant of a historic commercial building which serves as the entry to a pocket park and off-street parking area. As a whole the district reflects downtown Edina's historic appearance from its heyday as the focal point of Knox County's commercial activity.

Architectural classifications in Edina reflect advancements in building technology, particularly the evolution of ornamental cast iron. The earliest buildings in the district feature cast iron storefront columns or pilasters. For purposes of this nomination they are classified as examples of the Early Italianate style. Only one building remains within the district boundary which represents this classification: the circa 1876 William Harvey Building (No. 24). In addition to their cast iron storefront supporting members, these buildings are characterized by a three bay facade width, round arched or segmental arched multi-lite windows, brick or sandstone window detail, and bracketed wooden cornices.

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Sometime after 1881 a row of eight similar buildings (No. 31-38; photos 12-14) were constructed along E. Lafayette Street facing the south side of Edina's public square; these buildings represent the Late Italianate architectural style. The Late Italianate architectural style in Edina differs primarily from the Early Italianate style in terms of fenestration configurations and the use of more elaborate cast iron design. Facade windows are one-over-one double-hung windows rather than the multi-lite windows found on the earlier Italianate buildings; the availability of the larger panes of glass, needed for large one-over-one windows, was made possible by advancements in glass manufacturing technology.

This row of buildings also features cast-iron ornamental window hoods rather than brick or sandstone hoods, also reflective of technological advances, bracketed wood cornices and cast iron storefront design. The E. Lafayette Street row were the first buildings erected in Edina as a single cohesive unit of architectural similar buildings.

Favored for its fireproof qualities and ease of assembly, cast iron became the favored construction material for late nineteenth century commercial architecture. The construction of the "Magic Block," a row of ten buildings (Nos. 10 and 12-20) erected on the west side of the public square in 1891 after a fire wiped out a previous row, epitomizes cast iron's heyday as a building material. Although they vary in detail, all of the buildings which comprise the "Magic Block" possess cast iron facades on both the first and second stories. The block was built in the Romanesque Revival style and features heavy window hoods, rounded arched windows, Gothic inspired entablatures and Romanesque pilasters; the two end buildings possess Palladian windows.

A third row of similar buildings (No. 23-30; photo 11) were built on the west side of the 100 block of S. Main circa 1893. This row of six one-story buildings can probably also be classified as Late Italianate due to their ornamental stamped cornices.

A fourth row of stylistically similar buildings were constructed circa 1904-1908 (No. 6-8). This row and several other individual buildings are examples of Late Victorian Eclecticism. Cast iron had lost its prestige as a building material by the turn-of-the century with the recognition that its fireproof qualities were probably overly-hyped and frequent paint jobs were a requirement; the availability of new building materials such as terra cotta also lessen its popularity. Late Victorian Eclecticism, by definition, varies widely in stylistic details and uses a mixture of materials. In Edina, examples of Late Victorian Eclecticism now feature rectangular windows, stone pillars and coping, cast iron cornices, brick corbelling, and new types of brick; most of these buildings are relatively plain in design.

A final group of buildings in the northern part of the district along Main Street (No. 4-6) were constructed after 1925 and are simple, one-story commercial buildings devoid of virtually all ornamentation. Their spartan functionality has rendered them especially susceptible to alteration. Two of the three are counted as noncontributing.

Three historic buildings within the district do not fall into any of the above architectural classifications. The Knox County Courthouse (No. 11) is a much newer building (1934-1935) and is an excellent example of 1930s publicly funded architecture. The Bishoff Bakery (No. 21), with its extensive use of brick corbelling, belies its construction date of 1891. The Northern Hotel (No. 1) is a brick I-house constructed in the 1860s.

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Information on specific buildings is as follows:

1. Ennis House/Northern Hotel (circa 1865), 219 North Main Street (photo 1). A two story brick I-house with rear ell and two rear frame additions. The facade, or east elevation, features five bays; the central bay, which houses the main entrance, is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom. The building rests on a stone foundation. In 1945, the building was purchased by R.E. Cahalan and converted to apartments.

2 and 3. Edina School and Gymnasium (photos 3-5). The school, constructed 1915-1916, is built of brick and displays some Craftsman detailing. It is two stories in height and has a finished, slightly raised basement. The foundation is concrete. The gymnasium was constructed by the WPA from 1935 to 1937. It is constructed of brick and displays some modernistic affinities, such as a rounded roof and parapeted roof gable ends, as well as some geometric decorations.

4 and 5. 217 and 215 North Main Street (photos 1 and 2). Two one-part brick commercial buildings constructed circa 1926. **Both have been altered on their main elevations and are counted as noncontributing.** 217 North Main (building 4) has a new brick exterior applied to the facade, with a wood shingled shed porch. The two large display windows on 215 North Main (building 5) have been filled in with plywood with smaller aluminum windows set in the infill.

6. D.S. Riley Building, 213 North Main Street (photos 1 and 2). A one part brick commercial building constructed in 1945, it has a simple but unaltered storefront containing two large display windows and recessed entrance with glass transom above.

7. The D. H. Mudd Building (c. 1904) 209 North Main Street, (photos 1 and 2). The Mudd Building and the Linville Building which formerly adjoined it on the south (see below) were built several years apart. Despite their four year difference in construction dates, they maintain a very strong feeling of continuity due to similarities in material and design. They are examples of Late Victorian Eclecticism.

The Mudd Building is a two-story brick building, three bays wide. It possesses a three bay storefront which is intact, although the transoms have been covered and the center bay has been enclosed in order to hold a new entrance that is flush with the facade. The display windows are enframed by cast iron engaged columns and wood surrounds and kickplates. The upper story remains almost entirely as original. It features three round arched windows. The arches have been enclosed so as to be fitted with rectangular storm windows. The building is topped by an entablature of cast iron. Its frieze is marked by a course of rosettes. The entablature extends to the buildings on the left. 209 N. Main has been modernized on its interior, but still retains a ceiling of pressed tin. A shed roof frame carport extends across the rear of the building. The alterations made to this building date c. 1960. These do not detract greatly from its historic character or its association with neighboring structures.

8. The Phillip Linville Building, 205 N. Main Street (photos 1 and 2) was originally constructed to house at least two and as many as three storefronts. The southernmost portion was constructed by Phillip B. Linville circa 1908 and may have housed two storefronts originally. Circa 1963, the separate storefronts were unified as a single building, and the resultant unified store space is counted as one contributing building. A band of aluminum unifies the three storefronts at street level, although the subtle, original

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divisions are apparent on the upper story. As is typical with many of the buildings in this district, the building's lower main facade has been altered. A wall of aluminum and plate glass now obscures the first floor; entrances to the first and second floors are in the left bay, and the remainder of the facade is display space. Cast iron colonettes which supported the original storefront are still present behind the new first story cladding. The storefront's original transoms are concealed by aluminum sheathing and an awning that continues across the length of the building. These changes took place circa 1963 when the building was purchased by the present owners and was outfitted as a furniture store. The upper facade remains intact and features three sets of three rectangular windows with flayed arched lintels. The window configuration is a one-over-one double-hung window with a transom above; the transoms have been temporarily closed. A cast iron entablature is similar to that of 209 North Main. The building has a two-story glazed block addition across the northern portion of the rear elevation; a metal two-story elevator has been added to the southern portion of the rear elevation. Despite alterations, this building contributes to the historic character of the district.

The Linville Buildings were among many built or financed by Phillip B. Linville (see Nos. 19 and 32). They were also among the very last of his works. Begun in circa 1908; the southern two-thirds of the building replaced a two-story Greek Revival building which had begun to deteriorate. It was let as a grocery soon after its completion.

9. 201 North Main Street (photos 1 and 2). A pocket park and an off-street parking lot which features an entrance on Main Street framed by cast iron, arched columns; **the columns are counted as a noncontributing structure**. The lot is the site of the John Winterbottom/Joseph Hirner Building (circa 1865, addition circa 1900). The Winterbottom/Hirner Building was a three story brick building three bays wide, originally among the earliest buildings in the district. The first story facade featured a cast iron storefront with two colonettes, quoins at the corners, segmental arched transoms, and a bracketed cornice. Severely damaged by fire in 1996, the building was demolished and the columns were allowed to stand. The original draft nomination for the district noted that "This building is among the best preserved both from its era, and among those of later periods."

10. The Tobias J. Lycan Building (c. 1891), 119-121 n. Main, (photos 7 and 8). The T. J. Lycan Building is a three-story Romanesque Revival brick building. Its fine architectural detailing make it the best example of that style in the district; it is also the district's largest building. The upper stories of the east facade and the first (left) bay of the north elevation are cast iron painted to give the appearance of limestone. On the ground level, massive sandstone columns with pyramidal shaped bases and capitals, featuring a leaf motif, support the upper stories. The primary entrance to the building is at the northeast corner beneath a tower. Floral garlands highlight the base of this tower, which was originally topped by a Moorish dome (removed in the 1950s). The east facade is divided into three bays; the left bay is smaller in width than the center and right bays. The storefronts on the east elevation have undergone a number of changes. The historic storefronts in the left and center bays have been covered with contemporary rock veneer; each storefront has a door on the left and a window on the right. The historic four lite transoms of the right bay storefront have been blanked out and a contemporary four lite window with a brick veneer kickplate installed below. The corner entrance retains its historic transom, but now holds a contemporary door and sidelights. The storefront on the north elevation has also been altered. It retains its historic three transom, but a contemporary four lite display window with brick veneer kickplates has been installed below.

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The upper stories of the T.J. Lycan Building retain most of their historic, rich architectural detailing. Upper story windows are round arched openings. The center and right bays of the east elevation and the left bay of north elevation feature Palladian windows with radiating divided lite transoms on the second story. The third story is lit by a series of narrow Romanesque arcades, although the windows are currently closed. An elaborate entablature of recessed squares marks the roofline. Windows in the tower are partially closed; they are separated by fluted piers. The date and the name of the building are stamped above the second and third stories of the tower.

The rear portion of the north elevation is brick; the facade entablature continues along the north elevation terminating in a triangular parapet wall. The parapet is decorated with three narrow recessed arches and cast iron scroll work. Fenestration on the second story consists of eight rounded arched windows and a pair of segmental arched windows; all second story windows are temporarily closed. First story fenestration on this elevation consists of four round arched windows, a tri-partite Roman arched window and a double-leaf entryway recessed beneath a Roman arched opening. A one and one-half story red cinder block addition has been added to the building's rear. The Lycan Building retains a high percentage of its historic windows, original hardware, and a pressed tin ceiling on the interior. Despite its alterations, the Lycan Building makes a major contribution to the historic character of downtown Edina.

The Lycan Building is the largest and most elaborate building on the "Magic Block", anchoring the north end of the row. The Lycan Building was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein, who built all of the "Magic Block" with the exception of one building.

11. Knox County Courthouse (1924-1935), Courthouse Square (photo 6). The Knox County Courthouse is a two story, seven bay wide, brick rectangular building with stone trim. It sits at the north end of the town square on a raised basement; the primary facade faces south. The building possesses a flat roof, hidden by a crenelated parapet wall. The facade center block of the building (five bays) is recessed from the far left and right bays; the center bays are separated by two-story pilasters which support a stone cornice. Entrances on the west, south, and east elevations, located in the center bays, are framed by a stone portico. The facade entrance portico is topped by a pediment; the facade entrance is reached by a small flight of steps. Most windows are multi-lite, double-hung rectangular windows; however, second story windows in the five center bays of the facade and second story windows over the side elevation are multi-lite rounded arched windows. Offices occupy the first floor of the courthouse; the courtroom and jail are on the second floor. The Knox County Historical Society is housed in the basement of the courthouse.

The present Knox County courthouse was built in 1934-35 under the auspices of the Public Works Administration program (PWA Project #8549). An earlier nineteenth century courthouse, which sat at the center of the town public square, was destroyed in a 1885 Christmas eve fire. Knox County functioned without a courthouse, renting the upstairs of several commercial buildings (NO.35,36, & 38) on the south side of the square until 1934. The new courthouse was designed by St. Louis architect William B. Ittner and built by J. E. Williams at a cost of \$80,000. Ittner, who gained national recognition for his school design, designed the courthouse late in his life; it is his only courthouse design.

12. Edwin J. Brown Building (c. 1891), 117 N. Main (photos 7 and 8). The Brown Building is part of a row of ten adjoining buildings in the 100 block of N. Main, known as the "Magic Block" (No. 10-20), which were built in the Romanesque Revival style. All of the two-story buildings have a second story cast iron facade.

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A number of buildings in the row, including the Brown Building, possess a similar heavily bracketed entablature and Gothic inspired frieze and are lit on the second story by a narrowly arched Romanesque arcade (usually five bays wide). Facade window openings are topped by saw-toothed molding and false keystones. The lower facade of the Brown Building was altered during the 1960s with the installation of a brick and glass storefront. However, the traditional center recessed entrance and flanking show window layout was retained along with the building's historic storefront transom windows. Arched window openings on the second story have been blocked and downsized to hold rectangular storm windows (c. 1970). The interior of the building retains some of its historic features. Notable among these are the eight-foot-high store shelves of black walnut, which have been carefully preserved by the present owner. The Brown Building forms an important part of the streetscape. As with other buildings on this block, alterations made during later eras do not destroy the original streetscape's continuity.

The Brown Building was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein.

13. Jacob Pugh Building (c. 1891), 115 N. Main (photos 7 and 8). The Pugh Building is part of a row of ten adjoining buildings in the 100 block of N. Main, known as the "Magic Block" (No. 10, 12-20), which were built in the Romanesque Revival style. All of the two-story buildings have a second story cast iron facade. A number of buildings in the row, including the Pugh Building, possess a similar heavily bracketed entablature and Gothic inspired frieze and are lit on the second story by a narrowly arched Romanesque arcade (usually five bays wide). Facade window openings are topped by saw-toothed molding and false keystones.

Unlike its neighbors, the second story arcade of the Pugh Building is six bays wide. The first story facade of the Pugh Building has been altered; a modern storefront featuring two doors that alternate with display windows has replaced the original cast iron storefront shown in historic photographs. The new storefront extends to the building to the south (113 N. Main, No. 14). A band of aluminum sheathing used for signage covers the transom windows of the historic storefront. Arched window openings on the second story have been blocked and downsized to hold rectangular storm windows. A one-story concrete addition block runs across the rear elevation of this building and its neighbor to the south.

Alterations to the Pugh Building occurred in the 1960s. Despite the changes, the building contributes to the appearance of this block of associated buildings, primarily to its upper story which continues the rhythms running through all the facades of the "Magic Block."

14. Albert G. Bostick Building at 113 N. Main, (c. 1891) (photos 7 and 8). The Bostick Building (113 N. Main) is part of a row of ten adjoining brick buildings in the 100 block of N. Main, known as the "Magic Block" (No. 10, 12-20), which were built in the Romanesque Revival style. The Bostick Building possesses a second story cast iron facade and is similar in style and feeling to those flanking it, however, its facade detail is simplified. Its second story facade features the Romanesque five bay arcade usually found on other buildings in the row, however, the far left bay of the facade is separated from the other four bays by a paneled pilaster. This bay houses a stairwell to the second floor. The Bostick Building does not possess a Gothic frieze or saw-toothed molding and false keystones above second story facade windows, characteristic of other buildings in the row. Unlike other buildings in the row, the cornice of the Bostick Building and the building to the south (111 N. Main, No. 15) is a simple dentiled parapet which terminates in low cubic plinths. The first story facade of the Bostick Building has been altered with a modern

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storefront featuring a center entrance flanked by two display windows. A door on the far left provides access to the second floor. The new storefront is an extension of the storefront installed on the building to the north (115 N. Main, No. 13). A band of aluminum sheathing used for signage covers the location of the historic transom windows. Arched window openings on the second story have been blocked and downsized with stucco to hold rectangular storm windows. The building still retains a pressed tin ceiling in its storefront space. A one-story concrete block addition extends across the rear elevation of 113 N. Main and its neighbor to the north. The major changes to the building's facade occurred during the 1960s. Despite these changes, the building retains its integrity and contributes to the historical significance of the "Magic Block".

The Bostick Building was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein.

15. James C. Agnew Building (c. 1891), 111 N. Main (photos 7-8). The Agnew Building is part of a row of ten adjoining brick buildings in the 100 block of N. Main, known as the "Magic Block" (No. 10, 12-20), which were built in the Romanesque Revival style. However, a series of columns on the second story are the only Romanesque elements the Agnew Building possesses. It does possess the cast iron second story facade common to the block. The lower section of the facade has been modernized. The placement of the modern components, however, echo the locations of the original features. The building is entered by a central door, flanked by show windows with brick kickplates.

Above the door and windows a band of sheet metal, which is used as a sign, hides the original storefront transoms. These alterations were made to the building during the 1960s. The upper story of the building is dominated by a single oversized oriel window sitting on a reeded base. Originally, the bay was lighted by five 1/1 rectangular windows. One of these has been enclosed, the others have been fitted with modern storms and louvered vents. The oriel window's roof extends to the cornice line. The cornice of the Agnew Building is similar to the cornice of the building to the north (113 N. Main, No. 14): a simple parapet which terminates in low cubic plinths. This building is the most unusual and elaborate of the block, excepting the corner buildings. Its unusual design and relatively good state of preservation provides a needed and effective focus for the middle of the block. The unfortunate modifications of earlier eras fail to destroy the original feeling of this significant building. The Agnew Building was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein.

16. Albert G. Bostick Building at 109 N. Main, (c. 1891) (photos 7 and 8). The Bostick Building (109 N. Main) is part of a row of ten adjoining buildings in the 100 block of N. Main, known as the "Magic Block" (No. 6-15), which were built in the Romanesque Revival style. All of the two-story buildings have a second story cast iron facade. A number of buildings in the row, including this building, possess a similar heavily bracketed entablature and Gothic inspired frieze and are lit on the second story by a narrowly arched Romanesque arcade five bays wide. Facade window openings are topped by saw-toothed molding and false keystones. The lower floor has been altered from its original central entrance plan. The entrance is now set at the far right of the building. To its left are three plate glass windows with aluminum surrounds and brick kickplates. An awning of aluminum shades the first story facade. Above it, vertical metal siding covers the historic storefront transom windows. Arched window openings on the second story have been blocked and downsized to hold vents and storm windows; the center window opening has been entirely closed. Alterations to this building were made in the 1960s. Despite these changes, the building

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contributes to the historic character of the streetscape. The Bostick Building was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein.

17. Charles J. Wilson Building (c. 1891), 107 N. Main (photos 7 and 8). Like the buildings which flank it, the Wilson Building exhibits Romanesque Revival design features of the "Magic Block" (heavily bracketed entablature, Gothic inspired frieze, five bay, narrowly arched Romanesque arcade on the second story, saw-toothed molding and false keystones above facade windows). Vertical siding conceals first story original details. The facade entrance door and two display windows are contemporary. The upper half of arched window openings on the second story are covered with panels for conservation. To the north of the storefront space there is a second floor stair entrance. The door to this entrance is modern, however, an historic transom remains above. The second story above the stairwell entrance is articulated as a separate bay from the remainder of the second story facade, but possesses similar detailing, with the addition of a laurel garland at the frieze. A one-story concrete block addition has been added to the rear elevation. Alterations to the exterior and interior were completed during the 1970s; much original detail remains intact, although hidden. Despite the alterations, the building contributes to the historic character of the district, and forms an important part of the streetscape. The Wilson Building was built by Weishar and Stablein.

18. William H. LeVan Building (c. 1891), 105 N. Main (photos 7 and 8). The LeVan Building is part of a row of ten adjoining brick buildings in the 100 block of N. Main, known as the "Magic Block", which were built in the Romanesque Revival style. Its second story facade is cast iron and features the five bay narrowly arched Romanesque arcade characteristic of the "Magic Block". The lower facade was altered during the 1960s by the installation of vertical aluminum siding and contemporary show windows. An entryway and stair well to the second story is south of the storefront space; it retains its historic transom. The second story above the stair well entrance is articulated as a separate bay from the remainder of the second story facade, but possesses similar detailing with the addition of an unusual floral or sunburst design. The LeVan Building's entablature and window hoods match those on adjacent buildings; its heavy molding and Gothic inspired frieze are also found on other buildings in this block. The building's upper facade is among the best preserved of this style in the district. It is an important link in the streetscape. This building was completed in 1891 by a Marceline, Missouri contractor, rather than the firm of Weishar and Stablein, who constructed all of the adjoining buildings.

19. Phillip B. Linville Building at 103 N. Main, (c. 1891) (photos 7 and 8). 103 N. Main is part of a row of ten adjoining brick buildings, known as the "Magic Block", which were built in the Romanesque Revival style. The second story facade is cast iron, a common feature of the row. Horizontal modern siding pierced by a contemporary door and two small display windows conceals the original pilasters, kickplates and transoms of the first story storefront. An awning of cedar shakes shades this elevation. The upper facade of the building is dominated by a large arched window with a molded, scalloped hood. Originally, this window was a Palladian window. Unfortunately, a single band of modern windows has been inserted into this space. A pair of engaged columns with feathered capitals support the entablature. The roofline of the building has the same Gothic-inspired frieze and bracketed entablature found on adjoining buildings in the "Magic Block". The alterations to the facade were completed in the 1970s. They detract little from the overall appearance of the facade and its relationship to the adjoining buildings. The Linville Building was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein.



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20. Knox County Savings Bank (c. 1891), 101 N. Main/215 E. Lafayette (photos 7 and 8). The Knox County Savings Bank anchors the south end of the "Magic Block", a row of ten adjoining brick buildings in the 100 block of N. Main (No. 10, 12-20), which were built in the Romanesque Revival style. The building is orientated to both N. Main and E. Lafayette and thus possesses a second story cast iron facade on both elevations. Primarily, the Knox County Savings Bank is a Romanesque Revival building with some Italianate elements as well. The facade entrance is recessed within the southeast corner of the building. The entrance, which has been fitted with a modern door, is framed by columns supporting a Roman arch above. Large display windows which have been fitted with modern plate glass and brick kickplates, front both N. Main and E. Lafayette Streets. The windows are framed by pilasters with feathered capitols. On the second story, a three-sided oriel window is centered over the main entrance. It is lit by three 1/1 arched windows that are framed by two-sided pilasters. Large Palladian windows, similar in detailing to the window found next door at 103 N. Main (No. 19), flank the oriel window. These windows retain their original window configuration, although the lites have been covered over in all but three of the windows. The south side of the building has Italianate details, including heavy cast-iron hooded windows. The hoods, set over single or pairs of segmentally arched windows, are bracketed with low pediments. The roofline of the building has the same bracketed entablature and Gothic-inspired frieze as found on other buildings in the "Magic Block". The interior of the building has been updated on its main floor. Other floors retain their oak woodwork, transoms and fixtures. The main alterations to the building were made during the 1950s. At this time, an onion dome on top of the bay window was removed. This building is especially important in the plan of the block, as it serves to define and anchor the other buildings. On the whole, the Knox County Savings Bank is well preserved and well kept. As with the other buildings on the block, alterations do not mar the building's historic character. The building greatly contributes to the streetscape's sense of time and place. It was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein. The building was probably the first completed on the block, which may account for its Italianate appearance on the south elevation.

21. The Bishoff Bakery (c. 1891), 211 E. Lafayette (photo 8). The Bishoff Bakery is a simple two-story brick building with a corbelled brick cornice line. Erected in two sections, the earlier (east) is four bays wide and the later two bays. Each bay of the second story contains a 1/1 double-hung window with a corbelled brick hood. Similar brick hoods mark the location of the historic first story fenestration of the east section. Fenestration on the first story of the east section consists of two windows in the left bays, which have been bricked in, and a doorway and display window in the right bays. The display window has been bricked in; a contemporary door has been installed in the door opening, which originally held a double leaf door. The first story facade of the building's west section is a modern storefront with centered entrance. Due to a rapidly sloping sidewalk grade, access to the facade entrance of the Bishoff Bakery is by two concrete stoops. Alterations made to the building were done in the 1960s. Despite these changes and the building's relative simplicity, the Bishoff Bakery contributes to the historical significance of the district.

22. Delany Brothers Motors Building (c. 1910s), 200 E. Lafayette (photos 9 and 10). This building is a large one-story, red brick building which sits on a rough cut stone foundation; it is oriented to both Lafayette and Second Streets. Fenestration patterns indicate its historic use as an automobile dealership. Both street facades are faced with a dark red, textured screened brick and feature simple stone detail, in a diamond pattern; the dark red brick also wraps around one bay along the east/alley elevation. The E. Lafayette Street facade has eight bays; all bays are boarded with vertical wood siding which probably

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encloses historic display window openings. The second bay from the left contains a small contemporary window, rectangular in shape, and signage. An historic entrance is located in the forth bay from the left; the current entrance on this elevation is now in the third bay from the left. The Main entrance to the building in its last use (now vacant) is located on the south elevation. In style, the building is 20th Century Commercial vernacular. Despite alterations the building contributes to the historic character of downtown Edina.

23. Dick Brothers Brewing Company Building (c. 1901), 100 S. Main (photos 9 and 11). An example of Late Victorian Eclecticism, this two-story brick building possesses extensive stone detailing. The main entrance to the building is at its angled northeast corner. This entrance flanked by Tuscan limestone pilasters supporting a Roman arch. Large display windows flank both sides of the entrance on the north and east elevations. These display windows have transoms of glass blocks and kickplates of burgundy carrara glass, dating from 1930s. A band of burgundy carrara glass runs between the second story windows and the first story storefront and is above two of the three entrances on the north elevation. The glass is falling off and could easily be removed. Windows on the north and east elevations are set singly or in pairs and are topped by polychrome brick. Most of the windows retain their original glass, sashes and transoms. Two of the three secondary entrances on the north elevation retain their original wood doors with arched glass. The third entrance has been rebuilt with contemporary materials. Originally, an elaborate entablature of cast iron marked the building's roofline; this has been removed and the area beneath stuccoed. A tower originally rose from the northeast corner of the building above the main entrance. It was removed because of deterioration in 1953. Despite the alterations from various eras, this building retains a wealth of original detail. Frank W. Crabbe was the contractor.

24. William Harvey Building (c. 1876), 102 S. Main (photos 9 and 11). An example of the Early Italianate style, the Harvey Building is a three story, three bay wide brick building. The facade storefront retains it ashlar-marked pilasters, dentiled bracketed entablature and cast iron supports. The storefront's historic paneled kickplate, transoms and display window, extant in 1987 photos, have since been covered with contemporary materials in the right bay. In the left bay, the historic display window and kickplate are partially covered; the storefront transom is all covered. In the center bay, a double-leaf historic entryway and transoms above are also concealed by new material. The right historic door is still in use; the left door is now hidden. A modern shed roof hood has been added to the center and right bays. All of these alterations are easily removable and quite likely all of the historic storefront, clearly extant in 1987 photos, still exists beneath the new materials. Windows on the second story possess round arches (fitted with storm windows); third story windows are segmentally arched. All of the facade's windows have badly deteriorated hoods of sandstone. The third story, left bay window is closed; all other windows have 2/2 lights. Centered over the central third story window is a plaque reading "Harvey/1876". A wood bracketed cornice which originally marked the roofline has been removed. A cinder block addition has been added to the rear. Despite alterations, the building contributes to the visual unity of the proposed district.

25. William Sandknop Building (c. 1893), 104 S. Main (photos 9 and 11). The Sandknop Building is a one-story brick building with cast iron detailing; its design is an example of Late Italianate architecture. Its facade storefront has been altered with the addition of a wood awning, brick kickplates, and vertical siding that covers the original window and door surrounds. The storefront's door and windows are modern, but occupy their original location. The Sandknop Building possesses an elaborate cast iron entablature with

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brackets and floral motifs, which is repeated on five adjoining buildings to the south (No.26-30). Despite the 1960s storefront alterations the Sandknop Building contributes to the historic significance of the South Main streetscape as part of this block of similar buildings.

26. Joseph and Jenninia Kirk Building (c. 1893), 106 S. Main (photo 11). This single story brick building is very similar to those that flank it and is an example of Late Italianate architecture. Its storefront was altered during the 1960s with the installation of brick kickplates and vertical siding that covers the original window and door surrounds. The storefront retains a central recessed entrance. The upper part of the building retains its elaborate cast iron cornice and pilasters. The Kirk Building is an important part of a row of associated buildings; its later alterations do not destroy its contribution to the historic character of South Main Street.

27. Peter Burk Building (c. 1893), 110 S. Main (photo 11). This one-story brick building is an example of Late Italianate architecture and is very similar to the buildings it adjoins. Its historic storefront has been replaced, but an elaborate cast iron cornice and pilasters remain. The Burk Building was remodeled during the 1960s. Despite changes, it is a vital part of this row.

28. & 29. Joseph and Elizabeth Stauder Buildings (c. 1893), 112 and 114 S. Main (photo 11). **Counted as two contributing buildings.** The Stauder Buildings are one-story brick buildings, very similar in appearance to the buildings they adjoin. They are examples of Late Italianate architecture. The historic storefront of 112 S. Main (No. 28) has been covered with contemporary vertical siding; the entrance is centered. Photos taken in 1987, prior to the installation of the current siding indicated the presence of cast iron colonettes, which probably still exist beneath the current siding. The building retains its elaborate cast iron cornice. Despite storefront alterations, 112 S. Main is a vital part of this row.

114 S. Main (No. 29) retains its historic recessed entrance, elaborate cast iron cornice, pilasters and storefront colonettes; it is the only building in this row that retains its colonettes. However, the historic storefront display windows, transoms and kickplates have been covered with vertical siding and a contemporary door has been installed; these alterations were made in the 1970s. Despite the alterations, this building is also an important link in the row.

30. Thomas and Ellen McMahon Building, (c. 1893), 116 S. Main (photo 11). This single story brick building adjoins a row of originally almost identical buildings built in the Late Italianate style. The storefront retains its central recessed door bay, however, all of the historic storefront materials have been replaced by modern materials. The building does retain its elaborate cast iron cornice. Despite the loss of the historic storefront, the McMahon Building contributes to the historic character of this row of buildings.

31. The Bank of Edina Building (c. 1907), 300 E. Lafayette (photos 12-14). The Bank of Edina Building is a two-story, Late Victorian Eclectic style brick building with fine stone and cast iron architectural detailing. The main entrance, located at the northwest corner of the building, is flanked by massive stone piers. Unfortunately, it has been severely modified. The historic opening has been filled in with horizontal siding and a modern door installed. Likewise, on the west elevation, an historic display window has been filled in with siding and contemporary windows, several windows and a side entrance have been downsized, and a gable roof enclosure has been added over a basement entrance. However, the north elevation retains most of its historic storefront design including transoms and a double-leaf entrance. Windows on the west

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elevation and the upper stories of the north elevation are rectangular with shallow brick hoods and stone sills; they have been covered by new storm windows. A pressed metal cornice tops the first story storefront and a limestone belt course separates the two stories. Bank of Edina is carved into this belt course over the corner entrance. The building possesses an elaborate pressed metal cornice that runs the length of both the north and west elevations; the cornice features brackets and a sunburst motif. Despite the alteration of its fenestration, the Bank of Edina is an important visual anchor in the historic streetscape of downtown Edina.

32. Phillip B. Linville Building at 304 E. Lafayette, (c. 1881) (photos 12-14). 306 E. Lafayette is one of a row of eight adjoining buildings, (No. 31-38) located on the south side of E. Lafayette Street, that were originally very similar, if not identical, in their facade design. Today, they vary primarily in terms of the extent of alterations to their first story facade storefronts. The Late Italianate two-story brick row features a heavily bracketed and dentiled wood cornice, a bracketed entablature topping the storefront area, and round arch 1/1 windows (usually three) on the second story of each building's facade. These windows are topped by ornamental cast iron hoods. The Linville Building retains its historic cast iron pilasters flanking each side of the storefront space, however, the remainder of the historic storefront has been replaced with a plate glass, composition board, aluminum, and brick veneer storefront featuring a centered entrance. Three second story round arched windows have been downsized to hold smaller rectangular contemporary windows. The Linville Building has a one-story red brick addition to the rear and an ornate cast iron firescape. Despite these alterations, the Linville Building contributes to the historic character of downtown Edina.

33. William and Madge McGonigle Building (c. 1881), 308 E. Lafayette (photos 12-14). The McGonigle Building is one of a row of eight adjoining buildings (No. 31-38), located on the south side of E. Lafayette Street, that were originally very similar, if not identical in their facade design. The Late Italianate two-story brick row features a heavily bracketed and dentiled wood cornice, a bracketed entablature topping the storefront area, and round arch 1/1 windows (usually three) on the second story of each building's facade. These windows are topped by ornamental cast iron hoods. The McGonigle Building is one of the best preserved of the row, retaining almost all of its historic storefront. The three-bay storefront features a recessed center entrance, flanked by a display window in the left and right bays. Cast iron, fluted colonettes support the entablature above. The storefront's transoms and kickplates are concealed by wood panels, but are still intact; a contemporary door has been installed, but an historic two lite transom remains above. Although altered, the interior of the building retains some original shelving and a marble and black walnut bar. The rear elevation has been covered with stucco.

34. Joseph F. Biggerstaff Building (c. 1881), 310 E. Lafayette (photos 12-14). The Biggerstaff Building is one of a row of eight adjoining buildings (No. 31-38), located on the south side of E. Lafayette Street, that were originally very similar, if not identical, in their facade design. The Late Italianate two-story brick row features a heavily bracketed and dentiled wood cornice, a bracketed entablature topping the storefront area, and round arch 1/1 windows (usually three) on the second story of each building's facade. These windows are topped by ornamental cast iron hoods. The Biggerstaff Building is one of the most altered of the row, due to alterations to second story facade windows, the installation of a contemporary storefront, and the concealment of the storefront's entablature (and possibly historic storefront transoms) by modern sheathing. Despite these alterations, the Biggerstaff Building still contributes to the historic character of this row due to its position in the center of the row and the retention of its cornice and hooded second

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story facade windows. Alterations to the three second story windows include the bricking in of the center bay window and the installation of new rectangular windows in the left and right bays with the bricking in of arched openings above. The current aluminum and plate glass storefront features brick kickplates, a planter in the center bay (blocking the historic recessed entrance), and entrances and display windows in the left and right bays. An historic entrance to the second floor is located between the Biggerstaff Building and the McGonigle Building to the west. The lower facade was altered during the 1960s.

35 & 36. Thomas Burk Buildings (c. 1881), 312 and 314 E. Lafayette (photos 12-14). **Counted as two contributing buildings.** The Burk Buildings are part of a row of eight adjoining buildings (No. 32-39), located on the south side of E. Lafayette Street, that were originally very similar, if not identical, in their facade design. Today, they vary primarily in terms of the extent of alterations to their first story facade storefronts. The Late Italianate two-story brick row features a heavily bracketed and dentiled wood cornice, a bracketed entablature topping the storefront area, and round arched 1/1 windows (usually three) on the second story of each building's facade. These windows are topped by ornamental cast iron hoods.

The storefront of 312 E. Lafayette (No. 35) was altered in the 1940s; its original recessed center entrance, flanking display windows, kickplates and transoms were replaced by a new centered door, windows and surrounds of glass tile and aluminum. The arches of the second story facade windows have been blocked over, but the historic windows are still intact. Despite the changes, this building contributes to the continuity of the row. A historic stairwell between 312 and 314 E. Lafayette (No. 36) leads to the second floor; an additional second story round arched, hooded window occupies the bay above the stairwell. 314 E. Lafayette is one of the best preserved buildings of the row, retaining all of its historic storefront including cast iron fluted colonettes, door transom, display windows, paneled kickplates, and recessed center entrance. A contemporary door has been installed.

37, 38, & 39. Joseph F. Biggerstaff Buildings (c.1881), 316, 318, 320 E. Lafayette (photo 12-14). The Biggerstaff Buildings are part of a row of eight adjoining buildings (No. 32-39), located on the south side of Lafayette Street, that were originally very similar, if not identical, in their facade design. Today, they vary primarily in terms of the extent of alterations to their first story facade storefronts. The Late Italianate two-story brick row features a heavily bracketed and dentiled wood cornice, a bracketed entablature topping the storefront area, and round arched 1/1 windows (usually three) on the second story of each building's facade. These windows are topped by ornamental cast iron hoods.

The storefront of 316 E. Lafayette (No. 37) retains its original cast iron colonettes, but its historic configuration has been altered with the installation of vertical siding and contemporary display windows and a centered door. Transoms and kickplates are concealed by this siding. The arches of the second story windows have been blocked over. This building still retains a pressed tin ceiling in its interior. Despite the alterations, this building contributes to the historic character of downtown Edina. Counted as one contributing building.

The four-bay storefront of 318 E. Lafayette (No. 38) retains its historic cast iron colonettes, but its historic configuration has been altered with the installation of vertical siding and contemporary display windows and doors. Transoms and kickplates are concealed by this siding. Entrances to both the first and second

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stories are located in the two right bays. Despite the alterations, 318 E. Lafayette is an integral part of this row of buildings. Counted as one contributing building.

The facade of 320 E. Lafayette (No. 39) is entirely hidden by modern surface treatments and the installation of a contemporary storefront. However, there is reason to believe that most of the building's historic architectural detailing remains intact beneath aluminum siding that has been applied in more recent years, which could easily be removed. Seven cast iron window hoods protrude through the siding on the second story marking the original bays. The side (east) elevation also features six round-arched window openings. **The building is counted as noncontributing because of the application of nonhistoric siding.**

40. 4-H Pavilion (photo 5). A recent metal frame building of a temporary nature. **Counted as a noncontributing structure.**

41. Bandstand (photo 5). A small concrete based, wooden framed, building recently constructed. **Counted as a noncontributing structure.**

42. Water tower (photos 3 and 5). **Counted as a noncontributing structure.**

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**Summary:** The Edina Double Square Historic District [preferred], Edina, Knox County, is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture and under Criterion A in the areas of commerce, politics/government, and education. Within the boundaries of the historic district are included those buildings which represent the institutions and establishments responsible for the endurance of the Northeast Missouri community. Arrayed around two sides of a unique double public square, the commercial buildings, which range in size from one to three story and in age from circa 1865 to circa 1945--the period of significance for the district-- represent the history of commerce in the community which served as a service center for the agricultural population of Knox and neighboring counties. The persistence of the commercial buildings, particularly the 1891 "Magic Block," with its ornately decorated, cast iron fronts, represent the desire of the merchant community to create an enduring monument which would attest to the prosperity and determination of the town. Sited on the two public squares are the Knox County Courthouse, the oldest remaining building constructed exclusively for and devoted to county government, and the oldest remaining public school building in Edina. The Knox County Courthouse served as the seat of government, politics, and justice for the county since 1935, and it is also an excellent example of the work of architect William B. Ittner, noted primarily for his work as architect for the public schools of the City of St. Louis; the courthouse is individually significant under politics/government and architecture. In addition to the 1915 public school, the public school square also contains a gymnasium constructed by the Works Progress Administration, as was the county courthouse. The central location of the school, immediately north of the courthouse square, testified to the efforts of the community to provide education to their children, although those efforts were not always consistently pursued or completely successful. The highly visible location, however, imparted a sense of stability and a verification of the importance of education to the community and served as a constant reminder of the commitment of the town and the county to its educational principles, placed on a level with its political and mercantile ideals. The district is also significant for its distinctive assemblage of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial and public architecture, with excellent examples of Italianate commercial architecture and Moderne public architecture.

**Historic context<sup>1</sup>**

Edina lies in Centre (or Center) Township of Knox County. On January 6, 1843, all of Scotland County south of a line between townships 63 and 64 north was designated Knox County, although it remained attached to Scotland County for administrative purposes until February 14, 1845. The county was primarily settled by immigrants from Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio in the ante-bellum period. After Knox County was formed a significant number of Irish and German Roman Catholic immigrants were drawn to the northwest portion of the county as well.

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<sup>1</sup>The historic context information for this section is drawn primarily from two sources: History of Lewis, Clark, Knox and Scotland Counties, Missouri (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1981); "Report: Center Township, Knox County, Missouri," 1986. Manuscript on file, Missouri State Cultural Resource Inventory, Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Program, Jefferson City, Missouri. Historic background information was also drawn from individual site forms compiled in the Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission "Center Township, Knox County, Missouri" cultural resource management survey, Manuscript on file, Missouri State Cultural Resources Inventory, 1984.

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In 1832, Stephen Cooper, from Howard County, settled in what became the north part of the county, followed the next year by Richard Cook and James Reid. The early upland south emigrants scattered their settlement across the county in irregularly spaced farmsteads. Some of these early settlers, like James Fresh, who arrived in 1833, established sizable holdings featuring, in Fresh's case, a grist mill operation and other adjuncts to farming life. These properties were maintained by the family and, in some cases, assisted by a small retinue of slaves. By 1840, the county population was over 1,500.

The contributions of Irish and Irish-American emigration to Knox County's and Edina's history have been substantial; nearly a quarter of the county's inhabitants still define their ethnic heritage as Irish.<sup>2</sup> In 1834, James Reid was the first Catholic settler in the Edina area. Three years after Reid's settling in the town, Peter Early, born in County Tyrone, Ireland, emigrated from Perry County, Ohio. Early had sufficient capital to purchase newly platted townsite lots in Edina and adjacent acreage upon which he envisioned placing a complex of church buildings and a Roman Catholic college for the town's increasing Catholic population. The burgeoning Catholic population formed a congregation and built a log church in 1854. Three years later a brick church replaced this older structure.

Early's work in attracting settlers, the vast majority of which were Catholic, continued throughout the pre-war period. Working in conjunction with resident Fathers Dennis Byrne (arriving in 1846), David Phelan and John Fitzgerald, Early actively recruited Catholic emigrants through the 1850s. Many new emigrants, including an increasing number of Germans<sup>3</sup>, were attracted to the area through use of the church press; first Fr. Phelan's Missouri Watchman, begun in 1866, and later, Fr. Fitzgerald's publication of letters in the Catholic press played an important role in attracting many of these new Catholic settlers. In 1860 Early again showed his commitment to the church by financing the construction of a convent and priests residence in the town. Church membership soon outstripped the capacity of the brick church but the advent of the war precluded any new construction for the interim. The post-war era would dramatically alter the long period of stasis.

In 1839, William Jackson Smallwood and Stephen W.B. Carnegy platted a town which Carnegy, a Scotsman, named Edina, the classical name for Edinburgh. In the spring of 1840, Smallwood advertised the attractions of the new town site in the Palmyra Whig:

Edina is located on a high and commanding situation--very healthy and salubrious. The Fabius river is near by, and good water can be had by digging. It is destined to be the County Seat of a new county, which will be organized soon, perhaps by the next General Assembly. It is in a fine country, which is fast settling up, and in a few years the land will all be taken and occupied. There will also be a steam Railroad from La Grange to Edina before many years. Lots can now be purchased very cheap by calling on or addressing the undersigned, or S.W.B. Carnegy, at Palmyra. N.B.--Persons

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<sup>2</sup>R.L. Gerlach, Settlement Patterns in Missouri, University of Missouri Press, 1986, 63.

<sup>3</sup>Approximately 38% of present day Knox Countians report their ancestry as German; Gerlach, Settlement, 63.



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wishing to buy on time will be accommodated by a paying a part down and giving note. A good Blacksmith and Plow maker can do well here.<sup>4</sup>

The original town plat consisted of sixteen blocks, bounded on the south by Front (later Monticello) Street, on the west by First Street (Highway 15), on the east by Fifth Street, and on the North by Marion Street. The original plat included only the northernmost of what became the town's two public squares. By 1842, a post office was established and by 1845 the county seat of Knox County was awarded to the town. In 1848, the original town plat was expanded with the addition of the County Addition, which extended the town boundaries to Oak Street. Within the new addition, Block No. 3, immediately south of the public school block, was designated as the permanent seat of justice for the county (see Figure 1).<sup>5</sup>

As early as 1846 John Talbot had began a mercantile business run by associate Phillip B. Linville. A slight building boom followed the designation of Edina as the county seat. Lewis Atherton, in Main Street on the Middle Border, described a typical Midwestern commercial area, a description which could have been of Edina's or countless other Missouri towns:

Business districts made little pretense to beauty. They generally contained one or more brick buildings, sometimes two or three stories high. Upper floors often served as lodge halls, opera houses, or offices for professional men. An occasional building had gingerbread decorations at the top of the first story or at the eaves, but most were plainly finished. Most stores, and virtually all the shops of artisans, were single story, wooden buildings. Their pointed roofs were often concealed behind rectangular wooden fronts, which made them appear larger.<sup>6</sup>

According to Mrs. A.X. Brown, "In the fifties Edina was a growing town with a number of stores and business enterprises. . . . They carried fairly good stocks of goods, which were hauled from Quincy by wagon."<sup>7</sup> Early merchants included John Winterbottom, James Daugherty, James Cody, and Bryant Connelly.

#### Commerce and Architecture

Immediately after the end of the Civil War merchant John Winterbottom teamed with Alfred Cooney to build a three-story brick building on the corner of Monticello and Main Streets (constructed at 201 N. Main, the building is no longer extant; see item 7 description of No. 9). Within this building the entrepreneurs housed a woolen factory, and its construction was a precursor of the dramatic building phases to follow in the subsequent half century. Local resistance to the woolen factory by tradesmen brought about its sale by Winterbottom in 1876, but it formed an important commercial component in the business district for the

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<sup>4</sup>History of Lewis, Clark, Knox and Scotland Counties, Missouri (St. Louis: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1887), pp. 733-734.

<sup>5</sup>Edina Sesquicentennial Committee, comp., Edina, Missouri: A Pictorial History, 1839-1989 (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1989), pp. 4 and 7.

<sup>6</sup>Lewis Atherton, Main Street on the Middle Border (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1954), p. 43.

<sup>7</sup>Mrs. A.X. Brown, "Knox County," in Walter Williams, ed., A History of Northeast Missouri, 3 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1913), 1:366.

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first decade after the War. In 1868 a second substantial building (122 S. Main, outside of the district boundaries) was constructed at the town's far southern edge. The brick Sentinel Office Building was built by General T. T. Taylor and his associates to house the Sentinel newspaper. The paper issued its first publication on April 15, 1868. The town's developing commercial district formed between these two Italianate style business buildings. Wood frame buildings dominated the commercial district townscape in this first post-war decade although the William Harvey Building (1876; 102 S. Main, No. 24) mirrored the materials and mode of construction of the earlier buildings by incorporating brick and Italianate styling.

*Another important element in the town's continued growth and viability during this era was the construction of the imposing St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on the town's north side. Catholic emigration, an increasing amount of which brought Germans into the region, had remained steady and the capacity of the small 1857 church had soon been taxed. In 1872, ground was broken for what would become a nearly 9200 square foot church featuring brick construction, blue ashwood floors, polychromatic slate roofing and fine interior woodwork fashioned by local craftsman Louis Weishar. When completed in 1875 the \$60,000 church was considered by many to be the finest piece of ecclesiastical architecture outside of St. Louis.*

No other Knox County town competed with Edina as the principal county market place and social center, but the town's and the county's halting flirtation with the railroad threatened to see it bypassed or left behind in the mania to secure a rail connection. In 1859, Knox County voters subscribed \$100,000 for the construction of the Alexandria & Bloomington Railroad, but work on that line was halted by the Civil War and never resumed. In 1867, voters subscribed the same amount to the Missouri & Mississippi Railroad, which was to run through Edina, but the subscription was cancelled in 1873 when the ill-fated road was not completed. Finally, in 1870, each township through which the Quincy, Missouri & Pacific (QM&P) planned to build was authorized to hold elections and issue bonds in support of the road, if their voters approved. Three of Knox County's five townships approved the bonds, including Center Township, which issued \$50,000 in bonds. On April 25, 1872, the QM&P tracks were completed to Edina.<sup>8</sup> The railroad strengthened Edina's long term ties to its larger eastern neighbor. In this era, Edina's commercial business grew to include William Harvey's large furniture store built along the southern end of Main Street and the wood frame Harvey House Hotel (c. 1870; 410 E. Lafayette), which is extant, but sits just outside the district's southeastern boundary. In 1874, two years after Edina secured its first rail outlet, the population of the town reached about 1,000, and its businesses included ten dry goods stores, two hardware stores, and two newspapers.<sup>9</sup>

In 1881, Edina received a blow to its seemingly secure preeminence in area commerce when fire swept through the buildings on East Lafayette Street south of the courthouse square. A fire beginning in Hardman's Harness Shop destroyed the majority of commercial concerns along the street, but rebuilding began quickly after the fire. A solid row of tall, narrow and deep commercial structures were built to replace the burned buildings (300-320 E. Lafayette, No. 31-39). The facades displayed the preferred mode of commercial Italianate construction of two-part commercial blocks and incorporated brick construction, accentuated cornices at the building's tops and between floors, decoratively capped windows

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<sup>8</sup>Brown, pp. 367-368.

<sup>9</sup>R.A. Campbell, ed., Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri (St. Louis: R.A. Campbell, 1874), p. 294.

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and the use of cast iron pilasters and enframing elements around the bottom story storefront display windows. The reconstruction of this block, primarily uniform in scale and decorative treatment, represented a substantial reinvestment in Edina's future, but there appeared to be no question among the prominent citizens responsible for this rebuilding that better times lay ahead.

Joseph F. Biggerstaff, a locally successful land speculator, farmer and developer, financed the reconstruction of four of the block buildings which he then let out to merchants. Biggerstaff's main building at the eastern end of the row (320 E. Lafayette, No. 39) was taller and broader than the rest of the block buildings. After 1885, when the courthouse burned, the Biggerstaff building housed the offices of county government and the circuit court on a temporary basis that eventually extended for nearly fifty years. On the other end of the row, Philip B. Linville, the founder of the Bank of Edina in 1857, rebuilt on one of the lots and moved his bank to this location (300 E. Lafayette, No. 31). Similarly, Thomas Burk built two of the other buildings to nearly round out the block. All of the men had emigrated to Edina in the 1840s and 1850s and realized relatively substantial fortunes based on land ownership, commerce and investment. Biggerstaff was a part of the sizable Catholic contingent attracted to the area; Burk arrived with his parents from Kentucky and prospered both as a farmer and merchant; Linville was among the earliest merchants in the town, first serving as a factor for several early merchants before building his own brick mercantile in 1849. All of these men were attracted by the opportunity afforded by town founding in a sparsely settled region and prospered to a sufficient extent to reinforce their commitment to the community's viability by rebuilding after the town's devastating fire. These buildings represent their belief in the continued prosperity of Edina. In 1884, the last of the block buildings was built by the McGonigle family for a mercantile.

Edina's prosperity continued through the 1880s. Local industry grew with the addition of the Rolling Mill Company of Edina (1884) and Edina Creamery Company (1883). A small setback was experienced in 1887 when a new branch line extension of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad bypassed Edina. The line was located six miles west of town despite healthy financial incentives offered by Edina to the railroad.

Edina continued to serve as the center of area commerce throughout the remainder of the century. No other town rose to such prominence despite the fact that the town's commercial heart was again racked by fire in 1891; the long term effect of this second fire was to create an enduring historic monument of distinctive qualities. This second fire led to the creation of the "Magic Block" in downtown Edina.

In the early morning of February 24, 1891, the people of Edina were awakened to find the entire west side of the town's business district engulfed in flames. The destruction was nearly total, with the owners able to salvage on a portion of their damaged stocks. Almost immediately plans to rebuild were made by the property owners. The spirit of cooperation that would manifest itself throughout the rebuilding of this block began with the clearing away of the rubble from the fire. Local contractor, M.J. Stablein of the firm of Weishar & Stablein, supervised the reconstruction of nine of the ten buildings replacing the fire gutted ruins. A Marceline contractor and Canton firm were responsible for the other building. Stablein was an apprentice of Edina resident William Weishar, a craftsman and contractor who was responsible for many of Edina's early buildings, including St. Joseph's Church (1872).

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For the reconstruction of the west side of the square Stablein and the owners planned to avoid future catastrophe. The "fireproof" reputation of brick and cast iron construction was exploited in the rebuilding to create a commercial block advertised as impervious to future similar disasters. Cast iron facade treatment had the additional appeal of being reasonable in cost with a wide array of ornamental detailing to choose from, adding an air of distinction to the otherwise repetitive appearance of the typical commercial block. The cast iron foundries of Quincy, Illinois, would have been the logical place for Stablein to obtain the richly decorative elements of the "Magic Block", but this assumption has not been verified. Wherever the material was obtained from, the richly ornamented facades placed on the block's buildings featured an effusion of stylized elements for the town's main commercial block (101-119 North Main, No. 10, 12-20). To top it all off, the merchants decided to paint the facades uniformly white, upon which fine, white sand was sprayed to create a striking visual presence reminiscent of ornately carved fine sandstone. By October 22, 1891, barely eight months after the fire, the local Sentinel devoted a feature article to the "Magic Block". Mimicking the tall, deep and narrow streetscape existing on the south tier of Edina, the new block embodied the merchant community's desire to impress their clientele with the solidity of the town and reinforce its claim to countywide preeminence in commerce.

The rebuilt commercial block was christened "The Magic Block," both for its fanciful aesthetic qualities and its seemingly miraculous completion in such a short time span. On the eve of the completion of the rebuilding, the Sentinel enthusiastically described the result:

The magic block proper comprises ten distinct buildings--the Lycan double building being counted as one--fronting on Main Street. The first stories throughout the block are of uniform height of fourteen feet, the entire fronts are of plate glass. The second stories are uniformly twelve feet high with double-strength glass fronts. The front of the entire block is finished with galvanized iron of the most modern architectural design, painted and sanded in imitation of stone. Not a brick was used in the front of the entire block. . . . there is a beautiful dome at each corner of the block. The buildings were designed by the best architects in the country. Mr. Weishar was the principal contractor, and the block is a monument to his ability as a builder.

The magic block is not only substantial--it is beautiful--nothing can be found in N.E. Mo. to compare with it. The men who built the block deserve credit. It is an ornament to the town and a benefit to the entire county.

Before the expiration of eight months since the date of the fire the entire block will be completed and occupied. This is a good showing and is an example of what may be accomplished by harmonious action on the part of our businessmen.<sup>10</sup>

The claim for the block's unique qualities was not overstated and was verified by systematic cultural resources survey (Northeast Regional Planning Commission, 1984). Despite major changes to a number of the bottom story facades of the "Magic Block" buildings, as well as to a number of other commercial buildings north of the block and south of the courthouse square, a substantial amount of integrity remains intact on the second stories, cornice lines and major elevations. To varying degrees, the block's buildings retain their integrity in design: especially in preserving the organization of interior space, proportion, scale and technology. Allowing for the impact of first story changes, most of which are, upon examination,

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<sup>10</sup>"The Magic Block" Edina Sentinel October 22, 1891:4. For reports on the February fire see the town's competing newspaper Knox County Democrat February 26, 1891:3.

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reversible, the block conveys a strong sense of the historic built environment extant in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The evocative quality of the block persists, despite change, through the retention of major physical features that are capable of conveying a sense of time and place.

The remainder of downtown Edina's historic commercial buildings were built after 1893. A string of one-part commercial block buildings was constructed on the far southern edge of the town's central district in 1893 (104-116 S. Main, No. 25-30); a second, and final set of two-part commercial buildings were added to the north of the Winterbottom Building between 1904-1908 (205-209 N. Main, No. 7-8) and a number of individual properties were added to the district in the first decade of the twentieth century. The string of small one-part commercial buildings were inexpensive to construct, broadened the services available to area residents and made constructive use of unoccupied town lots. The simple brick buildings echo, in muted tones, the stylized elements found on the town's other streetscape facades define the outer limit of the commercial district. The reduction of scale and ornamentation suggests commercial development in the town had crested, but still contain enough impetus to extend the district southward one block. In a similar, though later, extension to the north several nearly identical buildings were added to the limits of the district. The building at 209 North Main was constructed in 1904 and financed by D.H. Mudd (No. 7); the adjacent 205 North Main Street, constructed as two buildings but later unified, rose in 1908 (No. 8) and was financed by local businessman Philip B. Linville. A year previous (1907), Linville had demolished the building on the corner of E. Lafayette and Main and moved his bank headquarters (previously housed in the adjacent building) to a newly constructed two-part commercial Italianate building (304 E. Lafayette, No. 32). Other individual early twentieth century buildings appearing in Edina include the Dick Brothers Building (1901; 100 S. Main, No. 23) constructed on the southwestern corner of Main and E. Lafayette, 120 S. Main (No. 26) and 200 E. Lafayette Street (No. 22). The Dick Brothers Building housed the town's principal and most elaborate saloon.

This final spurt of construction marked the end of substantive growth in Edina's commercial district. The town retained its preeminence in county commerce but did not change dramatically in the subsequent decades. Ownership and services shifted through time but the basic function of the district continued, the supply of critical goods and services to the residents of Knox County. An essay in a regional history provides a view of Edina in the early years of the twentieth century. Writing in 1913, Mrs. A.X. Brown listed Edina's businesses as four banks, three dry goods stores, three drug stores, two millinery stores, nine grocery stores, a meat market, two poultry houses, a furniture store, two undertaking establishments, a jewelry store, two hotels, two restaurants, two harness shops, two grain depots, three cigar factories, and a smoking tobacco factory. She also noted a "well-equipped hospital" and five churches, "not including the 2 churches for colored people."<sup>11</sup> Like so many other towns in middle America, Edina weathered the vagaries of market cycles, recession and depression unevenly; although the Great Depression appears to have fueled a marked number of business failures in the district from which it never fully recovered to recapture its previous notoriety.

Much of the commercial history of Edina after the Civil War is represented by the buildings within the historic district. The post war years witnessed an influx of would-be entrepreneurs to the Knox County

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<sup>11</sup>Mrs. A.X. Brown, "Knox County," in Walter Williams, ed., *A History of Northeast Missouri*, 3 vols. (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1913), 1:375.

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seat, primarily from outside of Missouri, and a consequent expansion of business and opportunity. The flurry of commercial activity, undaunted by the disastrous fire of 1891 and other smaller fires, was probably typical of the exuberance of most Midwest towns caught up in the frenzy of transportation and agricultural booms. In turn, these entrepreneurs operated a wide variety of businesses, probably typical of most Missouri courthouse squares, which provided for most of the needs of a thriving northern Missouri county seat and the agricultural area it served. Representative examples are noted below, keyed to building numbers on the site map:

10. The Lycan Building is the largest and most elaborate building on the "Magic Block", anchoring the north end of the row. It was built by Tobias Lycan, considered the wealthiest man in Edina. Lycan was a native of Illinois who came to Missouri in 1856. After the Civil War, he moved to Edina and established a dry goods store. He was immensely successful, rapidly expanding his initial investment of \$170.00. In 1870, he erected a two-story brick store on the site. Six years later, another building was erected adjoining the first on the south. After these buildings burned, he rebuilt them on a much larger scale. By this time, he also had need for a bank building. The north half served that purpose and the south was stocked with merchandise. Both of these enterprises continued after his death, but were closed prior to the 1930s. Lycan was responsible for much of the development of the downtown. The Lycan Building was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein, who built all of the "Magic Block" with the exception of one building.

12. Edwin J. Brown was a native of Pennsylvania who lived in Memphis and LaGrange before settling in Knox County. He purchased the drugstore of Jesse Sherwood in 1867. In 1879, he built an Italianate brick building on this site. This building burned in the fire of 1891. As early as 1889 his sons, Bert and Charles, began to run the business because of their father's poor health. They continued to do so until 1937 when the business closed after sixty-nine years under one family's ownership. The Brown Building was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein.

13. Major Jacob Pugh built or purchased a store building at this location during the 1860s, where he operated a dry goods store until circa 1881. After circa 1881, he apparently rented out his building and devoted his time to his lumber and farming concerns. Following the fire of 1891, he rebuilt and let the building to Fred B. Parsons, who also ran a dry goods store. This trade was continued by J.G. Goeke until the late 1930s.

14 and 16. Albert G. Bostick was born in Benton, Mississippi, and educated near Nashville, Tennessee. In 1864, he moved to Quincy, Illinois, where he worked as a merchant. In 1868, he settled in Edina, where he served as principal of public schools for eight years. In 1874, he purchased a two-story frame building on the site of 109 North Main (No. 16), where he opened a grocery. He was apparently quite successful as after the 1891 fire he not only rebuilt the building which housed his business, but 113 North Main (No. 14), as well; he used this property as rental property. Both properties passed out of the Bostick estate in the 1920s. The building at 113 North Main was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein.

15. James C. Agnew was an early participant in county government and the Presbyterian Church. He also served on the Union side during the Civil War. Sometime after the war, he purchased or built a building on this site. After the 1891 fire, he built the present building; the first occupants were C.M. Brown

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and Company. The building has passed through various owners as a drugstore and pharmacy, and is still used for that purpose today. The Agnew Building was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein.

17. Charles J. Wilson purchased this lot in 1891 after the disastrous fire. Little is known of Wilson; apparently he arrived in town around 1890. He was a man of some means as he erected the current building at a cost of \$5,000. He rented it out upon its completion to M. Huffman Jewelry Company. It was later occupied by the Krueger Jewelry Company, which probably purchased it from the Wilson estate. The property transferred from the Krueger family to J.H. Sandknop in circa 1914. The Wilson Building was built by Weishar and Stablein.

18. This building was completed in 1891 by a Marceline, Missouri, contractor, rather than the firm of Weishar and Stablein, who constructed the remainder of the Magic Block. The lot was purchased after the fire by William H. LeVan. Apparently the property was rented out, as no other association with the LeVans is known. Various businesses occupied the location until it was sold in the 1930s. It was occupied in the 1940s.

19. Phillip B. Linville was directly responsible for at least three other buildings in the downtown (Nos. 8, 31 and 32). He is also linked with the financial backing for several others. Apparently he constructed this building as an investment, as he withdrew from his retail concerns to pursue a career in banking in 1857. The store space has been occupied by a variety of businesses. The Linville Building was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein.

20. H. R. Parsons was largely responsible for the construction of this building. A native of New York, he served as a captain in the Union Army. After the war, circa 1867, he moved to Edina. From that time until 1872, he served in county government. In 1872, he and several other citizens formed the Knox County Savings Bank. Captain Parsons occupied various posts with the institution. This lot was the first to be prepared for development. The Knox County Savings Bank was built by the firm of Weishar and Stablein. The building was probably the first completed on the block, which may account for its Italianate appearance on the south elevation. The bank operated until the mid-1930s.

23. This building was erected initially as a saloon by the Dick Brothers Brewery of Quincy, Illinois. It replaced the Klondyke Restaurant, a frame building, built on the site in the 1870s and run by Frank Crabbe. The Brewery demolished the earlier building and the current building was completed in 1901. Frank W. Crabbe was the contractor. It was the largest and most elaborate saloon in the town and operated successfully until sold to the First National Bank in 1916. The building was converted to a bank by M.J. Stablein. The building remained in use as a bank until First National Bank was absorbed into Citizens Bank in the 1930s.

24. William Harvey served in the Missouri Home Guard until 1862, after which he settled in Edina. Upon his arrival in the town he began a furniture and undertaking business. He flourished and by 1876 was able to erect a three-story business house. His prosperity advanced considerably with the advent of the rail system. By 1873, he was selling factory made furniture. He operated the business until 1893 when he sold this building to Thomas M. Bone, another prosperous merchant. Mr. Harvey also constructed and ran the Harvey House Hotel (410 E. Lafayette), which is still extant, but lies outside the district's boundaries. He is an excellent example of a veteran who after the war enjoyed great financial success.

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25. William Sandknop was an Iowan of German heritage, as was his wife, Catherine. They arrived in the town probably in the late 1880s, possibly with their parents as well. They were among many Roman Catholics, especially Germanic ones, attracted by Edina's large religious community. The Sandknops initially established a butcher shop and grocery in a frame building at this location. After it burned in 1892, they rebuilt the following year. Their business operated until after 1900. By 1906, they had sold this property; it was then used as a saloon.

27. This building was apparently built for Peter Burk. Almost nothing is known about him. He may have originally operated a butcher shop in this property. During the early 1900s to the 1920s the building was used as a cigar factory and shop.

30. Thomas and Ellen McMahon were natives of Ireland who settled in Edina after the Civil War, probably drawn by advertisements designed to attract Roman Catholics to Knox County. The McMahons operated a dry goods store at this location as early as the 1870s and built the current building. By 1898 this building was used as a billiard hall. It served a variety of purposes during the historic period of significance.

31. Phillip B. Linville and Judge Charles Wilson established the Bank of Edina by 1876. Business was conducted for a time at the adjoining Linville Building (No. 32). During the 1880s or 1890s the bank was moved to a building at this location. That building was demolished in 1907 and replaced with the current building.

32. Phillip B. Linville was one of Edina's wealthiest men; he was responsible for the construction of several commercial buildings in addition to this one (see No. 19 above). He arrived in Edina in 1844 and participated in its establishment as the county seat. He built the first store in town, the first brick store in 1849, and operated a banking business as early as 1857. He served as president of the Bank of Edina throughout much of its history. He financed the construction of the Linville Building after buying a burned-out lot circa 1881. The Bank of Edina occupied this building until it was moved to a newer building (also associated with Linville) next door (see No. 31). Phillip B. Linville was known as Edina's self-made man. In many ways he followed the growth and expansion of the town. After its use as a bank, this building was converted into a theater. The theater weathered the Depression, and operated until the 1960s.

33. William and Madge McGonigle were natives of Ireland who settled in Ohio in the 1830s. They brought their family to Knox County in 1843, settling northwest of Edina. They were among the earliest Catholic settlers in the county and served as entice others, especially those from Ireland and Ohio, to move to Knox County. The couple's sons, William and Henry, started a mercantile business in Edina in 1872. They were very successful. Henry died the year of the fire but his brother rebuilt the business and this building. The store was operated by the family until the Depression. It has served a variety of purposes since that time.

34, 37 and 39. Joseph F. Biggerstaff, also a Catholic, was from Maryland. He settled in Knox County in the 1850s and served in the Union Army. He opened a mercantile business in Edina after the close of the war. This business was located on the south side of the square and burned with other buildings in 1881. After the fire, he purchased several burned out lots along the south side of the square and built new buildings, which were let to other merchants. His mercantile business operated out of this location after



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the building's construction in 1881 and was continued by his sons until it closed during the Depression. Biggerstaff was among the wealthiest men in Edina during the later years of the nineteenth century. This building was owned by his estate until the Depression and shortly thereafter. Biggerstaff employed Jake Bishoff, a member of the family which owned the Bishoff bakery, as his contractor for the latter two buildings; the bricks were made by A.P.W. Parker.

35 and 36. Thomas Burk was responsible for the construction of these two adjoining buildings. He came from Kentucky to Knox County with his parents in the 1850s. He farmed and was apparently quite successful, owning over 800 acres to the east of town. In 1881, he moved to Edina and purchased the building sites on the south side of the square. He opened his drug and grocery business in No. 36. By 1887, he was the third wealthiest man in the town. Some references indicate that the second story of 314 East Lafayette was used for county offices. The adjoining building (No. 35) was let to Union veterans who settled in the town following the war. During the 1930s both buildings were purchased from the Burk estate.

**Edina's Public Schools**

The first schools in Edina were probably subscription schools. In 1839, the first school building was constructed at the corner of Jackson and First streets. In 1867, Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Bostick (see building nos. 14 and 16 above) operated a school in East Edina. In 1873, a three story brick school which could house three hundred students was constructed on the northernmost public square--apparently the first educational building built on the school block--at a cost of \$15,000 (see Figure 2). By placing the school on a square adjacent to the square devoted to the county government, Edina made a visible commitment to public education and placed it on a level with its political and mercantile accomplishments.

By 1886, the Edina schools were operated through two public funds. The County School Public Fund was maintained with revenues from fines, other penalties, forfeitures, and part of the proceeds from the sale of swamp and overflowed lands. Revenues for the Township Public School Fund were derived from the sale of school lands, the sixteenth section set aside for that purpose in each township. In 1886, the revenues in both funds amounted to \$63,737.17. Also in that year, the total white school population for Knox County was 4,268, of which 2,208 were male and 2,060 were female. Enrollment, however, fell short of the total eligible population. A total of 3,173 white students, or 74% of the eligible population, attended the schools; 1,582 were male and 1,591 were female.

In Edina, 355 white students were eligible to attend the city public school, but only 172 availed themselves of the facility. Some portion of the discrepancy was attributable to nonpublic school facilities, primarily the Catholic school, St. Joseph's Academy, established about 1866. In addition, a number of private schools and preparatory academies had proliferated in the decades after the Civil War, including the Knox Collegiate Institute and Lyon Academy. The Knox Collegiate Institute was especially long-lived, undergoing a number of name changes, including the Edina Seminary and, eventually, the Edina School of Music. Eventually, as Mrs. Brown noted, "The necessity for these preparatory colleges has passed with the present system of high schools articulating with the university."<sup>12</sup> As usual for Missouri schools of the

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<sup>12</sup>Brown, pp. 373-374.

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period, a separate facility was maintained for African American students, whose total population numbered only forty-five, with only thirty-eight actually in attendance.

By 1907, the building constructed in 1873 had deteriorated substantially and was replaced; Marshal Stablein, one of the builders of the majority of the Magic Block, was the contractor and the new building could house up to 350 students. In 1915, the building was destroyed by fire but was rebuilt on the same location that year, in part using bricks salvaged from the 1907 building. In 1939, a gymnasium constructed under the Works Progress Administration was added.<sup>13</sup> Beginning in 1963, when a consolidated high school was opened east of Edina, the building was used only for grades one through eight. With the construction of a consolidated elementary school in 1989-1990, the 1915 school building was closed.

#### Politics/Government

Knox County, named after Henry Knox, an American Revolutionary War general, was organized on February 14, 1845; Edina was awarded the county seat in May of that year. Knox County was one of three Missouri counties with a double square plan.<sup>14</sup> The county court originally met in a log building on the east side of the square; from April to December 1845, the county rented a building on the northwest corner of the public square from James A. Reid. On November 9, 1847, \$1,600 was appropriated for the construction of a courthouse. The following year, a two-story, forty-by-thirty foot courthouse was constructed in the center of the southernmost public square; the northern most square was reserved for public school buildings. This first courthouse was destroyed in a Christmas Eve fire in 1885. Between 1885 and 1935, the county once again rented space for county business on the second floors of several commercial buildings (316, 318, and 320, No. 37, 38 and 39) facing the south side of the public square. Historical references are not clear as to the specific use of each of these buildings.<sup>15</sup> Sometime after 1885, a two-story red brick jail with a county vault on the upper story was constructed to the rear of 316 E. Lafayette. This building was connected to the front building by gangways on both the first and second stories; the building is no longer extant. Physical evidence appears to indicate that a walkway also connected the rear elevations of 316 and 318 E. Lafayette.

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<sup>13</sup>Edina Sesquicentennial Committee, Edina, Missouri: A Pictorial History, 1839-1989 (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1989), p. 61.

<sup>14</sup>The other two double squares were in Georgetown, the original seat of Pettis County, abandoned when the county seat was moved to Sedalia, and in Clayton, St. Louis County, where the squares are now subsumed by high-rise county office buildings.

<sup>15</sup>The 1887 history implied that only one building, identified as the Biggerstaff building, housed county offices, and that circuit court was conducted in the opera hall in the same building. History of Lewis, Clark, Knox and Scotland Counties, Missouri, p. 665. Offices may have been expanded to adjacent buildings in the fifty years the county was without a courthouse. A 1916 atlas apparently shows a building on the courthouse square, but it is shaded with broken lines and may indicate the location of the destroyed building or a temporary construction, such as a pavilion. See Figure 3.

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issue, the proposal was finally submitted to the voters, in August 1934. The \$80,000 grant (P.W. No. 8549) was matched by a county bond issue and St. Louis architect William B. Ittner was selected to design the new building.

The contract for construction was let to J.E. Williams of St. Louis in November 1934, and ground was broken on December 18. The building was dedicated on September 13, 1935. Total cost of the project was approximately \$80,000. William B. Ittner is recognized nationally for his innovative school designs (see "St. Louis Public Schools of William B. Ittner" MPS); the Knox County Courthouse is Ittner's only courthouse work in Missouri. The buildings Art Deco or Art Moderne style was consistent with its period of construction and also typical of other courthouses constructed in Missouri under the auspices of the federal agency.

The Knox County Courthouse and 316, 318 and 320 E. Lafayette are the only extant historic buildings associated with Knox County government. The building at 320 E. Lafayette has been severely altered by the eccentric application of vinyl siding and no longer retains integrity. The buildings at 316 and 318 E. Lafayette still retain sufficient integrity to reflect their significance in the county's governmental and political history.

Edina retains a substantial amount of its historic character and sense of past significance. The district does cohere; it does possess a good number of intact historic resources emblematic of the preferred style of nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial design and does have the ability to convey important historic associations in commercial development on the local level. Several buildings in the district also possess strong associations with the county's political and civic life. Lastly, no currently identified townscapes in the region possess as high a level of completeness in terms of integrity. Edina is an important representative example of a locally significant downtown district formed out of the culture of the nineteenth and early twentieth century.

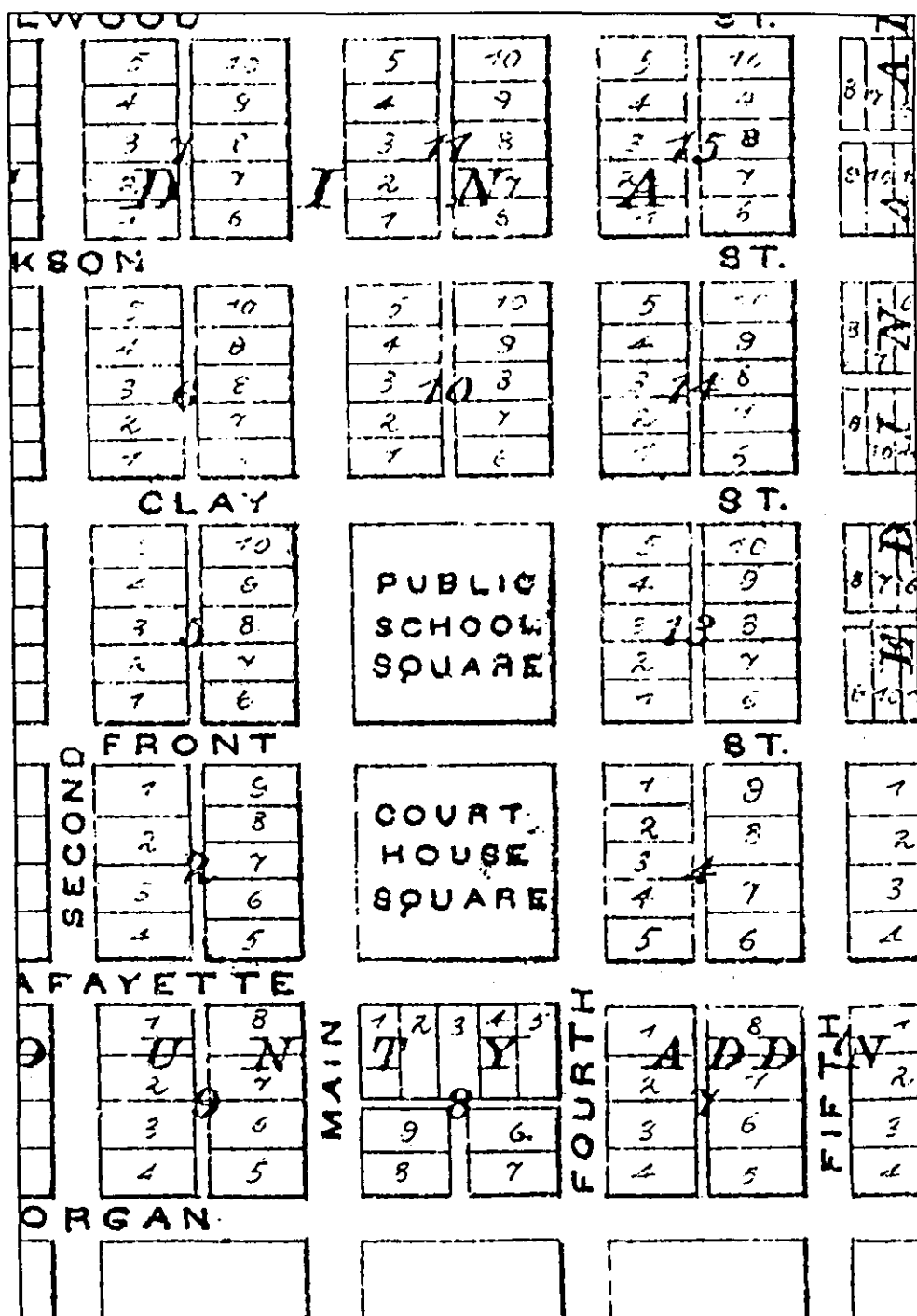
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Edina Double Square Historic District [preferred]  
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Figure 1: 1876 plan. Source: Ohman, 1983.



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Knox County, MC

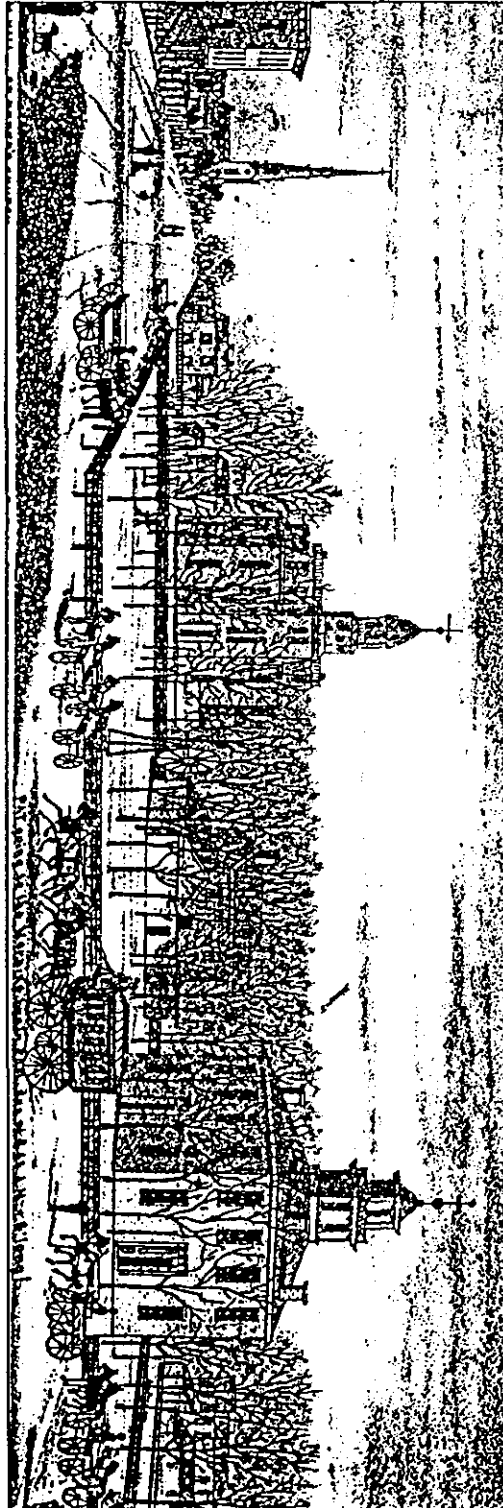


Figure 2: Edina, 1876. Source: Ohman, 1983.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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**Knox County, MO**

A collection of various maps and documents, including a 'Public School' map, a 'Public Square' map, a 'N. FOURTH' street map, a 'N. FIFTH' street map, and several business directories or maps showing streets like 'W. F. Marble & Son', 'C. D. Newman', 'Philip Miller', 'Browne', 'Hauer', 'Werner', 'O'Brien', 'H. W. Cook', 'F. H. Cullor', and 'City of Edinburg'.

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Edina Courthouse Square Historic District [preferred]  
Knox County, MO

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Edina Courthouse Square Historic District [preferred]  
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### UTM References (continued)

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G. 15/570440/4446410  
H. 15/570360/4446440  
I. 15/570360/4446470  
J. 15/570400/4446470

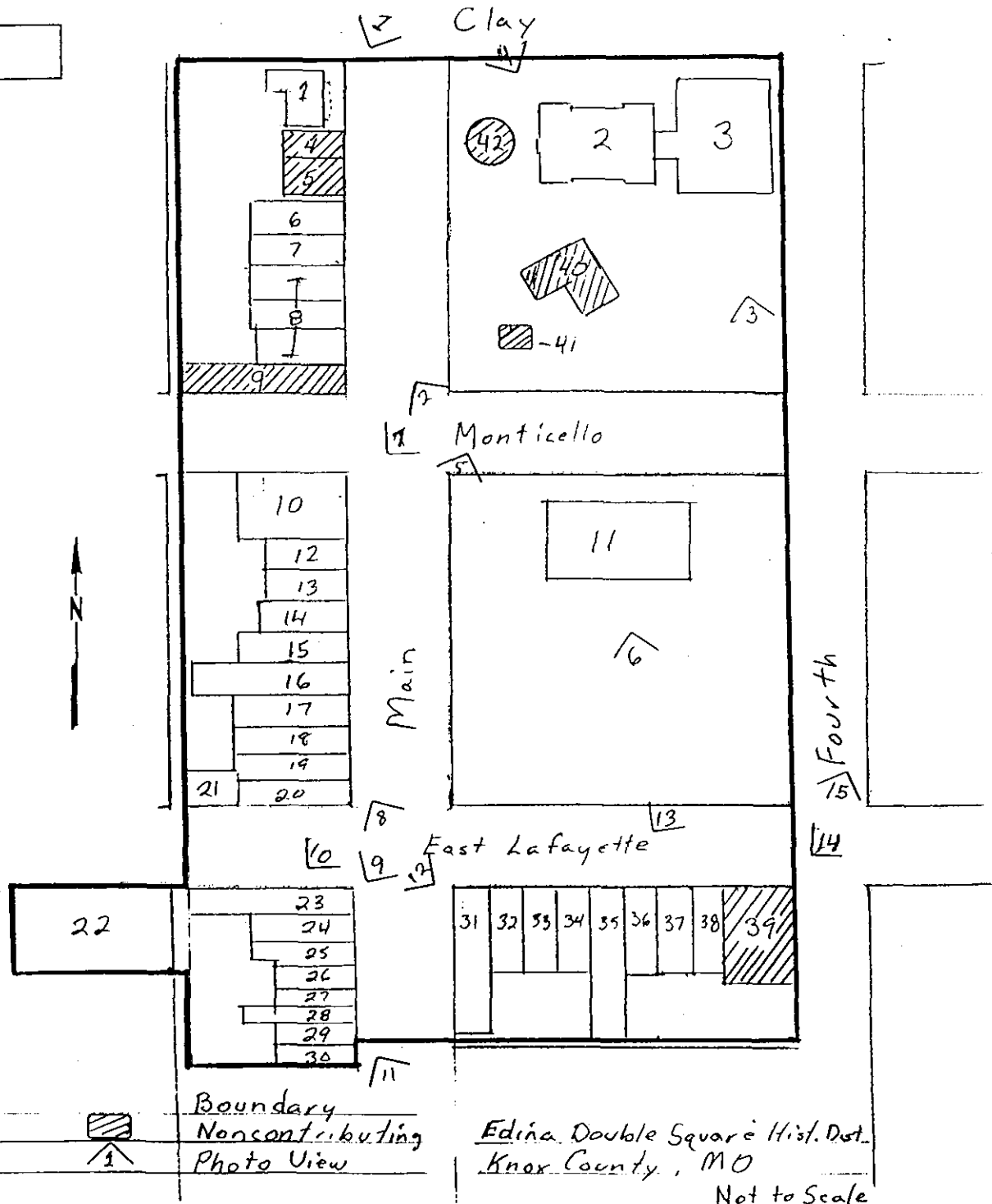
**Verbal Boundary Description:** Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of Clay and Fourth streets, proceed south along the west right-of-way of Clay Street, crossing Monticello Street and East Lafayette Street, to the north right-of-way of the alley which runs east and west between East Lafayette and East Morgan streets; then proceed west along the north right-of-way of the alley, crossing South Main Street, to the west right-of-way of South Main Street; then proceed south to the south property line of 116 South Main Street; then proceed west along the south property line of 116 South Main Street to the east right-of-way of the alley that runs north and south between South Main Street and South Second Street; then proceed north along the east right-of-way of the alley to the south property line of 200 East Lafayette Street; then proceed west along the south property line of 200 East Lafayette Street to the west property line of 200 East Lafayette Street; then proceed north along the west property line of 200 East Lafayette Street to the south right-of-way of East Lafayette Street; then proceed east along the right-of-way of East Lafayette Street, across the alley between South Main and South Second streets to the east right-of-way of the alley; then proceed north, across East Lafayette Street and continue along the east right-of-way of the alley, crossing Monticello Street, to the south right-of-way of Clay Street; then proceed east along the south right-of-way of Clay Street, crossing Main Street, to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification:** The district boundary has been drawn to include the majority of contiguous resources which retain integrity and which are associated with commerce, politics/government, and education. The district was recommended in a survey conducted in 1984 and verified by several subsequent field visits. Properties along the east side of the squares, although commercial, were excluded because of their recent age or because of substantial alterations. Additional commercial properties east, south, and west of the district have also been excluded because of age or alterations, or because of loss of historic buildings have disrupted the contiguity of the streetscape (for example, east of the district along East Lafayette Street). North of the district buildings are primarily residential.



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Edina Courthouse Square Historic District [preferred]  
Knox County, MO

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Knox County, MO**

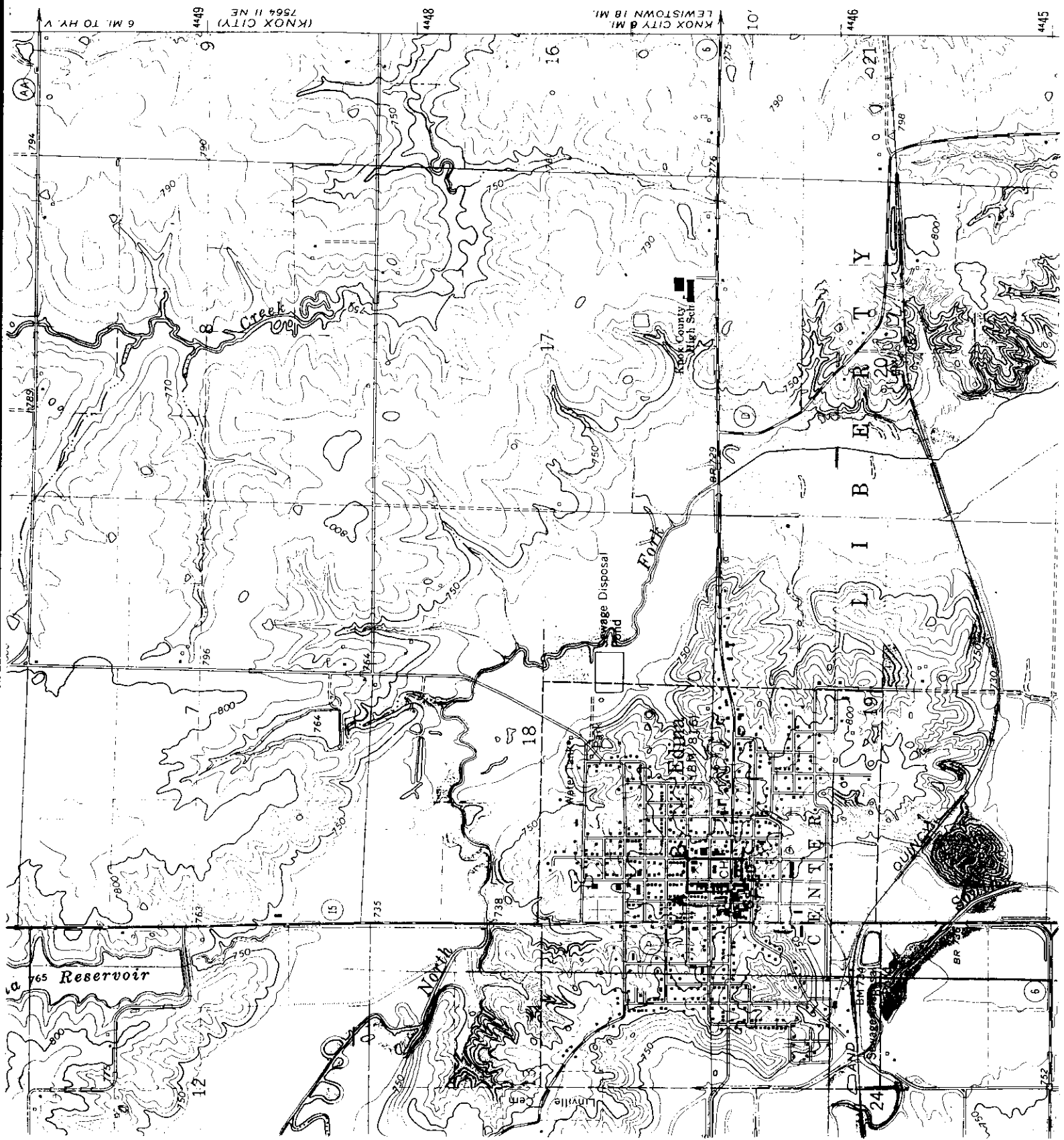
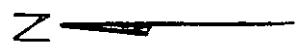
The following information is the same for all photographs:  
Edina Double Square Historic District  
Knox County, MO  
Gerald Lee Gilleard  
September 1997  
Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory

- #1. 219 to 201 North Main Street, camera facing southwest
- #2. 201 to 217 North Main Street, camera facing northwest
- #3. school, gymnasium, and water tower (noncontributing), camera facing north/northwest
- #4. school and gymnasium, camera facing southeast
- #5. pavilion, bandstand, water tower (all noncontributing), and gymnasium, camera facing northeast
- #6. courthouse, camera facing north
- #7. 119 to 101 North Main Street, camera facing southwest
- #8. 101 North Main Street/215 East Lafayette Street to 119 North Main Street, camera facing northwest
- #9. 100 to 106 South Main Street and 200 East Lafayette Street, camera facing southwest
- #10. 100 South Main Street and 200 East Lafayette Street, camera facing southwest
- #11. 116 to 100 South Main Street, camera facing northwest
- #12. 300 to 320 East Lafayette Street, camera facing southeast
- #13. 314 to 300 East Lafayette Street, camera facing southwest
- #14. 320 to 300 East Lafayette Street, camera facing southwest
- #15. west side of squares (not included in district boundary), camera facing northeast

# Edina Double Square Historic District (preferred), Knox County, MO

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- B. 15/570560/4446680
- C. 15/570560/4446420
- D. 15/570460/4446420
- E. 15/570460/4446410
- F. 15/570410/4446410

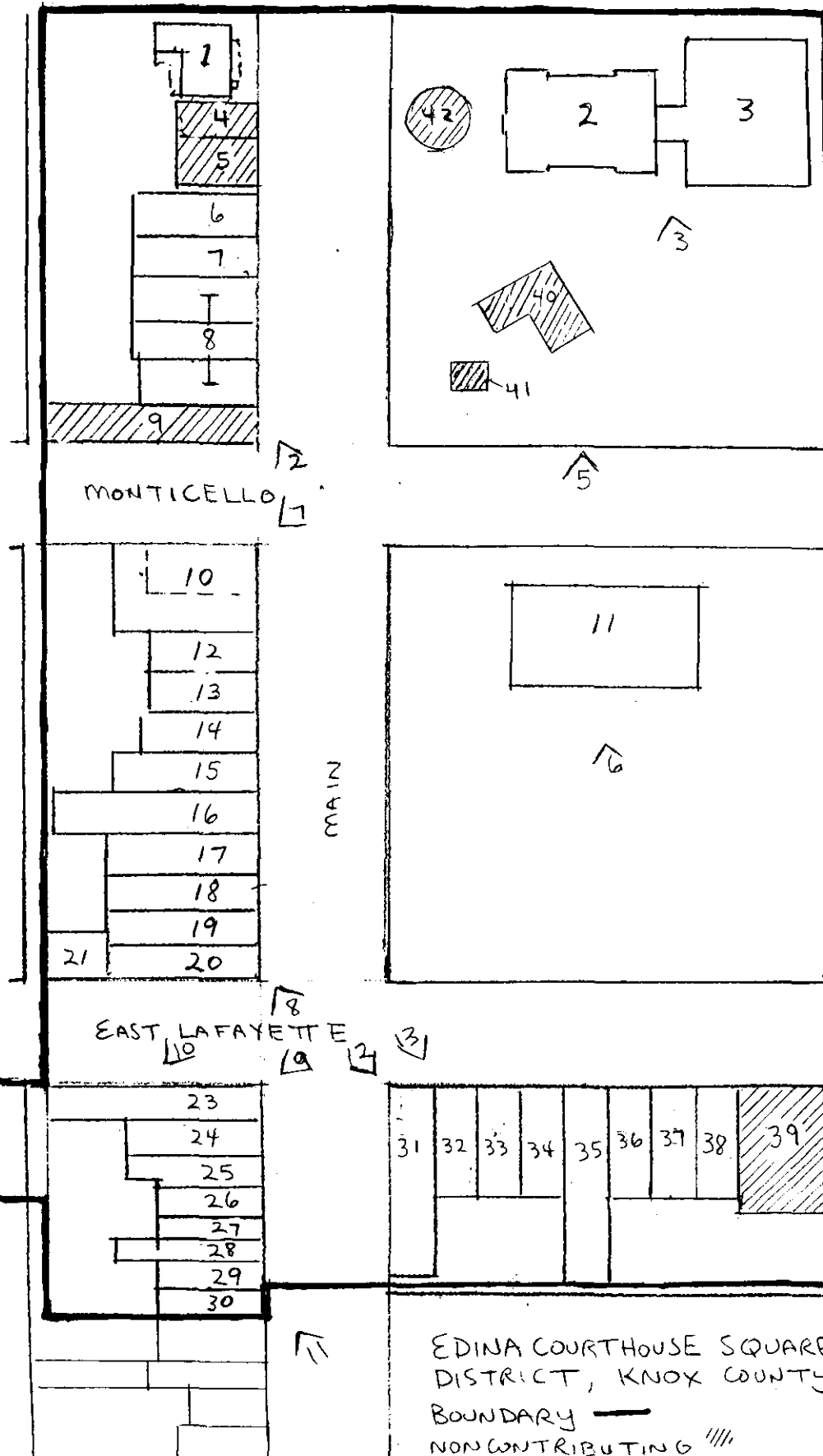
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- J. 15/570400/4446470



CLAY

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4



MONTICELLO

EAST LAFAYETTE

MAIN

FOURTH

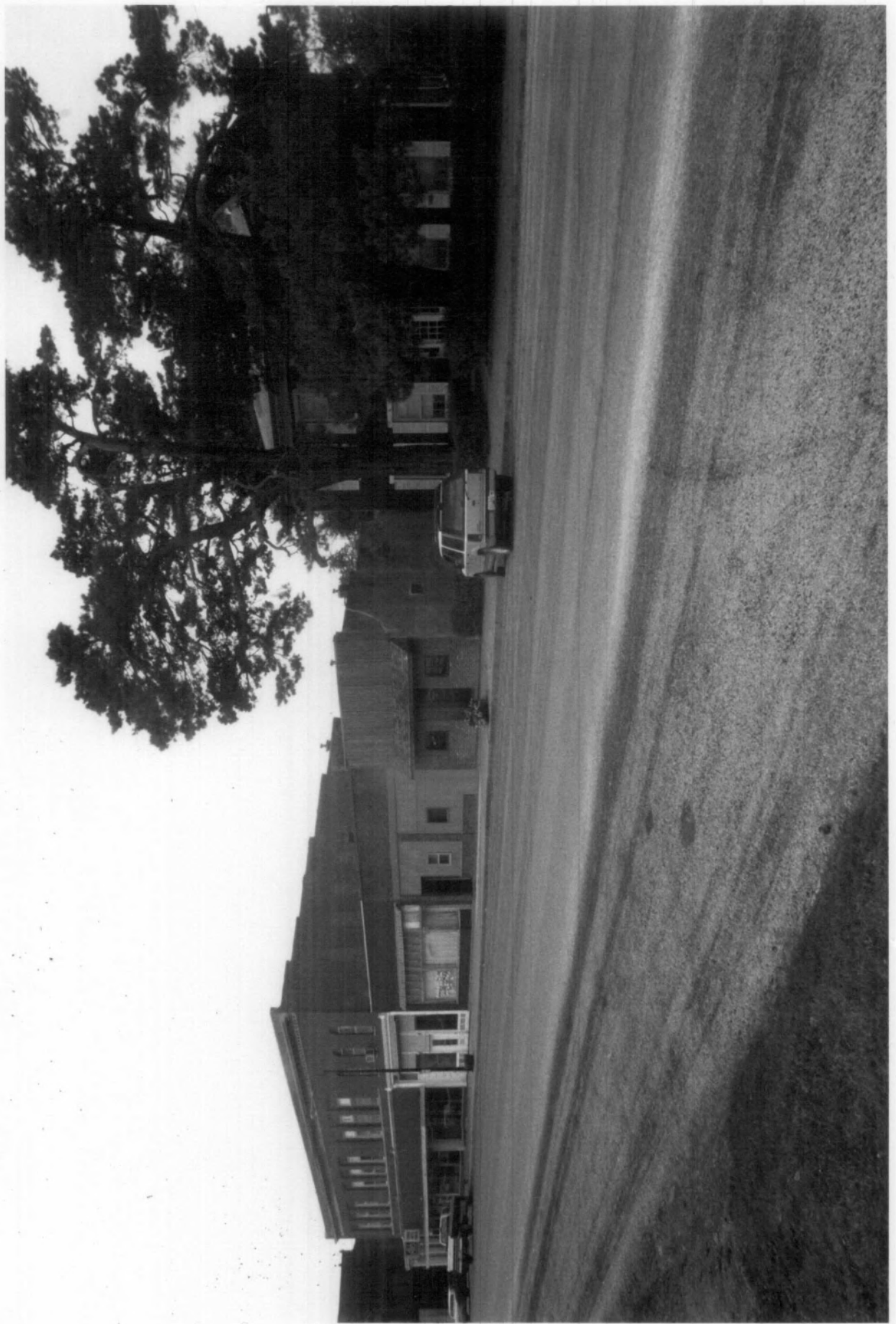
EDINA COURTHOUSE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT, KNOX COUNTY, MO

BOUNDARY —

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PHOTO VIEW ↑

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EDINA







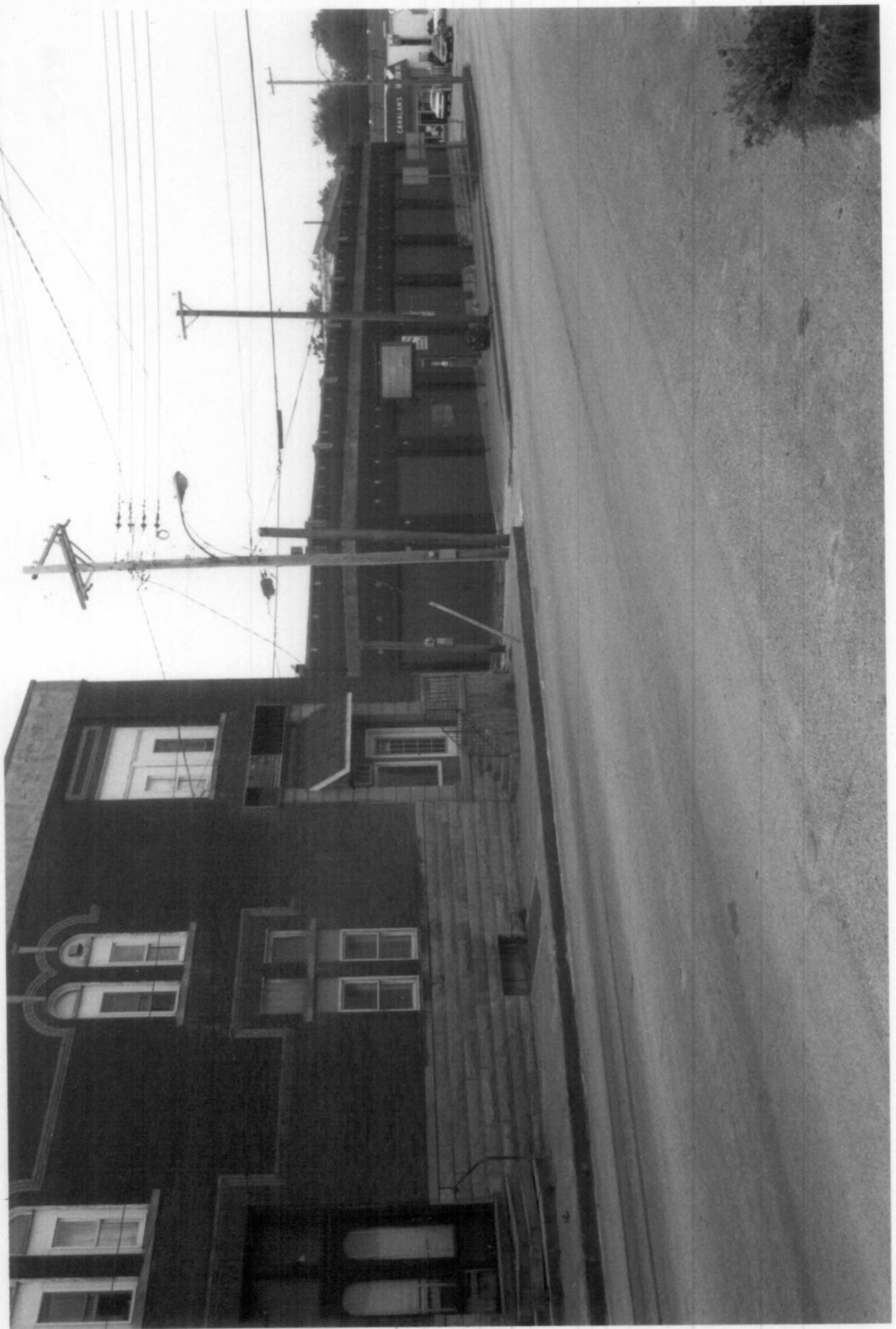








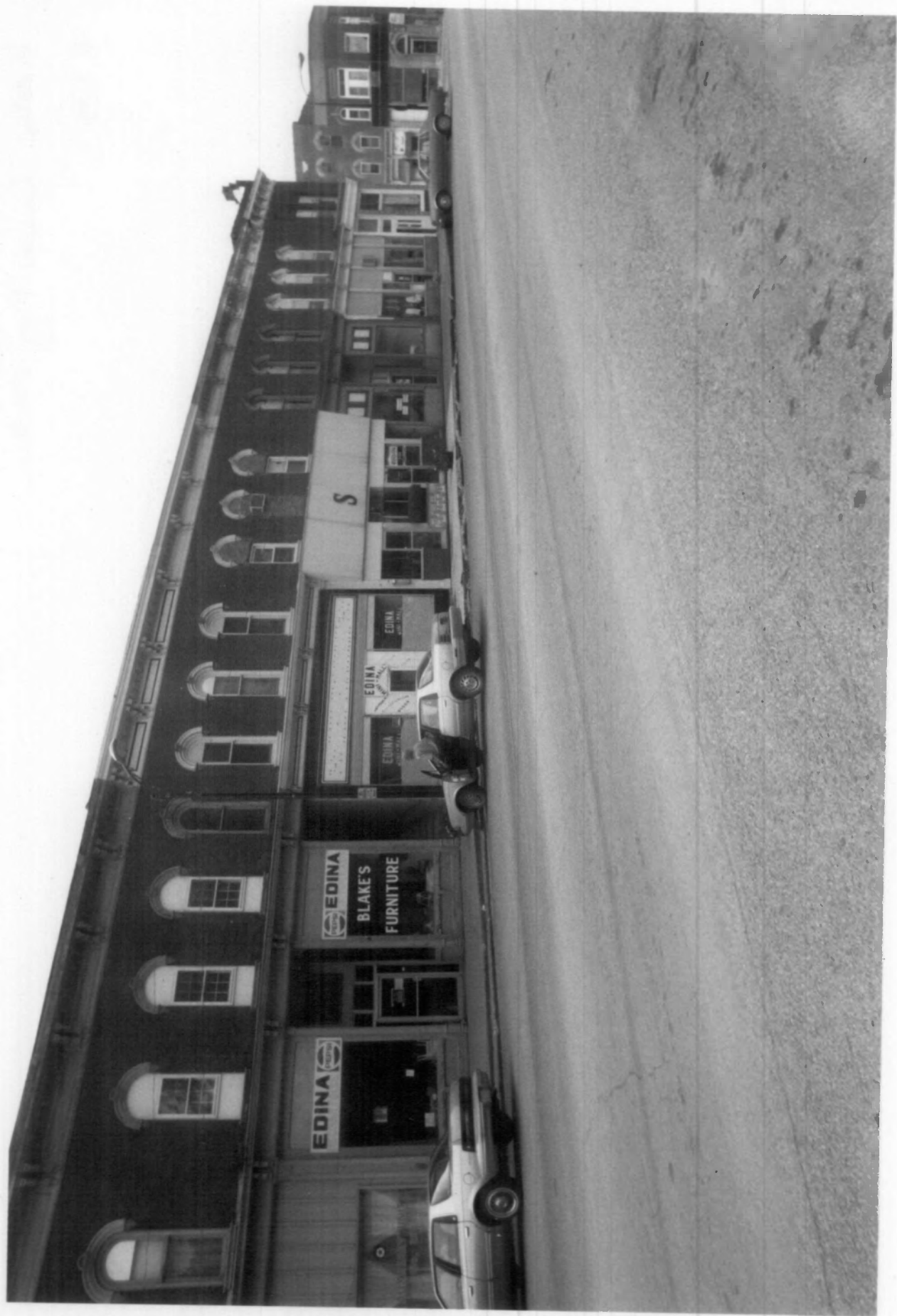
















EXTRA  
PHOTOS











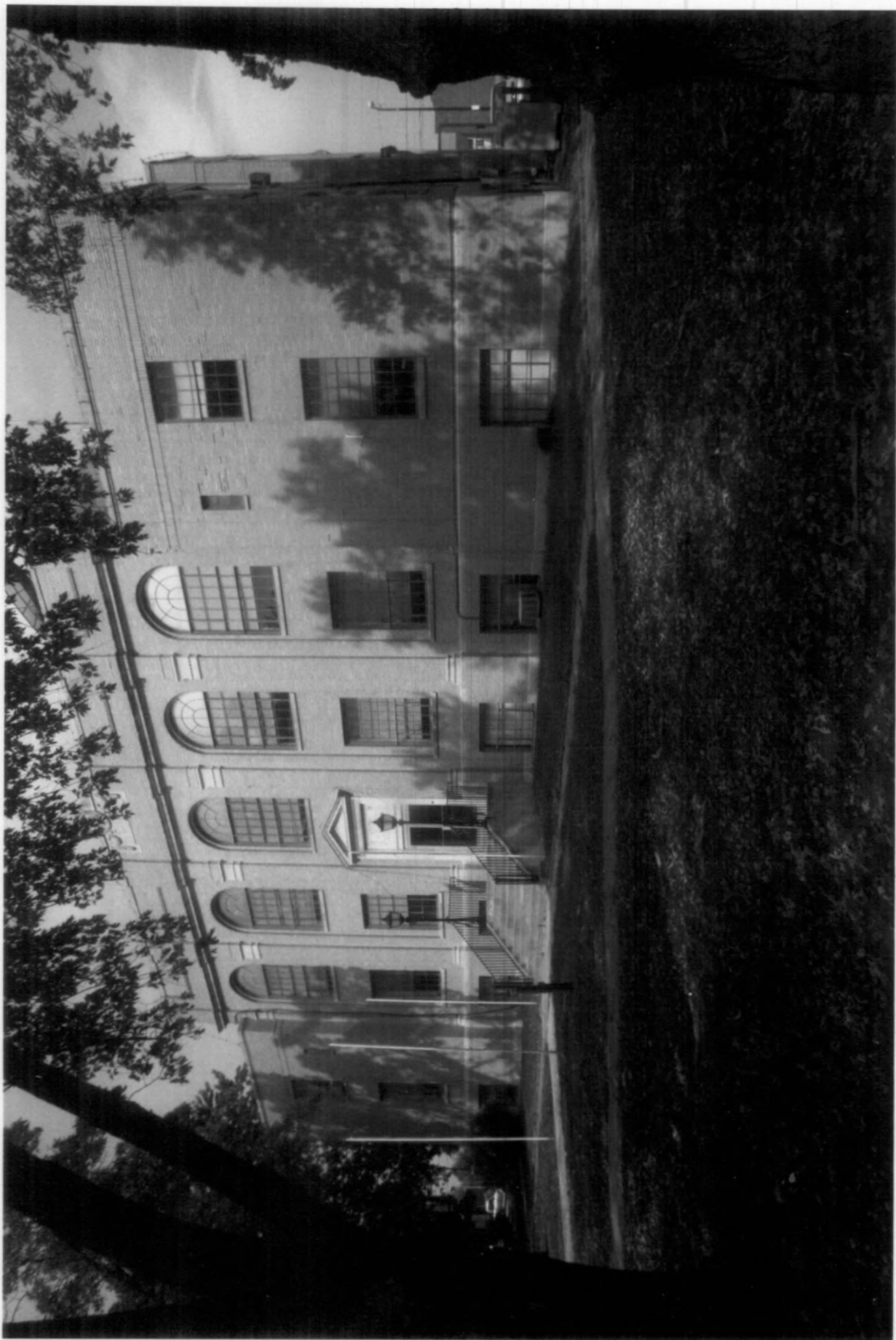








































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