

Phase I and II Architectural History Investigations for the Trunk Highway 19 Reconstruction Project, New Prague, Le Sueur and Scott Counties, Minnesota

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Prepared by:
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Phase I and II Architectural History Investigations for the Trunk Highway 19 Reconstruction Project, New Prague, Le Sueur and Scott Counties, Minnesota

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

The city of New Prague is planning to reconstruct Trunk Highway (TH) 19 (Main Street) in New Prague, Le Sueur and Scott counties, Minnesota. Because this project is receiving federal funds, it is subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. To assist the city with Section 106 compliance, MnDOT contracted with Deco Cultural Services LLC (Deco) to conduct Phase I and II architectural history investigations of the project area of potential effects (APE). The APE was determined by the MnDOT Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) Project Manager to consist of the first tier of properties adjacent to the proposed reconstruction, and it comprises approximately 80 acres in Section 34 of T113N, R23W, and Section 3 of T112N, R23W. The objective of the Phase I investigation, which included literature review and field survey components, was to identify known historic properties and any properties that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) within the APE.

The Phase I architectural history investigation was performed in July of 2016, and it identified three properties listed in the National Register within the APE: Schumacher's New Prague Hotel/Hotel Broz (LE-NPC-004), the First National Bank (LE-NPC-007), and the St. Wenceslaus Church complex (SC-NPC-006, SC-NPC-007, and SC-NPC-008). Beyond these, a total of 109 properties 45 years in age or older were surveyed, 93 of which are recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register. The remaining 16 properties were recommended as being potentially eligible for listing in the National Register, either individually or as part of a potential commercial historic district. Deco conducted Phase II evaluations of these properties to determine their National Register eligibility. The Phase II evaluations were conducted in the spring through fall of 2017. Andrea Pizza served as Principal Investigator for both phases.

A potential commercial historic district was considered for a concentration of commercial buildings associated with the formation and solidification of New Prague's economy and the center of its social and entertainment activities as it evolved from a nascent Euroamerican settlement to a full-fledged city, and with sufficient integrity to contribute to such a district. Ultimately, however, it was determined that this complement of buildings was not enough in either quantity or physical extent to convey the significance of New Prague's commercial core during its period of significance.

Based on the Phase II evaluations, 10 additional properties are recommended as not eligible, bringing the total number to 103. The remaining six properties are recommended as individually eligible: Thomas Topka's block (SC-NPC-003), Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store (LE-NPC-013), the New Prague Times and Suel Printing Company Building and Addition (LE-NPC-014), Zak's Saloon/Vanasek Hardware building (LE-NPC-034), the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Company depot (SC-NPC-001), and the F. A. Bean, Jr. house (SC-NPC-017).

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INTRODUCTION

The City of New Prague is planning to reconstruct Trunk Highway (TH) 19 in New Prague, Le Sueur and Scott counties, Minnesota. Because this project is receiving federal funds, it is subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. To assist the city with Section 106 compliance, MnDOT contracted with Deco Cultural Services LLC (Deco) to conduct Phase I and II architectural history investigations of the project area of potential effects (APE).

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project will reconstruct TH 19 (Main Street) in New Prague from TH 13 on the west to 7th Avenue SE on the east (Figure 1). The reconstruction will include both the roadway and sidewalks. In addition, a stormwater pond is proposed for a currently vacant area southwest of the intersection of 2nd Street NW and 2nd Avenue SW.

1.2 AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The APE for architectural history is located in the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ of the S $\frac{1}{2}$, the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, and the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of T113N, R23W, Section 34, and in the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the N $\frac{1}{2}$, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$, the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the N/E $\frac{1}{4}$, and the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of T112N, R23W, Section 3 (see Figure 1). The UTM (NAD 83, Zone 15) coordinates are west end: E 453600 N 4932420, east end: E 455117 N 4932406. Coordinates were generated electronically using ACME Mapper 2.1 (<http://mapper.acme.com>). The APE consists of the first tier of properties adjacent to the proposed construction.

1.3 STRUCTURE OF THE REPORT

The next chapter describes the methods used in the investigation and is followed by two chapters detailing the results of the Phase I literature review and the field survey. The subsequent five chapters are devoted to the Phase II investigations, and they include detailed historic contexts, field results, and an evaluation for each property. The final chapter summarizes the cultural resources management recommendations for the project.

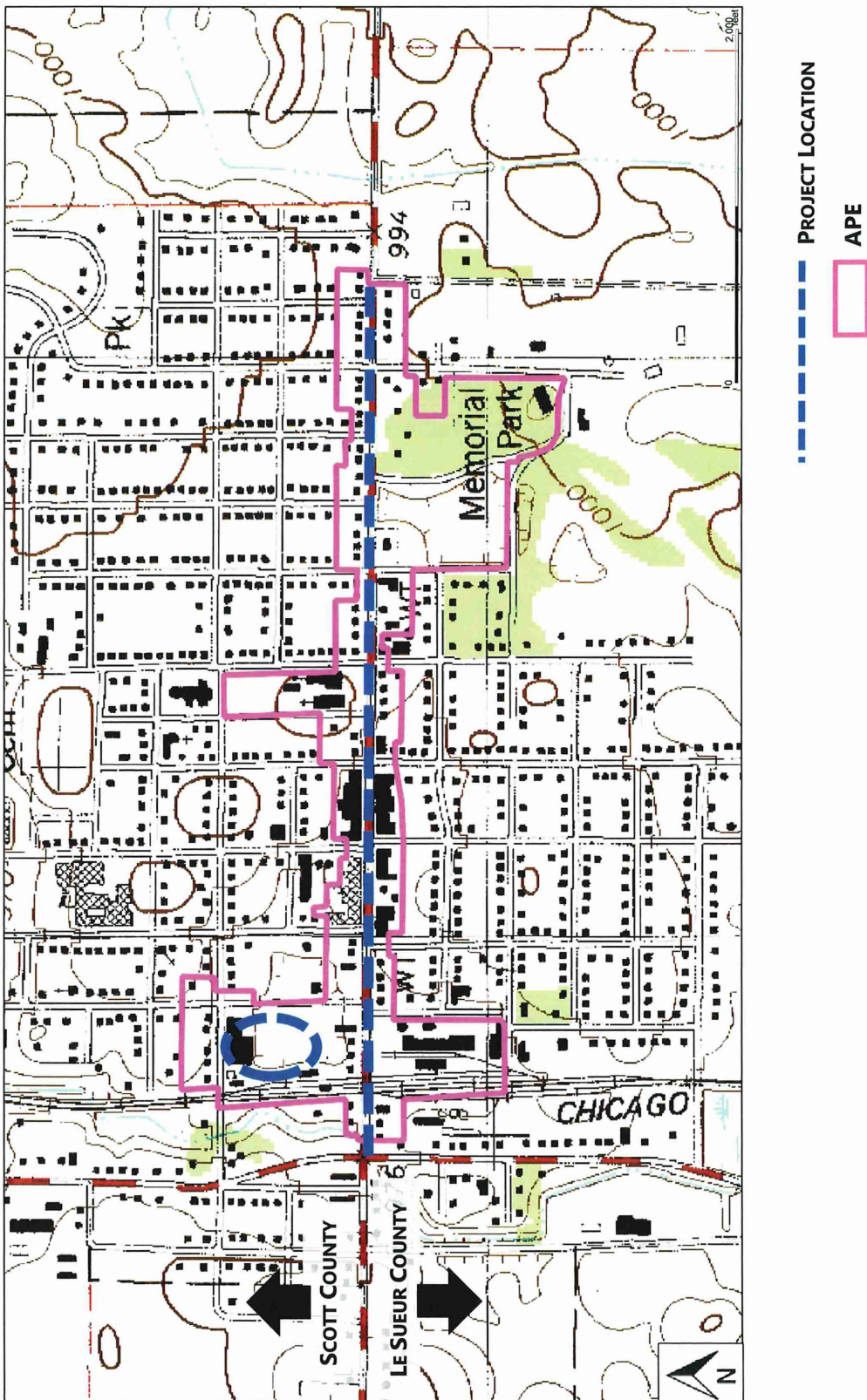


FIGURE 1. PROJECT LOCATION AND APE

METHODS

The objective of the Phase I architectural history investigation was to identify known historic properties and any properties that are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) within the APE. The objective of the Phase II investigation was to determine whether the 16 properties identified as potentially eligible as a result of the Phase I study are eligible for listing in the National Register. National Register eligibility is based on the significance criteria outlined below:

- Criterion A – association with events that have made a significant contribution in our past;
- Criterion B – association with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- Criterion C – embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or representation of the work of a master; possession of high artistic values; or representation of a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; and
- Criterion D – potential to yield information important to prehistory or history (National Park Service 2002)

Eligibility additionally requires that a property have the ability to convey its significance based on seven aspects of integrity identified by the National Park Service (2002): location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

All work was conducted per *MnDOT's Cultural Resources Unit (CRU) Project and Report Requirements* (MnDOT 2017), *Guidelines for History/Architecture Projects in Minnesota*, (Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office [SHPO] 2010), and *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation* (National Park Service 1983).

2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1.1 Phase I

A database query request was submitted to the SHPO on July 7, 2016. Once the results were received, relevant files held at the SHPO were reviewed to obtain information on architectural history properties previously inventoried and architectural history surveys previously conducted within the APE. Additionally, two recent Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant studies of New Prague were located online and reviewed: *City of New Prague Historic Context Study* (Smith 2013) and *Reconnaissance Survey of Downtown New Prague* (Dvorak 2015). These studies, county data, historical aerial photographs, and historical fire insurance maps were consulted to obtain baseline data on construction dates for properties within the APE as available. All of these resources were additionally reviewed for historic contextual information that could be used to frame the potential significance of properties identified during the field survey.

Additional historic contextual information was obtained from other sources held at the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) library and online. These included but were not limited to an 1895 booster publication by

The New Prague Times (The Times), a 1931 diamond jubilee edition of the same, *History of the Minnesota Valley* (Warner and Foote 1882) and *History of Nicollet and LeSueur Counties, Minnesota* (Gresham 1916).

2.1.2 Phase II

Following the identification of 16 properties as potentially eligible during the Phase I survey, an intensive literature search was conducted to obtain in-depth property histories and information used to develop detailed, relevant historic contexts specific to each property. To these ends, Deco relied heavily on issues of *The Times*. Other sources reviewed included but were not limited to the records of the International Multifoods Corporation, the F. A. Bean Foundation, and the Western Foundation; the papers of F. A. Bean, Jr. and Atherton Bean (F. A. Bean, III); secondary sources pertaining to the history of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway Company, such as *Depots of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway* (Holmes 2009) and *The Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway: A Photographic History* (Hofsommer 2009); professional architectural journals; and sources providing guidance on library design during the mid twentieth century. The City of New Prague either does not retain or could not locate building permits or plans dating prior to the 1950s. Using the information obtained during the literature review, the Principal Investigator evaluated whether each property met one or more of the four National Register significance criteria.

2.2 FIELD SURVEY

2.2.1 Phase I

A Phase I architectural history survey was performed on July 19-22, 2016. Andrea Pizza served as Principal Investigator and conducted the fieldwork. During the field survey, the Principal Investigator documented all properties 45 years in age or older through field notes and digital photography. Construction dates were confirmed or estimated through the professional judgment of the Principal Investigator. The potential National Register eligibility of all properties surveyed was assessed under the framework of relevant historic contexts with reference to National Register criteria for significance and integrity.

2.2.2 Phase II

Phase II fieldwork consisted of additional survey of those potentially eligible properties determined through the literature search to meet one or more of the four National Register significance criteria, if they had not been sufficiently documented during the Phase I survey. All exterior façades were examined and documented in detail to generate accurate descriptions and to evaluate the ability of each property to convey its historical significance based on the seven aspects of integrity as defined by the National Park Service (2002): location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

PHASE I LITERATURE REVIEW RESULTS

3.1 PREVIOUSLY INVENTORIED PROPERTIES

Seventeen architectural history properties previously were inventoried within the APE (Table 1). Three of these, Schumacher's New Prague Hotel/Hotel Broz, the First National Bank, and the St. Wenceslaus Church complex, are listed in the National Register. Four others, the International Multifoods Office, a house at 111 2nd Avenue SW, a commercial building east of 1st Avenue SW, and a commercial building west of 1st Avenue NE, have been razed. Inventory forms for Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store and The New Prague Times and Suel Printing Company building were not located in the SHPO files. The remaining eight properties, including two unnamed commercial buildings, the International Milling Company complex, the Remes drugstore, Thomas Topka's block, the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Company depot, the Hertaus house, and the Bean house, were minimally documented on inventory forms. It is noted that Thomas Topka's

TABLE 1. PREVIOUSLY INVENTORIED PROPERTIES

Inventory No.	Property Name	Property Address	Status
LE-NPC-001	International Milling	SE corner of Main Street and 2 nd Avenue SW	Potentially eligible
LE-NPC-002	International Multifoods Office	2 nd Avenue SW, east side of International Milling	Razed
LE-NPC-004	Schumacher's New Prague Hotel/Hotel Broz	212 Main Street W	Listed
LE-NPC-005	Commercial building	Main Street, east of 1 st Avenue SW	Razed
LE-NPC-006	Commercial building	100 Main Street W	Potentially eligible
LE-NPC-007	First National Bank	112 Main Street E	Listed
LE-NPC-010	House	111 2 nd Avenue SW	Razed
LE-NPC-013	Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store	102 Main Street W	Unknown – form missing
LE-NPC-014	The New Prague Times and Suel Printing Company building	200 Main Street E	Unknown – form missing
SC-NPC-001	Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Company Depot	xxx 3 rd Avenue SW	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-002	Commercial building	1xx Main Street E	Razed
SC-NPC-003	Thomas Topka's block	121 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-004	Commercial building	123 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-005	Remes Drug Store	201 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-006	St. Wenceslaus Church complex	215 and 227 Main Street E	Listed
SC-NPC-007			
SC-NPC-008			
SC-NPC-017	Hertaus House	301 2 nd Street NW	Unevaluated
SC-NPC-018	Bean House	211 2 nd Street NW	Potentially eligible

block, when originally inventoried in 1979, was incorrectly identified as “opera house.” The opera house was not on Main Street, and has been razed.

3.2 PREVIOUS SURVEYS

No previous architectural history surveys for Section 106 compliance have occurred within the TH 19 Reconstruction Project APE. A reconnaissance survey was performed in 2014 for the City of New Prague under a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant to identify potentially significant properties within the city, primarily along Main Street between 5th Avenue and Columbus Avenue N/Lincoln Avenue S (Dvorak 2015). It is noted that many of the construction dates were estimated for that study due to limitations placed on access to records and of time (Dvorak 2017, personal communication), and several of these have been revised herein to specific years as identified during the course of the Phase II research for the current study. It is additionally noted that the 2014 study was invaluable for its establishment of historical occupancy, which greatly facilitated the correlation of properties described in historical documents, particularly issues of *The Times*, to those surveyed, allowing for the construction dates and other details to be readily obtained and confirmed against Sanborn Map Company (Sanborn) fire insurance maps and aerial photographs.

3.3 HISTORIC CONTEXT

The historic context that follows is included based on the majority of the property types surveyed during the Phase I investigation and provides a framework for the assessment of their potential historical significance. This context is associated with the SHPO statewide historic contexts *Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940*, and *Railroad Development in Minnesota, 1862-1956* (SHPO 1993, Schmidt et al. 2007). Detailed historic contexts developed to assist in the evaluation of properties during the Phase II investigation are presented with the results of that investigation in a subsequent chapter.

3.3.1 Railroads and Agricultural Development in New Prague, 1870-1956

When the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Company (M&StL) line was completed through New Prague in 1877, the village of New Prague had just recently been incorporated (State of Minnesota 1877:39), its name reflecting its heavily Bohemian (Czech)-immigrant population.¹ Although New Prague’s first Euroamerican settler, Anton Philipp, had arrived in its location from Bavaria via Ohio, in the mid 1850s, over the course of the next few years², several Bohemian families made their way to the area (U.S. Census 1860; *The Times*

¹ Smith (2013:1-2) notes that the town was known as “Praha” from 1872 through 1879, at which time the name was changed to “Prague,” and that name of the village was changed from “Prague” to “New Prague” in 1884. Perhaps these names were used locally/informally, but the text of the 1877 act refers to and establishes the village as New Prague. Further, *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of the State of Minnesota*, which dates to 1874, includes a notation for the “New Prak [sic]” post office.

² The number and precise timing of the first Bohemians to arrive in the New Prague area varies according to source. Habernicht (1996[1910]:258), for example, states that Philipp arrived in May of 1856, and after a July 1856 exploratory mission by four Bohemian men led to their meeting with him, they returned with their families in September of 1856. Kajer (2006:30) has noted that some inaccuracies in recollection may have been involved in this story but have since accepted as fact because it continued to be reproduced. He states further that “official records” show the Janovsky and

2006:6). Once these families sent letters back to the home country reporting on the conditions and opportunities in Minnesota, they were joined by more family members and friends (Jerabek 1939:41), so while only 28 percent of the combined population of the townships of Helena and Lanesburgh, where New Prague is located, was Bohemian in 1860, this percentage (including a limited number of children with one Bohemian parent) rose over the next ten years to 61 percent. In 1880, when New Prague was first enumerated separately from the townships, 78 percent of its residents were Bohemian, with first-generation immigrants hailing largely from the Budějovice region of southern Bohemia (United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census [U.S. Census] 1860, 1870, 1880; Chrislock 1981:337; Kajer 2006:6). By this time, New Prague had become the literal center of what is known as the "Bohemian Triangle," comprising Le Sueur, Scott, and Rice counties and, with considerable Bohemian populations radiating out into settlements such as Montgomery, Buedjovice, Veseli, and Heidelberg, home to the state's largest concentration of the ethnic group (Jerabek 1939:65-66; Chrislock 1981:339; Kajer 2006:40).

New Prague, however, was not only the geographical center of the Bohemian Triangle, but also a cultural and commercial center. Culturally, much of its activity revolved around its Bohemian roots. Jerabek (1939:136) indicates, for example, that from the 1860s through the next several decades, "the most important musical center among the Bohemian communities was New Prague." Including musicians such as "John Sery, who came from a section of Bohemia noted for its musicians and who showed particular skill in composing marches and waltzes," New Prague's earliest musical performers drew attendees from the greater region, it being "said that young people traveled as far as thirty miles to dances in New Prague during the [18]70s and 80s because of the fame of its bands." The village's Bohemian residents included both Catholics and Freethinkers, both of whom found camaraderie in formal organizations by the late 1870s, the Catholics establishing the St. Wenceslaus Association in 1879, and the Freethinkers establishing the New Prague lodge of the Česko-slovanský Podporující Spolek (CSPS), or Czecho-Slovanic Benefit Society, in 1877 (Habenicht 1996[1910]:264-265; Chrislock 1981:342). The CSPS built a hall/opera house in 1887, by which time the group's functions had branched off into hosting social and cultural activities, such as plays in the Bohemian language (Chrislock 1981:344; Kajer 2006:124, 134). A second type of Freethinking group, the Sokol, was organized in New Prague in 1885. As begun in Bohemia in 1862, this organization was similar to the German Turnverein in its combination of physical fitness and sociocultural unity, but without the nationalistic component of its German counterpart. The Sokols and the Sokolites, the latter created circa 1890 for women, gave exhibitions in New Prague, as well as competed around the state (Chrislock 1981:342; Encyclopaedia Britannica 1998a, 1998b; Kajer 2006:117). The numerical predominance of the Bohemians in New Prague and the surrounding area was such that these and other cultural traditions continued to play

Kajer families, names not among the original four, to have arrived in the fall of 1856. *The Times*, in 1895 (p. 5) put the earliest Euroamerican settlers in New Prague in 1854, including Martin Borak, then in 1956 reported that court house records showed Borak to have filed a claim in 1855 and arrived in 1856 (Wrabek 1956:1). The Minnesota territorial census of 1857, however, shows only one Bohemian household, consisting of Albert, Maria, Mariana, and Franz Wintisch (Wertish, Vrtis) in Lanesburgh Township (containing the south side of New Prague) and none in Helena Township (containing the north). In any case, the 1860 census shows several Bohemian families to be present in Lanesburgh township, the names of many matching those of individuals who sources place in New Prague by 1859/1860 (e.g., Habenicht 1996[1910]:259-260; *The Times* 2006:6).

an active role in the region well after they had been lost in others. As late as the 1930s, for instance, Catholic schools in the triangle "retained some Czech-language classes in the curriculum" (Chrislock 1981:343).

Commercially, the seeds of the future city had been evident for several years prior to New Prague's official recognition by the state in 1877, particularly along the Main Street corridor where a commercial row had formed between 1st Avenue W (originally Wesley Street) to the north of Main Street and Narrow Street to the south) and 1st Avenue E (originally Grace Street) to serve the surrounding farming community. The row initially consisted primarily of frame buildings, and by around 1875 included four saloons, at least two general stores, two blacksmith shops, a drug store, and a hotel with post office among a few other commercial buildings of unidentified function, as well as a school (*Times* 1931a:64). A few of the early proprietors associated with these buildings were integral to the development of New Prague's commerce, and their names, including those such as Maertz, Melounek, Remes, Rybak, Topka, and Vanasek, would continue to figure prominently in the city's commercial identity for the next several decades, not only through their enterprises, but also through those of their descendants.

In addition to commercial enterprises, New Prague's first industries preceded the railroad. Two short-lived brickyards were present in the late 1860s and early 1870s. One of these belonged to Frank Mikiska, who used the brick for his drugstore building, the first brick building in town, and the other belonged to Thomas Zak, who used the brick for his saloon, which was the second (*Times* 1931a:1). The first flour mill was built on the creek (East Branch Raven Stream) just west of town circa 1875 by Thomas Suchomel and James Bisek (*Times* 1931a:1).

Despite its early growth, New Prague awaited the arrival of the railroad to experience a substantial boost in population and economic viability. The M&StL had been established in 1870 by Minneapolis businessmen with the aim of obtaining grain and lumber for their mills, which at that time were suffering from a lack of efficient and adequate transportation (Schmidt et al. 2007:44). Rather than creating a self-sufficient network throughout the state, the M&StL built largely to connect to other roads. Initially, in 1871, it built only from Minneapolis to Merriam (near Shakopee). Then, when the railroad company was able to extend its line from Merriam to Albert Lea in 1877, it made sure to run through portions of southwestern and south-central Minnesota with productive agricultural lands but without convenient rail access. New Prague, an established village surrounded by the farms of Helena and Lanesburgh townships, was therefore an easy choice of location through which to pass on the route from Minneapolis to Albert Lea. Because New Prague was not yet incorporated in 1875, the Minnesota census of that year did not record its population separately, but it likely did not come close to the 384 residents recorded in 1880, a number which more than tripled by the turn of the twentieth century (U.S. Census 1880, 1900). In 1891, New Prague was incorporated as a city (*Times* 1895:5).

During the 14-year period between 1877 and 1891, the Main Street commercial district substantially filled in and expanded to the creek on the west, being limited on the east by the Church of St. Wenceslaus grounds on the north side of Main Street and rapidly tapering off in the same area on the south side of the road. By February of 1892, New Prague had nine saloons, seven general stores, four grocery stores, four

blacksmith shops, three hardware stores, three boots and shoes shops, three furniture shops, two social halls, two harness shops, two drugstores, two meat markets, two wagon shops, two barber shops, two agricultural implement dealers, two cigar factories, a bowling alley, a lumber yard, a bank, an insurance office, a dressmaker shop, a hotel, a toy store, a sample room, a foundry, a printing shop, a photography studio, a bakery, a watchmaker shop, a notions shop, and a doctor's office along its major thoroughfare (Sanborn 1892).

With the transportability of brick and a direct connection to the nearby brick manufacturing hub of Chaska facilitated by the railroad, this period additionally saw the commercial core begin the transition from frame to brick construction. The majority of the new brick buildings constructed circa 1880 through circa 1885 were destined to be general stores, including those of Frank J. Maertz, Mathias Rybak, John Joach, H. C. Eilers, and Frank Soukup. These were the same in their basic aesthetic, a brick block with the upper portion of the façade separated into three or four bays by brick pilasters, each bay containing a segmental-arch window, but differences were achieved through decorative brickwork detail, usually from the lintels up; ornamental cornices; and in some cases, the use of contrasting brick colors. Easily the most imposing of the brick blocks built during this time was Thomas Topka's block (1883), a two-story saloon and social hall of nearly double the width of the other blocks constructed around the same time.

The transition to brick architecture was further catalyzed by the passing of an 1898 city ordinance that required all new construction on Main Street to be brick, with the aim of preventing a catastrophic fire (*The Times* 1898a). In the temporal vicinity of this ordinance came two of Main Street's most recognizable buildings, the Georgian Revival-style Hotel Broz (1898), designed by either Cass Gilbert or his associate, John Rachac, and Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store (1897), a massive, red-brick general store building with an ornate metal cornice, as well as the latter building's neighbor to the east, Albert Chalupsky's California Wine House (1897). Additional brick block construction ensued on empty lots or to replace frame buildings, and by the end of the first decade of the twentieth century, brick predominated the visual aspect of Main Street, reflecting the permanence of a city whose population had reached over 1500 residents (Sanborn 1910; U.S. Census 1910).

While the railroad provided businesses with the means to more easily build up both their physical spaces and the inventory within them, its main impetus to the development of New Prague lay in the agricultural industry, as it made viable facilities that could store, process, and distribute the raw products generated by area farmers, who were no small component of the city's commercial market. The chief two raw products were milk and wheat, the latter predominating with regard to cultivation and processing in the region. By June of 1882, New Prague had two grain elevators, one owned by Frank Nicolin and the other Michael Simmer, each with a 40,000-bushel capacity (Baker 1883:117). The annual report of the Minnesota Railroad Commissioner for the following year showed that by June of 1883, these had been joined by the elevator of Joseph Maertz, with a 10,000-bushel capacity, and the grain warehouses of A. W. Mertens, M. Remes, and Michael Simmer with respective capacities of 5,000, 3,000, and 10,000 bushels (Baker 1884:117). Simmer's elevator was connected to the former Suchomel and Bisek mill, known under Simmer's ownership as the Eclipse Roller Mill, which he had purchased in 1882 (Sanborn 1887; *Times* 1931a:1). At this time, only

Nicolin's interest was located along the tracks, but by the end of 1891, two other elevators, one owned by G. Sunwalt and the other by Quirk and Carson, had been built trackside (Sanborn 1887, 1892).

The year 1891 was additionally one that saw New Prague get its first creamery, built by Frank J. Maertz, which generated approximately 500 pounds of butter per day. The Jersey Creamery Company, based in Jordan, purchased it from Maertz the following February (*The Times* 4/17/1891, 5/1/1891, 2/10/1892³). It was subsequently expanded, and run for a time by Charles Mickus, then Vanasek & Bruzek until circa 1910 (Slater 1907:161; Sanborn 1899-1910). The 1907 biennial report of the Minnesota Food and Dairy Commission indicates that New Prague had at least two other creameries in operation as of July 1906 (Slater 1907:153, 161). One of these, the Clover Leaf Creamery, was purchased by the newly formed New Prague Co-operative Creamery Association in late 1911 for use as a skimming station prior to the construction of its larger replacement on Main Street in the spring of 1912. Production at this major new facility dwarfed that of previous creameries in New Prague, with an average of nearly 14,000 pounds of butter per month produced in just the first six months, and an average of over 20,000 pounds per month during 1913 (*Times* 1930a). Surpassing even this major contributor in importance to New Prague's agriculturally based economy, however, was the New Prague Flouring Mill Company.

The New Prague Flouring Mill Company was begun in 1896 by Francis Atherton Bean, Sr., better known as F. A. Bean, a Faribault, Minnesota, transplant who had arrived in New Prague in 1892. After leasing the Simmer mill for three years, during which he established his integrity and ability with local businessmen, he obtained enough capital investments from them to construct his own flour mill on the east side of the railroad line and the south side of Main Street. The mill was completed in 1896 with an initial capacity of 600 barrels per day, but so successful was it that by 1898, it already required an increase in capacity to 800 barrels per day, and then again in 1901 to 2,500 barrels per day, making it one of the largest flour mills in the state outside of the behemoths of Minneapolis (*The Northwestern Miller* 1915:163; *Times* 1930b; 3/31/1898, 10/3/1901). On the strength of its Seal of Minnesota-brand flour, the New Prague Flouring Mill Company found its market extending to destinations as far away as South Africa, England, and Denmark. It continued to expand its New Prague mill and its overall operations by building and buying mills in other locations (3/20/1902; *Times* 1916a). With the acquisition of the Mclean Flour Mill in Moose Jaw, Canada, in 1908, production by the company became international in scope, and in 1910, its name was changed to the International Milling Company. With headquarters still in New Prague, the mill employed approximately 250, or roughly 16 percent, of the city's residents, as of 1916 (*Times* 1916a; Efnor 1953:2).

During the 1910s, with the mill and creamery in full swing, the "City of Bread and Butter" remained steady in its population, yet witnessed another wave of construction. The construction was not only commercial, as *The Times* reported on a number of new residences and barns during what the paper deemed a "building

³ For several decades, *The New Prague Times* primarily featured its local news under a "Local Notes" or similar heading as a series of untitled, brief notes, and numerous instances of these notes are referenced in this report. So as not to encumber the report with excessive citations, these are referenced only within the body of the report from this point forward, and "*The New Prague Times*" is implied wherever the mm/dd/yyyy format is applied. Titled articles in the *Times* are conventionally referenced.

boom" in 1915 and 1916 (*Times* 1915a, 1916b). Commercial construction primarily stemmed from a desire to modernize. Proprietors H. J. Penners and Joseph L. Frank, for example, coordinated to replace their frame confectionary and jewelry stores, respectively, with brick buildings having matching storefronts; E. F. Remes & Co. took down its longstanding, two-story brick meat market building in favor of constructing a one-story building aimed toward sanitation, efficiency, and the use of a modern cooling system; while others installed plate-glass display windows in their storefronts (*Times* 1915a, 1916c). The New Prague Amusement Company brought Main Street its first bona fide movie theater through the completion of The Savoy Theater in 1916, to better fulfill an entertainment need, but other construction resulted from true necessity, such as The New Prague Times building, after the newspaper's quarters had been ravaged by fire in 1916, and a rear addition to the J. J. Remes drugstore, after the previous addition had suffered the same fate (*Times* 1915b, 1915c, 1916d). *The Times* reported in October of 1916 that the half-block of Main Street "from the new Savoy Theatre west to the corner has been either completely rebuilt or is being thoroughly remodeled, this season" (*Times* 1916b). Illuminating this construction and another five-and-a-half blocks of Main Street was the "White Way," an ornamental incandescent street lighting system installed in the fall of 1915 to replace the previous arc-lamp system (*Times* 1915d, 1915e).

Although building restrictions were put into place in September of 1918 while materials were diverted to the war effort, the tapering off of construction on Main Street around this time seems to have had more to do with the fact that the need for new buildings in the commercial core was limited, as evidenced by the fact that a building boom did not ensue when the restrictions were lifted in May of 1919. Instead, commercial construction activities into the early 1920s consisted primarily of renovations and/or additions to existing buildings, including but not limited to Rybak's Hall (102-104 Main Street E), Heinen & Tyra's clothing store (108 Main Street E), and most notably, the First National Bank (112 Main Street E), which received a new ornamental terra cotta façade in 1922 and has since been the architectural crown jewel of Main Street. The exception to the need for new construction was in the area of automobile services, for which demand grew along with car ownership during the 1920s. While an automobile storage and repair building constructed on Main Street in 1915 was a forerunner in this regard, the first dedicated filling station was a Standard Oil Company facility built in 1921. It, along with two other filling stations and a garage, were the only new buildings in the commercial core over the next ten years, during which time an existing building was remodeled and expanded so that it, too, could serve as a garage (Sanborn 1919, 1931). As the automobile era, however, began to manifest itself on Main Street, another era was coming to an end.

In 1922, the International Milling Company announced in *The Times* that it would be moving its headquarters from New Prague to Minneapolis, to facilitate "closer relations between the grain department [in Minneapolis] and the rest of the business" and to relieve the "increasing difficulty of handling the business of the other plants from New Prague" (F. A. Bean, in *The Times* 1922a). The move was made in June of the following year. Still, the company, which became the International Multifoods Corporation in 1970, kept the mill running as part of its network of operations for the next 65 years (*The Times* 1923a; "Historical Note," finding aid, International Multifoods Corporation Corporate Records Collection, Minnesota Historical Society; BCTGM Local 13G n.d.).

While the mill remained an important part of the city's economy, by the time its headquarters were relocated in 1923, New Prague was a firmly established, sustainable community in no danger of failing as a result. Despite the loss of the families who left along with the headquarters, the city's population in 1930 was slightly over that of 1920. The success of the cooperative creamery continued to such an extent over that ten-year period that at the end of the decade, a new creamery building was constructed on 2nd Street NW, which commenced operations in May of 1930. Given its larger footprint and additional story, it provided nearly four times the square footage of its predecessor (*The Times* 1930c; Sanborn 1919, 1931). Main Street appears to have achieved its point of optimal density by the 1920s, so that while the number of businesses did not increase substantially, neither did it dwindle. Newspaper accounts demonstrate that when a business ended its operation in a building there, another was ready to come in and occupy the space, with local merchants willing to adapt existing construction to their purposes. Fire insurance maps indicate a net loss of two Main Street commercial buildings between 1931 and 1944, and a net gain of four between 1944 and 1952 (Sanborn 1931-1952).

While New Prague undoubtedly felt the effects of the Great Depression along with the rest of the country, it appears to have experienced them less strongly than other locations in the state. Judging by *The Times*, during the 1930s, Main Street, finally paved in 1931, was business as usual; for example, new movies showed at the New Prague/Granada Theater every week, department stores continued to entice shoppers, and both banks continued to operate. It even received a new dairy plant in 1933. The relative success of local farmers was likely a major reason for the limited attrition of businesses. As noted by Granger and Kelly (2005:3.93), "Many farms in [southern Minnesota] . . . had low debt and were well diversified, producing hogs, poultry, cattle, dairy herds, corn, hay, and mixed grains. According to Tweton [1981:13], ' . . . This diversification played an instrumental role in the economic condition of the area.'"

World War II brought an end to the Depression and a soaring demand for agricultural products, particularly wheat flour, which New Prague was well-positioned to provide. Prosperity among the local farms, the mill, and the creamery transferred to the city's economy as a whole, such that the year after the war ended, New Prague witnessed a flurry of new construction and building renovations in its commercial, industrial, and residential sectors (*The Times* 1946a, 1946b). Construction in the latter sector was and continued to be indicative of the city's population growth between 1940 and 1960, which was 16.3 percent between 1940 and 1950, and another 32.3 percent in the ensuing decade, generating a total of over 2,500 residents.

PHASE I SURVEY RESULTS

The Phase I architectural history investigation for the TH 19 Reconstruction Project identified 112 architectural history properties currently within the APE (Table 2). Of these, three are listed in the National Register. The remaining 109 properties include 59 commercial buildings, 43 houses, three public buildings, a railroad depot, an industrial complex, a former dairy, and a park, 16 of which are recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register, individually or as part of a potential commercial historic district. The combined results of the Phase I and II investigations are depicted in Figure 207 (p. 262).

TABLE 2. PHASE I RESULTS

Inventory No.	Property Name	Property Address	Status
LE-NPC-015	Commercial building	408 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-016	Commercial building	404 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-001	New Prague Flouring Mill/International Milling Company complex (includes LE-NPC-038, LE-NPC-060, LE-NPC-061, LE-NPC-062, and LE-NPC-063)	100 2 nd Avenue SW	Potentially eligible
LE-NPC-004	Schumacher's New Prague Hotel/Hotel Broz	212 Main Street W	Listed
LE-NPC-017	Commercial building	210 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-018	Commercial building	136 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-019	Commercial building	130 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-020	Commercial building	126 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-021	Commercial building	122 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-022	Commercial building	120 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-023	Commercial building	114 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-024	Remes Meat Market	112 Main Street W	Potentially eligible
LE-NPC-025	Commercial building	110 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-026	Commercial building	106 Main Street W	Not eligible
LE-NPC-013	Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store	102 Main Street W	Potentially eligible
LE-NPC-006	California Wine House	100 Main Street W	Potentially eligible
LE-NPC-027	Commercial building	102 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-028	Commercial building	104 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-029	Maruska building	106 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
LE-NPC-030	Commercial building	108 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-031	The Savoy/New Prague/Granada Theater	110 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
LE-NPC-007	First National Bank	112 Main Street E	Listed
LE-NPC-032	Commercial building	116 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-033	Commercial building	118 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-034	Thomas Zak Saloon/Vanasek Hardware building	120 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
LE-NPC-035	Commercial building	122 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-036	New Prague Post Office	124 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-037	Gas station	126 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-014	The New Prague Times and Suel Printing Co. Building and Addition	200-204 Main Street E	Potentially eligible

TABLE 2. PHASE I RESULTS

Inventory No.	Property Name	Property Address	Status
LE-NPC-039	Commercial building	208 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-040	Commercial building	210 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-041	Commercial building	212-1/2 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-042	House	218 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-043	Commercial building	222 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-044	Ballinger house	226 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-045	Ballinger dairy	232 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-046	New Prague Water Works	300 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-047	Commercial building	308 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-048	Commercial building	314 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-049	New Prague Memorial Library	400 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
LE-NPC-050	Memorial Park	4xx Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-051	House	510 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-052	House	514 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-053	House	602 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-054	Bruzek Funeral Home	610 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-055	House	706 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-056	House	708 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-057	House	710 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-058	House	712 Main Street E	Not eligible
LE-NPC-059	House	716 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-026	House	803 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-027	House	801 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-028	House	711 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-029	House	709 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-030	House	707 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-031	House	705 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-032	House	703 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-033	House	609 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-034	House	607 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-035	House	605 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-036	House	603 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-037	House	601 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-038	House	511 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-039	House	509 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-040	House	507 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-041	House	505 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-042	House	503 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-043	House	501 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-044	House	411 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-045	House	409 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-046	House	407 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-047	House	403 Main Street E	Not eligible

TABLE 2. PHASE I RESULTS

Inventory No.	Property Name	Property Address	Status
SC-NPC-048	House	401 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-049	House	315 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-050	House	309 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-051	House	307 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-052	House	305 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-053	Commercial building	301 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-008	St. Wenceslaus Church complex	227 and 215 Main Street E	Listed
SC-NPC-007			
SC-NPC-006			
SC-NPC-005	Remes Drug Store	201 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-054	Commercial building	129 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-080	Commercial building	127 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-055	Tyra building	125 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-056	Commercial building	123A Main Street E	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-004	Soukup building	123 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-003	Thomas Topka's block	121 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-057	Commercial building	119 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-058	Rybicek Tailor Shop	111 Main Street E	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-059	Commercial building	105 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-060	Commercial building	103 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-061	Commercial building	101 Main Street E	Not eligible
SC-NPC-062	Commercial building	103 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-063	Commercial building	105 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-064	Commercial building	111 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-065	Commercial building	115 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-066	Commercial building	119 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-067	Commercial building	121 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-068	Commercial building	125 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-069	Commercial building	131 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-070	Commercial building	133 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-071	Commercial building	207 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-072	Commercial building	215 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-073	Commercial building	325 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-074	Commercial House/Merchants Hotel	329 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-001	Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Company Depot	331 Main Street W	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-075	Gas station	401 Main Street W	Not eligible
SC-NPC-076	House	311 2 nd Street NW	Not eligible
SC-NPC-077	House	309 2 nd Street NW	Not eligible
SC-NPC-078	House	307 2 nd Street NW	Not eligible
SC-NPC-018	Hertaus House	301 2 nd Street NW	Not eligible
SC-NPC-017	Bean House	211 2 nd Street NW	Potentially eligible
SC-NPC-079	House	212 2 nd Street NW	Not eligible

4.1 LE-NPC-015

Commercial Building

408 Main Street W

This two-story commercial building was constructed by Frank J. Maertz as a general store in 1885, became a saloon sometime between 1904 and 1910, then reverted to a store with the onset of Prohibition (Sanborn 1887-1931; *The Times* 1931a:48; Dvorak 2015:28). At the time of the survey, it housed a cafe.

The building is of the two-part commercial-block⁴ type and is rectangular in plan (Figure 2). The walls are painted brick in a common-bond pattern. On the façade, brick pilasters divide the upper story into three bays, each containing a replacement 1/1 double-hung sash window within a segmental-arch opening. Lintels are corbelled rowlock brick with keystones, and sills are stone. The upper story is divided from the storefront by an added wood cornice with dentils. The storefront features a central, recessed entry with replacement door and transom window, flanked on both sides by replacement wood-framed plate-glass windows with bulkheads faced in wood paneling. These extend out perpendicular to the entry and then wrap around to be flush with the façade. The east and west walls are styled similar to the upper story of the façade, except that the pilasters extend the full height of the building and in between them runs a decorative band of projecting brick, dividing the upper and lower stories. An exterior brick chimney is



FIGURE 2. 408 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

⁴ "Two-part commercial block" is defined after Longstreth (2000) as a commercial building form characterized by two distinct zones that reflect differences in use: a single-story lower zone of public space, and a one- to three-story upper zone that is more private in nature.

located on the west wall, a few feet south of which an exterior stairway has been enclosed in vinyl-sided walls, while the rear section of the east wall contains three window openings that have been infilled with brick. The corbelled brick parapet with ornamental metal cornice once present on the building has been removed (Figure 3), and a concrete-block one added to surround the flat roof in its stead.

A large, one-story, gable-roofed addition with structural-tile walls is located on the rear (south) of the building. It was constructed to accommodate a bowling alley between 1919 and 1931 (Sanborn 1919, 1931; *The Times* 1931a:48; Dvorak 2015:28), then subsequently extended using concrete block (Figure 4). The south gable end is faced in wood paneling, and the roof is covered in asphalt shingles.



Dvorak 2015:29

FIGURE 3. 408 MAIN STREET W, CIRCA 1915, LOOKING SOUTHEAST



FIGURE 4. 408 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTH-NORTHWEST

4.1.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, and Frank J. Maertz may have played an important role in that development, the substantial alterations effected by the loss of the original parapet and cornice, their replacement with a concrete-block parapet, and the replacement and infilled fenestration, have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A or B. The building does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.2 LE-NPC-016

Commercial Building

404 Main Street W

This one-story building with a bowstring-truss roof was constructed as a liquor store in 1955 (Dvorak 2015:31), a function it continues to serve (Figure 5). It is rectangular in plan, and with the exception of the façade, the walls are concrete block. The façade is primarily occupied by metal-framed, plate-glass windows, which angle gradually inward to the east, leading to a recessed entry containing a single-panel, metal-framed glass door with transom window. Enframing the whole of the window and door composition is brick of various colors laid in a stretcher-bond pattern, while corrugated metal sheaths the face of the arch created by the roof truss. The roof is covered in vinyl membrane.



FIGURE 5. 404 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

4.2.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.3 LE-NPC-001

New Prague Flour Milling Company/International Milling Company 100 2nd Avenue SW

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 5.

4.4 LE-NPC-004

Schumacher's New Prague Hotel/Hotel Broz 212 Main Street W

This property is listed in the National Register (Figure 6). Any further work is pending MnDOT's determination of the effects of the project, if any, on this property.



FIGURE 6. 212 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

4.5 LE-NPC-017

Commercial Building

210 Main Street W

This one-story building was constructed in 1908 as J. W. Mach's general store (7/30/1908, 9/10/1908, 11/19/1908; *The Improvement Bulletin* 1908:24; Sanborn 1904, 1910). It housed a boutique at the time of the survey.

The building is of the one-part commercial block type⁵ (Figure 7). It is rectangular in plan, and it has a stone foundation. Running above the foundation on the façade is a Kasota-stone water table, and running in front of the foundation where it meets the sidewalk on the north and west is a poured-concrete plinth. The yellow-brick walls incorporate a combination of original and replacement brick. The brick above the storefront, including the corbelled cornice and the upper portions of the flanking pilasters, appears original, as do portions of the brick on the west and east elevations. The storefront has been revised and is clad in new brick facing, and no real differences are apparent between that brick, the brick of added exterior chimneys on the west, east, and south elevations; or the remainder of the brick on the building, which was, for a time covered by pink-painted stucco or sheathing (Figure 8). The brick above the storefront is laid in a stretcher-bond pattern, while that on the remainder of the building is in a common-bond pattern. The added chimneys include contrasting red-brick quoins.



FIGURE 7. 210 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

⁵ "One-part commercial block" is defined after Longstreth (2000:54) as a commercial building form that in essence corresponds to the single-story lower zone of public space in the two-part commercial-block type. The one-part commercial-block type is a "simple box with decorated façade and thoroughly urban in its overtones."

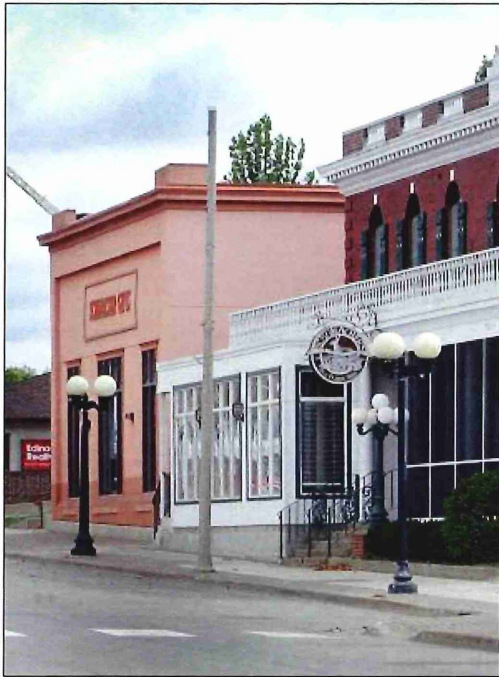


FIGURE 8. 210 MAIN STREET W, DATE UNKNOWN, LOOKING EAST-SOUTHEAST

The façade, which no longer includes an entrance, features replacement plate-glass windows, each flanked on both sides by slightly projecting brick pilasters, and over which are soldier-brick lintels. On the east elevation near the north end is an added entrance, accessed by a gradually inclining poured-concrete ramp and consisting of a single wood-framed glass door with flanking sidelights and a flat-arch brick lintel, the combination framed by a portico. Near the south end is a set of stairs that leads down to a basement-level entrance. Window openings on the east and south elevations have flat-arch brick lintels, and contain double-hung sash with transom. A service entrance is centered in the south elevation. The flat roof is masked by a brick parapet that steps down to the south and has metal coping.

4.5.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the substantial alterations effected by the reconfiguration of the storefront combined with the replacement brick and additions of an east entrance and chimneys have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.6 LE-NPC-018

Commercial Building

136 Main Street W

This one-story, concrete-block commercial building was constructed in 1959 as an addition to the Barta Refrigeration store (Dvorak 2015:50; *The Times* 1959a; aerial photographs 1957, 1964). At the time of the survey, it housed a dental practice.

The building is rectangular in plan and is of the enframed window wall type⁶ (Figure 9). The façade is occupied primarily by a metal-framed glass door with sidelight and metal-framed display windows with metal panels below. Beneath the metal panels is a brick-faced bulkhead, and brick extends down the façade on either side of the window and door composition. The storefront is sheltered by a cloth-covered metal-frame canopy. On the west elevation, which is exposed concrete block, window openings contain multi-light replacement windows. The north half of the east elevation has been faced in stucco. To its south, the exposed concrete wall contains a single-panel steel door surrounded by concrete-block infill in a former vehicle-sized door opening, as well as a concrete-block infilled window opening. The building has a flat roof and metal coping.



FIGURE 9. 136 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

⁶ "Enframed window wall" is defined after Longstreth (2000) as a commercial building form characterized by, as the name implies, a window wall that occupies a large central section of the façade within a "wide and often continuous border, which is treated as a single compositional unit."

4.6.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.7 LE-NPC-019

Commercial Building

130 Main Street W

This one-story building, rectangular in plan, was constructed as Ray Mahowald's auto garage and an adjacent store on the east in 1928 (*The Times* 1931a:60; Sanborn 1931; Dvorak 2015:53). In 1948, additions were placed on the rear (south) of both buildings, and sometime after on the south end of the west wall of the garage (Sanborn 1944; *The Times* 1948a; aerial photograph 1951). The garage, store, and additions have been unified into a single building that at the time of the survey housed a fitness club.

The walls of this generally rectangular-plan building are clad in stucco (Figure 10). Wood trim divides the façade, formerly faced in brick, into three bays and additionally frames the replacement plate-glass picture windows and the centered metal-framed glass door on that elevation. A former overhead vehicle door on the façade has been removed. A single metal-framed glass pedestrian door is located on the east elevation.



FIGURE 10. 130 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

The west elevation contains a similar door, as well as an industrial steel pedestrian door and a single plate-glass window. The north wall of the west addition holds an industrial, steel pedestrian door. A former stepped parapet has been removed from the façade, and the resultant lowered parapet has metal coping. The roof is flat.

4.7.1 Recommendations

Due to the substantial alterations effected by the reconfiguration of the façade, the combining of buildings and additions, and the replacement cladding, this building would not have the integrity to convey any potential significance under National Register Criterion A, B, or C. It is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.8 LE-NPC-020

Commercial Building

126 Main Street W

This one-story, concrete-block building with arched roof was constructed as an auto garage circa 1955 (Sanborn 1952; aerial photograph 1957; Dvorak 2015:56). At the time of the survey, it housed a salon and a photography studio.

The building, set back on the lot, is generally rectangular in plan, although a small rectangular section extends north from the west end of the façade (Figure 11). Wood paneling sheathes the ends of the arches. An added plate-glass window within a former doorway is located on the façade, as is an added or



FIGURE 11. 126 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

replacement metal-framed glass door. Former window openings on the east and west elevations, the concrete sills for which remain, have been infilled with concrete block surrounding small, glass-block windows. A double metal door is located on the south elevation. The roof is covered in built-up roofing, and metal coping runs around the roof line.

4.8.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.9 LE-NPC-021

Commercial Building

122 Main Street W

This one-story, concrete-block building, rectangular in plan, was built circa 1955 (Sanborn 1952; aerial photograph 1957). At the time of the survey, it housed an office for an investment company.

The building is of the one-part commercial block type, and the façade is clad in painted brick in a stretcher-bond pattern (Figure 12). A soldier-brick stringcourse extends along the top of the storefront, which contains a centered, recessed entrance flanked on both sides by metal-framed plate-glass windows that



FIGURE 12. 122 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

angle out from the door and then turn to be flush with the façade. The windows have rowlock-brick sills. The entrance contains a single-panel, metal-framed glass replacement door with infilled transom above. A rowlock-brick stringcourse is located along the top of the façade. A mural has been painted on the west elevation, depicting the Bohemian Brass Band of 1906. Window openings on this wall have been infilled with concrete block, but the concrete sills are evident. The building features a flat roof and terra cotta coping.

4.9.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.10 LE-NPC-022

Commercial Building

120 Main Street W

This two-story building, front-gabled with a false front, was built by 1892, but possibly earlier (Figure 13). The 1887 Sanborn map shows a building with a two-story front section of similar dimensions, but with two one-story rear sections attached, making it possible that the building was present then and had the one-



FIGURE 13. 120 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

story sections removed subsequently. The building was present but vacant in 1892, then housed various tenants, including a barbershop by 1899, the Shimota Brothers harness shop in 1902, Mrs. M. P. Lofty's millinery store for a short period in 1903, and Charles Pilney's produce shop in early 1904, before the building's owner, Frank Vondraska, opened up a confectionary and grocery store there in September of that year. In 1907, the New Prague Telephone Company moved its exchange from a previous location into the building, where it remained until at least 1919, before moving across the street (Sanborn 1887-1931; 5/29/1902, 3/5/1903, 2/11/1904, 9/4/1904, 4/11/1907, 5/9/1907, 5/16/1907). At the time of the survey, the building housed a food market. The building was clad in wood siding until the summer of 1913 (Figure 14), when it was "covered with sheet iron, a new front put in and new sills put under it" (6/12/1913), at which time it was under the ownership of Mrs. F. A. Jelinek.

The building is rectangular in plan, and a parge coat has been applied to the foundation, but it is failing, exposing the stone behind it. With the exception of the storefront, the building is sheathed in stamped sheet metal painted blue. The storefront is clad in wood paneling painted in the same color, and it is separated from the upper story by a corbelled wood cornice, above which a wood store sign has been installed. The storefront features a centered entrance with replacement door, on either side of which is a single replacement display window. Plastic sheeting is currently in place over both display windows, perhaps for insulation purposes. Fenestration in the upper-story on the façade and on both levels of the east elevation consists of 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows. A second pedestrian door is located



Dvorak 2015:63

FIGURE 14. 120 MAIN STREET W, 1911, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST (BUILDING INDICATED BY ARROW)

on the east elevation. All windows and doors are surrounded by wood trim. The trim surrounding the upper windows of the façade appears to be wider than that present historically. The false front features a flat, wood cornice, replacing the bracketed one that was present historically. The false front does not extend up to the peak of the gable, resulting in a pediment at the top of the façade. Wood trim throughout the exterior has been painted red. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.10.1 Recommendations

This property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, and beginning in 1907, it held the telephone exchange, which would have facilitated communication for the establishments within the core. Still, it was not where the telephone exchange had its start in the city, and no other events in the history of the building suggest a particularly strong role in the development of the commercial core, nor did any of its occupants figure significantly in its development. The building additionally does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. It therefore would not meet the threshold for individual significance under Criterion A, B, or C. While it retains an association with the core such that it would be able to contribute to the significance of a potential commercial historic district, the replacement fenestration, trim, and upper cornice on the façade, when combined with the substantial alterations to the storefront, have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey such significance. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.11 LE-NPC-023

Commercial Building

114 Main Street W

This two-story building, rectangular in plan, was built circa 1875 (Figure 15). It was known to have been built for Mathias Remes (Dvorak 2015:62), who arrived in New Prague in 1874 (*The Times* 1931a:16). While the building is present in a photograph that has been indicated as dating to 1870 (*The Times* 1931a:64), the photograph is later, given the date of Remes' arrival in New Prague. An article on the photograph in *The Times* (1939a) indicates a date of 1870 in the title, but acknowledges the photograph was taken circa 1875 in the article. Similarly, when published in *The Grist* in January of 1934, the date was given as 1875.

The building initially housed Remes' saloon on the first floor and dance hall upstairs, before becoming the Central Hotel circa 1895 (Sanborn 1887-1899; Dvorak 2015:62). In 1908, Alex Jelinek located his barber shop in the west front room of the building, which by then had come under the ownership of the Nickolay Bros (9/10/1908). In late 1910 or early 1911, the building ceased to be used as a hotel and reverted to a saloon and dance hall, remaining as such until at least 1919 and likely until Prohibition, at which time the saloon function would have been put on hiatus (Sanborn 1910-1919). Sanborn maps dating to 1931 and 1944 use a general "store" designation for the building, but it was referred to as the Nickolay building in the former year (*The Times* 1931a:64). Various saloons occupied the building after Prohibition (Dvorak 2015:62). At the time of the survey, it housed a bar.



FIGURE 15. 114 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

A 1911 photograph of the building shows it to be clad in wood lap siding and, in the same vein as the building at 120 Main Street W, to have been front-gabled with a false front that did not extend all the way up to the peak, creating a pediment. The cornice below the pediment was ornate, and a balcony with ornamental railing was centered above the storefront. The storefront contained plate-glass display windows, while above it were four regularly spaced 1/1 double-hung sash windows (Figure 16).

Today, all but the storefront is clad in stucco, and the four upper-story windows in the façade have been infilled, with new openings created to accommodate two sets of paired 1/1 double-hung sash. The storefront is sheltered by a canopy clad in wood shakes. The storefront includes an off-center recessed entry containing a replacement door. The walls that angle out from the door to the façade are clad in face brick, as are the bulkheads on the façade. Running above the bulkheads is a Kasota-stone stringcourse, which underlines board-and-batten cladding surrounding tripled plate-glass replacement windows on each side of the entrance. Fenestration on the east, west, and south elevations is limited to the upper story and consists of 1/1 double-hung sash. Two window openings located on the lower level of the west elevation, the sills for which are partially evident, have been infilled and covered with stucco, as has one on the upper story of the south elevation. An exterior staircase is located on the east wall and goes up to a second-story entrance sheltered by a metal canopy and attached sidewall clad in corrugated metal. The roof of the building has been reconfigured so that one of its planes extends from the peak of the former front gable to meet the false front, creating a jerkinhead. Metal coping runs around the top of the false-front wall.



Dvorak 2015:63

FIGURE 16. 114 MAIN STREET W, 1911, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST (BUILDING INDICATED BY ARROW)

Three one-story additions are located on the rear (south) elevation of the building. The shallow one attached to the full width of the original building appears from Sanborn maps to have been an open structure, likely a rear porch, added between 1919 and 1931, which has since been enclosed and clad in wood lap siding. Extending south from the west end of the south elevation is a large, gable-roofed addition with board-and-batten siding, to which sliding windows have been added on the west and east elevations. Historical aerial photographs indicate that it was constructed sometime after 1964. Extending east from the juncture of this addition with the first addition is a shed-roofed addition.

4.11.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, and Mathias Remes may have played an important role in that development, the replacement of the cladding and reconfiguration of the façade and roof have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A or B. This property does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.12 LE-NPC-024

Remes Meat Market

112 Main Street W

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 8.

4.13 LE-NPC-025

Commercial Building

110 Main Street W

Built in 1898, this building uses a false front, added during the latter half of the twentieth century, to unify the appearance of a two-story section on the west, which was built to be a blacksmith shop for the Sticha brothers and partner F. J. Dvorak, and a one-story section on the east, which was their attached implement shed (3/17/1898; Sanborn 1892, 1899) (Figure 17). The partnership did not last long, with Dvorak leaving the partnership in 1899 to start his own operation across the street at the opposite end of the block (2/16/1899, 2/23/1899). The building was subsequently used as a garage, and the implement shed was expanded to the south between 1919 and 1931 (Sanborn 1919, 1931). In 1946, Bill and Anton Dvorak purchased the building and made substantial renovations, at which time both the one- and two-story sections were expanded to the south (Sanborn 1931-1952; *The Times* 1946a; Dvorak 2015:63, 67). The current façade was added circa 2008 (Dennis Dvorak 2017, personal communication), and at the time of the survey, the building housed an electronics store.



FIGURE 17. 110 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

The building is faced in light multi-colored brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern and has metal coping. The flush, off-center entrance contains a metal-framed glass door. Fenestration consists of four metal-framed plate-glass display windows. Each window and the door is sheltered by a cloth-covered metal-framed canopy.

4.13.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, because none of its original construction is visible, it would not have the integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.14 LE-NPC-026

Commercial Building

106 Main Street W

This one-story, flat-roofed building, rectangular in plan, was constructed in 1956, as indicated by a date stone in the lower east edge of the façade (Figure 18). The date stone additionally says "W. J. Skluzacek," who first occupied the building with his five-and-dime store (Dvorak 2015:69). At the time of the survey, the building housed a restaurant.



FIGURE 18. 106 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING SOUTH

The building is of the one-part commercial-block type and is faced primarily in orange brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. Metal-framed display windows are present, but they have been blocked from the interior by wood shakes, which surround smaller plate-glass windows. A recess is located in the center of the building, its east wall being perpendicular to the façade, and its west angling outward to the façade. The north-facing and east walls of the recess are clad in ceramic tile, which wraps around from the east wall to the façade, stopping at a display window. The east wall of the recess contains a replacement single-panel wood door, and may not be the original point of entry. Above the recess on the façade is a cloth-covered metal-frame canopy with the name of the restaurant on it. It interrupts two projecting brick stringcourses located on the parapet, which are separated by nine stretcher-bond courses and terminate at each end in stack-bond brick that extends up to the metal coping at the top of the parapet.

4.14.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.15 LE-NPC-013

Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store

102 Main Street W

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 8.

4.16 LE-NPC-006

California Wine House

100 Main Street W

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 8.

4.17 LE-NPC-027

Commercial Building

102 Main Street E

The first floor of this two-story building was constructed in two separate episodes to house the business concerns of Mathias Rybak. The east half was constructed as a one-story building sometime between 1880 and 1887 and housed a saloon. It was connected via an interior door to the two-story building at 104 Main Street E, which was a dry goods and grocery store (see Section 4.18). The west half was constructed in 1891, and at this time, or very shortly thereafter, "the three buildings were remodeled and [a dance] hall, familiar as Rybak's hall built over them" (*The Times* 1931a:64; Sanborn 1887, 1892; 2/13/1891, 8/14/1891). This remodeling served to physically and visually unite the two western buildings into a single entity. On the

first story, the west half of the building initially housed a saloon, known for a time as the Corner Buffet, and the east half a clothing store. In 1928, the interior of the building, along with that of 104 Main Street E, underwent extensive remodeling to accommodate changes in function. The Corner Buffet was closed, and the clothing store, then run by Mathias' son Thomas F. Rybak, moved into the building at 104 Main Street E. Mayor C. J. Simon, who had been operating a grocery and dry goods store at 104 Main Street E, moved his operations into the larger space afforded by 102 Main Street E (*The Times* 1928). At the time of the survey, the building at 102 Main Street E housed a consignment shop.

This building is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 19). A comparison with historical photographs demonstrates that the storefront has been substantially changed (Figure 20). It originally was situated under a cornice supported by pilasters and scrollwork brackets and included a recess likely for an entry on the north elevation (facing Main Street). At the northwest corner was an arched entrance framed by brick piers, on the other side of which the storefront wrapped around to the northernmost bay of the west elevation. Today, the storefront consists of metal-framed plate-glass replacement windows and a flush metal-framed glass replacement door with transom window and wide sidelights. Metal, stamped and colored to look like brick, faces the bulkheads, and extends partway up the walls at each end of the building, with the remainder of the north storefront elevation is covered in black-painted plywood. A wide cloth-covered metal-framed canopy extends above it. The cornice and pilasters have been removed, as has the corner entrance, which is now occupied by the west end of the storefront on the north elevation and red stretcher-bond brick on the west. The wraparound portion of the storefront is now infilled with yellow common-bond brick and a small fixed window with a rowlock-brick sill.



FIGURE 19. 102 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHEAST



Dvorak 2015:76

FIGURE 20. 102 MAIN STREET E, CIRCA 1912, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

Another victim of the revision to the corner of the building is a spired turret that was located on the second story, the location now occupied by a squared-off corner of red brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. To the east of this added brick on the north elevation, the brickwork of the façade is original, consisting of red common-bond brick with pilasters on the east and west ends and four corbelled courses under a frieze of metal sheathing. Centered within this brickwork not far below the corbelled courses are metal letters spelling "M. RYBAK." Beneath these letters is a rectangular window opening, with two symmetrically placed arched window openings located to either side of it at a slightly higher elevation. All five windows have metal sills and lintels, and all contain replacement windows. Historically, the arched openings contained 4/4 double-hung sash windows, and the rectangular a 1/1 double-hung sash window; currently the arched openings contain 1/1 double-hung sash, and that in the rectangular opening appears to be fixed. Historical photographs show that a balcony used to extend out in front of the rectangular opening, but it had been removed by 1910.

With the exception of the added red brick at the north end, the west wall is yellow common-bond brick, divided into five bays by brick pilasters, between the tops of which run corbelled brick courses. Centered within each bay in the upper story is an arched window opening with a metal lintel and sill, and holding a 1/1 double-hung sash replacement window. The second bay from the south contains an added window opening similar to that in the first bay, but it is covered over. A replacement door is located in the south end of the southernmost bay. The south wall, also yellow common-bond brick, has three segmental-arched window openings in the upper story, with metal sills, rowlock-brick lintels, and 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows.

On both the north and west elevations, denticulate stringcourses ran along the tops of the corbeled courses and directly underneath the eaves, punctuated by regularly spaced scrollwork brackets. All of these have been eliminated, and this area is now sheathed by metal that forms a cornice and frieze, the cornice extending the eaves to be wider than they were historically. Above the cornice is a deck-on-hip roof clad in asphalt shingles on the slopes. Historical photographs indicate that cresting once present on the deck had been removed by 1910.

A post-1964, one-story, flat-roofed addition with pink split-face concrete-brick walls and metal coping is located on the south of the building. The southwest corner is cantilevered but supported by a metal post, creating a recess in which a public entrance is located, consisting of metal-framed glass double doors with sidelights and transom window. A single pedestrian door is located near the east end of the south elevation. A window opening near the west end of the south elevation has been infilled, as has the lower portion of an opening near the south end of the west elevation, the upper portion containing a fixed single-light window.

4.17.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, and the Rybaks may have played an important role in that development, the substantial changes to the storefront, replacement of the windows, loss of the cornices, and especially the loss of the corner-oriented arched entrance and the spired turret above, which were defining architectural features of this building, have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.18 LE-NPC-028

Commercial Building

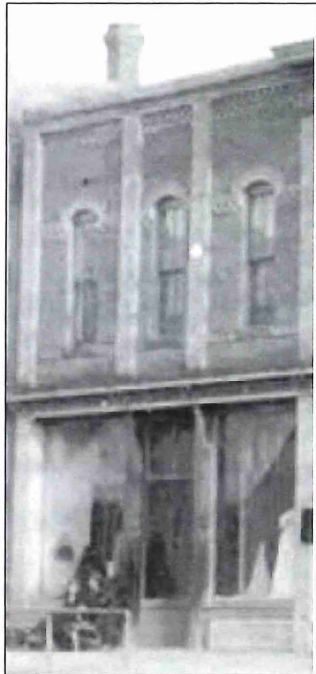
104 Main Street E

This two-story building is rectangular in plan and is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 21). It originally housed a dry goods and grocery store run by Mathias Rybak, and was constructed circa 1880, when the store was established (*The Times* 1907a). It was not long thereafter connected on the lower level to Rybak's subsequently built one-story saloon, and later connected to the same on an added upper level (*The Times* 1931a:64). In 1928, the interior of the building, along with that of 102 Main Street E, underwent extensive remodeling to accommodate changes in function. Mayor C. J. Simon, who at that time was operating a grocery and dry goods store in the building, moved his operations into the larger space afforded by 102 Main Street E, and Thomas F. Rybak, Mathias' son, moved his clothing store from 102 Main Street E into the building at 104 Main Street E (*The Times* 1928).

As with the neighboring building at 102 Main Street E (see previous section), the storefront has been fully replaced (Figure 22). It contains a centered, flush, metal-framed glass door with transom window and wide sidelights, flanked on both sides by metal-framed plate-glass display windows. Over the top of all of these is a black-painted plywood sign holder. The plywood extends partway down the exterior of the plate-glass



FIGURE 21. 104 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH



Dvorak 2015:76

FIGURE 22. 104 MAIN STREET E, CIRCA 1912, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

windows, the remaining distance clad in metal stamped and colored to look like brick, which also extends under the windows to face the bulkheads. A bracketed cornice that once ran above the storefront has been removed.

The second story features original brickwork, primarily red brick in a common-bond pattern, with upper-story pilasters dividing that portion of the façade into three bays, each containing an arched window opening holding a 2/2 double-hung sash window. Each window opening has a rowlock-brick segmental-arch lintel and a stone still, and running horizontally from the ends of both to the pilasters are projecting brick courses. Historically, the pilasters, lintels, and projecting brick courses were painted in a contrasting color, but most of the paint has since come off. The top of the façade historically featured decorative brickwork consisting of several courses of alternately projecting header bricks, but it is now covered by what appears to be metal sheathing in the same color as the brick and mimicking corbelling. The area above is now sheathed by metal that forms a cornice and frieze, the cornice extending the eaves to be wider than they were historically. Metal coping runs along the top of the cornice.

4.18.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the substantial changes to the storefront combined with the loss of the upper brickwork and installation of metal sheathing, particularly that appearing prominently at the top of the façade, have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.19 LE-NPC-029

Maruska Building 106 Main Street E

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 8.

4.20 LE-NPC-030

Commercial Building 108 Main Street E

This building was constructed for Frank Maruska's blacksmith shop in 1913 to replace his previous, wood-frame shop (5/1/1913, 5/22/1913; Sanborn 1911, 1919). In 1921, Maruska relocated his business, and A. F. Heinen and George Tyra had the building remodeled for their clothing store, then put an addition on the rear the following year to expand the space (9/14/1922; *The Times* 1931a:64; Dvorak 2015:84). At the time of the survey, it contained a coffee shop.

The one-story, flat-roofed building is rectangular in plan and is of the enframed window wall type (Figure 23). The façade has been severely altered since the 1920s. The storefront consists of a centered metal-framed glass replacement door with transom and sidelights, to the exterior of which are single plate-glass

replacement display windows with rowlock-brick sills. The yellow brick of the sills and the bulkheads below is inconsistent with the light brown brick extending up the sides of the storefront, and none of the brick appears to be original. Sheltering the storefront is a full-width, cloth-covered metal-frame canopy, above which the parapet is sheathed in metal with metal coping. At the rear of the building, sections of the 1922 west wall, painted, are visible at the top of the wall and at its south end, where it adjoins a one-story, flat-roofed, concrete-block addition made circa 2000.



FIGURE 23. 108 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH

4.20.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the reconfiguration and recladding of the façade have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.21 LE-NPC-031

The Savoy/New Prague/Granada Theater

110 Main Street E

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 8.

4.22 LE-NPC-007

First National Bank

112 Main Street E

This property is listed in the National Register (Figure 24). Any further work is pending MnDOT's determination of the effects of the project, if any, on this property.



FIGURE 24. 112 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH

4.23 LE-NPC-032

Commercial Building

116 Main Street E

This one-story, flat-roofed building, rectangular in plan, of the one-part commercial-block type, was constructed in 1909 (Sanborn 1904, 1911; 4/29/1909) (Figure 25). Thomas Topka had it built for Komarek & Kopet's North Star Meat Market, but for unknown reasons, they did not occupy it, and the first tenant was M. A. Lindsay, who set up a variety store there in the fall of 1910 (5/20/1909, 8/10/1910, 9/8/1910). A



FIGURE 25. 116 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH

tailor by the name of Lipold moved in in 1913, then W. F. Sykora's barber shop replaced the tailor shop in May of 1915, while Sykora had his building remodeled. Once Sykora vacated the building in July of 1915, another tailor, Joseph Palacek, moved in for just under a year, then the Packard Electric Supply Co. moved in for a few months. In October of 1916, Mathias Shembauer (Sembauer) opened a pool hall and lunch counter, which he continued to operate through at least 1920, though he eliminated the pool hall function in that year (4/24/1913, 5/13/1915, 7/30/1915, 6/15/1916, 10/19/1916, 7/1/1920).

The storefront wall and the adjacent portion of the brick pilasters at each end of the façade have been covered in stucco. A replacement, metal-framed glass door is located at the east end of the storefront and two metal-framed replacement display windows to its west. Over the top of the storefront is a plywood sign holder, above which the red-brick parapet features original brickwork, including a band of five dogtooth courses separated from corbeled courses by courses laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. The parapet is capped in terra cotta coping.

4.23.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the reconfiguration and recladding of the storefront, which occupies the majority of the façade, has resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value;

therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.24 LE-NPC-033

Commercial Building

118 Main Street E

This one-story, flat-roofed building, rectangular in plan, is of the enframed window wall type (Figure 26). It was built as an implements warehouse for the Vanasek hardware store in 1918 to replace a frame version that had been condemned by the Minnesota state fire marshal (*The Times* 1916e; 4/4/1918, 4/18/1918, 7/29/1918). The warehouse was connected to the store by an interior doorway that is no longer present (Sanborn 1919; Dvorak 2015:93). At the time of the survey, the building housed a tanning salon.

The storefront has been substantially altered. It includes a slightly off-center, recessed entry containing a single-panel metal-framed glass replacement door with transom window. The east and west walls of the recess contain plate-glass replacement display windows, which wrap around to occupy most of the façade. The bulkheads and the small amount of wall at each end of the storefront have been covered in stucco. Above the storefront is a plywood sign holder. The remainder of the façade is original, but incomplete, as the stepped upper portion of the parapet evident in historical photographs has been removed, leaving a single course of rowlock brick over a single course of header brick at the top of the wall. Below, the wall is brick in multiple colors, laid largely in a stretcher-bond pattern but through which runs a course of rowlock

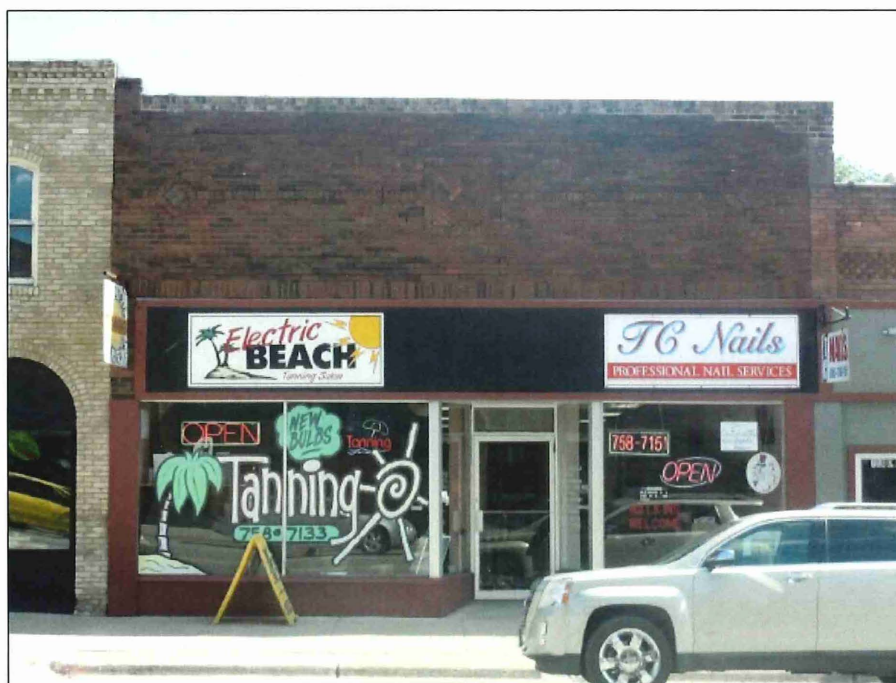


FIGURE 26. 118 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH

brick interrupted near each end with bricks set an angle to form an open diamond motif with stone insets, and at the center with an arrangement of rowlock and header bricks that form a square and surround a basket weave bond. In addition, a stringcourse of soldier brick runs along the top of the sign holder.

4.24.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the reconfiguration and recladding of the storefront, which occupies the majority of the façade, and the loss of the stepped parapet have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.25 LE-NPC-034

Zak Saloon/Vanasek Hardware Building

120 Main Street E

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 8.

4.26 LE-NPC-035

Commercial Building

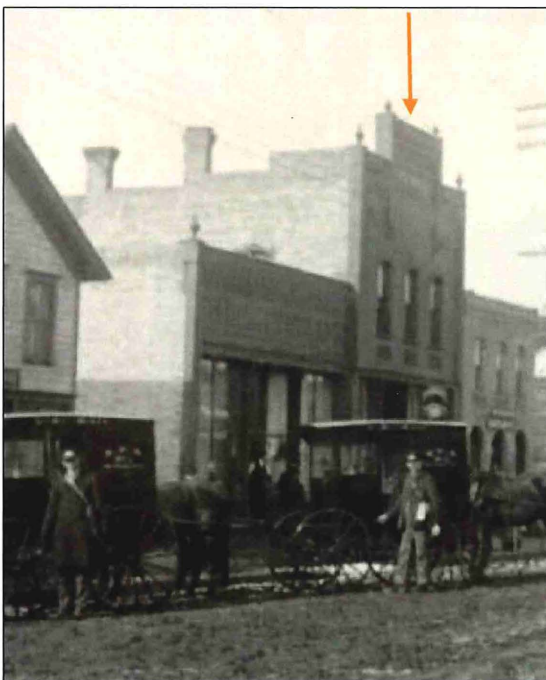
122 Main Street E

This one-story, flat-roofed building, rectangular in plan, is of the one-part commercial-block type (Figure 27). It was constructed in 1894 to replace an earlier building, presumably of the gable-roofed variety given its shingle roof (Sanborn 1892, 1899; 7/26/1894), and it was constructed as a two-story brick building that housed the saloon of Joseph Maertz, with an interior opening connecting it to Maertz's one-story general store, built at the same time, on the east (*The Times* 1895:51; Sanborn 1899; Dvorak 2015:98) (Figure 28). Sometime after 1964, the upper story was removed, the lower story refaced in yellow stretcher-bond brick, and the storefront substantially altered (Sanborn 1952; aerial photograph 1964).

The entry, recessed and slightly off-center, contains a replacement metal-framed glass door with transom window. The west half of the façade contains paired replacement display windows. A cloth-covered metal-frame canopy shelters the storefront, and metal coping runs along the roof line. The west and south elevations are original yellow common-bond brick. The latter elevation exhibits segmental-arch brick lintels over window and door openings that have been infilled with concrete block, and it contains two replacement doors.



FIGURE 27. 122 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH



Dvorak 2015:103

FIGURE 28. 122 MAIN STREET E, CIRCA 1895, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST (BUILDING INDICATED BY ARROW)

4.26.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the loss of the entire upper story and the complete replacement of the façade have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.27 LE-NPC-036

New Prague Post Office

124 Main Street E

The New Prague Post Office is a one-story building, rectangular in plan, constructed in 1964-1965, the previous post office having been razed after 53 years in this location (8/31/1911; *The Times* 1964a, 1965) (Figures 29 and 30). A recessed street-facing wall of orange brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern is bordered on the east and west by dark-brown brick sidewalls that extend to a point flush with the adjacent building on the west. Between and flush with the sidewalls is a series of five regularly spaced, dark-brown brick piers that support an overhang on the north, faced in dark-brown brick and with recessed lights in the underside. The piers and sidewalls frame six bays in the recessed wall, the westernmost containing a metal-framed glass door with a wood-panel transom above, centered in the bay. Centered in each of the remaining bays are paired wood-framed casement windows with rowlock-brick sills. With the exception of the dark-brown brick sidewall that frames the east end of the recess, the east elevation is orange brick in a stretcher-bond pattern. The building has a flat roof and metal coping.



FIGURE 29. 124 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

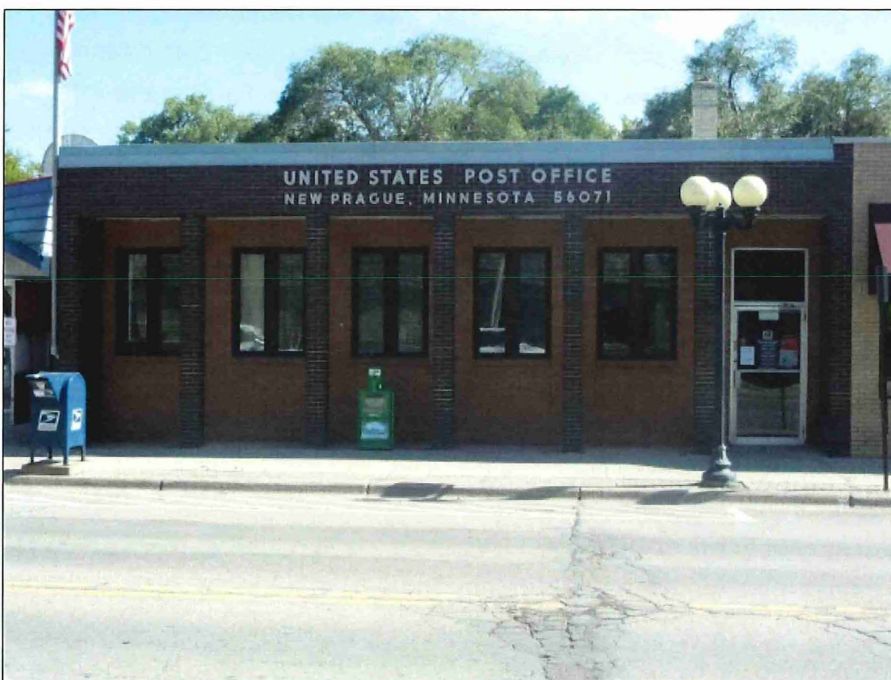


FIGURE 30. 124 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH

4.27.1 Recommendations

A nationwide historic context study for postal facilities constructed or occupied between 1940 and 1971 was completed in 2012 by URS Group, Inc. (URS), for the United States Postal Service (USPS) to streamline Section 106 compliance involving its facilities. The study establishes National Register registration requirements for associated property types at the local level of significance (URS 2012). It describes the 1960s as a sub-period in which "an extensive building program that commenced in 1959" (URS 2012:2-79) was carried out due to massive increases in the volume of mail, the implementation of new technologies, and the shift from rail and water to air and truck transportation. Post office construction under this program was frequently guided by two largely similar editions of a Post Office Department brochure, one published in 1959 and the other in 1964, titled *Building Designs*, both of which called for a Modern aesthetic "that focused on efficiency and clean lines" (URS 2012:2-79-2-80) and provided a number of standardized designs with which to achieve it. The designs were to be applied to post offices ranging from 1,000 to 12,000 square feet, which were known as the "Thousands Series" (URS 2012:2-86).

On the basis of this study, of the post offices built during the 1960s, only "Thousands Series" post offices have the potential to be eligible for listing in the National Register. The registration requirements indicate that such post offices eligible under Criterion A would be significant in the area of community planning and development. As such, they "should be peripheral to central business districts with easy access to major automobile routes [and] have enough setback to accommodate minimal landscaping" (URS 2012:3-32). Additional important elements include patron parking, a rear or side space for a loading dock, a truck turn-around, and employee parking. Those eligible under Criterion C for their Modern architecture should have

rectilinear modular components; glass, metal panel, or masonry facing panels; metal trim and framing of windows and entrance, interior glass and panel wall separating post box lobby from public service and counter lobby; and flat roof and metal trimmed eave or fascia (URS 2012:3-33). Further, the following character-defining features were established as being necessary to a National Register-eligible post office dating to the 1960s:

- Design based on 1959 and 1964 *Building Designs* brochures
- Less than 12,000 square feet, strong horizontality
- Original floor plan with patron entrance through box lobby
- Flat roof, one story
- Aluminum/stainless steel window walls or rows of windows
- Aluminum or stainless steel entrance door
- Metal or wood fascia rear canopy with soffit
- Vinyl, stone, or terrazzo interior flooring
- Glass and metal trim interior partition between box lobby and post office lobby (glass and wood trim okay)
- Lot layout based on Lot Types A, B, C, or D, as described in 1959 or 1964 *Building Designs* brochures

Complicating the use of these registration requirements for anyone other than the USPS, however, is that *Building Designs* is not readily available in print or online. It is therefore not known whether the New Prague post office was designed on the basis of either edition of this brochure. Even so, based on the exterior alone, it does not appear to meet the registration requirements. Sited within the business district in the same location as it was in 1911 and therefore subject to the constraints of that location, it does not have a setback from Main Street to provide an area for landscaping, nor does it feature dedicated parking or a truck turn-around. Although the building is one story and has a flat roof with a rear canopy, it does not include rectilinear modular components, and the brick piers frame the façade into vertically oriented bays, so it does not exude a strong horizontality. The windows are separated, so neither window walls nor rows of windows are present. In sum, it does not well represent the Modern style. On the basis of the registration requirements, the post office is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.28 LE-NPC-037

Gas Station

126 Main Street E

This one-story gas station is angled to face the corner of Main Street E and 1st Avenue SE/NE (Figure 31). The north, original portion of the building, was constructed by the Standard Oil Company in 1921 (*The Times* 1921a). Between 1944 and 1951, the building was expanded out from its southwest and southeast walls with concrete-block construction to accommodate a garage (Sanborn 1944; aerial photograph 1951; Dvorak 2015:102). A portion of this circa-1950 construction is evident at the rear of the building, which



FIGURE 31. 126 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

shows brick quoins at the corners of the concrete block, all now painted white, and with two clerestory windows with concrete sills on the southwest wall. The rest of the early to mid twentieth-century construction is now located behind a much more recent exterior treatment that wraps around from the façade to the southeast and northwest walls. The walls are faced in red brick in a stretcher-bond pattern with standing seam metal above and below. The façade contains a metal-framed plate-glass display window near the northwest end, an adjacent metal-framed glass pedestrian door, and, near the southeast end, a vehicle door which leads into a service bay. On the southeast elevation are two 16-light windows, the central four (2/2) lights of which are embedded awning windows. A faux mansard parapet with metal coping and front gable masks a flat roof.

4.28.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the recent revision of the exterior has resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.29 LE-NPC-014

The New Prague Times and Suel Printing Company Building and Addition

200 Main Street E

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 7.

4.30 LE-NPC-039

Commercial Building

208 Main Street E

This building, front-gabled but with a false front, was built circa 1895 as a two-story building with a one-story rear section (Sanborn 1892, 1899; North West Publishing Company 1898), but a half-story addition has been constructed above the rear section (Figure 32). Originally the building was a dwelling which doubled as a cobbler shop (Sanborn 1899-1919; Dvorak 2015:109). At the time of the survey, the building housed a salon.

The building is rectangular in plan and has a stone foundation, to which a parge coat has been applied. The façade and east elevation are clad in wood-grain fiberboard siding, while the east elevation is clad in asbestos shingles.⁷ A full-width, cloth-covered metal-frame canopy extends over the storefront. A replacement metal-framed glass pedestrian door with transom window is located near the west end of the storefront, and it otherwise contains two wood-framed plate-glass replacement windows. A similar window is located on the lower story near the north end of the east elevation. An added or replacement door is located on the first floor, under a gabled wood hood supported by brackets and clad in wood shakes. Two



FIGURE 32. 208 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

⁷ Figure 33 was photographed during the Phase I survey in July of 2016. A subsequent visit to New Prague in May of 2017 revealed that the upper portion of the façade had been re-clad and the canopy replaced. The text reflects the updated appearance.

added wood staircases up to the second story are located to the north and south of this entrance, the one on the south leading up to a landing that likely extends to a rear entrance, and the one on the north leading to an added or replacement door. Between the two are added or replacement windows, including a sliding window, a 1/1 double-hung sash window, and a picture window with flanking sliding or casement windows. The visible portion of the upper story of the west elevation is clad in asbestos shingles and contains a replacement window. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.30.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the replacement cladding and alterations to the fenestration and doors have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.31 LE-NPC-040

Commercial Building

210 Main Street E

This one-story building was constructed circa 1950 (Sanborn 1944; aerial photograph 1951) (Figure 33). At the time of the survey, it housed a pet grooming service.



FIGURE 33. 210 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

The building is rectangular in plan and is of the one-part commercial-block type. The storefront is sheltered by a full-width canopy sheathed in standing-seam metal. It is faced, in part, by a relatively large panel of plywood with vertical wood trim to create the appearance of board-and-batten siding. The panel is surrounded by variegated brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern with the exception of a soldier-brick course that runs along the base of the façade and a rowlock-brick course along the top of the bulkhead that supports the panel. A sign is attached to the west half of the panel, and the east half holds a picture window with flanking casement windows. The vertical wood trim is absent from above the window set, replaced by an open rectangular arrangement of trim to create a transom panel. Near the east end of the storefront is the entrance, which is flush with rest of the façade and contains a single-panel door, over which is another transom panel. The east and west elevations are yellow brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern, with a course of soldier brick running along the base of the wall above the concrete-block foundation. No fenestration is present on either elevation; a single window opening near the south end of the west elevation has been infilled with yellow brick. A one-story, concrete-block addition with vinyl siding is located on the rear of the building. Both the original and added portions of the building have a flat roof and metal coping.

4.31.1 Recommendations

This property was a relatively late addition to the New Prague commercial core, and no information was found to suggest that it played an important enough role in this regard to be individually historically significant under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.32 LE-NPC-041

Commercial Building

212 ½ Main Street E

This two-story building was constructed circa 1960 immediately behind a two-story commercial-building-turned-dwelling that was razed in 2013 (Sanborn 1887-1944; Dvorak 2015:113) (Figure 34). Aerial photographs dating to 2013, prior the demolition, show a connection between the two buildings, possibly a breezeway. The building is rectangular in plan and clad in vinyl siding. The east elevation is fenestrated with an upper-story set of tripled windows comprising a central fixed light and flanking 1/1 double-hung sash windows, and on the lower story, two single 1/1 double-hung sash windows. A replacement pedestrian door is located near the west end of the north elevation. The building has a flat roof and metal coping.



FIGURE 34. 212 1/2 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

4.32.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.33 LE-NPC-042

House

218 Main Street E

This one-story, gable-on-hip-roofed house with an asymmetrically located gable was built circa 1945 (Figure 35). It is generally rectangular in plan, but the north half extends slightly farther west than the south half. The visible part of the foundation is structural tile and holds glass-block windows in its north wall and paired lights in its east and west walls. The walls of the house are clad in stucco. Semicircular poured-concrete steps faced in soldier brick lead to a centered entrance sheltered by a gabled hood that projects from the roofline. The brackets and vertical surfaces of the hood are clad in the same stucco as the rest of the house. The entrance includes a wood door with flanking glass-block sidelights. To its west is a short 1/1 double-hung sash window underlined by a band of glass-block surrounded by wood trim matching that surrounding the windows on the house. Standard-height 1/1 double-hung sash windows are paired at the



FIGURE 35. 218 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

west end of the façade, while tall ones are paired at the east end of the façade and the north end of the east elevation. All other windows are single 1/1 double-hung sash. In the south, recessed portion of the west elevation, a deck extends from the upper story. The deck and the walls supporting it form something of a partial carport; tall and wide enough to accommodate a vehicle, but not long enough to shelter its full length. A door in the west wall provides access to the house. The roof of the house is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.33.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.34 LE-NPC-043

Commercial Building

222 Main Street E

This one-story, flat-roofed commercial building with faux mansard roof was constructed in 1970 (Figure 36). The foundation is smooth concrete block, painted light gray, which is also used in quoins at the corners and in regularly spaced pilasters, three each on the west and east elevations. The walls are split ribbed,



FIGURE 36. 222 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

unpainted, darker gray concrete block. Poured-concrete steps lead up from the north and an accessible ramp from the east to a centered, recessed entrance containing a replacement door with sidelight. The east and west walls of the recess are of the light gray smooth concrete block, replicating the effect of the quoins and pilasters. Centered in each bay defined by the light gray vertical elements on all three visible elevations are tripled casement windows. The faux mansard roof is clad in asphalt shakes and has metal coping.

4.34.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.35 LE-NPC-044

Ballinger House

226 Main Street E

This cross-gabled building was constructed as a one-and-a-half-story dwelling circa 1939 (Sanborn 1931, 1944; aerial photographs 1938, 1940) (Figure 37). The dwelling was occupied by the family of Julius Ballinger, who owned and operated the dairy at 232 Main Street E (see below) with his brother, Gilbert (Dvorak 2015:119), after it was built there in the early 1930s. The former house is currently occupied by a real estate office.



FIGURE 37. 226 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH

The house has an L plan and a concrete-block foundation. The walls are clad in vinyl replacement siding. Fenestration on the façade consists of replacement windows, with plate-glass windows in the lower story and a casement window in the front gable. All windows have added decorative shutters. A gabled, windowless wall dormer is located at the west end of the façade. Both it and the roof gable feature cornice returns, and the interior returns for both run along the top of a hood that extends out above a recessed entrance. The hood is supported by two painted columns that visually frame the door. Windows on the east elevation are also replacement windows, those on the lower story being either sliding or casement windows. Windows in the west elevation are 1/1 double-hung sash. A shed-roofed carport has been added to the west side of the building, and a one-story addition to the south. It additionally appears that a shed-roofed extension of the upper story on the south side has occurred. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.35.1 Recommendations

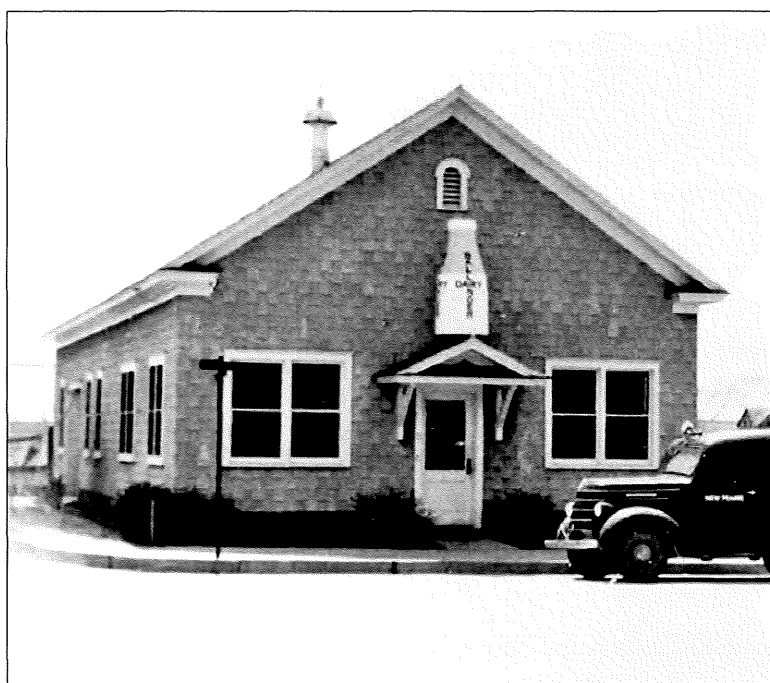
This building, as a residential property, did not contribute to the development of the New Prague commercial core, and no information was found to associate it with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.36 LE-NPC-045

Ballinger Dairy

232 Main Street E

This two-story building, rectangular in plan, was constructed in 1933 as the Ballinger Dairy, a one-story, front-gabled building (Sanborn 1931; aerial photograph 1937; *The Times* 1946c; Dvorak 2015:122) (Figure 38). With the exception of the brick at the base of the walls and a portion of the original gable visible from the east, no evidence of the original building is currently visible (Figure 39). Additions and alterations have resulted in an irregular building with multiple types of cladding including diagonally oriented wood paneling, vertically oriented wood paneling, vinyl siding, and asbestos shingles; numerous added and replacement windows and doors in a variety of configurations; and a multitude of roof lines.



Dvorak 2015:123

FIGURE 38. 232 MAIN STREET E, DATE UNKNOWN, LOOKING SOUTHWEST



FIGURE 39. 232 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

4.36.1 Recommendations

Due to the severity of the alterations that have occurred, this building would not have the integrity to convey any potential significance under National Register Criterion A, B, or C. It is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.37 LE-NPC-046

New Prague Water Works

300 Main Street E

This one-story building was constructed in 1940 as the pump house for the city water works (Sanborn 1944) (Figure 40). It is rectangular in plan and has a flat roof with metal coping. It exhibits a muted Art Deco aesthetic. The walls are faced in yellow and light brown brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. The south approximately two-thirds of the east elevation is a large opening infilled with concrete block. The façade features a stepped parapet formed by the extension of two full-length brick pilasters above the rest of the roofline. The wall between the pilasters is flush with their faces, creating a central projecting section in the façade. Between these pilasters in the highest portion of the parapet is a dogtooth-brick band. A few courses beneath it and also extending from pilaster to pilaster is a rectangular, stone inset engraved with "MUNICIPAL WATER WORKS" and underlined by a soldier-brick course. Below the soldier-brick course is an opening containing concrete-block infill surrounding a single-panel, metal replacement door, which a historical photograph shows was formerly occupied by a centered door with sidelights under a transom window that appears to be glass block (Figure 41). The east and west bays of the façade include a soldier-



FIGURE 40. 300 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH



Dvorak 2015:128

FIGURE 41. 300 MAIN STREET E, CIRCA 1950, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

brick course at the same elevation as that in the center section, underneath of which in each bay is a centered window opening, where a tall, multi-light window used to exist, infilled with red brick in a stack bond surrounding a small, two-light replacement window with rowlock sill. The bottom of the stack-bond infill extends to the base of the former window sills, interrupting what was previously a continuous concrete stringcourse from the exterior edge of each pilaster to the ends of the façade and wrapping around to the full length of the west elevation and the brick portion of the east elevation. Below the former sills is the original bulkhead facing of yellow and light brown brick in a stack bond. The soldier-brick stringcourse, like the concrete one, wraps around to the west elevation and the brick portion of the east elevation. On the west elevation, a single-centered window opening has been subject to the same treatment as those on the façade. The east elevation is not fenestrated.

4.37.1 Recommendations

While this property may have been found to hold significance in association with the history of civic improvements in New Prague, the extent of the modern infill on the façade has resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.38 LE-NPC-047

Commercial Building

308 Main Street E

This two-story building with one-story attached garage on the rear was constructed in 1945-1946 by Joseph Hartmann to house his repair and implement shop (*The Times* 1946a; Dvorak 2015:130) (Figure 42). Subsequent rear garage additions were made circa 1960 and after 1964. The property remained in the Hartmann family at the time of the survey, as the offices and facilities of the Hartmann Well Drilling Company.

The original two-story building has a shallow front-gabled roof, while the attached one-story, single-bay garage has a flat roof. Both sections are clad in brown structural tile and have metal coping. The lower story of the façade contains two large window openings infilled with vinyl siding surrounding replacement casement windows. Between the openings, the door opening has also been infilled with a replacement door flanked on both sides by vinyl siding, which is accessed from the east via an added accessible ramp. The upper story features symmetrically placed window openings holding 1/1 double-hung sash, the center one with paired windows and the east and west openings with single windows. Both lower- and upper-story windows have sills of structural tile cut to look like header brick.



FIGURE 42. 308 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

The east and west elevations contain 1/1 double-hung sash windows in the upper story, with sills of structural tile cut to look like rowlock brick. In the lower story the sills are concrete, and the openings have been infilled with casement windows surrounded by vinyl siding. A door is located near the south end of the east elevation of the two-story portion. An interior brick chimney extends above the peak of the roof.

The garage additions are both concrete block. The circa-1960 garage is a single-bay, flat-roofed affair, while the post-1964 one is side-gabled and contains seven bays. Both additions and the original garage have openings oriented to a graveled lot on the east. A separate, small garage, gable-roofed and with a single bay, is located at the east edge of the property.

4.38.1 Recommendations

This property was a relatively late addition to the New Prague commercial core, and no information was found to suggest that it played an important enough role in this regard to be individually historically significant under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.39 LE-NPC-048

Commercial Building

314 Main Street E

This building was constructed in 1946 as a garage and automobile display room for Schilling-Murray Motors with an apartment upstairs (*The Times* 1946b; Sanborn 1952). At the time of the survey, a portion was occupied by a chiropractic office, with the rest vacant.

In 1946, the building consisted of the two-story section fronting Main Street and the adjoining one-story section on the rear (south). Since then, one-story additions to the west side, the south one built sometime between 1964 and 1991 and the north one circa 2000, have nearly doubled its width (Figure 43). The building is generally rectangular in plan and has a flat roof. The walls are clad in stucco. Fenestration in the north and east elevations of the second story consists of casement windows, the sills for which are covered in stucco. On the south elevation are 1/1 double-hung sash windows. In the lower story of the two-story portion, a small, metal-framed picture window is located at the east end of the façade; otherwise, all windows are metal-framed casement windows. The northeast corner of the building includes an angled face to orient it toward the street corner, and it contains a flush, metal-framed glass replacement door, accessed by poured-concrete steps. The same type of doors are located on the east elevation, one near the junction of the one- and two-story sections and one approximately centered in the one-story section, for lower-level access. Immediately to the north of the former door is a pedestrian door which accesses the upper story. Near the south end of the east elevation, another set of poured-concrete steps leads to a



FIGURE 43. 314 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

single-panel industrial door, which along with a paired casement window on its north are surrounded by a small section of exposed concrete block. To the south of the concrete block section, a single-light window is present. All doors and windows on the lower level of the two-story section and the door near its junction with the one-story section are sheltered by cloth-covered metal-frame dome canopies.

At the east end of the north wall of the northern addition to the west side is a recessed entrance containing a single-panel metal-framed glass door with sidelight and an information board. The remainder of the north elevation and the west elevation of this addition features regularly spaced paired casement windows. Pilasters divide the west elevation of the southern addition to the west side into three bays. The north one is occupied by a paired casement window, the central one by two metal vents, and the south one by a metal-framed glass door with dome canopy. The building has metal coping.

4.39.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.40 LE-NPC-049

New Prague Memorial Library 400 Main Street E

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 9.

4.41 LE-NPC-050

Memorial Park 400 Block of Main Street E

Memorial Park, established in 1922, was New Prague's first city park. The 15-acre property, comprising partially adjoining northwest and southeast rectangular areas, was purchased using funds raised by the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion, and plans were drawn up in October of 1921 by landscape architect George L. Nason. The plans called for such recreational amenities as a wooded picnic ground with dancing pavilion; tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts; a baseball diamond, a football field; a swimming pool; a four-hole golf course; and an aviation landing field (Smith 2013:58). The latter two were never developed in the park, and a 1937 aerial photograph shows that by that year, few of the others had come to fruition. The pavilion was constructed where proposed in the southeast section in 1929 (*The Times* 1929a), and an informal baseball diamond and a structure were present in the northwest section. In a 1951 aerial photograph, although the baseball diamond appears better defined, no additional amenities are evident. A 1957 aerial photograph shows more development, including a few smaller structures and what appears to be a football field in the northwest section of the park, all of these north of the baseball field.

Based on a 1964 aerial photograph, the football field and at least three nearby structures were removed between 1957 and the construction of the library in the northwest corner of the park in 1963.

Today, the northwest section of the park includes the library in the northwest corner, a modern playground near the northeast corner, and adjacent, formal baseball fields in the majority of the remainder, with a combination concessions building and picnic shelter near their home plates (Figure 44). At the far south end of this section adjacent to 2nd Street SE is an area separated by a sidewalk, which features a flagpole at the top of a slight slope. Within the slope, white stone has been laid to spell "MEMORIAL PARK" (Figure 45). This area additionally includes a cannon; four benches, three of which were put in by the boy scouts in 2014; and a granite memorial to New Prague veterans erected in 1989.

The southeast section of the park includes a picnic shelter, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, a concrete-block restroom building, and a relocated mid nineteenth-century log cabin in the north half. A second combination concessions building and picnic shelter and the pavilion are in the south half. The original pavilion has been subsumed by numerous additions, but its barrel-vaulted roof is still visible (Figure 46).



FIGURE 44. MEMORIAL PARK, COMBINATION PICNIC SHELTER AND CONCESSION BUILDING, LOOKING SOUTHWEST



FIGURE 45. MEMORIAL PARK, STONE LETTERING, LOOKING SOUTH

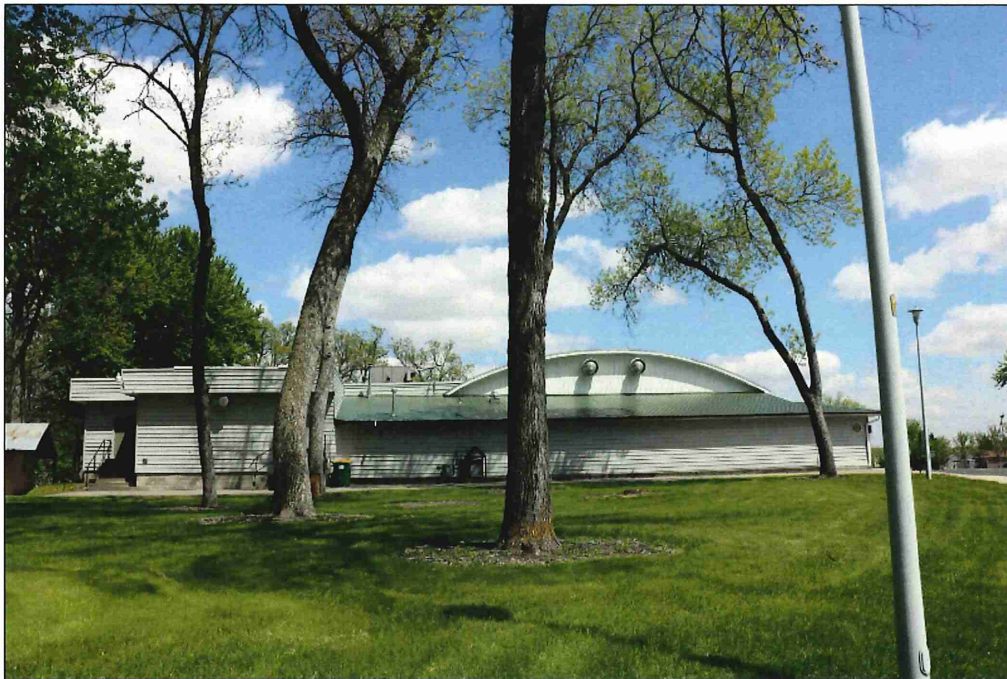


FIGURE 46. MEMORIAL PARK, PAVILION, LOOKING EAST

4.41.1 Recommendations

Although Memorial Park may have held significance under Criterion A as New Prague's first city park and one brought to fruition through the focused efforts of local organizations, or under Criterion C for its landscape design, the structures and objects within the park are relatively recent, the pavilion has been substantially altered, and the log cabin was moved into the park in the 1950s. The landscape has been altered to the extent that it no longer reflects the original design. For these reasons, the park would not have the integrity to convey any potential historical significance. It is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.42 LE-NPC-051

House

510 Main Street E

This property includes a house and an outbuilding (Figures 47 and 48). The one-and-a-half-story, front-gabled house, rectangular in plan, was built in 1926. The walls are clad in brown brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. A rowlock-brick stringcourse runs around the house, underlining the first-story windows and forming the top course of a plinth. Sills for the upper-story and basement windows are also rowlock brick. Lintels for all windows and doors are soldier brick. Fenestration consists primarily of 1/1 double-hung sash windows, which occur in single, paired, and tripled configurations; however, the east half of the façade contains a picture window flanked on either side by narrow 1/1 double-hung sash, and the basement level holds two-light awning windows. The off-center front entrance is accessed by concrete steps with wood



FIGURE 47. 510 MAIN STREET E, HOUSE, LOOKING SOUTH



FIGURE 48. 510 MAIN STREET E, OUTBUILDING, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

railings, and behind the storm door contains a wood door with six lights that appears original. Above the entry is a gable-roofed hood with scrollwork bargeboard, supported by wood brackets. A recess that includes a gabled wall dormer is present on the west side of the house, within which are concrete steps with an exterior brick stringer, leading up to a second, north-facing door. The roof incorporates vinyl fascia and soffits, and it is clad in asphalt shingles. An interior brick chimney extends above its east side.

Located to the southwest of the house is the gambrel-roofed outbuilding, which incorporates a concrete-block foundation, board-and-batten siding, and asphalt shingle-clad roof. An overhead door is located on the north elevation, and fenestration consists of 1/1 double-hung sash windows. To the southeast of the house is a frame, front-gabled single-bay garage.

4.42.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.43 LE-NPC-052

House

514 Main Street E

This two-story building, built in 1930 and generally rectangular in plan, was historically a house but is now occupied by apartments (Figure 49). A parge coat has been applied to the foundation. The walls are clad in fiberboard siding. Several additions of varying heights and configurations have been made to the south side of the house. A wide, shed, wall dormer is located on the north side, which may or may not be original to the house. Fenestration in the original, gabled portion of the building is a combination of possibly original 6/9 double-hung sash windows, and replacement or added 1/1 double-hung sash and sliding windows.

Located to the southwest of the house is a front-gabled, structural-tile outbuilding with double pedestrian doors and 6/1 double-hung sash windows (Figure 50). To the southeast is a frame, front-gabled, two-bay garage with shed-roofed, single-bay wing on the west.



FIGURE 49. 514 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHWEST



FIGURE 50. 514 MAIN STREET E, OUTBUILDING, LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHWEST

4.43.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. In addition, the numerous additions to this building and its conversion from a house to an apartment building have resulted in a loss of integrity. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.44 LE-NPC-053

House

602 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, jerkinhead-roofed house was constructed for Professor Jan J. Kovarik, conductor of the New Prague Philharmonic Orchestra, circa 1900 (Stephen Frost, property owner, letter to Deco, July 20, 2016) (Figure 51). It is oriented perpendicular to the street, with the main entrance on the west side of the house. The house is generally rectangular in plan. A parge coat has been applied to the foundation, and the walls of the house are clad in asbestos shingles. Gabled wall dormers are located on the north, east, and west walls of the house, all of which exhibit cornice returns and contain paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows. A porch on the north end of the west wall has been enclosed, its west wall extending south to what may once have been a bay window. Adjacent to the possible former bay window, an enclosed porch extends off the rear (south) of the house. A second door sheltered by a shed-roofed hood is located



FIGURE 51. 602 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING EAST-SOUTHEAST

on the east wall of the house. Fenestration in the first story comprises single and paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and incorporates wood soffits and fascia.

4.44.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns or events of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A or C. Although Jan Kovarik may be significant for his role in New Prague's performing arts history, his residence would not likely well illustrate this role or, therefore, meet National Register Criterion B. Further, due to alterations including the replacement cladding and enclosure of the porches, the property would not have the integrity to convey any potential significance. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.45 LE-NPC-054

Bruzek Funeral Home

610 Main Street E

Information on the Bruzek Funeral Home was mailed to Deco by its current director, Stephen Frost, husband to Mary Bruzek, whose grandfather, John F. Bruzek, Jr. began the Bruzek funeral services in 1903. A building for the provision of these services, as opposed to carrying them out in the homes of the deceased, was built in 1921 and constitutes what is now the northeast corner of the funeral home, since which time numerous additions have occurred to house expanded operations (Figure 52). In 1928, a garage addition was made



FIGURE 52. 610 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

to the rear (south) of the funeral home. Ten years later, a two-story addition was made on the west, and a second story was added to the original building, resulting in a funeral home complete with visitation/viewing area, office, and embalming room on the main level, and a one-and-a-half-story residence above.

In 1952, a three-stall garage was built on the north side of the 1928 garage, and the latter was converted to an embalming room. A utility room was added to the rear of the living quarters in 1954. In 1961, a large visitation wing was added to the west side of the building. In 1968, the upstairs living quarters were expanded to the east. Another addition was put on the south side of the building in 1996-1997, at which time the interior was gutted and remodeled.

The resulting building includes a two-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled section with gable-roofed wall dormer on the façade; a small, one-story, flat-roofed section on the south of the cross-gabled section, to which is attached a flat-roofed three-bay garage; and a large, one-story, faux-mansard-with-gable-roofed section on the west and southwest of the cross-gabled section. The walls are clad in vinyl siding. Fenestration consists of paired 4/4 double-hung sash windows on the lower level of the façade, an arched window in the west gable end of the west section, and a combination of single and paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows in the remainder. Multiple doors are located on the building, although the façade contains only the main entrance, which consists of a wood door with sidelights, all containing decorative glass. Extending out from above the door to the edge of the sidewalk on TH 19 is a cloth canopy, above which on the façade is a gabled trim that replicates the roofline above. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.45.1 Recommendations

Although the Bruzek family has a long history of funeral servicing in New Prague, no information was found to associate this property with any patterns or events of historical significance, nor does it appear that the Bruzeks brought about any innovations in or contributed in a similarly significant way to the funeral industry. The building is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. Further, the building has been remodeled extensively into the modern era, and it therefore has suffered a loss of integrity. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.46 LE-NPC-055

House

706 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled bungalow with front-facing shed dormer was constructed in 1910 and is generally rectangular in plan, although set-back, one-story, side-gabled additions have been constructed on both the east and west sides (Figure 53). The visible portion of the foundation of the original part of the house is clad in stucco, while the foundations of the additions are concrete block. The walls of the house are clad in wood lap siding. The front porch, accessed by poured-concrete steps, has been enclosed and incorporates a centered door flanked on both sides by tripled 1/1 double-hung sash windows. A single 1/1 double-hung sash window is located in the shed dormer above. Remaining fenestration



FIGURE 53. 706 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

consists of single and paired 1/1 double-hung sash. A second door is located on the west side of the west addition, which is accessed by added wood steps. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and an interior brick chimney extends above the peak.

4.46.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.47 LE-NPC-056

House

708 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled house with subsidiary front gable was constructed in 1948 (Figure 54). It is generally rectangular in plan and has a concrete-block foundation. The walls are clad in vinyl siding. The projecting, front-gabled west portion of the façade holds a single-panel door on the east and a single 1/1 double-hung sash window on the west. The recessed, eastern portion of the façade is fenestrated with a tripled casement window. A wood deck has been added on the front of the house, which extends from its east end to a point just west of the door, where it meets a set of added wood steps. The east elevation is fenestrated with a single 1/1 double-hung sash window in the gable. On the west side of

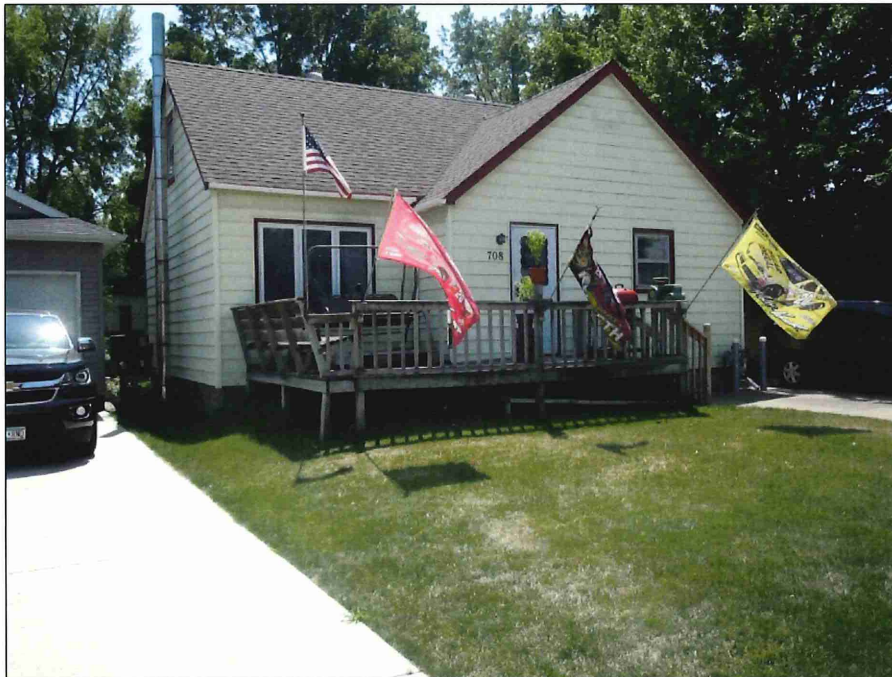


FIGURE 54. 708 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

the house, poured-concrete steps lead up to a small, set-back, side-gabled section containing a north-facing entrance. Windows on the west elevation of both the main massing and small section are 1/1 double-hung sash. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles and features wood fascia.

4.47.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.48 LE-NPC-057

House

710 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled house with attached single-bay garage was built in 1948 (Figure 55). It is rectangular in plan and has a concrete-block foundation. Aerial photographs show that an addition the size of the original house with cross-oriented gable was added to the rear of the house circa 2012, but only the west end of the gable where it connects to the garage is visible from the street. The walls of the house are clad in vinyl replacement siding. Wood steps lead up to a centered, replacement front door, located under a windowless, high-pitched gabled dormer. To either side of the door are paired 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows. The remaining visible fenestration on the house consists of single 1/1 double-



FIGURE 55. 710 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

hung sash windows. A pedestrian door is located on the west elevation of the house at its juncture with the garage.

4.48.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.49 LE-NPC-058

House

712 Main Street E

This one-story, side-gabled Ranch house with attached garage was built in 1969 (Figure 56). It is rectangular in plan and has a concrete-block foundation. The walls are clad in fiberboard siding, and the gable ends are sheathed in wood paneling. The façade features a centered picture window with flanking 1/1 double-hung sash windows, to the east of which are single and paired 1/1 double-hung sash, and to the west of which is the front entrance, accessed by concrete steps. West of the front door is another pedestrian door to the single-bay garage that occupies the west end of the house. The roof has wide eaves, and it is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 56. 712 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH

4.49.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.50 LE-NPC-059

House

716 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled house with attached, flat-roofed, single-bay garage was built in 1949 (Figure 57). It is generally rectangular in plan and has a concrete-block foundation. The eastern majority of the façade projects under a subsidiary front gable and adjacent shed roof and is faced in stone, most of which was obscured by vines at the time of survey. This section contains a large picture window with flanking lights, the latter also obscured by vines, under the front-gabled portion; under the shed-roofed portion is the entrance, which contains a wood door and is accessed by decoratively treated poured-concrete steps. The remaining walls of the house and garage are covered in stucco and incorporate double-hung sash windows, primarily 1/1, although a 6/6 is evident in the east gable. A small, one-story gabled section that bridges the house and garage on their south elevations holds a second pedestrian door, as does the rear elevation of the garage. The roof of the house is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 57. 716 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHWEST

4.50.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.51 SC-NPC-026

House

803 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story house, side-gabled with a subsidiary front gable, has an attached, single-bay, flat-roofed garage and was constructed in 1953 (Figure 58). The walls are faced in orange, rough-faced Roman brick, and the gable ends are clad in fiberboard. The front-gabled portion of the house projects slightly, allowing for the front door to be recessed and sheltered by the roof. A single 1/1 double-hung sash window is located west of the entry in the projecting portion, while east of the entry is a picture window flanked on each side by a 1/1 double-hung sash window. Remaining fenestration is also 1/1 double-hung sash. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 58. 803 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.51.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.52 SC-NPC-027

House

801 Main Street E

This one-story, hipped-roof house with attached, one-bay, hipped-roof garage was built in 1953 (Figure 59). The house is rectangular in plan, and the foundation is concrete block. The walls of the house and garage are clad in vinyl siding. The east and west ends of the façade project slightly, and the resultant recessed portion contains a centered front door and paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows to its east. A single 1/1-double-hung sash window is centered in the east projection, while the west projection holds a picture window flanked on each side by a 1/1 double-hung sash window. Fenestration on the west and east walls is also 1/1 double-hung sash. The garage is attached off the northeast corner of the house, creating an ell, within which are concrete steps leading up to a second pedestrian entrance. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 59. 801 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.52.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.53 SC-NPC-028

House

711 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled house and attached, side-gabled, one-bay garage, was built in 1950 (Figure 60). The house is generally rectangular in plan and has a structural tile foundation. The walls are clad in vinyl siding. The east portion of the façade projects out under a combined front-gabled and shed roof. The shed roof extends over the entry, which is enclosed. All windows are 1/1 double-hung sash except for a 3/1 double-hung sash in the west gable, and all are surrounded by what appears to be replacement vinyl trim. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 60. 711 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

4.53.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.54 SC-NPC-029

House

709 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, front-gabled house, rectangular in plan, was built circa 1920 (Figure 61). The foundation of the main house is faced in stucco, while that of the enclosed front porch is concrete block. The walls are clad in fiber cement shingles. Poured-concrete steps lead up to a centered front door, over which extends a small metal canopy. Windows on the porch are paired, symmetrically arranged 1/1 double-hung sash, and those in the main house are single 1/1 double-hung sash, except in the shed dormers located on the east and west sides of the roof, which contain tripled 1/1 double-hung sash. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and an interior brick chimney with metal flue liner and cap extends above the peak.



FIGURE 61. 709 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.54.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.55 SC-NPC-030

House

707 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, front gabled house with subsidiary side gable on the east was built in 1910 (Figure 62). It is rectangular in plan. The foundation of the main house is faced in stucco, while the enclosed front porch is supported by short brick piers. The walls of both the house and porch are clad in wood lap siding. Poured-concrete steps lead up to a modern, centered door, flanked on each side by tripled 1/1 double-hung wood sash windows. A single 1/1 double-hung sash window is located on each of the east and west sides of the porch. Visible windows on the main house are largely 4/1 double-hung wood sash, and all are surrounded by apparently original wood trim. The roof features wood fascia and soffits, which create an M in the front gable (Figure 63), and exposed rafter ends on the west. It is clad in asphalt shingles, and an interior brick chimney extends above the peak.

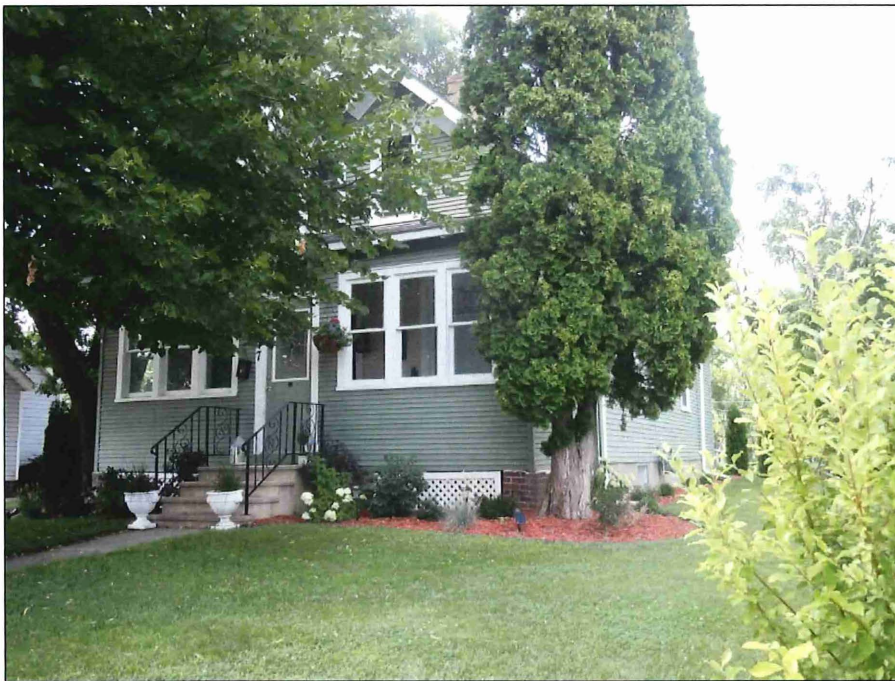


FIGURE 62. 707 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST



FIGURE 63. 707 MAIN STREET E, GABLE DETAIL, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.55.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.56 SC-NPC-031

House

705 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled house with subsidiary front gable, was built in 1950 (Figure 64). It is rectangular in plan, and has a structural tile foundation. The walls are clad in vinyl siding. The east portion of the façade projects out under a combined front-gabled and shed roof. The shed roof extends over the entry, which contains a replacement door and is accessed by replacement poured-concrete steps. A second entrance, accessed by wood steps, is located on the east side of the house in a one-story, side-gabled section. Fenestration consists of replacement casement windows. Soffits and fascia are vinyl, and the roof is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 64. 705 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.56.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.57 SC-NPC-032

House

703 Main Street E

This one-story Ranch house with attached one-bay garage was built in 1969 (Figure 65). It is rectangular in plan and has a concrete-block foundation, which contains bands of glass block on the façade and west side. The walls of the house are clad in fiberboard siding. The garage projects out slightly from the façade, creating a recess within which the front entrance, accessed by poured-concrete steps, is located. To the west of the entrance is a picture window of quadrupled casements, screened by an overhanging canopy. Remaining fenestration is 1/1 double-hung sash. The hipped roof features wide eaves and is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 65. 703 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.57.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.58 SC-NPC-033

House

609 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, L-plan house was built in 1890 (Figure 66). A parge coat has been applied to the foundation. The walls of the house are clad in vinyl replacement siding. Replacement concrete steps lead up to a porch that has been enclosed and contains a replacement door. A replacement picture window with flanking 1/1 double-hung sash windows is located in the façade. All other windows are replacement 1/1 double-hung sash. The cross-gabled roof has vinyl soffits and fascia and is clad in asphalt shingles. An interior brick chimney extends above the east-west gable.



FIGURE 66. 609 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTH-NORTHWEST

4.58.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.59 SC-NPC-034

House

607 Main Street E

This one-story, hipped-roof Ranch house with attached single-bay garage was constructed in 1954 (Figure 67). It is rectangular in plan and has a concrete-block foundation. The walls of the house are clad in fiberboard siding. A recess in the façade contains the entry, which is accessed by poured-concrete steps. A picture window is formed on the façade by paired wide 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Remaining fenestration comprises single 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 67. 607 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.59.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.60 SC-NPC-035

House

605 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled house with structural-tile foundation was constructed circa 1900 (Figure 68). A large, one-story, addition has been constructed on the back of the house, so while it originally featured a T-plan, it is now rectangular in plan. The front porch, located below a gabled wall dormer, has been enclosed. The house is clad in vinyl replacement siding. The upper portion of both front-facing gables additionally are sheathed in panels replicating the look of round shakes. Fenestration consists of single-light casement replacement windows on the house and 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows on the porch, with the exception of one original stained-glass window with bracketed hood in the front gable, which is nearly identical to that observed at 511 Main Street E (see below). One of the lower-story window openings on the façade has been covered over with the siding. The front door has been replaced. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 68. 605 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

4.60.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.61 SC-NPC-036

House

603 Main Street E

This circa-1900, one-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled house exhibits a T plan (Figure 69). A parge coat has been applied to the foundation, and the walls are clad in vinyl replacement siding. Front and rear porches, located in the ells, have been enclosed, and an attached, shed-roofed, single-bay garage has been added on the west side of the house. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash. The front door has been replaced. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and two brick chimney stacks are visible above the north-south peak.



FIGURE 69. 603 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST

4.61.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.62 SC-NPC-037

House

601 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, T-plan house was built circa 1900 (Figure 70). A parge coat has been applied to the foundation. The walls are clad in vinyl replacement siding. Concrete steps lead up to the front entry, which is in a porch that has been enclosed within the ell on the façade, and a rear (north) porch also has been enclosed. The windows have been replaced and are primarily 1/1 double-hung sash, although a casement window is located in the façade. The cross-gabled roof features metal fascia and soffits, and it is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 70. 601 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.62.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.63 SC-NPC-038

House

511 Main Street E

This circa-1900 house is two stories in height and has a T-plan (Figure 71). A parge coat has been applied to the foundation. The walls are common-bond brick, which has been painted white, while the gable ends are faced with patterned octagonal wood shingles, underlined by dentilled wood molding that also extends down the eaves lines. Window openings in the brick walls have soldier-brick lintels and metal sills. A replacement picture window is located in the façade, and 1/1 double-hung sash windows constitute the remaining fenestration below the gables. A former pediment above the door is indicated by the absence of paint at its former attachment points. The front door has been replaced, and the transom above it boarded up. Windows in the gable ends by and large have been lost, although remnants of one in the east gable indicate that these were stained glass in a basic rectilinear pattern. Above the window openings in the gable ends are wood hoods supported by scroll-cut brackets. The cross-gabled roof features wood



FIGURE 71. 511 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

fascia and soffits, and it is clad in asphalt shingles. The house has two interior chimneys, the brick stacks of which extend above the roof near the east end of the east-west gable and near the center of the north-south gable.

4.63.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It therefore would be unable to meet Criterion A or B. Although the gable ends feature some interesting architectural details, i.e., the shingle work, dentilled moldings, and scrolled window brackets, these are not sufficient to well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and the house does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.64 SC-NPC-039

House

509 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled house was built in 1952 (Figure 72). It is rectangular in plan, and the foundation is structural tile above concrete block, with both material types evident on the west side of the house. The walls are metal siding. Replacement wooden steps lead up to a centered, front-gabled, projecting entry that contains a replacement door. A second door is located in approximately the center of the east wall of the house. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 72. 509 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.64.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.65 SC-NPC-040

House

507 Main Street E

This one-story, front-gabled house was built in 1941 (Figure 73). Rectangular in plan, it has a concrete-block foundation. Poured-concrete steps lead toward a door within an enclosed, front-gabled front porch that appears to be a later addition, given its depth. The walls of the house and porch are clad in vinyl siding. Fenestration is primarily 1/1 double-hung sash, although six-light windows are located in the east and west walls of the porch. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles, and an interior brick chimney extends above the peak.



FIGURE 73. 507 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.65.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.66 SC-NPC-041

House

505 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, T-plan house was built in 1885 (Figure 74). A parge coat has been applied to the foundation. The walls are clad in vinyl replacement siding, and non-original shingle work has been applied over it in the gable ends. Previously open porches on the front and rear of the house have been enclosed, and the front one contains a new front door. Fenestration is replacement double-hung sash. The roof features vinyl fascia and soffits and is clad in asphalt shingles. Two interior brick chimneys extend above the roof near the east and west ends of the east-west gable.



FIGURE 74. 505 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

4.66.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.67 SC-NPC-042

House

503 Main Street E

This one-story, hipped-roof Ranch house was built in 1970 (Figure 75). It is rectangular in plan and has a concrete-block foundation which contains glass-block windows. The west portion of the façade is slightly recessed and is faced in random-ashlar stone cladding. The stone wall contains the front door and a picture window flanked on either side by 2/2 double-hung sash. At the base of the stone wall is a poured-concrete stoop on the west and a matching stone planter on the east. The front of the planter is flush with the east portion of the façade. The remaining walls of the house are clad in fiberboard siding. Fenestration in these walls consists of 2/2 double-hung sash. Extending from the west side of the house is a small, side-gabled section containing a door, which appears to be a pass-through to the backyard. The roof features wide eaves with vinyl soffits, and it is clad in asphalt shingles. A wide chimney extends above the roof near the front of the house, in stone that matches that of the façade and planter.



FIGURE 75. 503 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTH-NORTHEAST

4.67.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. While it is a clear example of the Ranch style, it does not rise to a level of distinguishment from other houses in the style to well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. The house therefore would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.68 SC-NPC-043

House

501 Main Street E

This one-story, hipped-roof Ranch house was constructed in 1956 (Figure 76). It is rectangular in plan, with a concrete-block foundation. Walls appear to be clad in fiberboard siding with a wood-grain finish. The lower walls of the façade are faced in random-ashlar stone cladding. The east half of the façade projects slightly. Poured-concrete steps lead up to a door that is at the west end of the projecting portion, but centered within the façade overall. A second set of concrete steps leading up to a second entrance is located on the west side of the house. Fenestration consists of casement windows, single on the east and in multiples on the south and west. The roof features wide eaves and vinyl fascia and soffits. It is clad in asphalt shingles, and a wide, Roman-brick, interior chimney is located at the juncture of the projecting and non-projecting portions of the house. An attached, hipped-roof, double-bay garage is located off the northwest corner of the house.



FIGURE 76. 501 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

4.68.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. While it is a clear example of the Ranch style, it does not rise to a level of distinguishment from other houses in the style to well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. The house therefore would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.69 SC-NPC-044

House

411 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, front-gabled house was built in 1939 (Figure 77). It is generally rectangular in plan, and it has a structural tile foundation. A large, gabled addition is located on the rear (north) of the house and may function as a work or storage space, as Adelphia Metals now uses the house as an office. The walls of the building are clad in vinyl replacement siding. Poured-concrete steps lead to the front door of the house, which is located on a porch that has been enclosed, and another set of poured-concrete steps leads to a door to the addition on the building's east side. Fenestration consists of replacement 1/1 double-hung sash throughout both sections. A gabled dormer is located on the east side of the original house, and an interior brick chimney extends above the roof on the west. The roof of the house is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 77. 411 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTH-NORTHWEST

4.69.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.70 SC-NPC-045

House

409 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, side-gabled house was built in 1945 (Figure 78). Rectangular in plan, it has a structural tile foundation, which incorporates a low, brick arch on the front of the house. The walls are clad in stucco. Poured-concrete steps lead up to the front entry, which is within the slightly projecting eastern two-thirds of the façade, located under a combined front-gabled and shed roof. At the eave line under this combined roof is dentilled wood molding, which does not extend to the remainder of the house. Dentils are also present along the interior edge of the trim in the front-gabled portion, outlining the scalloped vertical wood paneling cladding the gable end. Fenestration includes a narrow picture window flanked on either side by narrow 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Paired casement windows are present in the west wall of the projecting portion of the façade, and the remaining windows are single, paired, and tripled 1/1 double-hung sash. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles. An attached single-bay garage, likely a later addition, is located on the east side of the house.



FIGURE 78. 409 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

4.70.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.71 SC-NPC-046

House

407 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story house was constructed circa 1900 (Figure 79). It has a T plan and a concrete-block foundation. Front and rear porches within the ells have been enclosed, and the rear porch has been expanded to the north. The walls are clad in asbestos shingles, except on the front porch, the cladding for which appears from the sidewalk to be wood lap siding. Windows are replacement 1/1 double-hung sash. One window opening on the lower level of the east wall has been boarded over. The cross-gabled roof has wood soffits and fascia, and it is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 79. 407 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.71.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.72 SC-NPC-047

House

403 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled house with dual front gable was constructed circa 1900 (Figure 80). It was originally a T-plan, which has been modified by the addition of an enclosed front porch that extends the full width of the house, the enclosure of the porch in the rear ell, and another addition to the west part of the rear of the house. A parge coat has been applied to the foundation. The walls of the house are clad in fiberboard replacement siding. Replacement wood steps lead up to the front porch, in which fenestration is a combination of 1/1 and 2/1 double-hung sash. Replacement casement windows are located in the front gables of the house, while the remaining fenestration consists of 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and two brick interior chimneys extend above the peak of the east-west gable.



FIGURE 80. 403 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.72.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.73 SC-NPC-048

House

401 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled, Tudor Revival-style house was built in 1938 (Figure 81). It is generally rectangular in plan, and the visible portion of the foundation is brick or brick-faced. The walls of the house are clad in stucco, and the front gable features false half-timbering. Brick steps with concrete-capped brick stringers lead up to a projecting front-gabled entry having a brick door surround. Fenestration consists primarily of 1/1 double-hung sash windows; a narrow light is located in the front gable. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 81. 401 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.73.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. While it is a clear example of the Tudor Revival style, it does not rise to a level of distinguishment from other houses in the style to well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. The house therefore would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.74 SC-NPC-049

House

315 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, cross-gabled, T-plan house was built in 1900 (Figure 82). A parge coat has been applied to the foundation, which contains glass-block windows on the façade and west side. An open porch is located in the ell on the front of the house. It has a hipped-roof supported by spindlework posts with scrollwork brackets, and a scrollwork railing. A second porch in the rear ell has been enclosed. The walls of the house are clad in replacement siding of fiberboard with a wood-grain texture. The front entry, accessed via the open porch, contains a replacement door. A bay window has been added on the façade. Remaining fenestration is 1/1 double-hung sash. The house and porch roofs are clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 82. 315 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.74.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.75 SC-NPC-050

House

309 Main Street E

This two-story, flat-roofed house, rectangular in plan, was built in 1931 (Figure 83). The visible portion of the foundation is brick or brick-faced. The walls are clad in stucco, and windows appear to be original. These are primarily 6/6 double-hung wood sash, which are paired, tripled, and quadrupled; narrow multi-light windows are located at the southwest corner of the house. Poured-concrete steps lead up to a centered front entry with projecting, stucco-clad door surround and metal cap. Metal coping is present along the roof line. A single-bay garage, stucco-clad with metal coping, is attached to the north portion of the west wall of the house.



FIGURE 83. 309 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

4.75.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.76 SC-NPC-051

House

307 Main Street E

This one-and-a-half-story, front-gabled bungalow, rectangular in plan, was built in 1925 (Figure 84). A parge coat has been applied to the foundation. A one-story, flat-roofed addition is located on the east side of the house, containing a door which is accessed by poured-concrete steps. Poured-concrete steps also lead up to a new front door in the front porch of the house, which has been enclosed. The porch is clad in fiberboard siding, except in the gable end, where wood shakes are present. Wood shakes additionally cover the upper story of the façade and the shed dormers, one present on each side of the house. The lower story of the house and the east addition are clad in wood lap siding. Two added or replacement bay windows are located on the house, one on the façade adjacent to the porch and one on the west wall. The remaining windows are primarily 1/1 double-hung sash, tripled and paired. Decorative wood brackets are located in the gable ends of the house and porch and under the forward- and rear-facing ends of the



FIGURE 84. 307 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

dormer roofs. The roof incorporates wood fascia, and rafter ends are visible in the eaves of the house, porch, and dormers. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.76.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.77 SC-NPC-052

House

305 Main Street E

This 1956, one-story Ranch house has a gable-on-hip roof and attached single-bay garage (Figure 85). It has a concrete-block foundation and is generally rectangular in plan; the center of the façade is recessed. The western end of the recess contains the front door, accessed by poured-concrete steps. The remainder of the recessed portion is faced in Roman brick, which surrounds a picture window flanked on either side by 1/1 double-hung sash, the windows underlined by a rowlock-brick sill. At the base of the brick wall is a poured-concrete patio, which extends out to a point flush with the rest of the façade. The patio and concrete steps are separated by a Roman brick half wall/planter. The non-recessed portions of the façade,



FIGURE 85. 305 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTH

which includes the garage at the east end, and the rest of the walls of the house are clad in fiberboard siding. Fenestration comprises 1/1 double-hung sash windows in the house and paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows in the east wall of the garage. The roof has wide eaves and is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.77.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. While it is a clear example of the Ranch style, it does not rise to a level of distinguishment from other houses in the style to well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. The house therefore would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.78 SC-NPC-053

Commercial Building

301 Main Street E

This one-story, generally flat-roofed commercial building was constructed circa 1950 (Sanborn 1944; aerial photograph 1951) (Figure 86). It was originally built in an L-plan, but additions made to the west, east, and north elevations have resulted in a rectangular-plan building more than twice the size of the original. The original footprint includes the façade, which projects out from the center of the south elevation, the walls connecting it to the recessed walls of the south elevation, those recessed walls, and the south ends of the main east and west walls of the building.



FIGURE 86. 301 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTH-NORTHEAST

All other original walls have been subsumed into the additions. The primary feature of the façade is a window wall with a metal grid defining four rows of evenly sized lights on either side of a recessed entry containing a metal-framed glass door with equivalently sized sidelight and a transom window extending over both. The windows have random-ashlar stone bulkheads, and this stone work is carried up the walls on the exterior sides of the window composition, then wraps around to the walls that join the façade to the recessed portion of the south elevation. Leading south from the façade is a concrete terrace, from the southeast corner of which poured-concrete steps lead down to the sidewalk on the south and from the southwest corner of which, a ramped sidewalk leads down to the sidewalk on the west. Lining the south edge of the ramp is a half-wall that serves as a backdrop for plantings on its south then turns south to line the west side of the steps. A similar wall is located on the east side of the steps which then turns east and then back up to the north, creating a planter. All half walls employ the same stonework as the façade. The roof over the façade is the only shed roof on the building, and it extends south to create a deep eave. Here, and on the rest of the building, the roof includes vinyl fascia and soffits.

The remainder of the building is clad in vinyl siding, replacing what was likely a different material on the original walls of the building. In all likelihood, the casement windows now within these original walls are also replacements, as they bear little relationship to the aesthetic of the façade.

4.78.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.79 SC-NPC-008, SC-NPC-007, SC-NPC-006

St. Wenceslaus Church Complex

215 and 227 Main Street E

This property consists of the St. Wenceslaus School (SC-NPC-008, 227 Main Street E), Church of St. Wenceslaus (Catholic) (SC-NPC-007, 215 Main Street E), and St. Wenceslaus Church Rectory (SC-NPC-006, 215 Main Street E) and is listed in the National Register (Figures 87 through 89). Any further work is pending MnDOT's determination of the effects of the project, if any, on this property.



FIGURE 87. ST. WENCESLAUS SCHOOL, 227 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST



FIGURE 88. CHURCH OF ST. WENCESLAUS (CATHOLIC), 215 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST



FIGURE 89. ST. WENCESLAUS CHURCH RECTORY, 215 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

Pioneer Drug Store / Remes Drug Store**201 Main Street E**

This two-story, flat-roofed building with one-story rear section is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 90). The two-story section was built with a previous one-story section circa 1885. It was initially occupied by a drugstore and general store built by Joseph Hovorka (Dvorak 2015:146). An April 1893 advertisement shows that by that time, it was called The Pioneer Drug Store and run by H. A. Philipp (*The Times* 1893). Later that year, J. J. Remes purchased the building and took over the drugstore. Extensive damage to the building was caused by a fire in January of 1915, requiring extensive repairs and the replacement of the one-story rear section, which had a brick veneer, with that present currently, in which the walls are brick (Sanborn 1911, 1919; *The Times* 1915a, 1915c). Remes remained in the building until 1927, then moved his business to a new location. The next occupant was the Benes and Vlach meat market (*The Times* 1931a:61; Dvorak 2015:146).

Comparison with a circa-1928 photograph shows the façade of the building has been heavily altered (Figure 91). Formerly brick, it is now clad in stucco with vertical wood trim added in the location of former brick pilasters on the upper story. The trim extends up to coping that appears to be wood, possibly with metal sheathing, which is cut in a repetitive angular pattern to frame the bays created by the vertical trim. Within the bays, the formerly arched window openings have been revised to be rectangular and apparently expanded vertically, as the stone sills have been eliminated. These contain 1/1 double-hung sash windows.

**FIGURE 90. 201 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST**



Dvorak 2015:147

FIGURE 91. 201 MAIN STREET E, CIRCA 1928, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST

Below these openings, a former cornice over the storefront has been eliminated, and in its stead are two horizontal pieces of wood trim, between which is a wood sign for the current occupant, which is a back and neck clinic. Below the lower piece of trim, a cloth-covered canopy shelters the storefront. The storefront includes two symmetrical recesses, the eastern one of which contains a replacement metal-framed glass door and in the eastern one of which a door has been replaced with a plate-glass window with metal panel underneath. Between and on either side of the recesses are metal-framed plate-glass replacement windows.

The two-story portion of the east elevation and the upper story of the north elevation have been clad in metal replacement siding. In the upper story on the east elevation, the window openings have been altered and replacement windows installed. In the lower story is a single altered and infilled window opening. On the north elevation, what appears to be an exterior staircase has been enclosed and clad in metal replacement siding.

The west elevation of the two-story portion closely approximates the historical appearance of the building (Figure 92). The wall is yellow brick in a stretcher-bond pattern divided into four bays by full-length red-brick pilasters. The upper and lower stories are separated by a stringcourse consisting of a single course of yellow dogtooth brick with a single course of red stretcher brick above and below, interrupted only by the pilasters. The lower story of the southernmost bay contains a mural with an eagle perched on a mortar and pestle, which reads "DRUG" down the left side, "STORE" down the right, and "LEKARNA," which is Bohemian

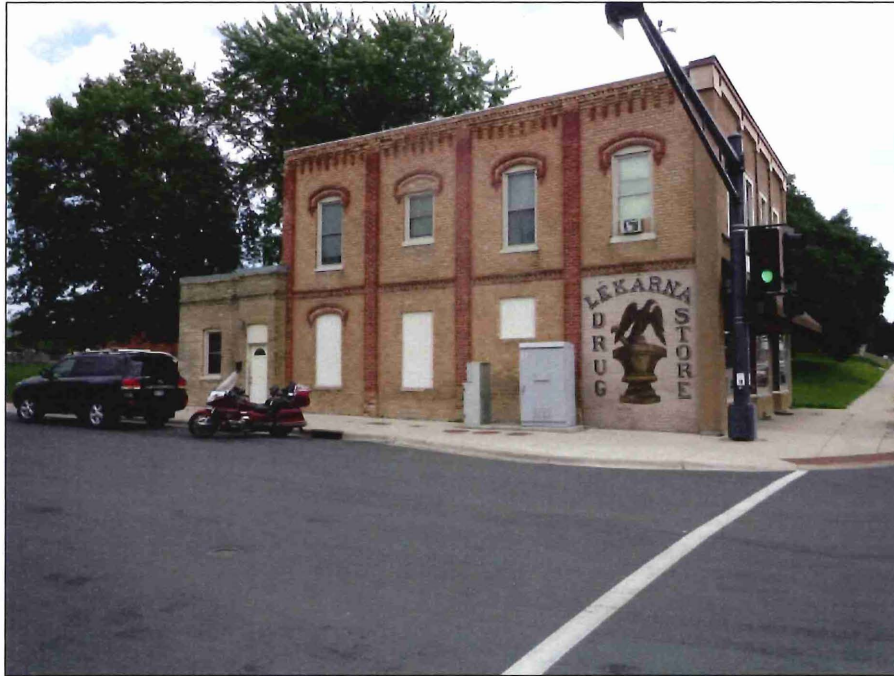


FIGURE 92. 201 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING EAST-NORTHEAST

for apothecary (Dvorak 2015:146), above. The mural is a restoration of one that was present as early as 1893, when H. A. Philipp operated the store (*The Times* 1893). Centered in the lower story of the remaining bays and the upper story in all four bays are window openings. All three lower-story openings are infilled with corrugated metal, while the upper contain 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows. Above the four upper-story windows and the northernmost lower-story window are segmental-arched lintels of red projecting brick with corbelling at the ends, as were once also present on the façade. Infill is present beneath these arches to accommodate the rectangular windows, and the sills have been sheathed in metal. A corbelled brick cornice is located at the top of the wall, the upper portion of which repeats the dogtooth and stretcher stringcourse present between the upper and lower stories. It is capped with metal coping.

The one-story portion of the building continues the rectangular plan of the two-story portion but is clad in yellow brick of a different hue and laid in a common-bond pattern. The stretcher- and dogtooth-brick stringcourse between the upper and lower stories is carried over to the west and east walls of the one-story section, and another is located at the top of the parapets on these elevations. The parapets are capped with metal coping and obscure the shed roof situated between them. The west elevation features a narrow projection containing a segmental-arch door opening, with infill sheathed in metal in the arch and a replacement door below. The replacement window to its north is within a similarly styled opening, and its sill has been sheathed in metal. On the east elevation, the single segmental-arched window opening has been infilled with plywood. A brick chimney extends above the roof where this elevation meets the two-story section. The north elevation of the one-story section contains altered or added openings with added or replacement doors and windows.

4.80.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, and J. J. Remes may have played an important role in that development, the substantial alterations effected by the replacement cladding and alterations to the doors and windows, particularly on the façade, have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A or B. It does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.81 SC-NPC-054

Commercial Building

129 Main Street E

This building was constructed circa 1885 as a two-story building with one-story west and rear sections to house the furniture store, cabinet shop, and undertaking business of Jacob Vrtis (Sanborn 1887; *The Times* 1895:48; Dvorak 2015:149) (Figure 93). Circa 1900, an upper story was added to the rear section and a two-story dwelling constructed off the back of that section. In 1902, Peter Hauer bought the furniture store from Vrtis. The next year, the furniture stock was purchased by John and Frank Bruzek, who ran a furniture store on the premises for one year before leaving for larger quarters. For a time in 1905, Anna Strengé had a millinery shop in the building, and then in 1907, P. L. Thomas had a store there (1/23/1902, 11/12/1903, 10/13/1904, 4/6/1905, 1/31/1907). Hauer sold the building to Albert Tesar in 1908 (10/22/1908), after which the primary function of the building was a grocery store, although the cabinet shop continued to operate in the rear commercial section until 1910 (Sanborn 1910, 1911). It retained the grocery store function until at least the 1940s; a historical photograph from that period shows the building was occupied by a Red Owl Agency store with William R. Dvorak as proprietor (Dvorak 2015:149). At the time of the survey, it was occupied by a financial services office.

Circa-1900 photographs of the building show the two-story section as gable-roofed with a false front and the one-story west section with a flat roof (Figure 94). As with a few other buildings on Main Street, the false front does not extend to the peak of the gable, resulting in a pediment at the top of the façade, within which is a semi-circular window. The photographs additionally show the commercial building to have been clad in wood lap siding and have three segmental-arched windows located in the upper story on the façade. The storefront, located on the two-story section, was almost entirely, if not entirely occupied by display windows and their bulkheads, while a single window flanked either side of a door in the one-story west section.

Today, visible elevations of the commercial section of the building, with the exception of the storefront, are clad in stucco. The storefront is faced in brown brick on the lower portion and tongue-and-groove wood siding on the upper portion, the two cladding types divided by a thin strip of horizontal wood trim. Nearly centered within the storefront is an added metal-framed glass replacement door, to either side of which is

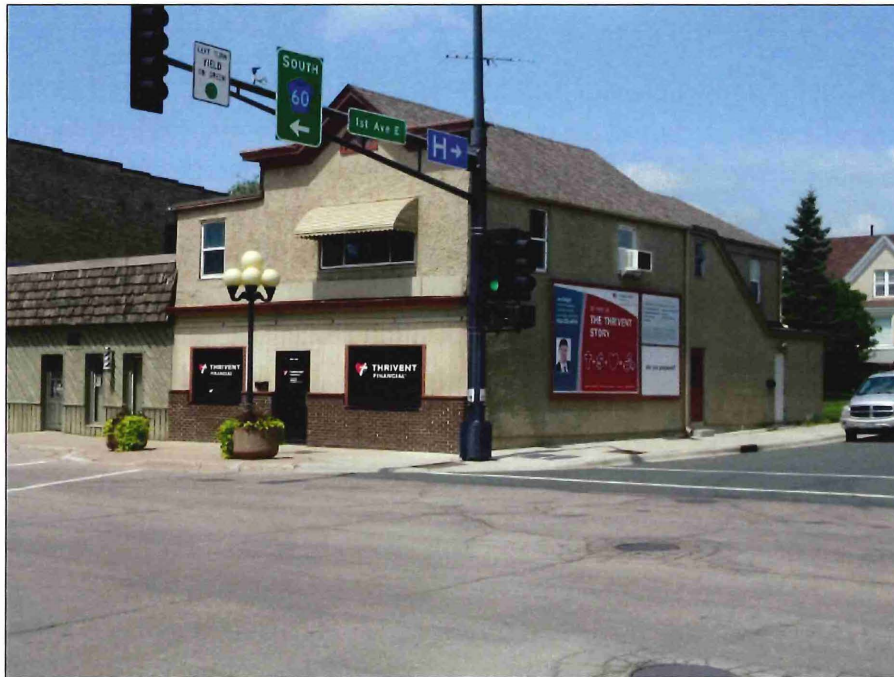
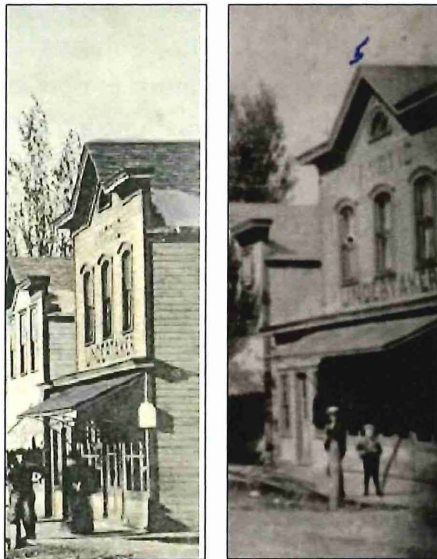


FIGURE 93. 129 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST



Dvorak 2015:150 Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) <http://reflections.mndigital.org/catalog/npa:66>

FIGURE 94. 129 MAIN STREET E, CIRCA 1900, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST

a single picture window. Metal sheathing runs along the top of the wood siding, above which is a wood cornice. Another band of metal sheathing runs along the top of the cornice, although the west end of the band has been lost. In the upper story, the arched window openings have been eliminated in favor of a picture window with flanking sliding windows, sheltered by a canopy. The upper story has been expanded

over the one-story west section, which continues to have a flat roof. The semi-circular window remains in place in the pediment in the two-story section and the wood cornice above appears original.

The gable-roofed, dwelling section of the building retains the original brick on the north elevation, but it has been painted. It is in a stretcher-bond pattern. Two symmetrically placed window openings are located in both the lower and upper stories and have flat-arch lintels comprising a single course of gauged soldier brick under a slightly projecting course of stretcher brick. The openings feature various amounts of infill around 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows, and the sills that are present are of rowlock or header brick. A replacement door is present in the north elevation as well. A staircase on the east elevation has been enclosed, and both it and the original wall are clad in stucco. Three doors are located on the staircase enclosure, two on the east and one on the north. An added window is also located on the east of the enclosure. Above the enclosure, two 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows are located in the east elevation of the building. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.81.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the substantial alterations effected by the replacement cladding and severe alterations to the fenestration and storefront have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A or B. It does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.82 SC-NPC-080

Commercial Building

127 Main Street E

An aerial photograph dating to 1971 indicates that this one-story, flat-roofed commercial building was constructed sometime after that year, but it was likely circa 1972 (Figure 95). The storefront is unified with that of the building at 125 Main Street E by their materials. A canopy clad in wood shakes and with metal coping extends along the full length of both buildings, underneath of which the walls are clad in wood channel siding oriented diagonally above wood channel siding oriented vertically. The siding surrounds a centered front door and, to its east, two narrow plate-glass windows that extend into the vertical channel siding.



FIGURE 95. 127 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTH

4.82.1 Recommendations

This property was a late addition to the New Prague commercial core, and no information was found to suggest that it played an important enough role in this regard to be individually historically significant under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.83 SC-NPC-055

Tyra Building

125 Main Street E

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 8.

4.84 SC-NPC-056

Commercial Building

123A Main Street E

This flat-roofed, structural-tile building was constructed circa 1935 as a two-story building, rectangular in plan, with a one-story rectangular rear section (Figure 96). It was originally occupied by a restaurant on the first floor and a bowling alley on the second, in combination with the second floor of the building at 123



FIGURE 96. 123A MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTH-NORTHWEST

Main Street, to which it was open (Sanborn 1931; aerial photograph 1937; Dvorak 2015:154). At the time of the survey, it housed a food catering business. What appears as a flat-roofed, one-story addition on its north end is a former dry cleaning shop that was constructed between 1919 and 1931, to which the restaurant building and the building at 123 Main Street E (see below) were joined at some point, presumably when the dry cleaning shop ceased to operate. Walls joining the restaurant and dry cleaning buildings are not clearly indicated on Sanborn maps dating to 1944 and 1952, but historical aerial photographs suggest that the joining section was constructed sometime during the 1940s (Sanborn 1919-1944; aerial photographs 1937, 1951).

The building is of the two-part commercial-block type. The façade is clad in variegated, rough-faced brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. Near the top of the façade, a rectangular inset is present, consisting of parallel horizontal courses of rowlock brick joined at each end by stacked header bricks. Four casement replacement windows are located in the upper story, each having a soldier brick lintel and a rowlock brick sill. A course of soldier brick extends along the top of the storefront. At the east end of the storefront is a metal-framed glass replacement door with transom window, above which the remainder of the original opening is infilled with a painted address sign and part of the sign for the current business, which extends

over the three plate-glass display windows. Bulkheads for the western two of these windows include glass-block windows with soldier brick lintels. The bulkhead under the eastern window has been re-mortared incompatibly with the rest of the building, and concrete covers its lower courses. The complement of

windows is separated from another doorway on the west by a brick pilaster. This doorway, which provides access to the second story, contains a replacement door and the transom above has been infilled with wood.

The east elevation of the two-story section contains regularly spaced window openings, taller in the upper story than in the lower, with lintels faced in stretcher brick and projecting structural-tile sills. The lower-story window openings are infilled with structural tile, as is a door opening and associated transom window opening to their north. The northern three upper-story windows are infilled with plywood, which is also the case for the pane in the door on the second story of the north elevation.

The original one-story section, the section that connects it to the dry cleaning building, and the dry cleaning building are all of structural-tile construction, but the east elevation of the original one-story section has been partially clad and its north elevation fully clad in stucco. The dry cleaning building has been covered in stucco or a similar material and painted white. The east elevation of the original one-story section has two window openings that have been infilled, one with structural tile and one with brick, and a door between them. The east elevation of the adjoining section contains a replacement door, and three 1/1 double-hung sash windows. A single double-hung sash window is located in each of the north and east elevations of the dry cleaning building. All three of these sections have flat roofs and metal coping.

4.84.1 Recommendations

This building is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, suggesting that it may meet National Register Criterion A. The building, however, was a relatively late addition, and its history does not suggest a particularly strong role in the development of the commercial core, nor did any of its occupants figure significantly in its development. The building additionally does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. It therefore would not meet the threshold for individual significance under Criterion A, B, or C. The building, however, retains enough of an association and sufficient integrity that it would likely be able to contribute to a potential commercial historic district. This property is therefore recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.85 SC-NPC-004

Soukup Building

123 Main Street E

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 8.

4.86 SC-NPC-003

Thomas Topka's Block

121 Main Street E

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 8.

4.87 SC-NPC-057

Commercial Building

119 Main Street E

This one-story, concrete-block building, was constructed in 1948, after a fire destroyed the previous frame building at this location. At the time it was built, it was known as the Gamble Store, and Les Svihel was the proprietor (*The Times* 1948b, 1948c) (Figure 97). The façade was redone in stone in June of 1961. The Gamble Store suffered another massive fire, limited to the interior, just four months later (*The Times* 1961a, 1961b).

The building is rectangular in plan and is of the one-part commercial-block type. The building is faced primarily in gray stretcher-bond brick. The base and the east and west ends of the façade are clad in gray stucco. The façade is sheltered by a full-width, cloth-covered metal-frame canopy. Fenestration comprises one tripled and two paired sets of plate-glass windows with soldier-brick sills. Between the western two sets is a metal-framed glass door. The west elevation is clad in gray stucco. It contains a series of single-light, likely casement windows and a second metal-framed glass door. The building has a flat roof and metal coping.



FIGURE 97. 119 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

4.87.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type,

period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.88 SC-NPC-058

Commercial Building

111 Main Street E

This one-story, structural-tile building was constructed in 1935 (Figure 98). Circa-1960, a one-story concrete-block, gable-roofed addition was made on the back, the rear portion of which was subsequently increased to two stories. The original building is of the one-part commercial-block type, and it is faced in variegated, rough-faced brick. The storefront includes a centered recess containing poured-concrete steps that lead up to two separate wood replacement doors with windows and transom lights. The sidewalls of the recess consist of metal-framed plate-glass windows with brick bulkheads, both of which wrap around to the façade. Running above the windows and the front of the recess is a metal transom band, extending over the top of which is a simple metal cornice. Above the cornice is a stepped brick parapet containing three rectangular insets formed of horizontal rowlock brick and stacked header bricks. The center inset surrounds applied metal letters for the current occupants, Tupy Insurance. Centered within the east and west insets are marble plaques, the west one embossed with "19" and the east one with "35." This original portion of the building has a flat roof and metal coping.

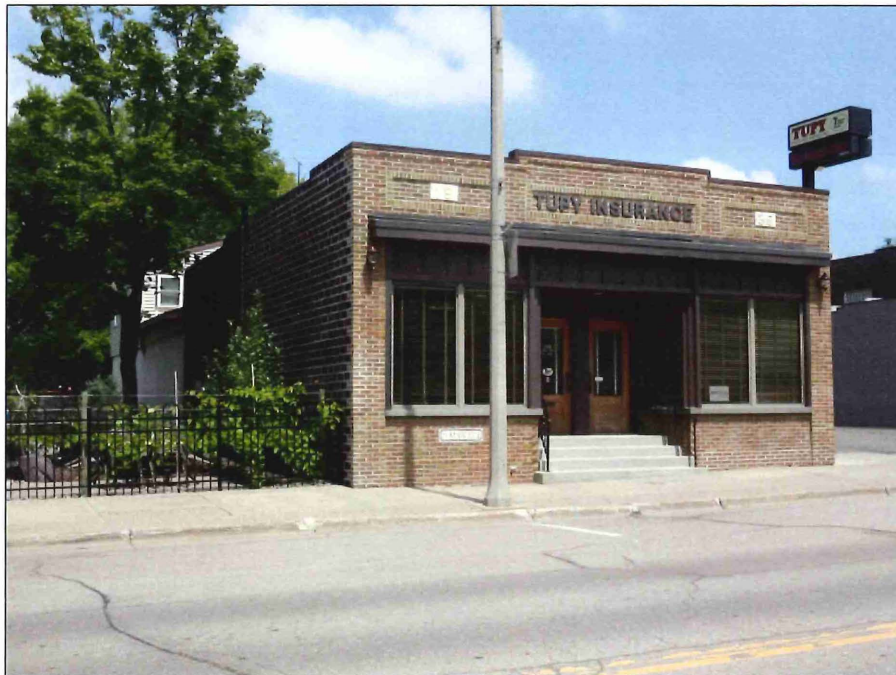


FIGURE 98. 111 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

The walls of the first-story of the rear addition are painted concrete block, while those of the second story added to its north portion appear to be covered in vinyl siding. The east elevation of the first floor contains a door and two 1/1 double-hung sash windows. 1/1 double-hung sash windows are also located in the added second story. Both portions of the addition have gabled roofs clad in asphalt shingles.

4.88.1 Recommendations

This building is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, suggesting that it may meet National Register Criterion A. The building, however, was a relatively late addition, and its history does not suggest a particularly strong role in the development of the commercial core, nor did any of its occupants figure significantly in its development. The building additionally does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value. It therefore would not meet the threshold for individual significance under Criterion A, B, or C. The building, however, retains enough of an association and sufficient integrity that it would likely be able to contribute to a potential commercial historic district. This property is therefore recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.89 SC-NPC-059

Commercial Building

105 Main Street E

This two-story brick building was constructed in 1906 to serve as M. J. Simmer's furniture store (*The Improvement Bulletin* 1904; Sanborn 1904, 1910; 6/7/1906, 6/14/1906, 10/4/1906; Dvorak 2015:165) (Figure 99). The building replaced M. J. Simmer's earlier furniture store, depicted on the 1904 Sanborn map, a false-front frame building (<http://reflections.mndigital.org/catalog/npa:31#/image/0>) out of which his father previously operated a grocery and dry goods business (Sanborn 1887-1904; 10/26/1899). An addition with brick first story and frame second story was constructed on the rear of the building in 1913 (Sanborn 1911, 1919; 10/9/1913).

The building is rectangular in plan and is of the two-part commercial-block type. The upper story of the façade is brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern, which has been painted yellow. Full-length brick pilasters extend down each end of the façade and border the sides of the storefront, which has been replaced. A wood framework, painted black, creates three bays, the west bay containing a recessed entry and the other two containing multi-light windows. Above the front of the recess and the windows are semicircular multi-light transom windows. The overall effect is of an arcade. On either side of the wood framework, the brick in the pilasters has been replaced with Roman brick. Bordering the top of the storefront is an added bracketed wood cornice, to the top of which are attached floodlights. The upper story contains three window openings with flat-arch lintels. The sills appear to be metal but are painted black. The center opening contains paired 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows, while the east and west openings contain single windows of the same type. Running along the top of the lintels is another added bracketed wood cornice, also painted black. The portion of the façade above this cornice has been largely replaced,



FIGURE 99. 105 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHWEST

eliminating a rectangular inset, a corbelled brick cornice, and coping that appears in a historical photograph to be either concrete or stone (Figure 100). The sides of the inset were extended to the top, creating a central shallow recess in an unornamented brick section.

The east and west elevations are yellow brick laid in a common-bond pattern and painted, with a few courses of orange replacement brick located at the top. The upper story is fenestrated with 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows. The roof of the 1904 portion of the building is flat with metal coping. A flush brick chimney is located at the north end of the original portion of the west elevation. The upper story of the rear addition was either eliminated or was never a full second story, as it is now a shed-roofed space over which the roof extends from the second floor of the original building down to the top of the first story on the north end. The sidewalls created appear to be clad in vinyl siding. A double door is located on the north end of this addition.



MDL <http://reflections.mndigital.org/catalog/npa:73>

FIGURE 100. 105 MAIN STREET E, CIRCA 1931, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST

4.89.1 Recommendations

Although this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the pronounced replacement of the storefront, addition of an upper-story wood cornice, and loss of the ornamental brickwork above it have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.90 SC-NPC-060

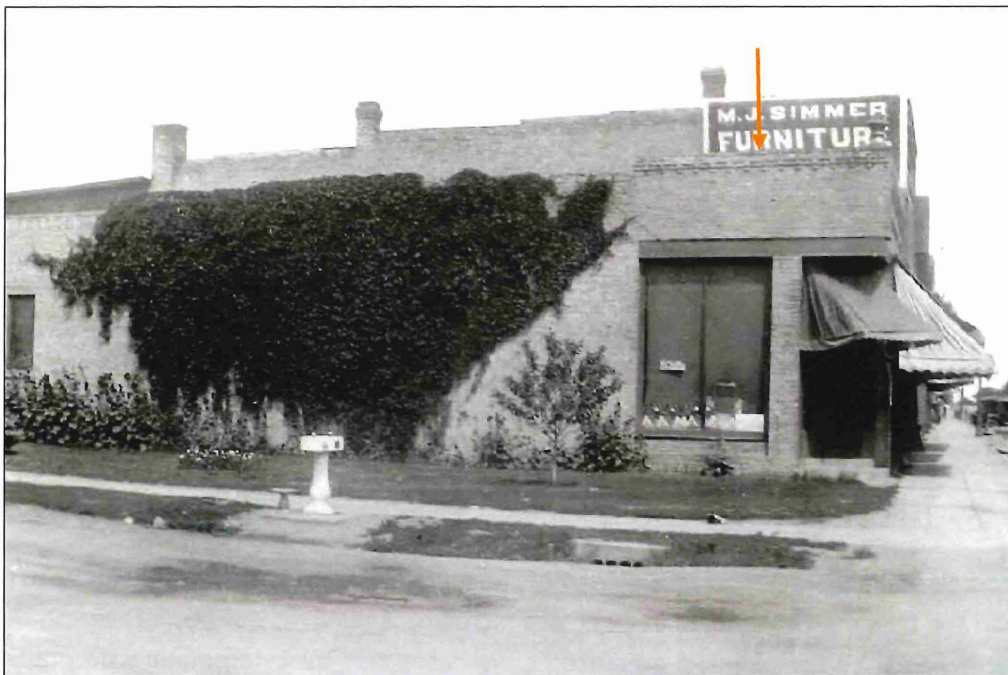
Commercial Building

103 Main Street E

This one-story, flat-roofed building, rectangular in plan, is of the enframed window wall type (Figure 101). Michael J. Simmer had the building constructed in 1914, at which time a building was not located on the lot to the west, and it had a corner-oriented entrance as well as a cornice incorporating decorative brickwork, both evident in a historical photograph (Figure 102). Right after it was completed, in July of 1914, Marie Piesinger moved her drugstore into the building (4/16/1914, 4/23/1914, 4/30/1914; *The Times* 1914a). At the time of the survey, the building was occupied by a law office.



FIGURE 101. 103 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTH



Dvorak 2015:166

FIGURE 102. 103 MAIN STREET E, CIRCA 1925, LOOKING EAST (BUILDING INDICATED BY ARROW)

The façade has since been heavily altered. It is primarily occupied by the replacement door and windows of the storefront. It features a centered, recessed entry with a wood-framed glass door. The sidewalls of the recess angle out from the door and consist of metal-framed windows in black-painted wood surrounds over yellow Roman-brick bulkheads, which wrap around to occupy the majority of the west and east bays of the façade. Running above the storefront is an added full-width, wide wood cornice with trim pieces attached to create a repetitive square motif, all painted black. The remainder of the wall, which enframes the window and cornice composition, is yellow Roman brick. Concrete coping caps the façade.

4.90.1 Recommendations

Because none of the original construction of this building is visible, it would not have the integrity to convey any potential historical significance. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.91 SC-NPC-061

Commercial Building

101 Main Street E

This one-story, rectangular-plan commercial building was constructed in 1954 and initially housed a jewelry store (Sanborn 1952, aerial photograph 1957, Dvorak 2015:170). It is of the enframed window wall type (Figure 103). The façade is primarily occupied by the door and windows of the storefront. It features a



FIGURE 103. 101 MAIN STREET E, LOOKING NORTHEAST

centered, recessed entry with a metal-framed glass door. The sidewalls of the recess angle out from the door and consist of metal-framed display windows with Kasota-stone sills over brown brick bulkheads, which wrap around to occupy the majority of the west and east bays of the façade. The brick, laid in a stretcher-bond pattern, extends up the east and west ends of the façade, ending at a full-width, cloth-covered metal-frame canopy that identifies one of the building's current occupants, the Chamber of Commerce. Above the canopy, the wall is clad in stucco.

The upper portion of the west elevation is clad in stucco underlined by a single rowlock-brick course. Four plate-glass windows are located in the northern half of this elevation, the stone sills for which interrupt the rowlock course, two windows on each side of a metal-framed glass door. Running above the windows and door on this elevation is another cloth-covered metal frame canopy identifying the building's other occupant, an orthodontic practice. The brown brick occupies the remainder of the wall underneath the rowlock course and sills, and extends up the north end of the west elevation to the canopy.

4.91.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.92 SC-NPC-062

Commercial Building

103 Main Street W

This one-story building was completed in early 1916 and originally housed a jewelry store belonging to J. L. Frank (Sanborn 1911, 1919; *The Times* 1916f; Dvorak 2015:181) (Figure 104). At the time of the survey, it was occupied by a saloon.

The east wall is concrete block with metal coping and was constructed after a fire destroyed the adjacent building circa 2005. The storefront is faced in wood lap siding surrounded by rough-faced brick of various colors laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. The wood lap siding is part of substantial alterations to the storefront that additionally include replacement plate-glass windows in non-original or reduced openings and a replacement door. The door is offset within a centered recess, the walls for which also are covered in wood lap siding. The brick is wider on the east end of the façade than the west, suggesting that the west end was truncated when the adjoining building was constructed. Some of the brick on the east end above the storefront has been lost. The majority of the upper portion, however, remains intact and includes a decorative square inset near each end. The parapet features centered crenellations, from which it shallowly slopes down before leveling off at both ends. It is capped in stone coping. A small, gable-roofed, frame addition is located on the back and has two doors on the north wall.



FIGURE 104. 103 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.92.1 Recommendations

Although this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the replacement of the storefront, which occupies the majority of the façade, has resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.93 SC-NPC-063

Commercial Building

105 Main Street W

This two-story commercial building with two one-story sections on the back was constructed by Charles Mach in 1946 be a grocery store (Sanborn 1944, 1952; *The Times* 1946a; Dvorak 2015:183) (Figure 105). At the time of the survey, it was occupied by an insurance office.

The building is of the two-part commercial-block type. The storefront contains an off-center recessed entrance with a metal-framed glass door. The sidewalls of the recess angle out and comprise plate-glass display windows over bulkheads faced with metal panels, with both windows and panels framed in metal.



FIGURE 105. 105 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTHEAST

The windows and bulkheads wrap around to the east and west bays of the storefront, both of which are sheltered by a cloth-covered metal-frame canopy that largely masks a full-width glass-block transom window. Near the west end of the façade and separated from the storefront by a door-height metal panel is a replacement door with transom window, which provides access to the upper story. The lower portions of both the east and west elevations are party walls, giving the lower portion of the façade the appearance of being cut into by the adjoining buildings. The upper story of the façade is variegated brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. It includes four evenly spaced window openings with soldier-brick lintels and concrete sills, each containing a 1/1 double-hung sash window and flanked by shutters. The parapet includes a nearly full-width open rectangle created from projecting brick. A course of rowlock brick runs along the top of the parapet below the terra cotta coping.

Cladding on the portion of the west elevation visible above the neighboring building includes stucco and what appears to be built-up roofing draped over the top portion of the wall. The corresponding portion of the east elevation is painted brick in a stretcher-bond pattern.

The 1952 Sanborn map shows the northernmost one-story section, with the west half of concrete block and the east half as an open structure; this section has been altered through the enclosure of the east half, which is clad in stucco.

4.93.1 Recommendations

This property was a late addition to the New Prague commercial core, and no information was found to suggest that it played an important enough role in this regard to be individually historically significant under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.94 SC-NPC-064

Commercial Building

111 Main Street W

This one-story, flat-roofed building was once the first story of a two-story bank constructed in 1903 and remodeled and enlarged in 1925 (Figure 106). In 1925, a one-story section was added on the west, making the eastern two-thirds of the bank two stories in height, and the western one-third one story high (6/4/1903, 7/23/1903, 10/1/1903; Sanborn 1919, 1931; *The Times* 1958a). In 1963, the building was remodeled, which included the removal of the second story and of the rear extension of the one-story section, an addition to the back of the former two-story section, and the revision of the façade (Sanborn 1952; aerial photographs 1957, 1963; Dvorak 2015:185). At the time of the survey, the building housed various offices.



FIGURE 106. 111 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTH

The building is of the enframed window wall type. Full-length pilasters faced in stack-bond orange brick extend down both ends of the façade. Adjacent to the west pilaster is a metal-framed glass door with narrow metal "sidelight," and a transom window extends over the top of both. Beyond the door is a series of metal-framed plate-glass windows with bulkheads faced in granite. The east end of the façade is recessed and features a metal-framed glass door with transom window, to the west of which are floor-to-ceiling plate-glass windows divided by muntins, which also constitute the west wall of the recess. The east wall of the recess essentially extends the depth of the pilaster and is faced in stack-bond brick. A wide, rectangular canopy with cloth-covered exterior and enamel panels surrounding recessed lights in the underside projects out from above the window wall. Above the canopy, the remainder of the façade is clad in orange brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern between regularly spaced vertical lines formed of projecting stacked header bricks. The wall is capped with metal coping.

4.94.1 Recommendations

Although this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the removal of the second story and the revision of the façade in 1963 have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.95 SC-NPC-065

Commercial Building

115 Main Street W

Fire insurance maps indicate that this building was constructed sometime between 1919 and 1931, but it was remodeled during the 1980s, leaving none of its historical fabric visible from Main Street (Sanborn 1919, 1931; Dvorak 2015:187). It initially housed the telephone exchange, and at the time of the survey, it was the office for a telecommunications company.

This one-story, flat-roofed building is of the one-part commercial-block type (Figure 107). It is faced in gray brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern, and a storefront-width, cloth-covered metal-frame canopy extends from just below the metal coping at the top of the façade down to the top of the storefront. The storefront includes an off-center recessed entry which incorporates a metal-framed glass door flanked on both sides by sidelights. The east and west walls of the recess are gray brick. The bays on either side of the recess contain metal-framed plate-glass windows.

On the rear of the west half of the building is a one-story, concrete-block section that was built in 1913 as a bowling alley for the building, at that time a pool hall, which preceded the telephone exchange building (10/16/1913). Once the telephone exchange building was constructed, the former bowling alley was used for storage (Sanborn 1931).

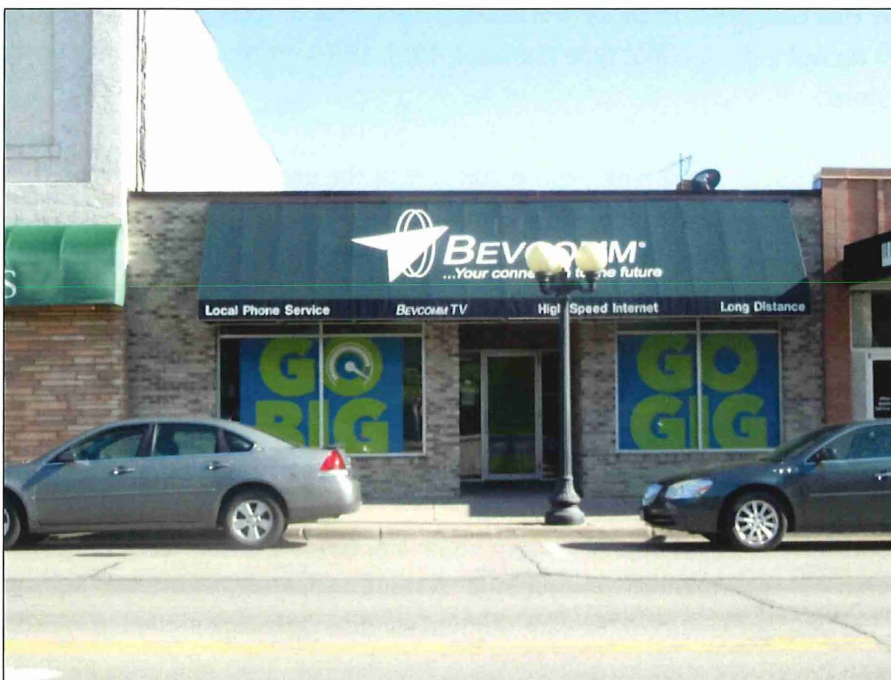


FIGURE 107. 115 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTH

4.95.1 Recommendations

Although constructed between 1919 and 1931, this building exhibits the character of 1980s construction, due to revisions to the façade during that decade. As such, it does not retain the integrity to convey any potential historical significance it might have had. For this reason, it is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.96 SC-NPC-066

Commercial Building

119 Main Street W

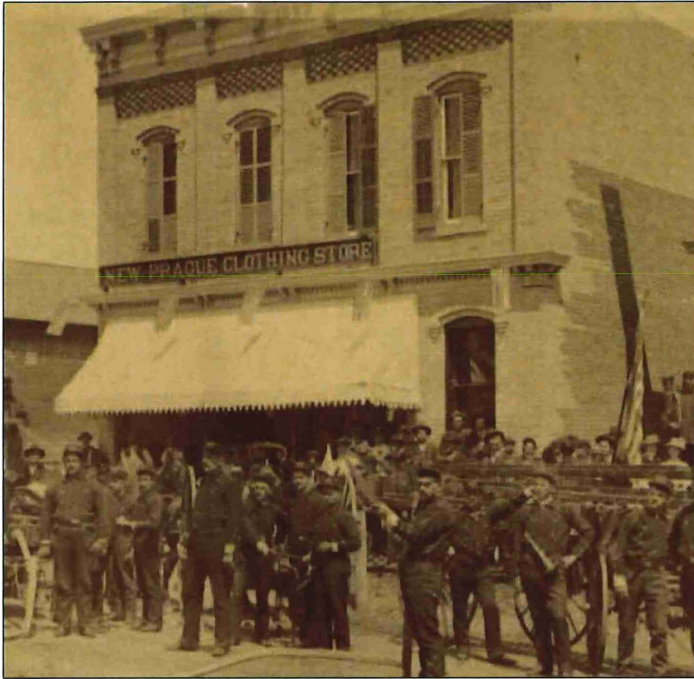
This two-story, flat-roofed, brick building was constructed circa 1883, and the two-story, brick rear section was added in 1902 to replace a one-story rear section that was likely frame (Sanborn 1887-1904; *The Times* 1902a; <http://reflections.mndigital.org/catalog/npa:127#/image/0>). A photograph identified as dating to 1883 shows the building to be The New Prague Clothing Store, but by 1887, a saloon and billiard hall was located in the building (<http://reflections.mndigital.org/catalog/npa:127#/image/0>; Sanborn 1887). Circa 1890, the first floor of the building became a general store, known to have been run by John Joach until 1914. The 1902 brick addition was built as a dwelling for the Joach family (Sanborn 1887, 1892, 1904; 2/13/1891; 3/26/1914 [C. J. Kelley advertisement]; Dvorak 2015:189). In October of 1914, Arthur J. Pany moved his furniture store into the building, and in 1918, Pany had the storefront torn out and replaced with one of plate glass (Sanborn 1892-1919; *The Times* 1895:52; 10/1914; 7/29/1918). Pany left sometime within the next four years, as the New Prague Fruit and Produce Company located their store in the building during the summer of 1922 (6/29/1922). By as early as 1895, if not earlier, the Odd Fellows Hall was located on the

second floor. The Odd Fellows Hall continued to be on the second floor until at least 1952, with a store below, although Sanborn maps do not indicate what type (Sanborn 1931-1952). At the time of the survey, the building housed a jewelry store.

The building is of the two-part commercial block type (Figure 108). With the exception of the storefront, all walls are clad in stucco, including window lintels and sills, the forms of which are all that is evident of the original architectural detail. Comparison with a historical photograph (Figure 109) indicates that cornices at the roof line and above the storefront have been lost, as has an entrance at the east end of the façade, which was used to access the second story. The location of the entrance is now covered by the stone or faux-stone veneer that has been added to the storefront. The storefront is sheltered by a full-width metal-frame cloth canopy. It features an off-center recessed entry containing a metal-framed plate-glass replacement door with transom window. It is flanked on both sides by a metal-framed plate-glass replacement window with stone-veneered bulkheads. Extending south from either side of the door are short, stone-veneered walls, which then turn out at a 90-degree angle and run along the base of the front of the building, enclosing a poured-concrete platform on each side. A stone-veneered pier extends up from the platform on each side near the 90-degree turn of the wall. Arched window openings in the upper story on the façade and west elevation have been infilled with plywood and painted. The building has metal coping. A one-story addition constructed circa 1955 is present on the back of the building (Sanborn 1952; aerial photograph 1957).



FIGURE 108. 119 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTHEAST



MDL <http://reflections.mndigital.org/catalog/npa:127>

FIGURE 109. 119 MAIN STREET W, 1883, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.96.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the substantial absence of original architectural detail effected by the removal of elements and replacement cladding, along with the blocking of original door and window openings, has resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.97 SC-NPC-067

Commercial Building

121 Main Street W

This one-story, concrete-block building, constructed in 1961 to house the Golden Krust Bakery (aerial photographs 1957, 1964; 11/2/1961; Dvorak 2015:192), is of the enframed window wall type (Figure 110). It is currently occupied by a bakery in the east half and a tailor shop in the west. The entire storefront is recessed under a deep, flat, concrete overhang faced in metal and having metal coping, the overhang supported by the red Roman brick sidewalls of the recess at each end and a steel bracket and post in the



FIGURE 110. 121 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTH

center. Entrances to the storefront are located at the west end and off-center in the east half. Both include a metal-framed glass door below a covered louvered transom window. The remainder of the storefront consists of a grid of primarily plate-glass windows divided by wood muntins. In one pane, louvering similar to that in the transom windows is present instead of glass. The windows are underlined by continuous concrete sills, below which are bulkheads faced in red Roman brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. The east elevation is painted exposed concrete block with metal coping. It contains one small sliding glass window with a concrete sill. A gable-roofed, single-bay garage is located on the back of the building.

4.97.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.98 SC-NPC-068

Commercial Building

125 Main Street W

This two-story building was constructed in a few separate episodes (Figure 111). The south original portion was constructed circa 1885, at which time two one-story sections, likely wood frame, were located on the



FIGURE 111. 125 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTHEAST

back (Sanborn 1887). Circa 1895, these two sections were replaced by a two-story section and one-story section, the two-story section on the north of the original, and the one-story section north of that. Circa 1915, the one-story section was expanded to two stories, completing the current two-story north brick section, with a stairway enclosed in iron-clad walls added off the back of that (Sanborn 1892-1919). The building was originally home to the Eilers general store (Dvorak 2015:194). In 1912, C. A. Miller purchased H. C. Eilers' stock and moved into the building to run a grocery store (1/4/1912). Subsequently, F. A. Lipold ran a store there before the building was sold to J. W. Komarek, who sold paints and stains (11/23/1919). At the time of the survey, the building was occupied by a medical supply store.

The building is generally rectangular in form with a flat roof and is of the two-part commercial-block type. The storefront is sheltered by a cloth-covered metal-frame canopy. Poured-concrete steps lead to a centered, recessed entrance holding a metal-framed glass replacement door. Angling out from the door on both sides and carrying around to the façade are metal-framed plate-glass replacement windows with bulkheads faced in orange brick in a stretcher-bond pattern, which is not original. The brick extends up the east and west ends of the lower story of the façade and is truncated on the east end by the overhang of the adjacent building. The upper story of the façade is original yellow brick in a stretcher-bond pattern. Brick pilasters create three bays, and their capitals support the ends of three semi-elliptical arches formed of two courses of projecting, rowlock-brick. Within each bay is a single window opening with stone sills and brick lintels that mimic the arches above but with corbelled brick at each end. In each opening, the upper arched portion of is infilled with yellow brick, below which is a 1/1 double-hung sash replacement window sheltered

by a metal canopy. Above the arches that frame the bays, an inset of what appears to be wood framing is visible, likely related to a former cornice. Above, the façade is capped in metal coping.

The east and west elevations of the circa-1885 section are yellow brick in a common-bond pattern, with a stringcourse formed of a single course of dogtooth brick between an upper and lower course of projecting stretcher brick dividing the upper and lower stories, and with brick coping. On both elevations of this section, the southern upper-story window opening has received the same treatment as those on the facade. On the east elevation, the northern window opening contains an arched 2/2 double-hung window. On the west elevation, a stairway has been enclosed with walls clad in asbestos shingles and a roof clad in asphalt shingles. The enclosure includes a door on the south and a 1/1 double-hung sash window near the top of the stairs on the west, where it blocks an original door opening evidenced only by a segmental arch of rowlock brick. Behind the enclosure to the north, a single window opening is present on each floor, the upper one infilled with wood lap siding and a small sliding window and shielded by a metal canopy, and the lower containing a single-light replacement window. Two brick chimney stacks extend above this elevation.

The walls of the rear brick section are also yellow brick in a common-bond pattern and have brick coping. On the west elevation are two upper-story and two lower-story windows, the lower south window having a rowlock-brick sill, the lower north window having a concrete sill, and the upper two having metal sills. The upper north window opening has a semi-elliptical-arched lintel in the same style as those in the earlier section, the upper south has a flush segmental-arch lintel, and the two lower-story openings have rowlock-brick lintels. The upper-story windows are 1/1 double-hung replacements, and the lower-story windows are single-light replacements. A single brick chimney stack extends above this elevation. The west elevation of the north staircase enclosure is covered in a black sheeting, while its north elevation is clad in brick-look rolled asphalt.

4.98.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the substantial alterations effected by the revision of the storefront, infill of the arched windows, loss of a likely cornice, and the non-sympathetic, prominent staircase enclosure at the south end of the west elevation, have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.99 SC-NPC-069

Commercial Building

131 Main Street W

This two-story building was constructed with a small, one-story rear section circa 1885 and initially housed a saloon and a boots and shoes shop. The latter left the building circa 1895, but the saloon carried on, likely until Prohibition (Sanborn 1887-1919). During the 1930s or early 1940s, the one-story section was replaced with a larger one of concrete block, and a one-and-a-half story attached dwelling was built off the back of it. Further additions were made off of the west and north of the dwelling after 1952, turning the property into something of a complex (Sanborn 1931-1952). Dvorak (2015:196) notes that the building was occupied by a grocery store run by Emil Dvorak at some point after the saloon closed, and that the additions were used for his egg processing business. The original building housed a boutique at the time of the survey.

The original building is rectangular in plan, has a flat roof, and is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 112). All elevations of this building and the additions visible from the street have been clad in stucco, obscuring the majority of the original architectural detail. The Italianate cornice atop the façade, which features ornate brackets and dentils, has been painted in the same color as the stucco but is present. Also evident is the form of the pilasters that divide the upper story into three bays and the segmental-arch shape of the window opening within each bay. Windows within the openings are 2/2 double-hung sash. The sills are painted but are presumably stone like the unpainted sills on the east elevation. The storefront has been altered with substantial amounts of stucco-clad infill surrounding a series of three replacement metal-



FIGURE 112. 131 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTH-NORTHWEST

framed plate-glass windows and a metal-framed glass replacement door with infilled transom light. A metal framework that supported a canopy, cornice, or sign is located above the storefront. Only the upper story of the west elevation of the original building is visible over the neighboring building. This elevation also evidences a division into bays by pilasters, and has a segmental-arched opening with 2/2 double-hung sash window and painted sill in each bay. On the upper story of the east elevation is a southern, rectangular opening holding a 2/2 double-hung sash window and a northern, segmental-arched opening containing a single-pane window. Both the east and west elevations have terra cotta coping.

The additions are an amalgamation of flat-roofed structures, some of concrete block and others exhibiting concrete-block foundations but with superstructures clad in metal sheathing or wood paneling. They include a variety of window and door types. Overall, the complex of additions was built over time, has been altered with regard to fenestration and, likely, cladding, and is not a coherent ensemble (Figure 113).



FIGURE 113. 131 MAIN STREET W, ADDITIONS, LOOKING EAST

4.99.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the substantial alterations effected by the revision of the storefront and the covering of nearly all of the original building's exterior with stucco have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.100 SC-NPC-070

Commercial Building

133 Main Street W

This one-story, concrete-block commercial building was constructed for Emil Dvorak's Kaiser-Frazer automobile dealership in 1946 (Dvorak 2015:198) (Figure 114). Kaiser-Frazer began production in May of 1946 and began shipping their cars, registered for the 1947 model year, to dealers in June of 1946 (Severson 2010).

The building is rectangular in plan, and is of the enframed window wall type. The plan incorporates the 1940s, flat-roofed construction, comprising a one-story storefront section with basement that is partially above grade and a partially below-grade one-story section off the back of its west half, and a circa-1970 one-story, flat-roofed section off the back of the east half of the storefront section (Sanborn 1952; aerial photographs 1964, 1971). The storefront includes a centered, recessed entry containing a wood-framed glass door with transom window. The wood trim on each side of these tapers off with height, as the large, metal-framed display windows that form the walls of the recess are angled outward from the base to the top. The windows have concrete sills over short bulkheads faced in variegated brick. The windows and their support system wrap around to the façade, terminating near the east end at a small expanse of variegated-brick veneer, but wrapping around again at the west end, with two additional windows located at the south end of the west elevation. At the southwest corner, engraved into the concrete sill is "Emil Dvorak" on the south and "1946" on the west. All windows beyond the recess also angle outward at the

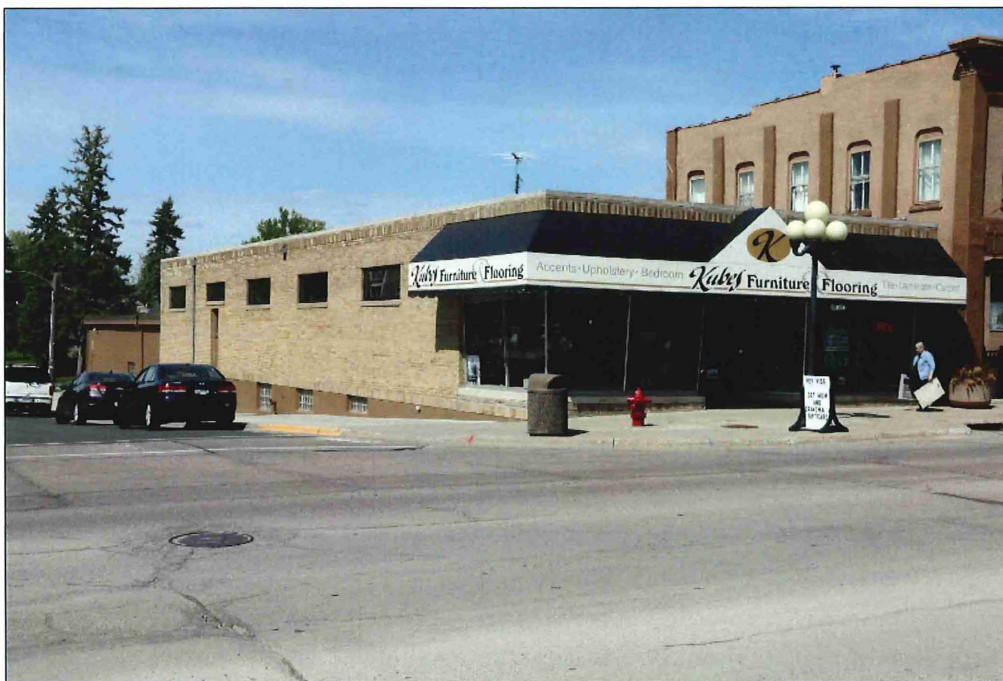


FIGURE 114. 133 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTHEAST

top. The storefront is sheltered by a wraparound, cloth-covered metal-frame canopy, which obscures a nearly full-width rectangular inset of basketweave brickwork. The canopy extends up to a stringcourse of alternating projecting and flush soldier bricks under a single course of stretcher brick, which in turn is capped by concrete coping. These elements wrap around and extend along the entirety of the storefront section's west wall. The remainder of this wall is faced in variegated brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. Fenestration includes five evenly spaced metal-framed plate-glass clerestory replacement windows with concrete sills. The second window from the north is slightly shorter to accommodate a doorway below, which is currently infilled with a wood panel underneath a single-light window. Below the doorway and extending the full length of the base of the west elevation of the first story is a soldier-brick course. Below it, the basement level features glass-block windows within a wall that has been parge coated and painted. The east elevation of the storefront section is yellow brick in a common-bond pattern.

The rear sections of the building are exposed concrete block, which has been painted. The west elevation of the west section contains two glass-block windows and a pedestrian door at its north end. On the north wall of this section is an overhead vehicle door, while that of the east section features a centered loading door, with a glass-block window to its east and a pedestrian door to its west. Both sections are capped with metal coping.

4.100.1 Recommendations

This property was a relatively late addition to the New Prague commercial core, and no information was found to suggest that it played an important enough role in this regard to be individually historically significant under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.101 SC-NPC-071

Commercial Building

207 Main Street W

This two-story building, gable-roofed with a false front, was constructed by John Hamer for F. A. Bastyr/Bastis in 1900, and it was originally occupied by the latter's general store and residence (Sanborn 1899, 1904; 12/13/1900; Dvorak 2015:202). *The Times* indicates that the building was constructed as a brick block, which would have been in keeping with city law (10/18/1900); however, a photograph appearing in the September 1st, 1904, edition of the newspaper shows that the brick of the south wall was obscured by a frame false front (Figure 115). The building housed a general store through at least 1919 (Sanborn 1904-1919). In 1921, it became the new home of John S. Hoffer's buffet and soft drink parlor (*The Times* 1921b). At the time of the survey, it was occupied by a bar.

At present, with the exception of the storefront and at least the south gable end, the building is clad in fiberboard siding (Figure 116). A few courses of brick are visible at the base of the west elevation. Modern



The Times 9/1/1904 and MNHS ML5.9 NP r5

FIGURE 115. AERIAL VIEW DEPICTING 207 MAIN STREET W, CIRCA 1904, LOOKING EAST-NORTHEAST (BUILDING INDICATED BY ARROW)

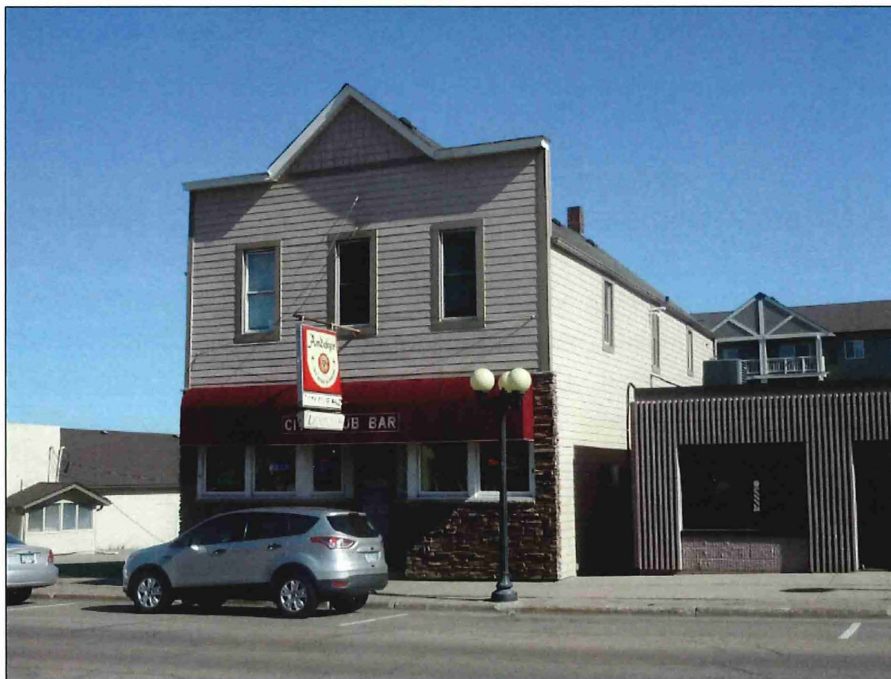


FIGURE 116. 207 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTHWEST

stone or faux-stone veneer covers the storefront, which features a slightly recessed, centered entrance containing a metal-framed glass replacement door with an infilled transom window opening. Angling out from either side of the door and wrapping around to the façade are short, plate-glass replacement windows

with added stone sills. The storefront is sheltered by a nearly full-width cloth-covered metal frame canopy. Above the canopy are three regularly spaced window openings containing 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows. The false front does not extend to the top of the gable, creating a pediment-like effect. The fascia and soffits are sheathed in metal. The east and west elevations each contain three upper-story window openings holding 1/1 double-hung sash. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and an interior brick chimney extends above the peak near the north end of the building.

A small one-story addition with basement was made off the east half of the back of the building between 1919 and 1931, and several other small gable-roofed additions have been made over and around it since 1952 (Sanborn 1919-1952).

4.101.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the substantial alterations effected by the revision of the storefront, the loss of the original cladding, and the changes to fenestration have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.102 SC-NPC-072

Commercial Building

215 Main Street W

This one-story brick building was constructed in 1915 for Joseph F. Bastyr's City Livery and Garage (Sanborn 1911, 1919; *The Times* 1915a; Dvorak 2015:204) (Figure 117). Bastyr became partners with Albert Ambroz Jr., but they dissolved their partnership in 1917, and Ambroz took over the garage in a new partnership with Michael O'Connell. This partnership lasted four years, at some point after which Ambroz partnered with Frank Hertaus until that partnership too was dissolved, in 1923. The building remained a garage until at least 1952, but also incorporated various car dealerships (*The Times* 1917a, 1921c, 1923b; Sanborn 1952; Dvorak 2015:204). At the time of the survey, it housed a gift shop.

The building is rectangular in plan with a flat roof, and it is of the one-part commercial-block type. The façade has been clad in stucco, obscuring the original brick. The storefront openings have been modified and contain plate-glass replacement windows and a metal-framed glass replacement door with wide sidelight, all of which feature concrete surrounds. Each opening is sheltered by a cloth-covered metal-frame canopy. The east and west walls of the building are brick in a stretcher-bond pattern and painted white. A doorway near the south end of the east wall with a segmental-arch lintel has been blocked by a book-borrowing station on the outside and one of the stairs leading to it removed, but a door is still present within it. It, too, is sheltered by a canopy. Beyond it to the north are two segmental-arched window openings with painted, likely concrete sills, each containing a single-pane window.



FIGURE 117. 215 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTHEAST

A large, gable-roofed, concrete-block addition, which was constructed circa 1950, is located on the back of the building (Sanborn 1944, 1952). The west wall is clad in corrugated metal, and the openings on the east wall have been infilled with concrete-block and a material not evident due to stucco cladding. A small-gable roofed addition with fixed windows is located on the east side of the junction of the original building with the addition.

4.102.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the substantial alterations effected by the revision of the storefront and the covering of the façade with stucco have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.103 SC-NPC-073

Commercial Building

325 Main Street W

This two-story building, gable-roofed with a false front, was the residence of John Pesek, moved to this location in 1906 at the same time he began building the commercial building to the west (Sanborn 1904, 1910; 4/5/1906, 5/3/1906) (Figure 118). The 1910 Sanborn map shows the building as a two-story dwelling



FIGURE 118. 325 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTHWEST

with west and east one-story rear sections. The east one-story section was raised to two stories circa 1915 (Sanborn 1910-1919). The building was converted to a commercial purpose between 1919 and 1931, which corresponds to the opening of a shoe repair shop in 1922, as reported by Dvorak (2015:210; Sanborn 1919, 1931). It is likely that the false front was added at that time. A shoe repair continued to operate out of the building at the time of the survey, along with a dry cleaning service.

The false front, west elevation, and visible portion of the east elevation are clad in asbestos shingles. The false front contains three equally spaced 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows in rectangular openings with surrounding metal trim. A historical photograph indicates the window openings were formerly arched. Additionally, a cornice present at the top of the false front has been removed. The upper portion of the façade is divided from the storefront below by a flat, full-width metal canopy. The storefront is faced in stone or faux-stone veneer, which surrounds a non-original picture window. The storefront is extended to the east via a post-1964 one-story, hipped-roof addition, also faced in stone veneer, which contains another picture window and a metal-framed glass door to the business (aerial photograph 1964). The east elevation of this addition is clad in vinyl siding. An earlier, one-story, side-gabled addition, constructed between 1919 and 1931 (Sanborn 1919, 1931), is at the back of the hipped-roof addition, and the vinyl siding extends to cover its east elevation, which contains paired and single 1/1 double-hung sash windows. All roof surfaces are clad in asphalt shingles. A brick chimney stack extends above the peak of the original building, and a concrete-block chimney stack above the post-1964 addition.

4.103.1 Recommendations

While this property may be associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core for the time it was a shoe repair, the substantial alterations effected by the revision of the storefront, including its extension to an addition, the replacement cladding, and the reconfigured windows have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.104 SC-NPC-074

Commercial House/Merchants Hotel

329 Main Street W

This two-story, flat-roofed building was constructed in 1906 by John Pesek (4/5/1906, 6/7/1906). In the fall of 1907, Adam Endres rented the east side and second story of the building from Pesek and outfitted it for a restaurant and hotel, which he named the Commercial House (9/5/1907, 10/24/1907, 11/21/1907). On the west side was a saloon operated first by A. T. Barta and John Schanus from July 1908 to May 1909, then Nick Shanno and Frank Sebek until July of 1909, then Shanno alone until July of 1910, when the saloon business was purchased by Pesek, who presumably ran it after that (6/25/1908, 5/6/1909, 7/22/1909, 7/28/1910). Pesek additionally began running the hotel in 1911 after Endres opted to run a new property. It was likely at this time that the building was renamed the Merchants Hotel, as Endres retained the Commercial name at the new location (4/6/1911, 5/11/1911; Sanborn 1911, 1919). Between 1911 and 1919, a small one-story addition was constructed off the east end of the rear (north) elevation. In 1939, it became the Davenport Hotel, retaining that name until at least 1952 (Sanborn 1904-1952; Dvorak 2015:211). At the time of the survey, the building was occupied by a bar and grill.

The hotel storefront, which wraps around to the south portion of the west elevation to encompass a corner entrance, has been heavily altered (Figure 119). A historical photograph shows the corner entrance to incorporate an arched doorway containing a door with sidelights and arched transom window (Figure 120). The doorway was flanked on the west and south by adjacent tall plate-glass windows having three-light transom windows above extending from pilaster to pilaster. Another door with transom window was centered between the eastern two pilasters on the south elevation, on either side of which were plate-glass windows with transom windows, filling the remaining space between the pilasters. The pilasters are no longer visible, having been covered by the metal paneling that clads the upper half of the storefront and the stone veneer that clads its lower half. Windows are contained within the upper half and are smaller, metal-framed plate-glass windows, two in the former west bay of the façade and one to each side but separated from the entryway in the former east bay. This recessed entry holds poured-concrete steps leading up to a replacement door with an infilled transom opening above. With regard to the corner entrance, the doorway has been shortened and narrowed, resulting in the loss of the arch and the width



FIGURE 119. 329 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING NORTHEAST



Dvorak 2015:212

FIGURE 120. 329 MAIN STREET W, CIRCA 1935, LOOKING EAST-NORTHEAST

that encompassed the sidelights, and a replacement door with infilled transom opening above is now present. Suspended above the entire storefront is a flat metal canopy, and running above it is metal sheathing covering the former extent of the three-light transom windows. Metal sheathing additionally forms a substantial cap over the brick cornice and parapet on the south and west elevations, and a semi-circular arch that had been incorporated into the parapet over the corner-facing wall has been removed.

The remainder of the south and west elevations are of the original brick, which is in a stretcher-bond pattern and has been painted gray. These include those portions of the building's brick pilasters that are not covered by the storefront or the upper metal sheathing, which create two bays on the façade, frame each side of the corner-facing wall, and create three bays on the west elevation. Window openings in these walls are limited to the upper story, and all have metal sills. The corner-facing opening is rectangular and contains a 1/1 double-hung wood-sash window with a divided-light, semicircular-arched transom window under a gauged-arch lintel. The remaining openings hold 1/1 double-hung wood-sash windows under flat-arch brick lintels. Between the pilasters at the base of the metal sheathing is the bottom portion of a decorative brick band, the visible courses consisting of alternating projecting header bricks, creating a dentilled effect, between an upper and lower course of projecting stretcher brick. Former flat-arched window openings and one of two flat-arched doorways in the west elevation of the lower story have been infilled with brick. The other doorway remains in place and contains a steel replacement door with a wood-infilled transom opening above.

Regularly spaced flat-arched window openings containing 1/1 double-hung sash windows are located in the east elevation of the upper story. The same type of openings are located on the upper story of the north elevation, two to each side of a centered flat-arch doorway that is accessed by a replacement wood staircase, but they are infilled to various extents and therefore include non-uniform 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The doorway contains a replacement door with wood-infilled transom opening above. Both the east and north elevations have metal coping. The one-story addition has been expanded to the west and now extends the full width of the building. It has a hipped roof and is clad in wide wood-lap siding. A modern door is located on the north elevation, and the roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.104.1 Recommendations

While this property is associated with the development of the New Prague commercial core, the severity of the changes to the storefront and the alteration and obscuring of the cornice and parapet have resulted in a loss of integrity to convey any potential historical significance under Criterion A. No information was found to associate this property with any individuals of historical significance, and it does not well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion B or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.105 SC-NPC-001

Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway Company Depot

331 Main Street W

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 6.

4.106 SC-NPC-075

Gas Station

401 Main Street W

This one-story, concrete-block building was constructed as a gas station in 1956, but the pumps and the shelter over them was removed circa 2014, and it is now a used-car dealership (Figure 121). The building has a truncated L plan. The east portion of the building is exposed concrete block with a “frieze” of wood paneling. Wood paneling covers the walls of the west portion of the building. The east elevation has a small sliding window in the north half and a metal-framed picture window in the south half. Three of the same type of picture window are located on the south elevation, to the west of a metal-framed glass door located at the east end of the wall. West of the windows, a wall angles out to the southwest, causing the west portion of the façade to project to the south. The angled wall holds another metal-framed glass door. The building has a flat roof with exaggerated fascia sheathed in metal.



FIGURE 121. 401 MAIN STREET W, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST

4.106.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.107 SC-NPC-076

House

311 2nd Street NW

This one-story, hipped-roof house was constructed in 1953 (Figure 122). It is rectangular in plan with a concrete-block foundation, and it is clad in vinyl siding. Poured-concrete steps lead up to a centered front (south) entrance, and another set of poured-concrete steps up to an entrance on the east elevation. The house is fenestrated with 2/2 double-hung sash windows. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 122. 311 2ND STREET NW, LOOKING NORTHEAST

4.107.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic

value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.108 SC-NPC-077

House

309 2nd Street NW

This one-story, hipped-roof house with attached, single-bay garage was constructed in 1950 (Figure 123). It is generally rectangular in plan, although the east portion of the house includes a slight projection to the south. The projection is clad in stone veneer, while the rest of the house and the garage are clad in wood shakes. Stone-veneered steps lead up to a recessed front door, with the east wall of the recess formed by a wide, stone-veneered exterior chimney located at the junction of the projection and the rest of the house. Fenestration consists of single, paired, and tripled double-hung sash replacement windows. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 123. 309 2ND STREET NW, LOOKING NORTHEAST

4.108.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.109 SC-NPC-078

House

307 2nd Street NW

This two-story, cross-gabled, Folk Victorian-style house was built circa 1880 (Figure 124). It has a cross plan and a stone foundation. The walls are clad in asbestos shingles, with round wood shakes in the gable ends. An open porch with wood floor and original spindlework is located in the southeast ell and another in the northwest ell. A porch in the northeast ell has been enclosed and clad in vertical wood planking. Entrances to the house are on the east wall of the house in the southeast porch and the west wall of the house in the northwest porch. Fenestration throughout the house has been heavily altered, with openings containing primarily casement replacement windows but also 1/1 double-hung sash and sliding windows, surrounded by wood infill, except in the southeast ell, where all openings have been infilled. The west elevation includes a bay window on the first story with a deck above and cresting intact. What was likely a door above it has been eliminated, and the opening now contains infill below paired casement windows. The roof of the house is clad in asphalt shingles.



FIGURE 124. 307 2ND STREET NW, LOOKING NORTHWEST

4.109.1 Recommendations

Due to the replacement of the cladding, the severe alterations to the fenestration, the enclosure of one of the porches, and the loss of the upper-story door to the deck above the bay window, this house would not have the integrity to convey any potential significance under National Register Criterion A, B, or C. It is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.110 SC-NPC-018

Hertaus House

301 2nd Street NW

This circa-1895, Queen Anne-inspired house is one and a half stories in height and has a steeply hipped roof with lower front-facing (south-facing) cross gable and two east-facing gabled dormers (Figures 125 and 126). The house is generally rectangular in plan and has a stone foundation. The walls are clad in wood lap siding. All gable ends are clad in diamond-cut wood shingles and have simple wood bargeboards.

Underneath the cross gable is a porch, the east half of which is open and the west half of which is enclosed. The open part of the porch is not currently accessible, as no steps lead up to it; no door is present in the enclosed portion to the west; it is blocked on the east by a metal handrail; and a railing runs across the front of it. Scrollwork brackets are present underneath the porch roof, with two matching brackets on the enclosed portion underneath an asphalt-shingle covered shed roof and a single bracket in a different style on the open portion. The window in the south elevation of the enclosed portion appears to consist of a decorative pane over divided lights, but its operation could not be discerned behind its six-light storm window. The open portion contains a single 1/1 double-hung sash window, while the gable above contains paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows.

The aforementioned metal handrail is one of two along either side of the wooden steps that lead up to the house's front entrance. The entrance is on the south elevation of a small wrap-around porch, which has



FIGURE 125. 301 2ND STREET NW, LOOKING NORTHWEST



FIGURE 126. 301 2ND STREET NW, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST

been enclosed, located at the southeast corner of the house. It consists of a wood door with three-light window behind a modern storm door and is flanked on each side by a narrow 1/1 double-hung sash window. The east elevation of the porch contains quadrupled 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The porch features a gable-on-hip roof, the gable constituted of a dormer that extends east from the primary hipped roof. Beyond the porch to the north on the east elevation is a bay window, over which is another gabled dormer. The dormer contains paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The bay window contains a single 1/1 double-hung sash window in each of its angled elevations, while the primary (east) elevation holds a window consisting of a decorative pane in the same style as that on the front of the house, over what looks from the street to be a casement window. All remaining fenestration on the east, north, and west elevations consists of single or paired 1/1 double-hung sash. On the rear of the house is a hipped-roof porch, also enclosed, on the north elevation of which is the back door to the house. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.110.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A or B. While it alludes to the Queen Anne style through its steep hipped roof with lower cross gable and diamond cut shingles in the gable ends, it is not a strong example of the style, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value. It therefore does not meet National Register Criterion C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

4.111 SC-NPC-017

Bean House

211 2nd Street NW

This property is recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the National Register. Its history and description are provided with the results of its Phase II evaluation in Chapter 5.

4.112 SC-NPC-079

House

212 2nd Street NW

This one-story, side-gabled Ranch house was constructed in 1957 (Figure 127). It has a concrete-block foundation and is now an L-plan due to a gabled addition off the west portion of the south elevation. The walls of the house are generally clad in fiberboard siding, but vinyl shakes cover the gable ends and a stone veneer has been added to the lower portion of the west part of the façade. The veneer extends from the west end to the replacement door, which is centered on the façade, and occupies a narrow expanse in between the east side of the door and a piece of vertical painted trim to the east. The façade is sheltered by a deep front eave, which is supported by wood posts near its west end and its center. In the east half of the façade are two square window openings, the west one containing is a single-light window, and the east one containing a 1/1 double-hung sash window. Centered in the west half of the façade is a picture window with flanking 1/1 double-hung sash windows. All other windows on the house are 1/1 double-hung sash. Because the ground slopes down steeply at the back of the house, the rear addition is supported by posts.



FIGURE 127. 212 2ND STREET NW, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

The space below the addition allows for vehicles to access the garage door located on the lower level of the south elevation of the house. The west elevation of the addition includes a pedestrian door next to its junction with the original house. The house has vinyl soffits, and the roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

4.112.1 Recommendations

No information was found to associate this property with any patterns, events, or individuals of historical significance. It is devoid of any stylistic detail or other characteristics that would well exemplify a type, period, or method of construction, and it does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic value; therefore, it would be unable to meet National Register Criterion A, B, or C. This property is therefore recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

PHASE II RESULTS – THE NEW PRAGUE FLOURING MILL COMPANY / INTERNATIONAL MILLING COMPANY COMPLEX (LE-NPC-001) AND THE F. A. BEAN, JR. HOUSE (SC-NPC-017)

The overarching historic context with which the New Prague Flouring Mill Company/International Milling Company complex and the F. A. Bean, Jr. house is associated is Railroads and Agricultural Development in New Prague, 1870-1956, presented in Section 3.3.1, which is based on the statewide contexts Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940, and Railroad Development in Minnesota, 1862-1956. The history of the New Prague Flouring Mill Company/International Milling Company, provided below, is contextually relevant to both properties. Following this history, the property-specific history, current description, and evaluation of National Register eligibility are presented individually for each property.

5.1 COMPANY HISTORY

The International Milling Company began as The New Prague Flouring Mill Company, under which name it operated for the first 14 years of its existence. The New Prague Flouring Mill Company was begun in 1896 by F. A. (Francis Atherton) Bean, Sr., who had arrived in New Prague in 1892, after plummeting wheat prices and inequitable freight rates forced him to lose his flour mill in Faribault (Efnor 1953:2). For the next three years, in partnership with his brother-in-law J. H. Mallery, Bean leased the Eclipse Roller Mill, owned by M. J. Simmer, where he headed up the mill operations (*The Times* 1895:18, 1911). Their success and integrity in this operation were such that in March of 1896, as *The Times* reported “a strong movement on foot to build a new mill at this city, providing Mr. Mallery cannot renew the lease on the old one,” it exhorted its readers to “give this enterprise all the support as Mr. Mallery does more toward advertising New Prague abroad than any other institution in the city. The advantages Mr. Mallery and Mr. Bean confer upon New Prague can scarcely be estimated and it is fair to give them all the encouragement possible” (3/5/1896). The lease was not renewed, and although for unidentified reasons Mallery was not involved in the new venture, Bean had the reputation needed to obtain enough capital investments from local businessmen to build his flour mill on the east side of the railroad line and the south side of Main Street. In June of 1896, the New Prague Flouring Mill Company filed its articles of incorporation. The incorporators were F. A. Bean, W. L. Harvey, John Proshek, L. H. Wells, and George Thompson (5/14/1896; *The Weekly Northwestern Miller* June 12, 1896:1019). Once the mill was running, M. F. Dennison, who had served as head miller at the Eclipse Roller Mill under Bean and Mallery, was the superintendent (Smith 1897:350).

By March of 1897, the New Prague Flouring Mill Company additionally owned a mill in Blue Earth City and an interest in a mill in Winnebago City (Smith 1897:350). In 1902, the company acquired a mill in Wells, and four years later, it obtained its first mill outside of Minnesota, in Davenport, Iowa (International Milling Company 1960:11). The company's need for expansion stemmed from the quick success of its Seal of Minnesota flour, which initially was “marketed chiefly in Iowa, Illinois, and Wisconsin” (Smith 1897:350) and to a lesser extent in the southern U.S., eastern U.S., and Europe, but soon furthered its reach, apparently due to its high quality. As early as the spring of 1902, *The Times* reported that five cars of the product were being shipped to Port Natal, South Africa (3/20/1902).

In the same way that the Seal of Minnesota brand of flour became a household name in the U.S., so too would the Robin Hood brand under the wing of F. A. Bean, Sr. in Canada. The mill that manufactured this brand was located in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan, and it was purchased by Bean from the McLean Milling Company in 1908 (*Engineering News* 1908:24); thus the New Prague Flouring Mill Company could claim an international manufacturing presence. Desirous of reflecting this international status and of bringing all theretofore acquired operations under a single corporate umbrella, the officers of the New Prague Flouring Mill Company incorporated the International Milling Company in June of 1910. The positions of these officers were transferred to the new company, with F. A. Bean, Sr. as President; F. A. Bean, Jr., who had joined the company in 1900 and become Vice President no later than January of 1909, as Vice President; and one of the original New Prague Flouring Mill Company incorporators, W. L. Harvey, as Secretary and Treasurer (6/21/1900; *The Weekly Northwestern Miller* 1909, 1910a, 1910b). The company remained headquartered in New Prague, but continued to add plants in other locations to increase its total production capacity and access to other markets, including one in Calgary, Alberta, in 1912, which furthered exportation to East Asia and Latin America, and one in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1919, which included both a flour mill and a cereal mill (*The Times* 1920a; International Milling Company 1960:12). By the end of 1920, the International Milling Company could claim, in addition to its mills, offices and representatives throughout the United States and in Montreal, Vancouver, and Winnipeg (*The Times* 1920a).

The headquarters facility employed a local workforce, by this time, of 250, nearly 60 of those in the office building. The office building included the company's experimental mill and laboratory, which operated every day and was imperative to the implementation of the company's rigorous quality control standards for the Seal of Minnesota brand, as well as others in the International Milling Company family, which were retained to maintain local recognition. All affiliated mills would ship a sample of wheat from each car to New Prague, where it was milled and baked into bread. The bread had to be deemed satisfactory before the car was accepted by the company. The mill itself had a capacity, attained in 1901, of 2,500 barrels per day, putting it on par with Minneapolis' largest mills outside of the goliaths that were under the Pillsbury and Washburn corporate umbrellas (*The Times* 1916a, 1916g, 1920a; *The Northwestern Miller* 1915:163).

Although the International Milling Company did not have a mill in Minneapolis, it relocated its headquarters with laboratory to the Flour Exchange Building there in 1923, citing difficulty in managing the multitude of plants from New Prague and a desire to work more closely with the grain department, which had been moved to Minneapolis a few years prior. Fourteen employees remained to work in the New Prague office building, including John F. Wrabek, as manager of the local operations (*The Times* 1922a, 1923c, 1939b). The following year, the company purchased a terminal elevator located along the M&StL in the Minneapolis suburb of St. Louis Park, with a capacity of 1,250,000 bushels. In 1927, mills were established in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, and Buffalo, New York, which was on its way to replacing Minneapolis as the flour milling capital of the world (St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board 2011). The Buffalo mill and elevator were enlarged in 1928, becoming the largest in the company's history, the mill having a capacity of 13,500 cwt. and the elevator of over 4.5 million bushels (International Milling Company 1960:15-16). In 1930, F. A. Bean, Sr. passed away, and W. L. Harvey took over as president, remaining so until his death in 1938; then, F. A. Bean, Jr. assumed the post (*The Times* 1930b; Efnor 1953:5).

Under the Bean, Jr. presidency, which lasted until his death in 1955, the International Milling Company experienced a period of unprecedented expansion and diversification. The first major change, in 1939, may have seemed a step toward greater uniformity, which was the abandonment of its flagship brand name in favor of using Robin Hood throughout the United States as in Canada (Efnor 1953:3; International Milling Company 1967). In 1940, however, the company built another major mill (9,900 cwt.) in Humberstone, Ontario, and then went about purchasing or building 17 more mills and 14 elevators over the next 15 years in Clay Center, Halstead, Junction City, Newton, and Salina, Kansas; Detroit, Michigan; New Ulm, St. Paul, and Wabasha, Minnesota; Kansas City and Slater, Missouri; Baldwinville and Lockport, New York; Cleveland, Ohio; Blackwell and Ponca City, Oklahoma; and Montreal, Quebec (International Milling Company 1960:37-38).

As mill locations began to expand, so too did the International Milling Company's product line. During World War II, the company developed a granular wheat product dubbed Alcomeal, which could be used to make grain alcohol that, in turn, was used to make synthetic rubber. Taking on the products of existing mills meant that the company found itself manufacturing durum flour, rye flour, and semolina, in addition to its baking flours. The acquisition of the Eagle Roller Mill Company in New Ulm in 1951 was particularly noteworthy as it brought International Milling into the business of manufacturing Supersweet formula feeds, a component the company then opted to grow during the 1950s and 1960s. During these two decades, on the Canada side, formula feed plants were established in Quebec, Ontario, and Newfoundland, while in the United States, they were located in Orlando, Florida; Monmouth, Illinois; Des Moines, Le Mars, and New Hampton, Iowa; Salina, Kansas; Willmar, Minnesota; Fremont and Grand Island, Nebraska; Columbus, Ohio; and Madison, Wisconsin (International Milling Company 1960:38, 1967).

These decades additionally saw Atherton Bean (F. A. Bean, III) take over the presidency after his father's death, three years after which the International Milling Company completed construction of a flour mill in Venezuela. This mill was not only International's first in that country, but the first of any North American company there (*The Times* 1958b; International Milling Company 1960:22). In less than 10 years, Venezuelan operations additionally included two purchased mills, rolled oats manufacturing, and a formula feed plant. Another formula feed plant was established in Ecuador in 1961. Then, in the mid 1960s, the company expanded the scope of its operations to include turkey growing, broiler chicken processing, a commercial egg and poultry business, and pickle manufacturing (International Milling Company 1967). In 1970, with milling no longer its only major concern, the company was renamed International Multifoods Corporation (*Commercial West* 1969, 1970). It then diversified into consumer and pet foods, restaurant franchising, and interior decorative accessories before reversing course on several of its operations and product lines during the 1980s and 1990s during a restructuring phase in which its first industry, flour milling, was abandoned in the U.S., with the "U.S. trademark rights [to Robin Hood flour] . . . sold to General Mills and the mills themselves to ConAgra [in 1988]" (Thomson Gale 2006; *The Times* 1988; McCartney 1989; Sosland 2016; "Historical Note," finding aid, International Multifoods Corporation Corporate Records Collection, Minnesota Historical Society). So it was that in 1988 the International Multifoods Company lost its affiliation with the location that had given it its start. ConAgra would go on to sell the New Prague mill to Miller

Milling Company, "a U.S.-based subsidiary of Tokyo-based Nisshin Flour Milling Inc." (Cargill, Inc. 2014) in 2014, and Miller Milling continues to own the mill at present.

5.2 THE NEW PRAGUE FLOURING MILL COMPANY/ INTERNATIONAL MILLING COMPANY COMPLEX

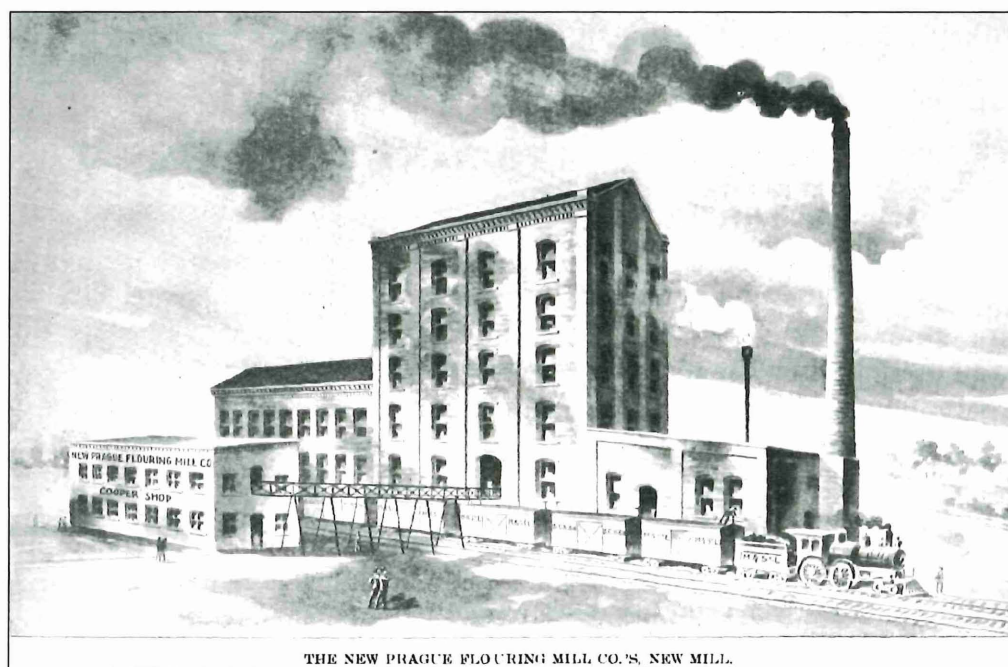
100 2nd Avenue SW

5.2.1 Property History

The construction bids for the mill were obtained in May of 1896, and the contract awarded to the Edward P. Allis Company shortly before the New Prague Flouring Mill Company filed its articles of incorporation (*The Weekly Northwestern Miller* 1896a, 1896b, 1896c). The Edward P. Allis Company, which began as Edward P. Allis and Company, had been manufacturing flour milling equipment since 1861. In that year, Edward P. Allis purchased the Reliance Works in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, an operation that had "become important in the manufacture of flour milling equipment and had begun to produce sawmills and various cast iron products" (Peterson 1978:7). In 1876, Allis hired William Dixon Gray to lead the flour milling machinery department. Gray began his new position in January of 1877, bringing with him a decade of quality mill engineering experience, and under the first year alone of his direction, the flour milling division of the Reliance Works constructed 70 mills in the United States and internationally. While with the Edward P. Allis Company, Gray revolutionized the flour milling industry by perfecting the first belt-driven, all-roller mill system, which both the Washburn and Pillsbury interests were quick to adopt and for which demand took off following an 1880 miller's convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. Similarly, Allis' hiring of former Corliss Steam Engine Company employee Edwin Reynolds to serve as superintendent in 1877 led to the development of the improved, i.e., more predictable and efficient, Corliss steam engine under the Allis Company umbrella later that year. (Peterson 1978:19, 28-29, 32-35, 42-43).

In 1889, Allis died, and the Edward P. Allis Company was formed in April of the following year, with Reynolds remaining as superintendent. By this time, the company was nationally recognized as a leader in the manufacture and provision of flour milling equipment, due in no small part to Gray's continuing innovations and improvements in the field. This department remained a strong source of company revenue during the 1890s, with numerous contracts, including that for the New Prague Flouring Company mill, pouring in (Peterson 1978:88-89).

The New Prague Flouring Mill Company's steam-powered mill, completed in November of 1896 (*The Weekly Northwestern Miller* 1896d), was five stories high, of Chaska brick, and 48 by 66 feet in area. *The Weekly Northwestern Miller* of March 5, 1897 (333, 350), noted that "the other buildings are as follows: Engine and boiler rooms, 38x48 feet; cooper shop, 30x100 feet, and a very comfortable detached office building . . . so situated that it is hidden from view by the main building in our illustration" (Figure 128). The plant included proprietary technology, such as Gray break and smooth rolls, and a Reynolds-Corliss compound condensing engine. The article additionally made mention of the warehouse adjoining the mill, which the periodical depicted as two stories and of brick construction similar to that of the mill, with a capacity of 25 carloads of flour and 50 carloads of feed.



The Weekly Northwestern Miller March 5, 1897:333

FIGURE 128. ILLUSTRATION OF THE NEW PRAGUE FLOURING COMPANY MILL, 1897

In November of 1897, water mains were laid from "Remes Lake," an artificial pond one-half block north of Main Street created several years earlier by Mathias Remes for raising carp, to the mill to provide cold water to the mill's condenser, and an addition was built to the south end of the warehouse to expand storage and loading capacity. The addition proved not enough, and another warehouse was constructed the following month. The mill's 600-barrels-per-day capacity also proved not enough, but the mill building had been designed with expansion in mind, requiring that the company shut down operations only for a few days in March of 1898 to install the additional equipment necessary to bring its capacity to 800 barrels per day (Smith 1897:333; 11/4/1897, 12/30/1897, 3/17/1898, 3/1/1898). In the next couple of months, the company installed a feed mill, a rye mill, and "machinery for the manufacture of Corn Meal . . . enabl[ing] them to meet the wants of everybody in the milling line [with regard to] local custom work" (4/28/1898).

The Sanborn fire insurance map of August 1899 details the interior mechanical elements of the main mill building. The first floor was occupied by four flour packers; the second by 18 double rollers and one Eureka milling separator; the fourth by one Marmon and one Wilson dust collector, seven Allis purifiers, one Eureka separator, and one automatic weighing machine; and the fifth by two Wilson dust collectors, three Barnard and Lea plansifters, 21 Allis flour pressing reels, one Barnard and Lea warehouse separator, and one Eureka separator. No machinery occupied the third floor. By that time, the previously expanded adjoining warehouse on the south side of the main building was clad in sheet iron, and plans were in place to expand the boiler and engine room to both the north and east, which was completed the next month. The expanded section surrounded an interior smokestack, subsequently destroyed during a tornado and replaced with an exterior smokestack on the east side in 1902. Interestingly, New Prague's first electric light plant was

operated by the milling company out of the engine room beginning in 1900, until September of 1904 (9/21/1899, *The Times* 1900a, 1902b, 1904; 9/18/1902; Sanborn 1904). To the northwest of the adjoining elements, on the west side of a spur track, was a grain elevator with a capacity of 175,000 bushels, to be clad shortly thereafter with corrugated iron (Sanborn 1899). From the elevator extended a housed conveyor belt, 18 feet above ground, over the spur track and to the mill. Roughly 90 feet south of the grain elevator was a one-and-a-half-story cooper shop and barrel warehouse. The cooper shop was relocated south of the main mill complex in the summer of 1900 (6/21/1900).

In October of 1901, the capacity of the mill was again increased, more than threefold, to 2,500 barrels per day, and numerous improvements to accommodate growth, efficiency, new technology, and safety in its operations ensued over the next approximately 15 years: In 1902, a new, eighty-ton track scale was put in on the west side of the elevator, and a four-story cleaning house was constructed adjoining the elevator's south end. The following year, a new office building was constructed to accommodate its growing number of employees. A new, larger, iron-clad cooper shop was built south of the mill in 1904, during which year an addition, also iron-clad, was made to the mill proper by adding three stories to the north portion of the original adjoining warehouse. Sometime between 1899 and 1904, a wheat tower was erected on the east side of the mill. In 1906, a large wagon and buggy storage building was constructed. In 1907, a 40-by-180-foot, two-story, iron-clad warehouse with loading platforms was built adjoining the south end of the warehouse attached to the mill, another large iron-clad warehouse was built onto the west side of the cooper shop, and another warehouse was moved to the south of the cooper shop for use as an ice house, plus an additional boiler was installed next to the existing ones. In 1908, brick additions were made to the fumigating building, which fire insurance maps indicate was formerly a "water closet" built circa 1900. The additions served as a hose-cart shed and an automobile garage, the latter addition extending to the edge of Syndicate Street. By 1910, the original portion of this building was an oil house. In April of 1911, the steel smokestack was replaced with one of concrete, 125 feet in height and 6 feet in diameter, and a fuel economizer, which used some of the heat and gasses generated to heat water rather than sending it up the smokestack, was installed. The smokestack again became an interior type later that year, when the engine room was expanded to the east with brick construction to accommodate a new well, the fuel economizer, a fan, and a repair shop. In September of 1914, a second grain tower was built next to the one built circa 1900, and a third followed later that year, or shortly thereafter (10/3/1901; *The Times* 1903a; 9/18/1902, 10/9/1902, 4/21/1904, 5/12/1904, 4/5/1906, 9/13/1906, 8/22/1907, 9/12/1907, 10/31/1907, 12/26/1907, 11/5/1908, 11/29/1908, 4/6/1911, and 7/20/1911; 9/3/1914; Sanborn 1899-1919).

The most salient additions to the complex, however, came in 1916 and 1917. In April of 1916, the new headquarters office was completed, fronting Syndicate Avenue, which essentially doubled the size of its predecessor, the framework for which had been integrated into a wing of the new building. Still more impressive, though, was the nine-story cleaning house put up on the south side of the elevator later that year. Incorporating a steel-reinforced concrete framework and structural tile walls, the building was claimed by *The Times*, perhaps a bit generous in calling it a "skyscraper," to be the highest building in its part of the state outside of the Twin Cities. Adding to its visibility was a 100-foot high wireless tower used to communicate with company's other mills for a short period prior to World War I and ultimately removed

for a scrap metal drive during World War II. The next year, 16 concrete grain storage tanks, equivalent to five stories in height, were erected to its south, increasing the storage capacity of the mill from 190,000 to 750,000 bushels. Also put in place on the grounds during this time was a double tennis court for employees, which could be converted into an ice skating rink during the winter (*The Times* 1916a, 1916g, 1916h, 1917b, 1920a).

In 1923, just a few months after the company relocated its headquarters to Minneapolis, renovations totaling approximately \$100,000 were made to the engine room and power plant, which involved the addition of another engine, installation of an automatic scale for the coal, pouring a new concrete floor, adding a second story, and building a concrete ash hopper off the north side. (Sanborn 1919, 1931; *The Times* 1923d). In 1927, a reinforced-concrete smokestack, 152 ½ feet in height and six feet in diameter was constructed outside the east side of the engine room and power plant, presumably at which time the removal of the interior smokestack occurred. In 1945, the mill was converted from steam power to electrical power (*The Times* 1945).

The configuration of the mill complex remained the same from 1927 until 1959, when a 40-by-50 foot, concrete-block, storage and handling structure was put up along the north half of the east side of the original mill building. This structure, equipped for pneumatic flour handling, was one story, but that story was equivalent in height to two and a half stories of the original mill. The structure appears to have been the last construction on the property to have occurred under the name the International Milling Company (Sanborn 1931, 1944; *The Times* 1959b).

As the International Multifoods Corporation, the company undertook a final major wave of improvements in 1976-1977. Most notable of these was the construction of the B mill and a new storage facility. The B mill, a 4,500-cwt., hard spring wheat mill was constructed at the complex to replace the production capacity lost when one of the company's Iowa plants was lost to an explosion two years prior. Of slip-form concrete construction clad in metal panels, it combined a four-story mill terminal and a five-story bulk flour storage building. The new, concrete-block, storage facility replaced the southern part of the 1907 warehouse addition, which was torn down. Although only one story, it had a significantly larger footprint than its predecessor and incorporated truck loading docks (*The Times* 1977a, 1977b).

5.2.2 Description

The New Prague Flouring Mill Company/International Milling Company complex (LE-NPC-001) includes the 1896 mill building with attached warehouses, engine room, and additions (LE-NPC-038); the loading facility and office for the now-raised circa-1896 grain elevator (LE-NPC-060); the 1916 cleaning house (LE-NPC-061); the 16 grain elevators with galley built in 1917 (LE-NPC-062); the remaining lower portion of the 1927 smokestack (LE-NPC-063); and other detached buildings or structures which are less than 50 years in age (Figures 129 and 130). Due to the multitude of structural components that make up the flour milling complex, for the reader's ease of reference, each component has been assigned a letter designation below which corresponds to those in Figures 131 through 148. LE-NPC-038 includes components A through C, E

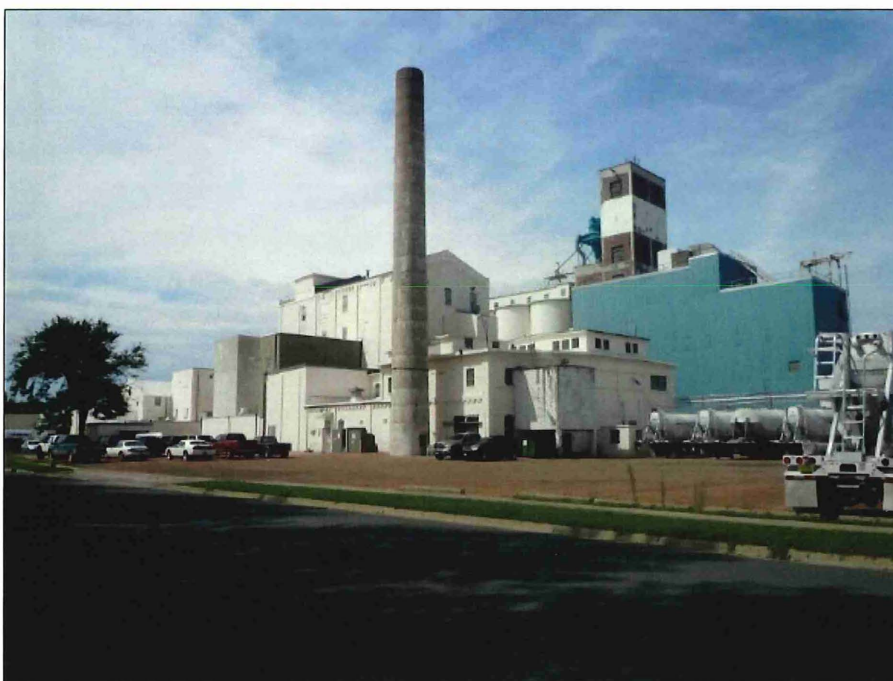


FIGURE 129. NEW PRAGUE FLOURING MILL COMPANY/INTERNATIONAL MILLING COMPANY COMPLEX (MILLING COMPLEX), LOOKING SOUTHWEST

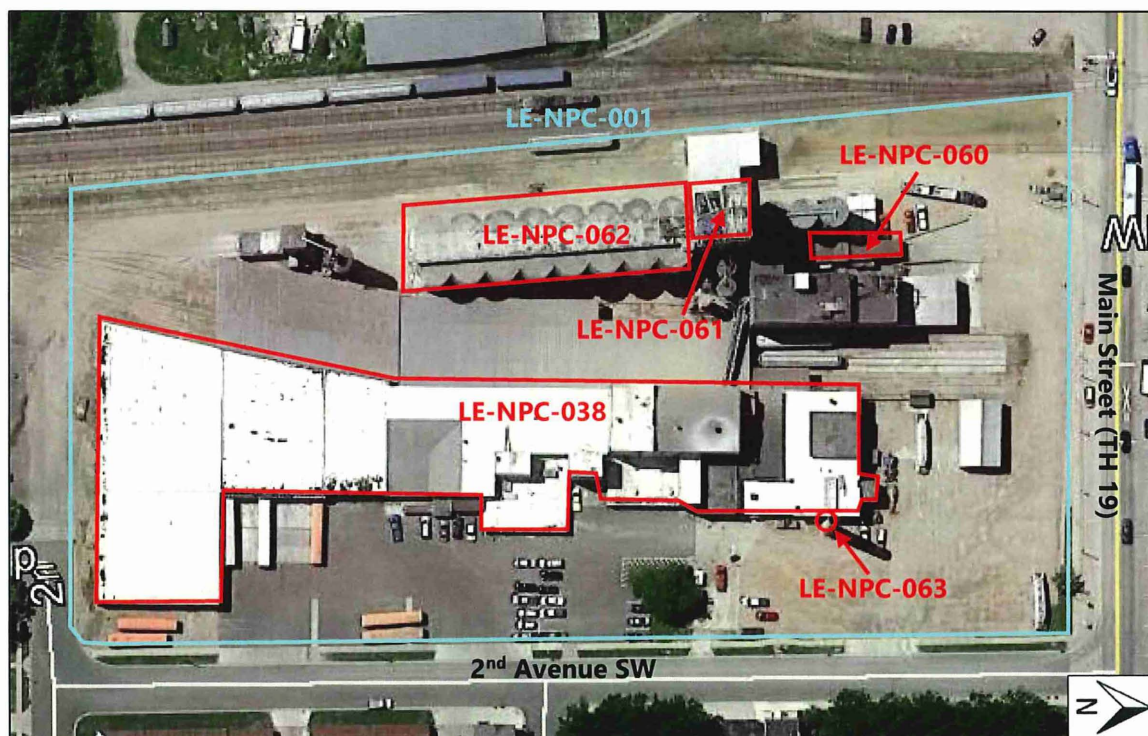
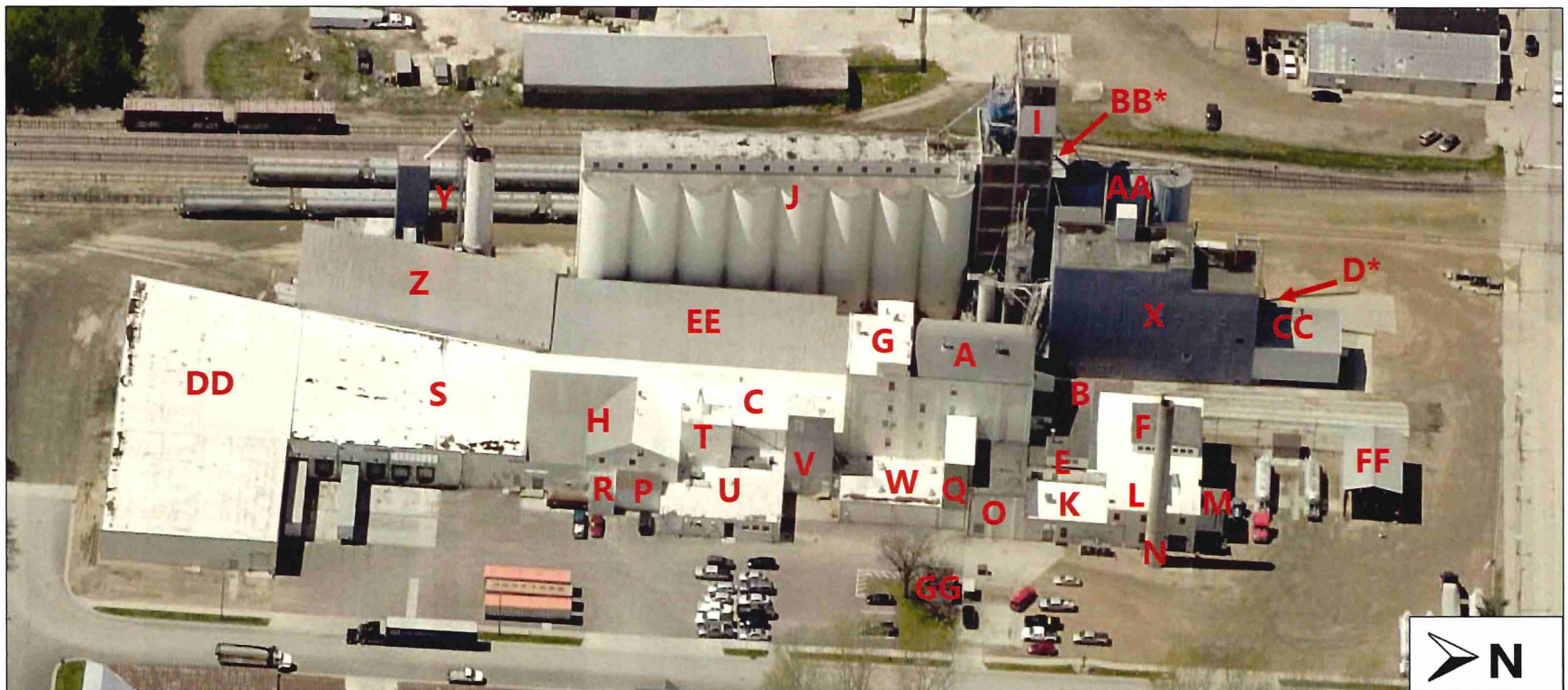


FIGURE 130. MILLING COMPLEX, INDIVIDUAL RESOURCES



*Component D is located behind (west of) Component X. Component BB is located behind Component I. Neither is visible in the photo above.

FIGURE 131. MILLING COMPLEX, OVERVIEW

through H, K through M, O through W, and DD (see Figure 131). LE-NPC-060 corresponds to component D, LE-NPC-061 to Component I, LE-NPC-062 to component J, and LE-NPC-063 to component N. Information on the current functions within each component and the construction dates of the more recent components was graciously provided by Mark Zimitsch, current manager of the New Prague plant for the Miller Milling Company.

Component A is the original, five-story, gable-roofed flour mill of the New Prague Flouring Mill Company, constructed in 1896 (Figures 132 and 133). It continues to be used for milling white flour and is known as the A mill. Also contained within the building is the C mill, which manufactures whole wheat flour.

The walls are Chaska brick, painted a cream color. Pilasters divide the east and west elevations into four bays, and the north elevation into three bays. The pilasters terminate at the top in a brick drip course, the base of which forms inverted crenellations in all but the second bay from the south on the east elevation, where the crenellations are replaced by a series of brick corbels. With the exception of this bay, in which the topmost story contains a segmental-arched opening with replacement 1/1 double-hung sash window, the drip course is interrupted in all bays on the east elevation, portions having been removed to accommodate the addition of rectangular window openings. These openings have since been infilled with brick or boarded over. In the remaining visible portion of the east elevation and the visible portions of the north and west elevations, several of the original segmental-arched window openings, which were arranged with one centered in each bay on each story, are evident, but they contain replacement 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Several others have been eliminated and infilled with brick, but historical photographs



FIGURE 132. MILLING COMPLEX, PARTIAL, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST



FIGURE 133. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, A MILL, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

demonstrate that at least some of these eliminations were effected during the historical period. A small shed-roofed enclosure clad in standing seam metal extends from the north elevation on the fourth floor over Component B. The remainder of the mill building is obscured by other components of the complex.

Component B, at its base, is the lower portion of the original power house, built adjacent to the north wall of the mill when it was constructed in 1896. The upper north portion, which is brick, reflects the reconfiguration of the roof line and the raising of a portion of the engine room height by an additional six feet as part of improvements made in 1923. The slightly higher portion upon which the shed-roofed enclosure sits, between the six-foot raise and the mill, is a post-1960 addition, the cladding for which could not be discerned from street level (Figure 134). Along with Components E, F, K, and M, Component B is now part of the maintenance shop, and the entirety has been painted the same cream color as the mill. Due to the addition of surrounding components, the majority of Component B is obscured from the exterior.

The west elevation is generally visible, but partially obscured by more recent metal frameworks, piping, and equipment associated with the loading of cars on the spur tracks to the west of Component B, and it was not closely accessed. The lower story is a brick wall divided into bays by pilasters in similar fashion to that of the mill. Segmental-arched door and window openings are evident in the lower story, and the window openings have been infilled with brick surrounding what appear to be vents. The contents of the door openings were blocked from street view by equipment. Above the first story is a half-story section that resulted from converting the power house from a side-gabled to a flat roof. It is divided from the lower story by a painted concrete or stone stringcourse. The brick pilasters were extended up into this half-story



FIGURE 134. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHEAST

to meet a simple drip course of several courses of brick at the top of the wall. Between each set of pilasters are rectangular window openings holding regularly spaced, six-light, likely awning windows. The stringcourse dividing the upper half story from the lower story forms the windowsills. The west elevation of the six-foot raised section above is brick and contains tripled 2/2 double-hung sash windows with a sill of painted concrete or stone.

Component C consists of the southern portion of the two-story warehouse that was built adjacent to the flour mill in 1896, as well as the southern expansion of this warehouse, constructed in 1897 (Figure 135). Along with Component H, it now houses packaging and conveying systems, as well as palletizers. The side-gabled warehouse was built of brick; however, by 1899, and likely at the time of the 1897 expansion, the entire warehouse was clad in sheet iron, which remains the case at present. This component is largely obscured by surrounding components. It no longer incorporates any fenestration. The roofing is vinyl membrane.

Component D is what remains of the loading facility and office that was adjacent to the east side of the 175,000-bushel elevator, the elevator itself having been demolished circa 1970 (Figure 136). The loading facility was constructed along with the elevator prior to 1899, while the office section replaced or expanded a smaller version circa 1915. The office section is no longer an office and has been truncated on the east, while height appears to have been added on the loading facility section. Both sections have shed roofs and are clad in sheet metal. Double metal doors that swing inward are located on the east end of the loading section.

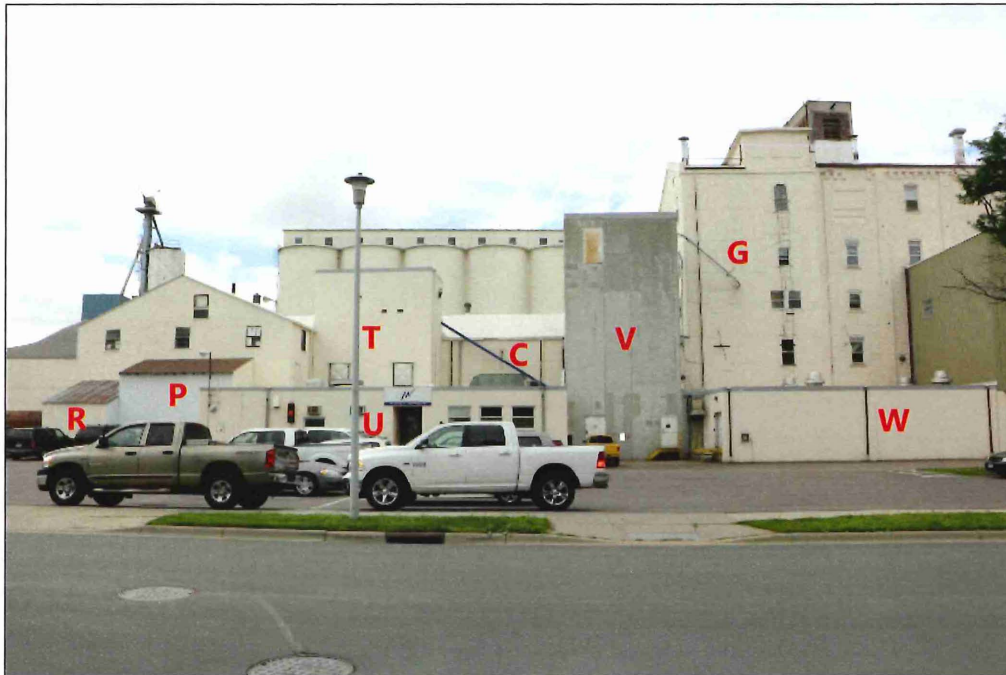


FIGURE 135. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING WEST

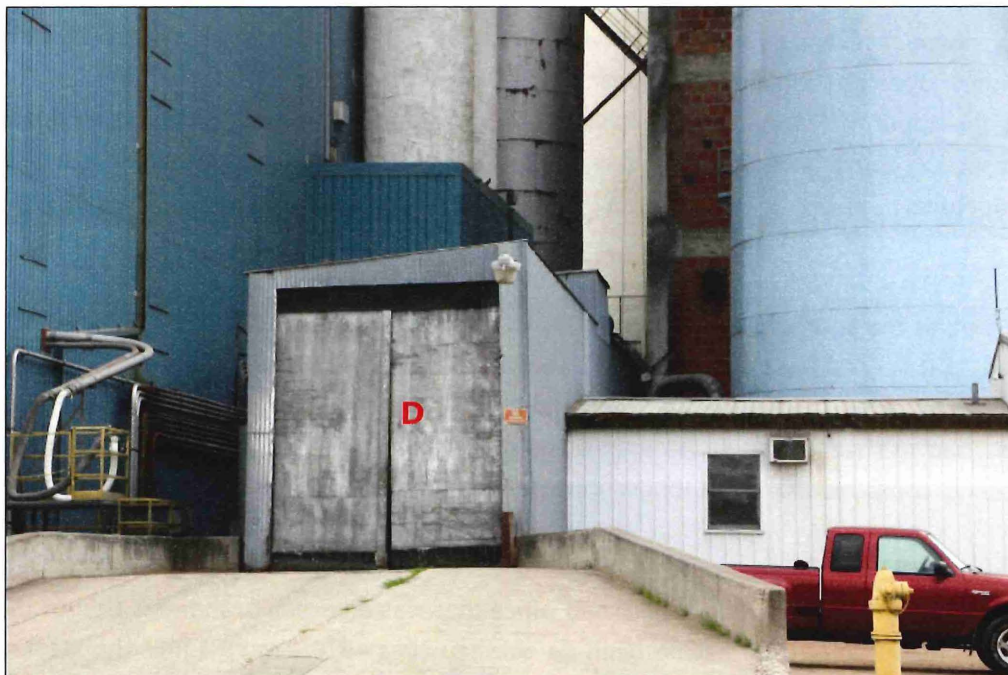


FIGURE 136. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING WEST

The first stories of Component E and Component F constitute the expansion of the power house (Component B) that occurred in 1899, while the upper half-story and raised sections above that reflect the reconfiguration of the roof line and the raising of portions of the engine room and boiler room height by an additional six and five feet, respectively, as part of improvements made in 1923 (Figures 137 and 138). Both components are brick painted in the same cream color as the mill. Along with Components B, K, and M, Components E and F are now part of the maintenance shop. Due to surrounding components, the only visible portions of Component E are part of the east elevation of the upper half-story, and the east elevation of the raised section above that, which is the east portion of the raised section above Component B. The half-story section contains rectangular openings in a variety of sizes. The three northern ones have been infilled with brick, while the two southern ones contain single and paired, apparently 6/6 double-hung sash windows, though the lowest three panes are blocked by Component K, which is adjacent on the east. The east elevation of the raised section holds tripled six-light windows with a continuous stone or concrete sill. The visible portions of Component F are the north and west elevations of the lower one-and-a-half-story and the north, west, and east elevations of the five-foot raised section. The west elevation of the lower section extends the west elevation of Component B to the north and was constructed to match it. All first-story door and window openings have been altered and infilled in various fashions, while the upper half-story windows are the same as those described for Component B. The north elevation of Component F is divided into four bays by brick pilasters that extend up to a simple drip course as on the west elevation, and the upper half-story is divided from the lower story by a continuous stringcourse of concrete or stone. In the west bay is a vehicle-width door opening. Above it, within a segmental-arched window opening is a 6/6 double-hung sash window. In the half-story section above are tripled nine-light awning windows, the



FIGURE 137. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST



FIGURE 138. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

sill formed by the stringcourse. The same window arrangement is present in the half-story section in the east bay. The raised section includes two symmetrically placed sets of tripled six-light windows, each set having a continuous stone or concrete sill, on the east and west elevations, and two paired sets of the same type on the north elevation.

Component G is the five-story, gable-roofed addition made to the south side of the mill in 1904 (see Figure 135), the base of which was originally the north portion of the two-story warehouse attached to the mill, the south portion being Component C. Mirroring flat dormer additions, one facing east and one facing west, are located above the fifth story on the north half of this component and were constructed circa 1960. Component G currently contains the whole-wheat mill and the cleaning house for the A mill. When built in 1904, it was clad in sheet metal, which remains the case at present, and it is painted in the same cream color as the A mill. The east elevation of the upper four stories and the south elevation of the upper two stories are visible. The east elevation historically featured two symmetrically placed single, rectangular window openings on each of the upper four floors, except on the third floor, where paired windows were present in lieu of the north single window. Today, the south window openings on this elevation have all been infilled and covered with sheet metal. The north openings contain 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The south elevation, similarly, historically featured three symmetrically placed window openings on each of the upper two floors, and these also contain 1/1 double-hung sash windows.

The dormers above the north half of the fifth story each have three window openings on their respective exterior elevations. Those on the east have been covered over, while those on the west contain 1/1 double-

hung sash windows. The only other visible window is on the south elevation of the east dormer, and it appears to be 4/4 double-hung sash, but several panes are missing.

Component H constitutes the northern two-thirds of the 1907 warehouse addition, the southern one-third having been replaced by Component S (Figure 139). Along with Component C, Component H now houses packaging and conveying systems, as well as palletizers. Exposed portions of the walls are present on the north and east, and these are clad in sheet metal, painted to match the A mill. The south half of Component H is one story in height, has a shed roof, and contains a single large door opening on the east elevation. The opening contains infill covered with sheet metal. A small, concrete platform is in front of the base of the opening. The north half of Component H has a gabled roof, and while it is likely only one story, it is the equivalent of two and a half stories in height. The upper "one and a half stories" contain four rectangular window openings on the east elevation. The lower three of these are symmetrically spaced and contain 6/6 double-hung sash in various states of disrepair. The upper one located above and just to the right of the center lower window has been infilled with various materials. A former window opening located above and just to the left of the center lower window has been covered with sheet metal. On the visible portion of the north elevation of Component H near the roof line is another infilled rectangular window opening, and what appears to be a door below.

Component I is the nine-story cleaning house built in 1916, technically nine stories in the north half and six in the south (Figure 140). The building features a "steel-reinforced concrete framework" (*The Times* 1916h),



FIGURE 139. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING NORTHWEST



FIGURE 140. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

which forms a grid, and the wall material in between is structural tile. Horizontally centered within each of the structural-tile wall sections that historically would have been visible, i.e., not blocked by the elevator or grain storage tanks, is a 15-light awning window with a metal panel below, all of which have concrete sills. The exception is on the eighth story, where the only window was on the west wall. This window, along with the rest of the exterior of this story, was painted white, which became the canvas for painting the company brand and logo. To the south of Component I is Component J, which comprises the 16 concrete grain-storage tanks with galley built in 1917 (see Figure 139). The galley is one story high, with a flat roof and regularly spaced nine-light awning windows on the east, west, and south elevations. Given that is positioned 80 feet above the ground and has been painted in the same cream color as the A mill, its wall cladding cannot be discerned from street level.

Component K and the first story of Component L constitute the one-story expansion of the engine room that was constructed in 1911, while the upper half story above Component L was built during the power house improvements in 1923 (see Figure 137). Components K and L both have slight shed roofs with metal coping. The east elevation of the 1911 construction is brick painted cream to match the A mill. Brick pilasters divide it into five bays and extend up to meet a brick drip course that forms inverted crenellations in a fashion similar to that on the A mill. With the exception of the southern window opening in the second bay from the south, all of the door and window openings, which were segmentally arched, have been altered or infilled. The door openings were converted to wider rectangular openings that contain replacement doors, while the windows were infilled with concrete block. In the window opening that was retained is a

6/1 double-hung sash window. A similar window is located on the first story of the north elevation of the 1911 construction.

In the upper half-story of Component L, the east and north elevations feature a corbelled brick drip course. The first pilaster north of the junction between Components K and L on the east elevation extends up to this drip course. Three nine-light awning windows with concrete or stone sills are located in the upper-half story on the east elevation, and another one on the north elevation. Adjacent to the latter window on its west and largely blocking the north elevation of Component L is Component M, a concrete ash hopper that was constructed in 1923 (see Figure 138). Component N is the lower remaining portion of the 152 ½-foot-tall concrete smokestack located on the east side of Component L, erected in 1927 (see Figure 137).

The concrete-block storage and handling structure built in 1959 constitutes Component O (see Figure 137). Component O currently holds the bins for the whole wheat mill. Two nearly full-length concrete-block pilasters extend up the east elevation of Component O. To the south of the south pilaster is a double-door that is elevated, suggesting that it is currently or was formerly used for loading. Component O has a slight shed roof, which angles down toward Component Q and has metal coping.

Component P is a small, shed-roofed addition on the east side of Component H (see Figure 135). It was built circa 1965. The base of the east elevation is concrete block, which may constitute the material for the remainder of the walls, but these are clad in sheet metal, as is the roof.

Components Q through AA date to circa 1977. Component Q is currently used primarily for parts storage. It is approximately three and a half stories high and has a flat roof with metal coping (see Figure 137). The first story is concrete block. The upper stories are clad in sheet metal. One three-light window is located on each of the south and east elevations at approximately the third story.

Component R is a shed-roofed structure on the east side of Component H and the south side of Component P, clad entirely in sheet metal (see Figure 135). The lower portion of the south wall is open to accommodate a large metal trash compactor.

Component S is a one-story, concrete-block storage facility, painted to match the A mill (Figure 141). The north portion is in the former location of the southern one-third of the 1907 warehouse addition and currently is used to store finished product, packing equipment, and packing supplies, while the remainder of Component S holds six loading docks for 50-pound bags of flour. The building has a flat roof and metal coping.

Component T is roughly three stories in height and of concrete-block construction (see Figure 135). It holds two Bemis packers, one of which is a malted barley packer, the other of which handles white and whole wheat bakery flour, and both of which can pack 50- or 100-pound bags. The building has been painted to match the A mill. Two rectangular window openings infilled with an indeterminate material are located approximately midway up the east elevation. The building has a flat roof and metal coping.



FIGURE 141. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING WEST

Component U is a one-story, concrete-block building that was converted to be the plant office in 2012, at which time the 1916 headquarters office was demolished (see Figure 135). It has been painted to match the A mill. An off-center, recessed entrance with a single-panel industrial metal door is located on the east elevation. To the north of the recess are three regularly spaced 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Two similarly sized window openings to the south of the recess, for which the sills remain evident, have been infilled with concrete block surrounding a smaller single-light window and two HVAC components. The building has a flat roof and metal coping.

Component V is approximately five stories in height, and it has poured-concrete walls (see Figure 135). It is the plant malt tower. Two elevated doors are located near the base of the east elevation. A short metal staircase with platform is located in front of the north door to allow for pedestrian access. No platform is located in front of the south door, which may be for loading or out of use. Near the top of the east elevation is another door-sized opening, which has been boarded over. Near the base of the second story are openings, two on the south wall and one on the north, that are infilled with the same type of material used in Component T. The malt tower has a flat roof and metal coping.

Component W is a one-story, concrete-block building that extends to the base of Component Q (see Figure 135). It has been painted to match the A mill. Two nearly full-length concrete-block pilasters extend up the east elevation. An elevated door is located on the south elevation, in front of which is a small metal staircase with platform similar to that in front of Component V.

Component X is the building constructed as the B mill (Figure 142). The four- and five-story building, sheathed in blue sheet metal, currently houses the B and D mills. The B mill is a white flour mill, and the D mill is one of two malted barley mills currently operating in the U.S.

Fenestration is limited to the north elevation of the four-story section, where three vertically arranged windows of indeterminate operation are located. Running in front of these windows is a metal ladder that extends above the roof of the fourth floor. A metal staircase runs from the roof of the fourth floor up to the roof of the fifth floor, which is set back to the south. A door is located on the north elevation of the fifth floor. The roof is flat with metal coping.

Component Y comprises two elements tied to mill feed operations (Figure 143). The load out, built circa 1977, is a relatively short tower, rectangular in plan, sheathed in blue sheet metal. The feed bin is a taller, cylindrical concrete bin, which aerial photographs show to have been built between 1983 and 2003, above which extends the conveying mechanism that allows for the feed to be transferred from the bin to the load out. The load out incorporates a scale, and it allows for the product to be weighed and directly loaded onto trucks.

Component Z is an open-air, metal-frame structure with a metal roof, which shelters rail cars as they are being loaded via pipes that run from the mills. It was extended sometime between 1991 and 2003 by Component EE (Figure 144).



FIGURE 142. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING SOUTHEAST



FIGURE 143. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING SOUTHEAST



FIGURE 144. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING SOUTH

Component AA comprises three steel grain tanks and the elevator grain grading lab, which are located to the north of the 1916 cleaning house (see Figure 142). The tanks, which are set into a concrete base, feed wheat into the B mill. The two southern tanks were erected circa 1977, and the northern one sometime between 1983 and 1991. The grading lab building, also set on a concrete base, has a low pitched roof, and both walls and roof are clad in sheet metal. A 1/1 double-hung sash window and a single-light window are located on the north elevation. A small sliding window with single light above is located on the west elevation.

Component BB is an open, metal-frame shelter for truck loading, constructed between 1983 and 1991, on the west side of the 1916 cleaning house (see Figure 142). Metal sheathing is located on the west side and covers the roof.

Component CC is a partially open, metal-frame structure with low-pitched roof, constructed between 1983 and 1991 on the north side of Component X (Figure 145). The posts of the structure are set in concrete footings. Sheet metal clads the uppermost majority of its east and west sides, and the roof. It is open on the north to allow for tanker trucks to drive in and be directly loaded with malted barley or flour via pipes that extend from Component X.

Component DD is a large, one-story, concrete-block warehouse constructed at the south end of the plant circa 1985 (Figure 146). It is painted to match the A mill. An overhead vehicle door is located at the north



FIGURE 145. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING SOUTH



FIGURE 146. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING NORTHWEST

end of the east elevation, and to the south of that door is a single-panel, steel, industrial pedestrian door. The building has a flat roof and metal coping.

Component FF is a detached shelter similar to Component CC but built between 1991 and 2003 (Figure 147). Pipes extend from the C mill to this shelter to allow for direct loading of whole wheat flour into trucks.

Component GG is a pump house located near the east end of the property (Figure 148). Its construction date is unknown; however, given the similarity in its concrete-block construction to other components on the property, it likely dates to circa 1980. It is one story, and has a flat roof with metal coping.



FIGURE 147. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING SOUTH



FIGURE 148. MILLING COMPLEX, DETAIL, LOOKING WEST

5.2.3 Significance

After its construction in 1896, the New Prague Flouring Mill Company plant became the cornerstone of New Prague's economy. It was the primary milling facility for the region's wheat farmers, who purchased goods and services from New Prague merchants, and it provided employment to a substantial number of the local population. Standing prominently within the city's landscape, it was among the most successful flour mills in the state outside of the epicenter that was Minneapolis, and it bred confidence in the economic viability of the city, encouraging other businesses and industries to set up shop there. F. A. Bean, Sr. is historically significant as the founder of the New Prague Flouring Mill Company, of which he was president until his death in 1930, and the milling plant is the location most closely associated with his activities in those capacities. As such, the New Prague Flouring Mill Company/International Milling Company plant meets National Register Criteria A and B at the local level in the area of industry. The period of significance for Criterion A begins in 1896, the year the original mill was constructed, and ends in 1923, when its headquarters were transferred to Minneapolis. Although the mill was undoubtedly important to New Prague's economy after that year, the growth of the city despite the loss of the headquarters suggests that the city was not as heavily reliant on the mill as it once was. In addition, after 1923, the strength of the plant's association with the company was diminished, New Prague becoming one of several manufacturing plants throughout the country, rather than the location driving the company's operations. The period of significance for Criterion B is the same, as Bean moved to Minneapolis along with company headquarters in 1923.

Because the milling plant is the culmination of decades of varying types of construction, it does not convey well a particular type, period, or method of construction. It does not represent the work of a master or possess high artistic values. As such, it does not meet National Register Criterion C.

5.2.4 Integrity

The New Prague Flouring Mill/International Milling Company is significant under Criterion A as an industry that had outstanding importance in the development of New Prague and under Criterion B for its association with the founder of that industry, F. A. Bean, Sr. The most important aspects, therefore, of its integrity are location, design, materials, and association.

The milling complex is in the location in which it was constructed and therefore has excellent integrity of location.

Nearly all of the elements that formed the core of the milling complex, i.e., that part directly involved in the processing of grain and production of flour, between 1896 and 1923 remain intact, reflecting the plan, space, structure, and style of the property as it evolved during the period of significance for Criteria A and B. The built elements of the core strongly convey the historic functions and technologies associated with the flour mill. Despite some alterations made with regard to fenestration in this core, could the core be taken in isolation, the complex would be considered to have good integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

Construction since 1923, however, which now surrounds the core, has not been minor, and it strongly reflects changing functions and technologies, while incorporating substantial amounts of new material. The large storage and loading dock additions to the south end, for example, introduce concrete block and reflect an increased focus on shipment by truck. In another example, the large, multi-story, B mill, clad in blue sheet-metal panels, clearly changes the historic aesthetic and represents a change in operations and technology. Compounding the reduction in integrity brought about by the post-1923 construction is the demolition of three primary components of the plant outside of the core: the circa-1899, 175,000-bushel grain elevator, once located on the north side of the cleaning house, removed circa 1970; the large cooper shop and attached warehouse built in 1904/1907 to the south of the core, removed circa 1980; and the company's original headquarters building to the east of the core, removed in 2012. As such, the milling complex retains fair integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

The post-1923 demolition and construction additionally has compromised the integrity of association. The milling complex is in the location where the flour milling occurred and retains some physical construction that conveys its historic character. Its overall ability to convey such character, however, has been diminished by the addition of conspicuous modern buildings and structures within the plant, the loss of a prominent grain storage facility, and the loss of a headquarters building that not only demonstrated the tie between the founding of the company and the city of New Prague, but also was the building in which F. A. Bean's executive office was located. The milling complex therefore retains poor (Criterion B) to fair (Criterion A) integrity of association.

The milling complex was constructed within the relatively less concentrated, west end of New Prague's Main Street commercial core and next to the Minneapolis and St. Louis Railway line. The railroad line is still extant and operational, though it is now owned by the Union Pacific. Although a couple of modern buildings have been introduced in the blocks near the milling complex, they are of a scale in keeping with the older buildings within the commercial district. The general character of the area, therefore, is not substantially changed. Integrity of setting is therefore good.

Integrity of feeling is by and large an outgrowth of the other six aspects of integrity, as it is only logical that the greater the retention of a property's composition, surroundings, and associations from a given historical period, the more the property will evoke the feeling of that period. As can be surmised, therefore, from the discussion of the other six aspects, the milling complex retains only a limited expression of the aesthetic and historic sense of the period between 1896 and 1923. Its integrity of feeling, therefore, is fair.

5.2.5 Individual Resource Evaluation

Of the individual resources within the milling complex, only the mill would have the ability to meet Criterion A as a standalone property. The other resources would not exist were it not for the presence of the mill, and they could not strongly represent the flour milling industry in New Prague without it. As described above, however, the lower portion of the mill has been engulfed by surrounding additions that post-date its period of significance, and the visible upper stories have been altered by revisions to the window openings. It therefore would not have the integrity to convey its significance under Criterion A.

None of the individual resources would strongly represent F. A. Bean, Sr.'s association with the mill, as the majority of his activities were carried out at the headquarters office building, now razed. None of them would therefore meet Criterion B.

The 1896 mill once may have held significance as an example of late nineteenth-century industrial architecture, but again, its alterations are such that it would not have the integrity to convey such significance. The 1916 cleaning house, while largely intact, does not constitute a noteworthy representation of an architectural style, nor is it a particularly early or innovative example of reinforced-concrete building systems. The grain tanks with galley and the smokestack are of a standard and common design without outstanding architectural or engineering merit. What remains of the loading facility and office appears to be of rudimentary construction. For these reasons, none of the individual resources within the milling complex would meet Criterion C.

5.2.6 Recommendations

Based on loss of integrity, the New Prague Flouring Mill/International Milling Company complex as a whole and the New Prague Flouring Mill Company mill as an individual resource are recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register. Based on a lack of significance, the cleaning house, grain tanks with galley, smokestack, and loading facility and office as individual resources are recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

5.3 F. A. BEAN, JR. HOUSE

211 2nd Street NW

5.3.1 Property History

In the spring of 1907, *The Improvement Bulletin* (1907a, 1907b) reported the designing of a two-and-a-half-story “modern frame residence” by architect Harry Wild Jones for F. A. Bean, Jr. Harry Wild Jones was, by that time, a prominent architect in Minneapolis. A “master of many styles,” (Millett 2008:10), Jones had received his bachelor’s degree in architecture from MIT in 1882 at approximately 23 years of age, then spent a year working for noted architect H. H. Richardson in Boston, before moving to Minneapolis. There, he worked for the firm of Plant and Whitney for a year, then spent several months overseas studying European design before returning to Minneapolis in early 1885. Upon his return, he went back to work for Whitney for a short time, but opened his own practice by the year’s end.

Jones was a versatile architect, whose commissions prior to the Bean house included numerous residences for the upper crust, many on Lake Minnetonka or in the newly platted Washburn Park (Tangletown), in styles ranging from Shingle to Tudor Revival to his former employer’s Romanesque and everything in between, adapting and sometimes combining genres to put his own stamp on them. He similarly applied a variety of styles to apartment buildings, churches, recreational properties, industrial buildings, commercial buildings, warehouses, hospitals and the like, drawing accolades for properties such as the Minnetonka Yacht Clubhouse (Deephaven, 1890), “a happy combination of Moorish-Gothic architecture” (*The St. Paul Daily Globe* 1890a), and the Cream of Wheat office and factory building (Minneapolis, 1904), which saw the Renaissance Revival style employed in an industrial building (*The St. Paul Daily Globe* 1890a, 1890b; Vandam 2008:58-59). During this period, in 1891, Jones developed a curriculum for architecture at the University of Minnesota and became the department’s first professor; in 1895, he took fifth place in the competition to design the Minnesota State Capitol; and from 1893 to 1905, he served as a commissioner of the Minneapolis Park Board (Vandam 2008:47-48, 54).

Around the time of the Bean House design, Jones began to plan for the building that most consider his crowning achievement, the Lakewood Cemetery Chapel, his design for which was selected by the Lakewood Cemetery Association in March of 1908 (Vandam 2008:74-77). Having this building in his portfolio, he was called upon to design a great number of churches, not only in Minnesota, but throughout the country. Ecclesiastical architecture constituted the bulk of his practice after 1910, with no less than 75 churches of his design constructed between that year and 1930. By no means, though, did he abandon other types of buildings and structures, his post-1910 work in Minneapolis alone including such projects as the Nicollet Baseball Park (1912), an addition to the Great Northern Depot (1915), the Bryant Square Park Fieldhouse (1925), and, near the end of his career and his life, the Washburn Water Tower (1932). Along with other Jones-designed properties such as the Washburn Water Tower, the Lakewood Cemetery Chapel, and the Butler Brothers Company Warehouse, Jones’ residence is listed in the National Register, significant “as the residence of one of Minneapolis’ most noteworthy architects whose career spanned nearly fifty years of highly accomplished expertise in a wide variety of architectural styles” (Lund and Nelson 1976).

Ground was broken for the F. A. Bean, Jr. house in mid May of 1907, and it was completed in time for the return of Bean and his new bride, Bertha Juanita Boynton, from their honeymoon that fall (5/23/1907; *The Times* 1907b). Three children were added to the household over the next 12 years, Francis Atherton, III (b. 1910), Bertha Juanita (b. 1914), and John (b. 1919). The Bean family then moved to Minneapolis along with the International Milling Company headquarters in 1923 ("Frank A. Bean Honored for Long Service to the Cause of Scouting," unattributed newspaper article, Francis Atherton Bean, Jr. [1878-1955], Newspaper Clippings 1932, 1955 file, F. A. Bean Papers, held at the MNHS).

In 1925, the Czechoslovak Baptist Convention (Convention) bought the house from Bean, with plans to use it as a home for the elderly. The interior was refurnished for this purpose, and the newly dubbed Czechoslovak Baptist Charitable Association of America building was dedicated in May of 1927 (*The Times* 1927a, Vojta 1941:216). It was not, however, to be a success by the Convention's definition, as it "was an expensive project which [did] not [yield] a missionary return" (Vojta 1941:217). In May of 1938, the Convention sold the home to the Northwest Baptist Home Society, a group more experienced in the operation of elderly home facilities, and it continued as such until 1947, at which point all of its residents were moved to a new Baptist home in Minneapolis (Vojta 1941:217; McClure 1968:205). The subsequent owner was not identified during the study, but the property reverted back to a single-family residence, which it remains at present.

5.3.2 Description

The F. A. Bean, Jr. house is a two-and-a-half-story, Tudor Revival-style mansion, side-gabled with prominent parallel-gabled dormers on the north and south (Figures 149 and 150). It is rectangular in plan and has a



FIGURE 149. F. A. BEAN, JR. HOUSE, LOOKING NORTHWEST



FIGURE 150. F. A. BEAN, JR. HOUSE, LOOKING NORTHEAST

stone foundation. At the time of the Phase I survey, the first story was clad in presumably original, rough-sawn wood lap siding.

The upper one and a half stories feature false half-timbering with stuccoed infill. A one-story extension that wraps around the southeast corner of the house has a hipped roof. On the façade (south elevation), the west end of the hipped roof terminates at a gable with false half-timbering in the gable end and supported by two wood posts. The posts frame the entrance to the house, accessed by poured-concrete steps with stone stringers. At the top of the steps is an open porch, which extends partially under the hipped roof. On the south wall under the gabled portion of the porch is the original wood door, which includes a window with diamond-shaped panes, and under the hipped portion are three original double-hung sash windows with multiple diamond-shaped panes. Original windows of this type are present throughout the house, most behind modern storm windows. On the east elevation, the north end of the hipped roof terminates at a two-story, flat-roofed section with walkout balcony at the top. All gables on the house have wood trim, and the roof is clad in wood shakes.

Also located on the property just northeast of the house is a large, one-and-a-half-story, two-bay garage, side-gabled with a gabled dormer on the south elevation (Figure 151). Aerial photographs show that the garage was constructed circa 1985. It was constructed to be aesthetically similar to the house. The lower walls are clad in rough-sawn wood lap siding, the upper walls feature half-timbering with stuccoed infill, and the roof is clad in wood shakes. Windows in the garage are 1/1 double-hung sash.



FIGURE 151. F. A. BEAN, JR. HOUSE AND GARAGE, LOOKING NORTH

On subsequent field visits to New Prague, it was observed that the lower-story wood siding was being replaced in kind, though not yet stained or painted (Figure 152) and that the half-timbering and stucco of the upper story and a half had been painted dark brown and off-white, respectively.



FIGURE 152. F. A. BEAN, JR. HOUSE WITH REPLACEMENT SIDING, LOOKING NORTHEAST

5.3.3 Significance

The F. A. Bean, Jr. house is not strongly associated with an important historic event or trend and therefore it does not meet National Register Criterion A. Although F. A. Bean, Jr. served as the Vice President and later the President of the New Prague Flouring Mill Company/International Milling Company, it was his father who started the company and brought it to prominence. While F. A. Bean, Jr. expanded and diversified the operations of the company throughout the U.S. and Canada during his tenure as President, such growth did not render him historically significant in the history of New Prague, as the growth occurred in other locations, nor does he appear to have played a significant role in the development or innovation of the flour milling or other industries of which he was a part. His residence, therefore, does not meet Criterion B.

Although the F. A. Bean, Jr. house was designed by a prominent architect, Harry Wild Jones, it is not particularly important within Jones' body of work. It did not, for example, importantly influence the future direction of his work or the work of others, nor does it strongly demonstrate the unique results of his frequently used approach of combining styles in a single building. It is not a distinctive or innovative design in Jones' catalog, based on other of his Tudor-inspired residential designs in the years surrounding the construction of the Bean house, such as the Frederic Clifford estate (Minneapolis, 1904), the Ogden Confer residence (Minneapolis, 1909), and the J. Foster Atwood house (Minneapolis, 1909) (Figure 153).

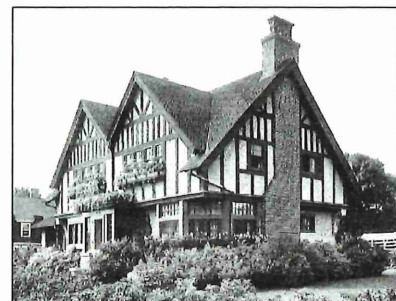
The house, however, is an excellent example of the Tudor-Revival style. It exhibits clear hallmarks of the style, including a steeply pitched, side-gabled roof with prominent front-facing gabled dormers, false half-timbering with stucco infill and integrated window openings, and double-hung windows with diamond-shaped panes. Further, it appears to be one of the few, if it is not in fact the only Tudor Revival-style example of its caliber in the city of New Prague. The F. A. Bean, Jr. house therefore meets Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level. The period of significance is 1907, the year in which the house was designed and constructed.



MNHS NP 126715



Vandam 2008:63



Vandam 2008:126

FIGURE 153. HARRY WILD JONES RESIDENTIAL DESIGNS, LEFT TO RIGHT: FREDERIC CLIFFORD HOUSE, OGDEN CONFER HOUSE, J. FOSTER ATWOOD HOUSE

5.3.4 Integrity

The F. A. Bean, Jr. house is significant under Criterion C for its exemplification of the Tudor Revival style as applied to residences during the early twentieth century. The most important aspects of its integrity, therefore, are design, materials, and workmanship.

The F. A. Bean, Jr. house is in the place where it was constructed, and it therefore has excellent integrity of location. It functions as a single-family home and the surrounding construction remains residential; however, much of the surrounding housing stock was built in the 1950s, well after the period of significance. To the southwest, the large parcel once occupied by Remes Lake is now vacant and grass-covered. On the property itself, the circa-1985 garage, despite taking its style aesthetic from the house, is a substantial modern visual intrusion which does not replicate historical conditions. The house, therefore, has good integrity of association, while its integrity of setting is fair.

The exterior of the house reflects its original design and retains all of the features that make it a strong example of the Tudor Revival style, including its steeply pitched, side-gabled roof with prominent front-facing gabled dormers, false half-timbering with stucco infill and integrated window openings, and double-hung windows with diamond-shaped panes. Online data indicate that the roof was replaced in 2006, but the wood shakes constitute an in-kind replacement, as does the wood siding on the first story of the home, installed in 2017. The house therefore retains good integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

As can be surmised from the discussion of the other six aspects, integrity of feeling for the F. A. Bean, Jr. house is good.

5.3.5 Recommendations

Because the F. A. Bean, Jr. house has good integrity to convey its significance as an example of the Tudor Revival style as applied to residences during the early twentieth century, it is recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C at the local level in the area of architecture, pending the results of currently ongoing renovations.

PHASE II RESULTS – MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. LOUIS RAILWAY COMPANY DEPOT (SC-NPC-001)

331 Main Street W

The overarching historic context with which the M&StL Depot is associated is Railroads and Agricultural Development in New Prague, 1870-1956, presented in Section 3.3.1, which is based on the statewide contexts Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940, and Railroad Development in Minnesota, 1862-1956. The history of the M&StL is summarized in the Railroads MPDF. In short, the company was created in 1870 with the goal of making direct connections between the Minneapolis milling district and areas that could generate a much-needed steady supply of wheat, as well as to make strategic connections with other railroad lines. The main line was constructed from Minneapolis to Merriam (near Shakopee) in 1871, then extended south to Albert Lea in 1877 before reaching the Iowa state line and beyond in 1879 (Schmidt et al. 2007:44-45).

The Minneapolis to Merriam portion of the main line previously was determined not eligible for listing in the National Register. Although significant for making “an important early connection between a railroad building into prime wheat lands and the developing Minneapolis milling district” (Schmidt and Vermeer 2010:32), its integrity is compromised due to construction post-dating the 1870s period of significance and the loss of two segments of the corridor through modern redevelopment (Schmidt and Vermeer 2010:32-33). By extension, the portion of the main line through New Prague, which when built continued the railroad’s foray into wheat lands to supply the Minneapolis mills, no longer connects to Minneapolis as it did historically, and therefore also would not retain the integrity to convey its significance. Under the Railroads MPDF, however, a railroad depot built during the period of significance for the Railroads MPDF (1862-1956) should be evaluated for its individual eligibility for the National Register regardless of the eligibility of the corridor with which it is associated.

6.1 PROPERTY HISTORY

In 1877, having resumed construction of its main line as the economy recovered from the Panic of 1873, the M&StL laid down tracks through the city of New Prague. It was presumably in 1877 that the first depot was built, which fire insurance maps show to have been a depot measuring 30 by 50 feet in area with a surrounding 10-foot-wide platform, the west side of which was extended for a length of approximately 280 feet alongside the tracks (Sanborn 1887, 1892).

In the spring of 1898, employees of the M&StL visited New Prague to site the location for a new depot, *The Times* reporting, “The business of this company at this station is growing fast, and on numerous occasions the present structure is too small to give first class accommodation” (3/17/1898). The new depot, described by *The Times* (1899) as the company’s best outside of Minneapolis and New Ulm, was finished in January of 1899, and its expanded footprint of 28-by-91 feet included a waiting room, office room, and a freight room. It retained a 10-foot-wide platform on all but the north side, with the extended west side reduced to approximately 190 feet along the tracks (Sanborn 1899). In 1901, electric lights were added to the depot

(11/21/1901). At this time, New Prague was the railroad's second most profitable station after Minneapolis, due in large part to shipments of wheat and flour, and in 1903, the M&StL added another employee to the depot's workforce to allow for around-the-clock operation (5/2/1901, 11/18/1903). During the winter of 1910-1911, the long platform on the west side of the building was removed, leaving a platform only on the south and east, but in 1921, the platform was repaired and improved, and once again extended around all four sides of the building, interrupted only by the bay window for train observation on the west side of the building (Sanborn 1910, 1911, 1931; *The Times* 1921d).

6.2 DESCRIPTION

This one-story, hipped-roof, Stick-style combination depot is rectangular in plan, and it is clad in wood lap siding painted light green with wood wainscoting painted dark green (Figure 154). In the north half of the east elevation, the wainscoting underlines four 4/4 double-hung sash windows, two on either side of two shorter 4/4 double-hung sash windows. Within the south half is a loading door with a seven-light transom window. The door appears to be tongue-and-groove wood planks with a decorative wood overlay created from wide planks painted in a dark green like the wainscoting. An added small loading platform of wood supported by railroad ties has been constructed in front of the door. A loading door in the same style with another added platform fashioned entirely from railroad ties is centered in the south elevation.

The north elevation has two symmetrically placed 4/4 double-hung sash windows, the openings for which extend down to the wainscoting. On the west elevation, the same type of windows are present, as is a square-sided bay window and two pedestrian doors. Prominent wood eaves brackets are present on all four sides of the building. Running along the wall at the roofline between the brackets on all four elevations is a wood frieze that evokes the framing used in the building (Figure 155).



FIGURE 154. M&STL DEPOT, LOOKING NORTH-NORTHWEST



FIGURE 155. M&StL DEPOT, DETAIL SHOWING WOOD FRIEZE, LOOKING NORTH

6.3 SIGNIFICANCE

The M&StL railroad depot in New Prague meets Criterion A, Registration Requirement 1, i.e., it was “a significant contributor to the economic growth of surrounding commercial or industrial operations” (Schmidt et al. 2007:234), at the local level. Without question, operations at the depot were necessary to facilitate the quickly growing shipments of inbound and outbound freight being generated by the New Prague Flouring Mill Company while serving the city’s other expanding railroad transportation needs. Little coincidence can be found in the railroad’s chief engineer and superintendent of buildings visiting New Prague to site a new depot in the same month that the milling company was expanding its production capacity for the first time, and it would do so again, by more than double, within three years of the depot’s completion. While wheat and flour were loaded into and out of train cars at the mill using a siding, the depot was the center for coordinating the increasingly complex train movements for the mill with those for New Prague’s other industries, passengers, and commercial operations. The new depot was additionally a significant contributor to the economic growth of the latter, as it provided the additional physical space required to accommodate the exponentially larger quantities of commercial freight required by local proprietors to satisfy the demands of a city whose population had risen by 220 percent between 1880 and 1900 and continued to rise for the next decade.

The period of significance is 1899, the year in which it the depot was built, through 1922, by which time the commercial district was largely filled out with regard to both construction and occupancy, the population of the city had plateaued, and the International Milling Company had capped its economic growth in New Prague and made the decision to move its headquarters to Minneapolis.

The M&StL depot does not appear to meet Criterion C. According to author Dennis Holmes (2009:3), the M&StL depots were "a diverse lot. Unlike many railroads, M&StL did not have a system such as Type 1, 2, or 3 station designs . . . The reason for this diversity is that many of the station buildings were built by predecessor roads that were eventually absorbed by M&StL" (Holmes 2009:3). A review of *Depots of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway* (Holmes 2009) and *The Minneapolis & St. Louis Railway: A Photographic History* (Hofsommer 2009) confirmed this diversity, and found that that even those located along the same lines were not all that similar. Because the M&StL depots were so diverse, architectural design or construction methods distinctive to their railroad lines as required by one of the conditions for Criterion C significance under the Railroads MPDF do not apply (Schmidt et al. 2007:235). No plans, permits, or other records for the New Prague depot could be located through which to identify the name of the architect and therefore whether the architect was significant. While the New Prague depot is an attractive, rural combination depot, it does not possess high artistic value and none of its modest stylistic qualities were important to the development of railroad depot architecture.

6.4 INTEGRITY

The M&StL depot is in the location in which it was constructed, and it remains in use along an active railroad line, primarily serving the flour mill. Little evidence is present to suggest that the exterior of the building has been altered in any way, other than that the roofing was undoubtedly replaced within the last 118 years, and the chimney has been parge coated. According to Holmes (2009:2), the one feature most M&StL depots had in common was that they were painted kelly green, thus even the paint color is in keeping with its historical appearance. While Dvorak (2015:215) indicates that the wainscoting was replaced, in personal communication with the Principal Investigator, he stated that this suggestion was based on comparison with other depots; therefore, such replacement has not been confirmed. No historical photographs of the depot are known to exist beyond that contained in Dvorak's (2015:215) report, in which it is well in the background and the view of the lower portion blocked by the passengers. The depot therefore has good to excellent integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

While integrity of setting is somewhat diminished due to the loss of the grain elevators once present to the north and south of the depot along the railroad line, the presence of the mill to the south, a hotel built in 1907 to the east, and a circa-1895 residence to the west, and a small commercial row, albeit including both modern and late nineteenth-century buildings, to the southeast generally replicate the surrounding uses during the period of significance. The absence of a visible platform surrounding the depot detracts from the setting of the property itself, but it is not enough to negate the building's ability to convey its historic significance, particularly since the space it once occupied remains open. Based on the generally strong retention of the property's composition, associations, and surroundings from the period of significance, the M&StL retains good integrity of feeling.

6.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

The M&StL depot in New Prague is recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A at the local level in the area of transportation.

PHASE II RESULTS – THE NEW PRAGUE TIMES AND SUEL PRINTING COMPANY BUILDING AND ADDITION (LE-NPC-014)

200 and 204 Main Street E

The overarching historic context with which The New Prague Times and Suel Printing Company (The Times) building is associated is Railroads and Agricultural Development in New Prague, 1870-1956, presented in Section 3.3.1, which is based on the statewide contexts Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940, and Railroad Development in Minnesota, 1862-1956. Historic contextual information specific to both The Times building and the addition are provided below.

7.1 THE NEW PRAGUE TIMES AND SUEL PRINTING COMPANY, 1889-2017

With the publication of its inaugural issue on September 6, 1889, *The New Prague Times* became the first newspaper of the city of New Prague. At the helm was Will H. Taylor, an 18-year-old who had ambitions of owning a newspaper and saw his opportunity when the efforts of New Prague's proprietors led to an agreement by which W. A. Hutton would locate a newspaper plant in New Prague and they would support it with advertising (Suel 1939). Hutton, a publisher who historical accounts indicate established newspapers in multiple towns in Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska and then often eventually sold or leased them to others, never put out a newspaper in New Prague, instead selling the enterprise, including equipment and advertising agreement, to Taylor before it started (Rose 1911:225; Merry 1914:164; Burr et al. 1921:249; Suel 1939; *The Times* 1959c).

Taylor, as owner, editor, and publisher, set up shop in the second story of Joseph Maertz's then-frame building (122 Main Street E), where he put out 240 copies a week of the four-page publication. It included two pages that came to the *Times* shop pre-printed with non-local material from a company in Minneapolis, onto the other sides of which the local news and advertisements were printed in-house. The in-house printing used what was known generally as an Army press, a hand press that required laying one page at a time onto a bed holding a page of type, re-inked for each pass, and flanked by rails which guided a roller over the page, impressing the ink. Taylor was soon assisted by John F. Wrabek, and the office not only published the newspaper, but also took on printing jobs contracted by local businesses, for items such as letterhead and other stationary, a function which continues to co-exist with the newspaper at the *Times* office (Taylor 1915; Suel 1939).

In the fall of 1890, the newspaper office was moved to the "Radley Building" (roughly 136 Main Street W) before moving approximately one year later into a newly erected office building in the location of present-day 111 Main Street E. By this time, the newspaper was up to four pages of in-house printing and was additionally using a Fairhaven power press (4/3/1891, 8/7/1891; *The Times* 1915f). In January of 1892, Wrabek bought one-half interest in *The Times*, and then fully bought out Taylor, who was leaving to edit another paper in Waterville, in June of the same year (Suel 1939). Shortly thereafter came the only attempt to start another newspaper in the city's history, called the *New Prague Sun*, but it ended a few weeks later (Wrabek 1939:4). Around the same time, Wrabek brought on his brother Frank as a co-publisher and -editor. Circa 1894, the two purchased a "large job press," and *The Times* office moved yet again, this time

to the southwest corner of Main and Grace streets, adjacent to the then-post office, where it remained until 1910. Frank Wrabek would stay until the later part of 1895. He and John started the *Le Sueur County Leader*, based in Le Center, in May of that year, and not long after, Frank left to run that paper independently, while John did the same at *The Times*. In 1900, John Wrabek sold one-third interest in the paper each to Albert Hlavacek and William Schel, although commemorative histories published in *The Times* are silent on their involvement, which was presumably short-lived (Sanborn 1892-1910; *Times* 1900b; 10/6/1910; Suel 1939; *The Times* 1959c, 1964b).

In 1902, *The Times* was designated as the official paper of Le Sueur County, which meant that all county proceedings and official notices would be published there (1/16/1902). The following year, James J. Leonard, who had been a publisher at the *Montgomery Messenger*, became Wrabek's partner, Hlavacek and Schel having left either at that time or sometime prior. In 1905, Wrabek and Leonard purchased a Cottrell newspaper press, a sheet-fed, rotary press, to replace the previous press and generate the in-house printing more quickly. By this time, *The Times* was an eight-page publication with a circulation of approximately 1,200 copies (5/25/1905, 6/1/1905; Suel 1939; Moran 1978:207).

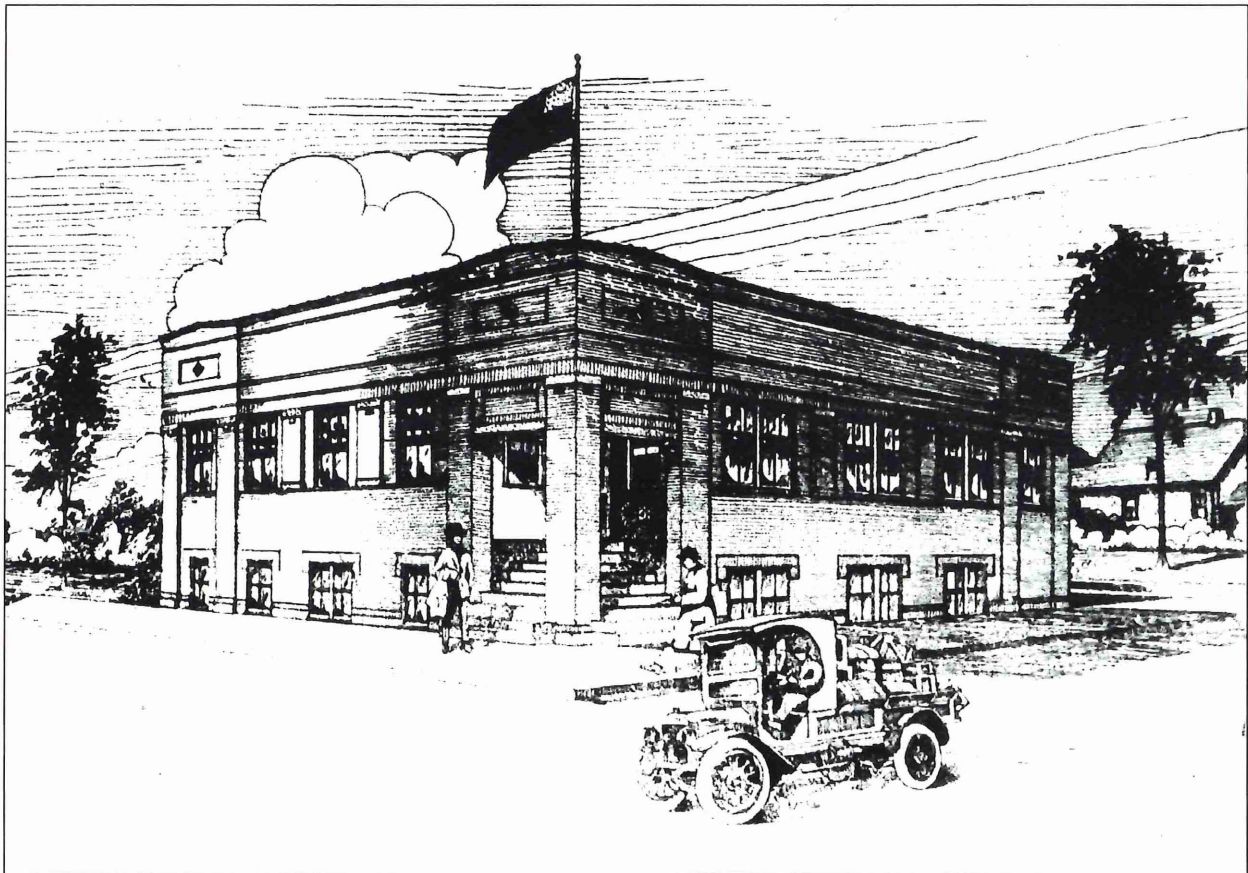
Leonard bought out Wrabek in 1909 when the latter left to work for the New Prague Flouring Mill Company, and in late 1910, he moved the newspaper office to a frame building he owned on the southeast corner of Main and Grace streets (10/6/1910). In 1912, unable to manage both the newspaper and a sanitarium he and other businessmen from the vicinity had established near Jordan, Leonard opted to dedicate his life to the sanitarium's patients, and sold one-half interest in the newspaper to his nephew, John L. Suel, who then took over running *The Times*. John was joined in December of the following year by his brother, Arthur J. Suel, and they became legal business partners in November of 1916, when Arthur purchased the remaining half-interest in the company from his uncle, Leonard, and the Suel Printing Company was incorporated. In the meantime, on June 24, 1915, *The Times* proudly announced its purchase of a Model K Linotype machine, which signified its entry into the modern era of printing technology, noting, "With the exception of one of the shops at St. Peter, which has a Model '8' Linotype, and an office in Rochester, which has a Model 'B' Intertype, we believe that The New Prague Times has the best and most completely equipped typesetting machine in this part of the state." Even so, this event was not the one that would most profoundly affect *The Times* during the mid 1910s (*The Times* 1922b; J. Suel 1939).

On April 15, 1916, a fire of undescribed origin broke out in *The Times'* storage room, located in the rear of the building on the neighboring lot to the east. That building, a frame building known as the Bisek blacksmith shop based on its previous occupation, was quickly consumed while the flames spread to the east wall of *The Times* office building. Despite the best efforts of New Prague's firefighters, the newspaper's headquarters were so damaged as to render them untenable. With "every building in New Prague . . . occupied [and] space . . . at a premium" (J. Suel 1939:5), the Suels decided to have a new building constructed in the same location and, on the advice of James J. Leonard, to make it a brick block. During its design and construction, the functions of the newspaper were divided between two buildings. Its designation as the newspaper of Le Sueur County required that it be printed there, so the office, stockroom, and printing press were lodged in *The Times'* former home on the southwest corner of Main and Grace,

while the jobs department, where the forms were set up, was located on the Scott County side of Main Street in the Soukup building (123 Main Street E) (*The Times* 1916i; J. Suel 1939:5).

Construction of *The Times*' new office building began in April of 1917 and was completed in September of the same year (*The Times* 1917c, 1917d, 1917e) (Figure 156). It was designed by J. A. Niemeyer, a St. Paul-based architect. Niemeyer, a St. Paul native, studied architecture at the Royal Academy of Rome before returning home to practice circa 1916. He served as city architect of St. Paul for one year beginning in 1929. According to Lathrop (2010:164), "Niemeyer designed churches, residences, commercial buildings, and warehouses, only a few of which are known."

The *Times* building was deemed by its owners "a model of printing office efficiency," who had it "especially designed for the needs of the craft" (*The Times* 1917e). It was described at the time of completion as follows:



Published in *The Times* May 3, 1917

FIGURE 156. THE NEW PRAGUE TIMES AND SUEL PRINTING COMPANY BUILDING, ARCHITECT'S RENDERING (J. C. NIEMEYER)

The building is of dark red Menomonie pressed brick, rough finish, laid in Flemish bond with wide flush joints of white mortar. It is 44x54, two floors; there being a half basement.

Our new home is modern in every way, has steam heat, a practical system of electric wiring, an elevator connecting the two floors, a large fireproof vault for protecting office books and records, complete plumbing with toilet rooms for men and ladies, sanitary drinking fountain and other conveniences that tend to the comfort and efficiency of our employees. On each floor is an inch and a half fire hose which is always in readiness to protect all parts of the building from fire.

A feature of the Times building is a recreation room for our employees in the basement. This is fitted up with a billiard table, book and magazine case and has a shower bath adjoining.

The building has a corner entrance which leads into the business office. Here is an exchange table and seats for visitors, also the bookkeeper's and stenographer's desks. Connected with this is a private office for the use of the editors of the Times. The offices are divided from the shop by glass partitions to give better lighting facilities and so that visitors may watch the printing force at work without disturbing them and with safety to themselves.

On the main floor are located the type cabinets and composing room equipment, imposing stones, linotype machine, platen presses, job cylinder press, stitcher, punch, ruling machine, perforator, paper cutter, rubber stamp outfit, standing press, job backer board shears, saw trimmer and hand bindery tools and equipment.

In the basement is a packing room, paper stock room, the big newspaper press and folder, employees recreation rooms, toilet rooms, boiler room and fuel room [*The Times* 1917e].

Another noteworthy feature of the building not visually discernible was that its construction was fully the product of New Prague contractors, a condition that had been directed by the Suels. From the general contracting, which had been awarded to Frank M. Korb, to the masonry work; the mill work; the steelwork; the roofing; the heating, plumbing, and electrical systems; and the painting and finishing, the building represented *The Times'* desire to support those whose advertising and print work had long done the same for the newspaper. The only work that did not occur in the city was the cutting of the "heavy joists, sills, posts and rafters," which occurred at the Suels' father's farm in Credit River, where they grew up (*The Times* 1917e).

From these new quarters, the Suel Printing Company published not only *The Times*, but also, soon after the building was finished, *The Shakopee Tribune*, the *Carver Journal-Review*, and the *Lonsdale Times* (Suel 1939). In 1923, John L. Suel left the *Times*, but sold his half-interest to another brother, Leonard Suel. Leonard

passed away in 1939, but his legacy was carried on by his wife, Eleanor, who joined on then as advertising manager and local news editor, and his son, Jay, who became managing editor circa 1950, after his service with the Navy ended. Arthur's daughter, Lois (Suel) Wann, also joined the family business, coming on as a reporter in 1943 and later serving as editor, a position she held for over 50 years (*The Times* 1959c, 1964b; Jackson 2013).

In 1960, with a new automatic press being added to the operations, Arthur Suel decided to have built an addition to the *Times* building, which would accommodate a press room to hold the new and other printing presses and equipment in the back, and office spaces to be made available for rent in the front. The "addition" was essentially a second building, measuring 43 by 66 feet in plan and one story in height, adjacent to the east wall of the original and connected to it via an indoor concrete ramp. Faced in red brick and with a pre-stressed concrete roof, it was constructed by the C. J. Schweich Construction Company, and the front offices were shortly thereafter occupied by the law offices of Eugene C. Wann (Lois Wann's husband) and the real estate offices of the Lee C. Schilling Agency (*The Times* 1960a, 1960b).

Arthur Suel continued his involvement with *The Times* until the day of his death, suffering a heart attack at the newspaper office on October 5, 1981 (*The Times* 1981). A few years prior, Lois' son, E. Charles (Chuck) Wann had taken over for his grandfather as publisher. Lois Wann retired in 2006, and passed away in 2012 (*Belle Plaine Herald* 2012; Jackson 2013). Chuck Wann continues to hold the position of publisher, and his brother Arthur (Art) is the general manager of *The Times*. Together, they own the Suel Printing Company. *The Times* remains the only newspaper published out of and with a focus on the city of New Prague.

7.2 DESCRIPTION

The Times building, located at 200 Main Street E, is a two-story building, rectangular in plan, with the lower story partially below grade (Figure 157). Located on the corner lot at Main Street and 1st Avenue E, its façade extends to both the north and west elevations, the walls of which are dark red brick laid in a Flemish bond.

At the east end of the west elevation and the south end of the north elevation are two parallel, truncated brick pilasters with rowlock-over-soldier-brick bases and stone caps over small square tile insets. Each set of pilasters creates a narrow bay, centered within which on the upper story is a 1/1 double-hung sash window with a rowlock-brick sill that extends to the interior edges of the pilasters, and a soldier-brick lintel, the face of which is flush with the pilasters and extends above the stone caps to their exterior edges. Above the lintel are four courses of stacked header brick before the Flemish bond resumes. Centered in the face of the bay between the soldier-brick lintel and the roofline is a rectangle of shallowly recessed brick, and centered within that is a diamond motif of bricks set at an angle and surrounding a green glazed tile inset. The roofline in each of these bays is a shallow peak. The only difference between these two exterior bays is the presence of a lower-level 1/1 double-hung sash window in the west bay of the north elevation. This lower-level window also has a soldier brick lintel, but it only extends one stretcher-brick length beyond the



FIGURE 157. THE NEW PRAGUE TIMES AND SUEL PRINTING COMPANY BUILDING, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

window and not to the pilasters. At either end of the lintel, three stacked stretcher bricks extend down each side of the window. The sill is rowlock brick, but its face is obscured by the sidewalk.

The visual aesthetic of the end bays is replicated where the walls come together on the northwest, with a column in lieu of a pilaster at the corner so as to form mirroring, sheltered entryways. The roof over the entryways is underlined on the exterior by stone matching that of the pilasters. Above this stone on both the west and north elevations is a metal sign reading "Suel Printing Company" bordered by rowlock brick above and below and stacked header brick on the sides. The stone cap on the corner column is engraved on both the north with "SUEL" and on the west with "1917."

On each of the north and west walls between the peaked-parapet bays is a wider bay with a flat parapet line, underneath of which is a metal sign embossed with "THE NEW PRAGUE TIMES." In these wider bays, the upper and lower stories each contain three regularly spaced window openings. In the upper story, a continuous soldier-brick stringcourse runs along the top of the windows, forming the lintels, and a continuous rowlock-brick stringcourse does the same along the bottom, forming the sills. Between these two stringcourses are truncated pilasters with stone bases and caps, the latter over small square tile insets, as in the taller pilasters at the ends. Windows in the upper story of the west elevation are paired 1/1 double-hung sash, and in the north elevation, they are single 1/1 double-hung sash.

In the lower story, the lintels are the same as described above for that in the west bay of the north elevation. The sills are rowlock brick, but the faces of those on the north are obscured by the sidewalk. On the west

elevation, the lower-story windows of the center bay are single 1/1 double-hung sash on the west and east and paired in the center. On the north elevation, all are paired 1/1 double-hung sash. A brick stringcourse consisting of one course of rowlock brick over one course of soldier brick runs along the base of both north and west elevations, interrupted by the window openings and the concrete steps of the entrance.

The entrance includes eight poured-concrete steps that are angled and get progressively wider toward the street corner. The corner "points" of the upper four steps are curved. The lower four steps are split by the outermost brick column. The steps lead up to a corner-facing door, wood with an upper-half glass pane and with a two-light transom window above. The door is flanked on each side by a stucco-clad wall at a 45-degree angle and containing a 1/1 double-hung sash window. The ceiling in the recess appears to be metal paneling.

The south elevation features a peaked-parapet bay at its west end, in the same vein as those previously described, with a single 1/1 double-hung sash window in both the upper and lower stories (Figure 158). The remainder of the south elevation is clad in stucco. Openings in the stucco portion of this rear elevation have been infilled. The easternmost, window opening is infilled with wood paneling. To its west, a doorway contains a replacement door with a transom infilled with wood paneling. The westernmost, large opening contains wood paneling surrounding an upper window and a lower door. With the exception of the east half of the south elevation, the building has terra cotta coping. A flush brick chimney extends above the east elevation.



FIGURE 158. THE NEW PRAGUE TIMES AND SUEL PRINTING COMPANY BUILDING, SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

The addition is located on the east of *The Times* building (Figure 159). The façade is faced in brown brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. The centered, flush entrance consists of a single-panel metal-framed glass door. Symmetrically located to either side of it are tripled metal-framed plate-glass windows. Running below the windows for the width of the façade except where it is interrupted by the door is a rowlock-brick stringcourse. Running above the windows for the width of the façade is a stringcourse of soldier brick, another one of which underlines the metal coping on the parapet. Approximately midway between the two stringcourses and centered above each window is a rectangular inset of marble with a square concrete inset underneath, mimicking the caps of the pilasters in the neighboring Times building. Also styled after that building is a diamond motif at the same elevation as the stone insets and centered above the door, comprising bricks set at an angle and surrounding a concrete inset.



FIGURE 159. THE NEW PRAGUE TIMES AND SUEL PRINTING COMPANY ADDITION, LOOKING SOUTH

7.3 SIGNIFICANCE

The Times was founded as New Prague's first newspaper in 1889, since which time it has been the city's only newspaper⁸, and it is still in publication today. Started at the behest of local businessmen, *The Times* has been a primary source of news and information for the city's residents and a primary means of advertising

⁸ Smith (2013:62) indicates that New Prague had a second newspaper, called the *Scott County Republican*, beginning in 1896, based on a statement to this effect by Kajer (2006:181). No record of this newspaper could be found at the MNHS, the Library of Congress Chronicling of America website, Rowell's *American Newspaper Directory* of 1898, or

for local businesses for 128 years and counting. Although The Times building is not the first in which the newspaper was housed, it is the only extant building of those that have housed the newspaper's offices since 1889; the first building purpose-built for the publication; and at 100 years of age, that having the by-far longest association with *The Times*. As such, it is the property that most strongly represents the newspaper's operations. The addition represents the physical expansion of these operations to accommodate changing printing technologies and additional printing presses needed to better serve a continually growing number of subscribers. Although considered a separate building, it may connect with The Times building via an interior doorway and the printing functions in the building are inextricably tied to the editorial and other functions in The Times building in producing the newspaper. The Times building, therefore, meets Criterion A in the area of communications at the local level, and the adjoining "addition" is a property that contributes to its significance. The period of significance is from 1917, when the *Times* building was constructed, through 1967, the current 50-year threshold for National Register eligibility. The end date of the period of significance should be extended along with the 50-year threshold until a year is reached in which *The Times* ceases to be significant as a local news and advertising medium or it ceases to operate out of the building.

Although members of the Suel family have a substantial and long-standing affiliation with *The Times*, the newspaper was published in a standard fashion, and none of the Suels can be said to have made an innovative or outstanding contribution to the process or technology of newspaper publication, either in the operations of *The Times*, regionally, or nationally. As such, the properties do not meet Criterion B.

No information could be found to indicate that J. C. Niemeyer was an important architect. The Times building, however, stands as an excellent example of 1910s commercial architecture. Although the building does not strongly allude to any particular historicist architectural style, it was not unusual for commercial buildings of its vintage to "have a classical sense of order but contain few, if any, references to past periods" (Longstreth 2000:39). Its brick construction; the symmetry in its form, fenestration, and arrangement of secondary materials; and the evocation of columns and creation of a portico through the use of a column and pilasters, lend to the building a subtle formality typical of the era. Unlike many of its contemporaries, however, in New Prague or otherwise, The Times building has undergone few or no exterior alterations, making it a particularly strong representative of the city's commercial architecture built during the 1910s. It therefore meets Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level.

The addition, a basic box with a simple façade exhibiting minor allusions to The Times building, does not embody a particular style and is not otherwise architecturally noteworthy. It therefore does not meet Criterion C.

elsewhere, suggesting that it never truly got off the ground. Dvorak (2015:16), similarly, notes the existence of a second newspaper, which he does not name, in New Prague in 1912, but no record could be located of a second newspaper during that year. The only reference to a second newspaper that could be located was that regarding *The New Prague Sun* by John F. Wrabek (see p. 186), who stated in 1939 that it was "the only local competition in the fifty year history of The Times."

7.4 INTEGRITY

The Times building and addition are in the place where they were constructed and therefore have excellent integrity of location. The buildings continue to function as they did historically, as a newspaper office and print shop with offices, in the east end of New Prague's commercial district, across Main Street from the Remes drugstore and the St. Wenceslaus Church property. Despite the removal of the building on the east side of the Remes drugstore and alterations to some of the nearby commercial buildings, all of the buildings in the vicinity were constructed during the period of significance and many are intact enough to convey their historical function and character. As such, the buildings have excellent integrity of association and good integrity of setting.

Excepting the possibilities that the windows of The Times building and the ceiling cladding of its portico have been replaced, the street-facing elevations of both buildings are unaltered from the time of construction. Openings on the rear elevation of The Times building have been infilled, but this wall is not visible from Main Street, from which views of the building are typically obtained. As the infill therefore only mildly diminishes integrity of design, materials, and workmanship, the integrity of these aspects in both buildings is good.

Integrity of feeling is by and large an outgrowth of the other six aspects of integrity, as it is only logical that the greater the retention of a property's composition, surroundings, and associations from a given historical period, the more the property will evoke the feeling of that period. As can be surmised, therefore, from the discussion of the other six aspects, both buildings retain good to excellent integrity of feeling.

7.5 RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, The Times building and addition retain good integrity to convey their historic significance. The Times building is therefore recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A at the local level in the area of communications, as is the addition as a property contributing to its significance. The Times building is additionally recommended as eligible under Criterion C at the local level in the area of architecture.

PHASE II RESULTS – MAIN STREET COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

The historic context with which the following commercial buildings are associated is Railroads and Agricultural Development in New Prague, 1870-1956, presented in Section 3.3.1, which is based on the statewide contexts Railroads and Agricultural Development, 1870-1940, and Railroad Development in Minnesota, 1862-1956. Based on this context, New Prague's commercial district would be significant for its role in the formation and solidification of New Prague's economy and as its social hub, as it evolved from a nascent Euroamerican settlement to a full-fledged city.

The major thrust of development of New Prague's commercial core occurred through 1922, architecturally culminating in the revision to the façade of the First National Bank during that year. By this point, the commercial district was largely filled out with regard to both construction and occupancy, and it was one of the reasons that the city's economy was self-sustaining to the extent that it easily weathered the departure of the headquarters of its major economic building block, the International Milling Company, in 1923. For this reason, and based on the dates of the earliest remaining construction in the commercial core, the period of significance for a potential commercial historic district was determined to be from 1875 through 1922.

Based on the Phase I investigation, the buildings at 111 Main Street E and 123A Main Street E were recommended as potentially eligible as contributors to a potential commercial historic district but not eligible on an individual basis (see Sections 4.86 and 4.90). These post-date the period of significance determined for the potential district and as a result now are recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

An analysis of the buildings identified during the Phase I survey as having the potential to contribute to a possible commercial historic district determined that a concentration of ten buildings from the period of significance with sufficient integrity to convey their significance in contributing to such a district exists on Main Street from approximately one-half block east of 1st Avenue W to 1st Avenue E on the south, and for approximately one half-block west of 1st Avenue E on the north (Figures 160 through 163). These buildings are as follows: the Remes Meat Market (112 Main Street W), Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store (102 Main Street W), the California Wine House (100 Main Street W), the Maruska building (106 Main Street E), the Savoy Theater (110 Main Street E), the First National Bank (112 Main Street E), Zak's Saloon/Vanasek Hardware building (120 Main Street E), the Tyra building (125 Main Street E), the Soukup building (123 Main Street E), and Thomas Topka's block (121 Main Street E). Although the New Prague Times and Suel Printing Company building at 200 Main Street E was recommended as potentially eligible as a contributor to a potential commercial historic district, and it also would have sufficient integrity from the period of significance, this resource is located on a separate block from the aforementioned properties, with three non-contributing properties intervening between the closest of the concentration and the newspaper building. With regard to a discontinuous district, National Park Service guidance indicates that it is not appropriate to use that format to include an isolated resource. For these reasons, it was determined that



FIGURE 160. PROPERTIES CONSIDERED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO A HISTORIC DISTRICT



FIGURE 161. 100 BLOCK OF MAIN STREET W, FROM MIDPOINT, LOOKING EAST-SOUTHEAST



FIGURE 162. 100 BLOCK OF MAIN STREET E, PARTIAL, LOOKING WEST-SOUTHWEST

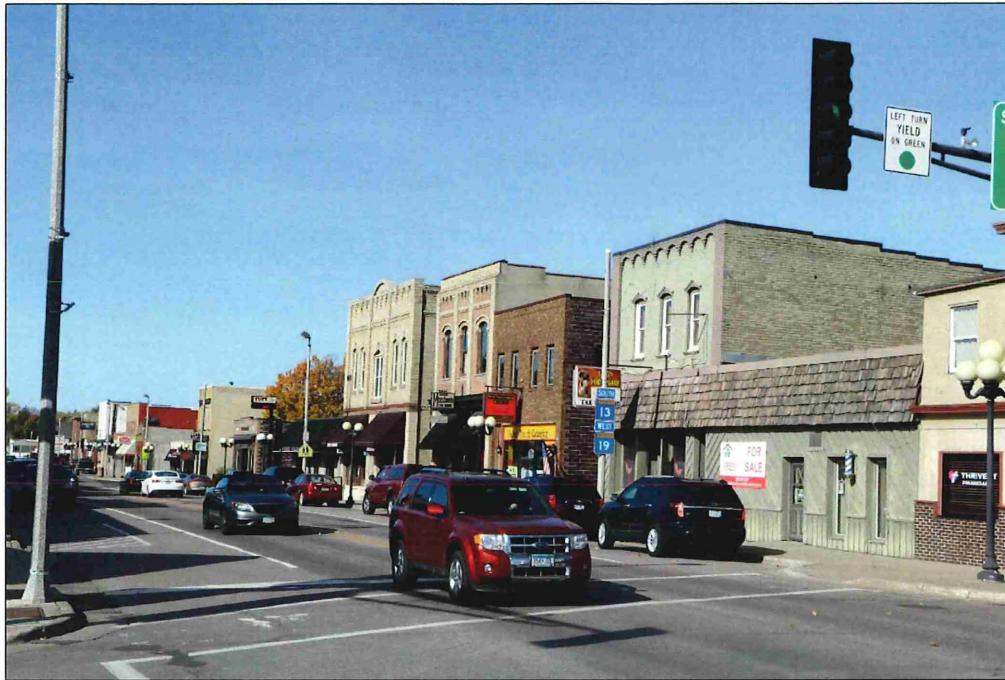


FIGURE 163. 100 BLOCK OF MAIN STREET E, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST

the New Prague Times and Suel Printing Company building would not be included in consideration of the potential district. It is, however, recommended as individually eligible for listing in the National Register (see previous chapter).

The concentration of ten buildings is limited to the relatively small, easternmost extent of Main Street's commercial aspect as it developed between 1875 and 1922 (Figures 164 through 167; see Figure 160), the remaining approximately three-and-a-half-block majority having been substantially altered through the addition of and considerable revisions to buildings after the latter year (see Phase I Survey Results). While the full extent of the corridor remains commercial in nature, the ten buildings in question constitute a small remnant of the 1875 through 1922 extent of the commercial corridor and as such, cannot adequately capture the visual sense of the corridor as it reflected New Prague's economic success during that time (Figure 168).

The argument could be made that the one and a half blocks from west from 1st Avenue E, at the east end of New Prague's Main Street commercial development and including the ten buildings listed above, constituted the true commercial core of the city during that period, given the comparatively high density of its commercial construction, that to the west being interspersed with occasional dwellings and numerous open lots (see Figures 165 through 167). Of these eastern one and a half blocks, however, all but three of the buildings on the north side of Main Street do not retain sufficient integrity to contribute to a potential district (see Sections 4.83, 4.84, 4.86 and 4.89 through 4.98), while on the south, commercial properties lacking integrity or post-dating the period of significance (see Sections 4.13, 4.14, 4.17, 4.18, 4.20, 4.23, 4.24,

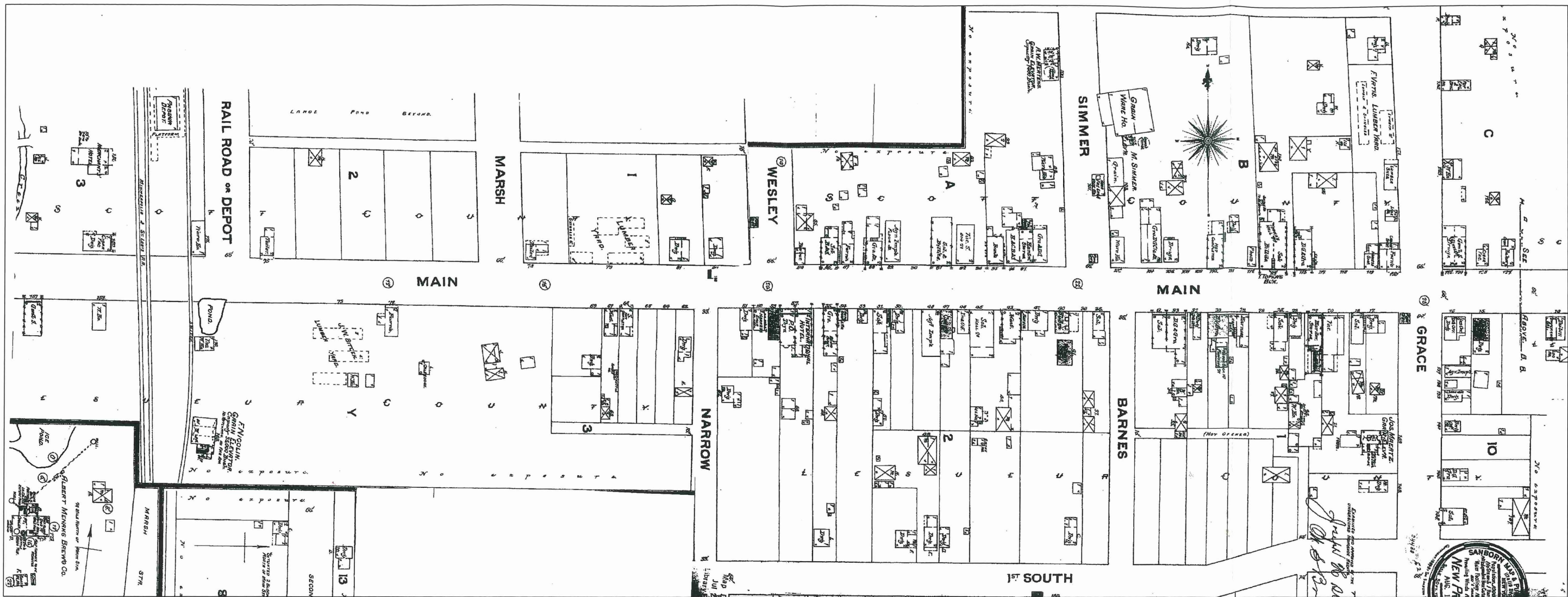


FIGURE 164. 1877 SANBORN MAP, SHOWING EXTENT OF MAIN STREET COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

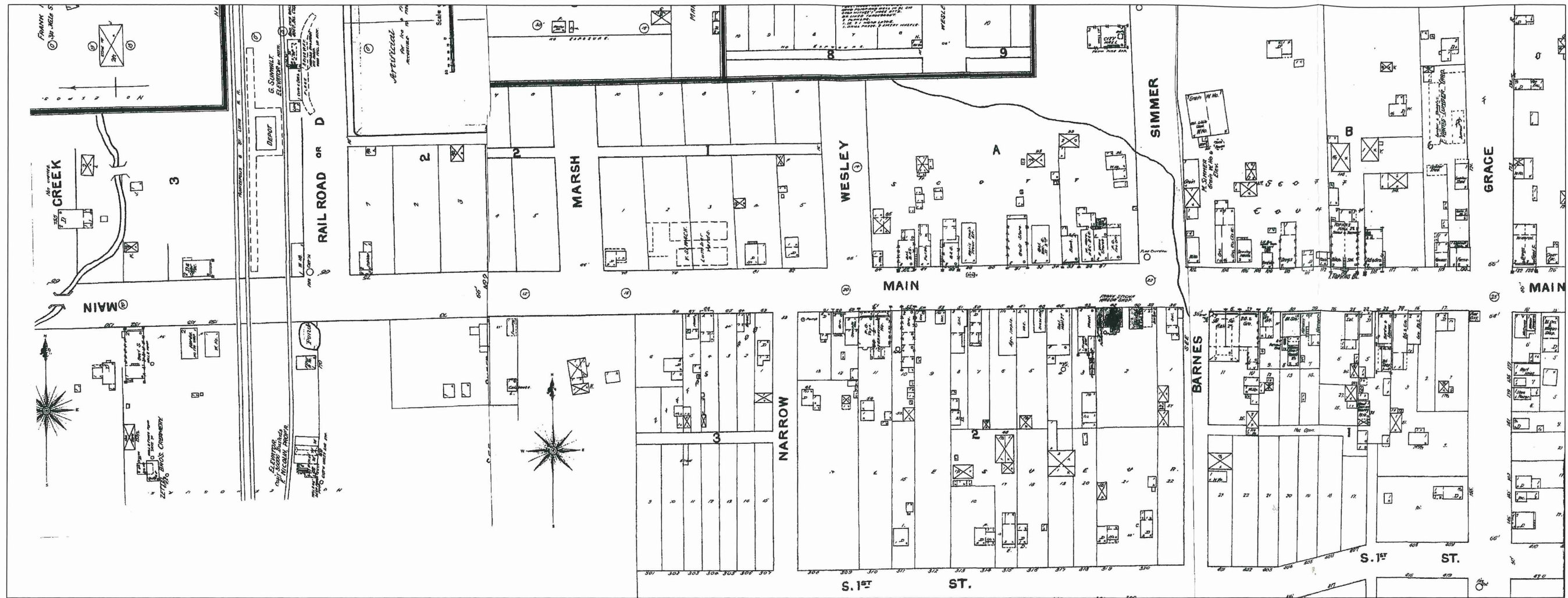


FIGURE 165. 1892 SANBORN MAP, SHOWING EXTENT OF MAIN STREET COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

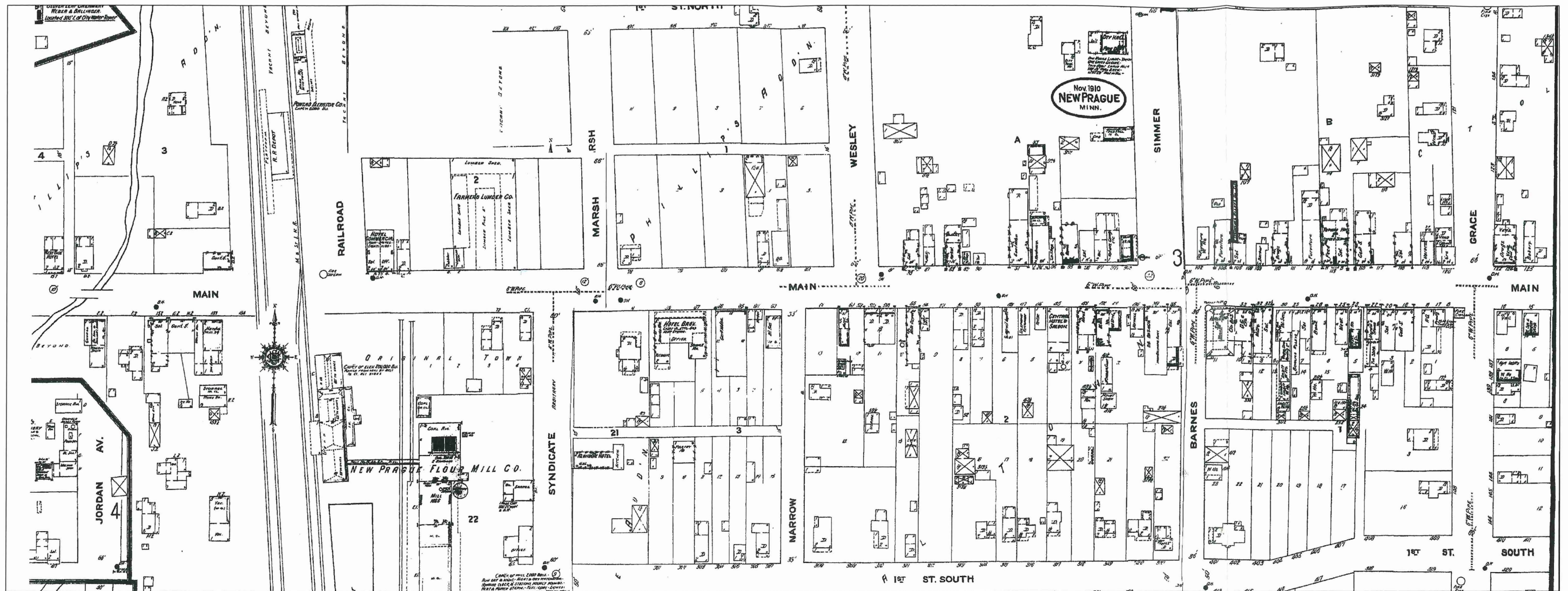


FIGURE 166. 1910 SANBORN MAP, SHOWING EXTENT OF MAIN STREET COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

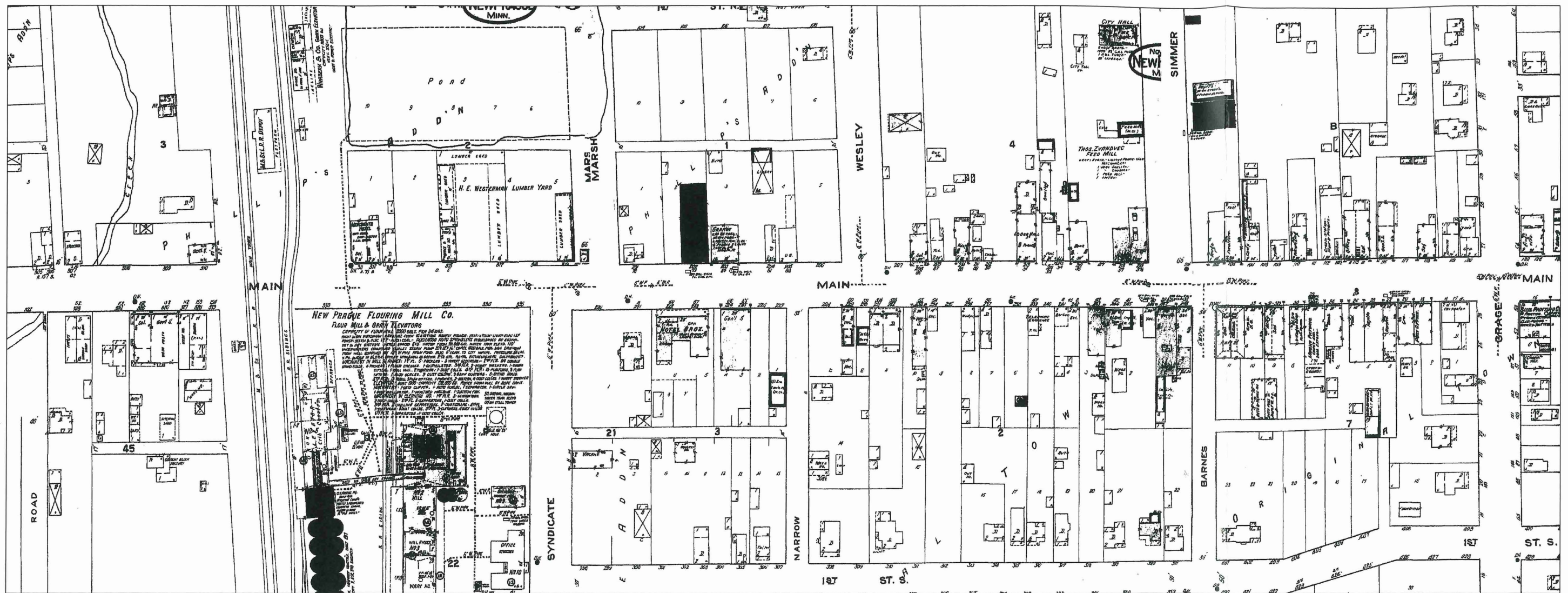


FIGURE 167. 1919 SANBORN MAP, SHOWING EXTENT OF MAIN STREET COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT



FIGURE 168. VIEW OF MAIN STREET, 1910, FROM THE 100 BLOCK OF MAIN STREET E, LOOKING WEST

4.27, and 4.28) are fairly evenly interspersed with those seven properties with sufficient integrity and then extend beyond them in both directions so as to outnumber them (see Sections 4.10, 4.11, 4.26-4.28). Even with a reduction in its extent, then, New Prague's commercial core as it exists today would be unable to strongly or cohesively convey its historic associations, as it is overwhelmingly occupied by buildings constructed or unsympathetically modified after the period of significance. For these reasons, the establishment of a historic district for any portion of Main Street is not warranted under National Register standards.

As standalone buildings, none of the ten properties nor their historical occupants played a singularly important role in the establishment of New Prague's commercial core, and therefore none of the properties are individually significant under Criterion A or B. The sections below, therefore, evaluate the individual significance of each building under Criterion C, with the exception of the First National Bank. As it is already listed in the National Register, no additional study of this property was conducted.

These sections are organized by property. Under each section, the first subsection relates any information on the history of the property encountered in reviewing issues of *The Times* or other sources. The histories are not intended to be comprehensive, as not all issues of *The Times* were reviewed.

8.1 REMES MEAT MARKET (LE-NPC-024)

112 Main Street W

The first Remes meat market, begun by Mathias Remes in 1875, was both one of Main Street's earliest commercial enterprises and one of its earliest brick buildings (*The Times* 1917f, 1931a:12). Mathias ran the meat market until 1883, then passed on the business to his son, Frank. Frank ran it for over 25 years, then partnered with his son, Emil F. Remes, for one month before selling the business to him in early March of 1910. Emil immediately entered into a partnership with Albert Kopet and Joseph Komarek, the firm being called Emil F. Remes and Co., and they ran the operation together for nearly two years, until Emil bought them out. Within two weeks, Komarek had purchased a half interest from Emil, and the two of them carried on the business until at least 1916. It was during that year of their partnership that the decision was made to demolish the two-story, 1875 building in order to modernize their quarters (2/3/1910, 3/3/1910, 3/24/1910, 1/11/1912 and 1/25/1912; 1916c).

The new meat market building was constructed to be 66 by 27 feet using Chaska brick for the secondary walls and white enameled brick on the façade. With white likely used to convey the sanitarness of the operation, it was carried into the interior, with the "front sales room . . . finished entirely in white enamel" (*The Times* 1916j), a white tile floor, and white tile used at the base of the display windows. *The Times* additionally noted, "Mirrors line the rear of the [sales] room and reflect the beauty and cleanliness of the place. The indirect system of lighting is used. In the front, are large plate glass show windows surmounted with prism glass windows to give better light within during the daytime. Prism glass windows in the sidewalk give illumination to the basement." Behind the sales room was the office and a "big double-deck refrigerator," and at the back of the building, the workshop and sausage room. The new building employed a Baker ammonia plant for refrigeration throughout the building, including in one of the display windows and in the sales counter. The plant was located in the basement and connected to pipes that carried the coolant to the other parts of the building.

Emil's brother, John, and presumably Emil were still engaged in the operations of the meat market as of the spring of 1918. In May of that year, John left for the military, and Joseph Komarek, who had apparently left within the previous two years, returned to the meat market. A December 1919 issue of *The Times*, however, indicates that by that time, Janda, Kopet, and Pesek were running their meat market out of the building (5/2/1918; *The Times* 1919). In May of 1923, three weeks after Emil had been killed in an automobile accident, John Remes became partners with Janda and Kopet in the meat market (*The Times* 1923e, 1923f). It is not known how long prior to that time that Pesek left. After the tenure of Remes, Janda, and Kopet, a meat market continued to run out of the building under a series of different owners (Dvorak 2015:65).

8.1.1 Description

This one-story building is rectangular in plan, and it is of the enframed window wall type (Figure 169). It is faced in white enamel brick. A soldier-brick course runs along the top of each merlon within the crenellated parapet, framed by Kasota-stone coping, and a stringcourse of soldier brick runs above the storefront.



FIGURE 169. REMES MEAT MARKET, LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHEAST

Extending down from either end of the stringcourse and down the sides of the storefront windows are stacked header bricks, the continuous vertical lines of which create the impression of pilasters. All remaining brick on the façade is laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. Below the stringcourse of solid brick is a glass-block transom window that extends to both “pilasters” and is underlined by a metal transom, although both the window and transom are interrupted by a centered, cloth-covered, metal-framed canopy. Beneath the canopy, the storefront features a recessed entry which contains a wood-framed glass door and metal-framed sidelights. Leading up to the door within the recess is a ceramic-tiled stoop, with contrasting-colored tiles laid to create the name “REMES” with horizontal bands above and below, and a band of floral motifs on the opposite sides of each band (Figure 170). The sidelights and the metal-framed display windows, likely replacements, that extend perpendicular from them and then turn to be flush with the façade are supported by bulkheads sheathed with white marble panels. The west elevation is yellow common-bond brick with metal coping. The roof is flat. While it is possible that the windows have been replaced, and a canopy has been added over the entrance, masking a portion of the prism glass, the Remes Meat Market otherwise retains its original exterior design, materials, and workmanship. A shed-roofed, concrete-block addition constructed circa 1955 is located on the rear (south) elevation of the building (Figure 171). It is not strongly visible from Main Street (see Figure 169).



FIGURE 170. REMES MEAT MARKET, STOOP DETAIL, LOOKING SOUTH

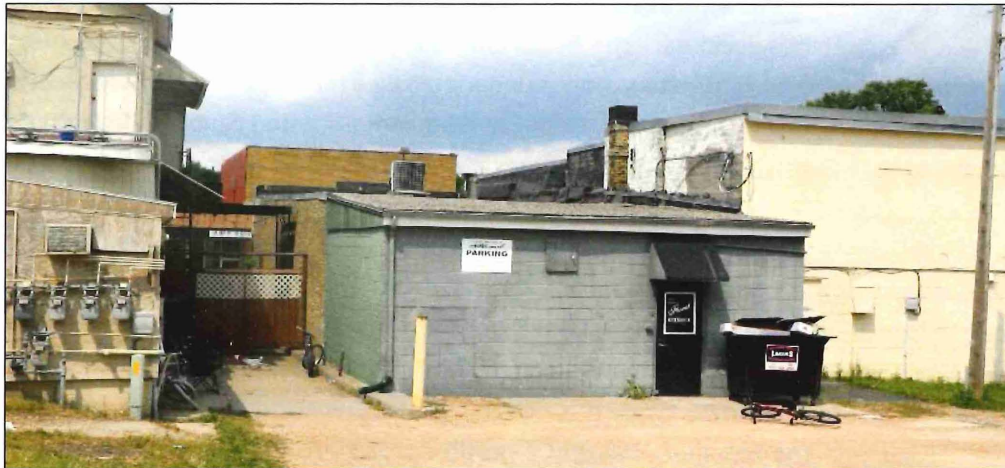


FIGURE 171. REMES MEAT MARKET, REAR ADDITION, LOOKING NORTH-NORTHEAST

8.1.2 Evaluation

The Remes Meat Market is not a noteworthy example of 1910s commercial architecture. While enameled brick is not the most commonly occurring cladding, the building is otherwise fairly basic in its design, the façade set off only by a subtly crenellated parapet and minor use of brick patterning to border the storefront and roofline. The Remes Meat Market therefore does not meet Criterion C.

8.1.3 Recommendations

Based on its lack of significance, the Remes Meat Market is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

8.2 HENRY HEINEN'S BIG BARGAIN STORE (LE-NPC-013) 102 Main Street W

In late August or early September of 1897, Henry H. Heinen purchased the west portion of Albert Chalupsky's recently acquired lot on the southwest corner of Main Street and Central Avenue for the price of \$1,000, and a portion of the lot to the west of that one from a Mrs. Kalal in anticipation of constructing a brick commercial building. It went up in short order and was let to the Kopriva Bros. who opened a department store there. On November 25, 1897, *The Times* related the details of the opening of the "Heinen & Kopriva department store . . . , the finest ever seen in this city." Despite the wording of this initial report, one of the store's earliest ads indicates that the "New Brick Store" was called the Kopriva Bros. Store (9/2/1897, 11/25/1897).

In mid January of 1899, the Kopriva Bros. moved their store operation to Wells, Minnesota, and Heinen quickly decided to fill the vacancy with his own store. After travel to the Twin Cities and the eastern U.S. to settle on stock, Henry H. Heinen opened his Big Bargain Store in March of 1899 (1/12/1899, 1/19/1899, 2/2/1899). The store was generally successful, but it ran into some undisclosed difficulty in November of 1903, when Stevens Bros. & Co., adjusters out of Chicago, took possession of all of Heinen's stock with the intent to liquidate it at low prices "until all the goods [were] sold, or matters adjusted to the entire satisfaction of all parties interested" (*The Times* 1903b, 1903c). The adjustment appears to have been achieved before the end of the year, as Heinen went back to advertising his store as before in December. Heinen carried on for the next eight years before taking out a full-page ad in *The Times* in December of 1911 to announce he would be closing down the business (12/28/1911).

In February of 1912, Heinen sold his building to Albert Rynda and Adolph Sachs, who were seeking expanded quarters for their hardware store, which they had run in New Prague since 1900. They carried out some unspecified remodeling and then began operations there in March of 1912. In 1913, they shifted the location of the interior stairway to the rear of the store, and in January of 1914, they built an implement storage warehouse off the back of the building. Adolph Sachs passed away on August 21, 1936, after which Albert Rynda, and then his descendants continued to operate the store into the 2000s (*The Times* 1912, 2008; 3/7/1912, 3/14/1912, 2/27/1913, 1/29/1914). It has since been used for other commercial purposes.

8.2.1 Description

This two-story, rectangular-plan, flat-roofed building is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 172). It is faced in red brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern, and brick pilasters are located on the east and west ends of the façade. The storefront features a centered recess, the ceiling for which is pressed tin. Within the recess is a replacement door with transom window above. Flanking each side of the door and located



FIGURE 172. HENRY HEINEN'S BIG BARGAIN STORE, LOOKING SOUTH

on the east and west walls of the recess, are metal-framed plate-glass windows supported by brick-faced bulkheads, which wrap around at a right angle and continue all the way to the pilasters on the facade. A glass-block transom window extends above these from pilaster to pilaster, and above this transom window is a metal sign embossed with "PLUMBING - RYNDAL HARDWARE - IMPLEMENTS."

The upper story of the façade contains a centered arched window with a gauged semicircular arch lintel and metal sill. A horizontal wood muntin divides the window at an elevation equivalent to the base of the curved portion of the arch. Symmetrically placed on each side of the arched window are two rectangular windows with metal lintels and sills, with wood muntins that continue the horizontal line of that in the center window. The façade terminates at the top in an ornate bracketed metal cornice with a centered, truncated pediment, denticulate band, and frieze with an embossed festoon motif. At the base ends of the two center brackets, between which is an arch paralleling that of the center window, are floral forms. A sunburst pattern is embossed on the angular portions of the pediment, while the center of it is embossed with "H. H. HEINEN." Capping each end of the cornice are finials.

The remaining walls of the building are yellow brick laid in a common-bond pattern. Fenestration is absent in the east and west elevations. On the south elevation, a rectangular addition of matching yellow brick constructed circa 1912 to house an elevator, since removed, projects from the east end (Figure 173). The



FIGURE 173. HENRY HEINEN'S BIG BARGAIN STORE, SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

upper story of the south wall of this addition contains a single 6/6 double-hung sash window with metal sill and segmental-arch lintel of rowlock brick. In the story below is an eight-light window with a flat, rowlock-brick lintel situated above a large opening for loading goods onto the elevator. The opening is occupied by a metal panel, which does not appear from the exterior to be operational as a door. The upper story of the originally constructed south elevation contains what are likely 1/1 double-hung sash windows behind newer storms, with lintels and arches the same as that on the upper story of the elevator section. On the west end of the lower story of the projecting section, are two taller twelve-light windows that appear to be fixed, around which the outline of the former warehouse addition where it was attached to the building is visible. These windows have metal sills and segmental-arch lintels as well. Two similar lintels, one likely for a former pedestrian door and one likely for another window are evident east of these two windows where their respective openings are partially taken up by a double door with three-light transom window and otherwise infilled with brick.

The storefront has been replaced since 1897, as a historical photograph from the Heinen era shows display windows that extend up to a height equivalent to the top of the glass-block transom window, which was then absent (Figure 174). Based, however, on the appearance of the transom window and the framing material, which is heavily patinaed but appears to be copper, the replacement occurred not long after Sachs and Rynda set up shop in the building, during the period of significance, with only the door and transom window above it post-dating 1922. Otherwise, with the possible exception of replacement panes in the upper-story windows, the façade is entirely original in its design, materials, and workmanship, with the only missing components being two finials which once sat atop the pediment.



MDL <http://reflections.mndigital.org/catalog/npa:22#/image/0>

FIGURE 174. HENRY HEINEN'S BIG BARGAIN STORE, 1902

8.2.2 Evaluation

Although Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store does not strongly allude to any particular historicist architectural style, it was not unusual for commercial buildings of its vintage to "have a classical sense of order but contain few, if any, references to past periods" (Longstreth 2000:39). It achieves this sense of order through the prominent central arched window flanked by symmetrically arranged rectangular windows to either side; through the repetition of this arrangement in the brackets that occur on the cornice, and in the pediment and finials along the roofline; and through the pilasters that frame each end of the façade. Along with this sense of order, the elaborate, festooned metal cornice provides a nod to without actually achieving the then-popular Beaux Arts style, the full expression of which would have conveyed a monumentality inappropriate to a small-town dry goods store. The revision to the storefront does not interfere with any of these elements, nor does it visually dominate, create asymmetry in, or introduce an insurmountably modern contrast in the façade. The building therefore is a strong representative of turn-of-the-twentieth-century, small-town commercial architecture. Highly intact, it well demonstrates the period of transition from primarily frame to the primarily brick architecture that would define the visual character of New Prague's commercial core going forward. Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store therefore is individually significant under Criterion C at the local level in the area of architecture. The period of significance is 1897, the year in which the building was constructed.

Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store is in its original location and continues to function as a commercial building within New Prague's main commercial district; therefore, its integrity of location and association is excellent. With the exception of the revisions to the storefront and the absence of two finials on the pediment, as noted above, the building retains its original exterior design, materials, and workmanship; therefore, integrity of these aspects is very good. As some of the surrounding commercial buildings have fair to poor integrity and some were constructed after the period of significance, integrity of setting and feeling are slightly diminished, but as these buildings are appropriately scaled and replicate historical uses, and as several buildings with good integrity are present, integrity of these two aspects is still considered to be good.

8.1.3 Recommendations

Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store is recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C at the local level in the area of architecture.

8.3 CALIFORNIA WINE HOUSE (LE-NPC-006) 100 Main Street W

In the summer of 1897, Albert Chalupsky bought the front portion of the lot on the southwest corner of Main Street and Central Avenue for the price of \$1,350 from a Mr. Pavak, who had a frame building located there but was moving it to the rear of the lot. A few months later, Chalupsky sold the west portion of his lot to Henry H. Heinen (see previous section). On the east portion of the lot, Chalupsky put up a brick building, in which he housed his business, the California Wine House (6/17/1897, 9/2/1897). Two years later, in the spring and summer of 1899, Chalupsky had the second-story rooms remodeled into rentable offices, and he built a large addition, to be used as a dwelling, off the back of the building (5/4/1899).

In August of 1910, Frank Barta purchased the building and saloon stock from Chalupsky (9/1/1910). The building housed a number of Barta's successors in the saloon business (Dvorak 2015:73), and the building is used for that purpose today.

8.3.1 Description

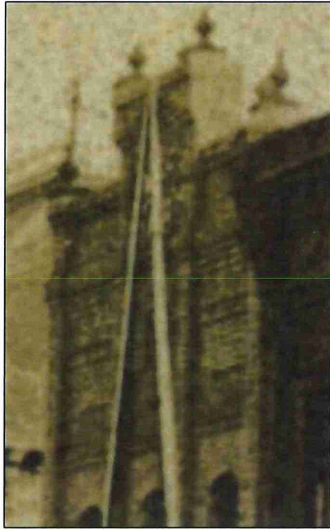
This two-story building, rectangular in plan and with a flat roof is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 175). The building is faced in yellow brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern, and full-height brick pilasters are located on the east and west ends of the façade, both capped with a metal decorative finial. Between the pilasters on the lower story, the storefront has been replaced. It is currently faced in stretcher-bond brick of a slightly different hue, with the brick laid in dogtooth fashion at the interior corners of first-story pilasters that border each end of a centered, recessed entry containing a single-panel door. Extending into the exterior of these pilasters on each side are replacement, short, plate-glass windows. Above the storefront and dividing it from the upper story is a cloth-covered metal-frame canopy.



FIGURE 175. CALIFORNIA WINE HOUSE, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

The upper story features original and ornate brickwork. Two truncated pilasters with corbelled bases extend down from the parapet, creating three bays within each of which is a single 1/1 double-hung sash window with a metal sill and a gauged segmental-arch lintel. Above the lintels are two corbelled stretcher-bond brick courses. In the exterior bays, a dogtooth course is present within a centered inset situated a few courses above the corbelled courses. A few courses above each dogtooth-course inset is a band comprising another dogtooth course set between two projecting courses of stretcher brick, and above the band is the corbelled brick cornice of alternating header and stretcher bricks. In the center bay, the dogtooth courses are absent, and instead a rectangular, shallow recess is present, on the face of which are attached metal numbers indicating the year of construction. A few courses above is the corbelled brick cornice, which in this bay incorporates two courses of alternating projecting and flush header bricks, giving it a denticulate appearance. Additional corbeled courses are located along the top of the parapet in the two exterior bays. The brick parapet is slightly recessed in these bays, while it is taller and projects forward slightly in the center bay. The bricks in the center bay were cut to allow for a mortar line that forms an arch. A historical photograph shows a corbelled brick arch above this line, with the truncated pilasters extending beyond it to form a pediment and capped with finials similar to those on the exterior pilasters (Figure 176). None of these center-bay elements remain.

The east elevation of the saloon portion of the building has been covered in stucco, but the forms of the pilasters that divide it into six bays are evident. Centered in all but the fourth bay to the south, which contains an upper-story wood door with no exterior access, are upper-story 1/1 double-hung sash windows, the metal sills for which have been painted. In the fifth bay to the south is a lower-story pedestrian door.



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FIGURE 176. CALIFORNIA WINE HOUSE, PARAPET DETAIL, 1902

The exposed elevations on the east and south of the flat-roofed dwelling or former-dwelling portion of the building, are clad in stucco and are not fenestrated. A flat-roofed, one-story addition that has been made on the south of the dwelling portion is clad in stucco on the east elevation and exhibits exposed concrete block on the south elevation. The south elevation contains a single-panel metal pedestrian door.

Excepting the loss of the corbelled arch and central pediment, the upper story of the façade appears largely as it did during the period of significance and is original in its design, materials, and workmanship. The east elevation allows for a vague sense of the original design, but the materials and workmanship have been lost to the stucco cladding. While the infilling of much of the storefront with brick does not result in a strongly modern appearance, it is a marked change from what looks in a historical photograph to have been a more open arrangement during the period of significance, with windows that extended up into the area now occupied by the canopy.

8.3.2 Evaluation

Although the California Wine House does not strongly allude to any particular historicist architectural style, it was not unusual for commercial buildings of its vintage to “have a classical sense of order but contain few, if any, references to past periods” (Longstreth 2000:39). It achieves this sense of order through the symmetrical arrangement of the decorative brickwork and the complementary placement of the windows; the regular spacing of the pilasters as they frame the windows and brickwork designs within equally sized bays; and through the exterior pilasters that frame each end of the façade. Further, the brickwork in the upper story well exemplifies the high level of workmanship that went into the decorative aspect of commercial brick architecture during the late nineteenth century.

The upper story of the façade, however, is not complete, given the loss of the corbelled arch and most of the central pediment, and it is not so artistically or architecturally exceptional that a portion of it, albeit a large portion, can be considered in isolation from the rest of the building in evaluating the building's individual merit under Criterion C. The cladding of the east elevation in stucco and the alterations to the storefront have resulted in substantially diminished integrity of materials, workmanship, and design. Due to the combination of these conditions, the building cannot be considered a particularly good example of turn-of-the-twentieth-century, small-town commercial architecture, and it therefore does not meet Criterion C.

8.3.3 Recommendations

Based on a lack of significance, The California Wine House is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

8.4 MARUSKA BUILDING (LE-NPC-029) 106 Main Street E

In February of 1902, Frank Maruska sold his residence on Main Street to John Proshek, who was going to move the building, providing Maruska the space to construct a brick business building (2/6/1902; *The Times* 1902c). The August 2, 1902, edition of *The Improvement Bulletin*, reported that Maruska hired architect Charles R. Aldrich to design the building, and that the store would be "30 x 70, two stories and basement, of pressed brick and cut stone, plate glass, steel beams, galvanized iron cornice and composition roof. Cost, \$5,000." Excavation for the building began late that month, and construction was completed later that year.

Its first occupants, beginning in mid December of 1902, were Messrs. Pesek and Bastyr, who ran a saloon there. Shortly thereafter, Maruska and his wife, Rose, joined them in the building, into which the Maruskas had moved Rose's millinery and household goods shop. In March of 1903, Pesek and Bastyr sold their saloon stock to Frank Maruska, and he took over that business. The venture, however, was short-lived, and Maruska sold the stock and rented out the space to Anton Krutina and Joseph Kasal in July of the same year (8/28/1902, 12/18/1902, 1/1/1903, 3/26/1903, 7/9/1903). How long Krutina and Kasal were present is not known, but Mary J. Tikalsky ran a general store in the building during the summer and fall of 1921, moving out in November of that year (*The Times* 1921e). In the spring of 1922, Frank and Rose's son, William Maruska, partnered with Edwin F. Rynda to form a confectionary business called the Chocolate Shop, for which they remodeled the building's interior. Rynda bought out Maruska the following year, after which he continued to run the Chocolate Shop as the sole proprietor (*The Times* 1922c, 1923g).

In the summer of 1927, J. J. Remes purchased the stock and fixtures of the Chocolate Shop from Edwin Rynda and began leasing the building from Rose Maruska, Frank having passed away by this time. He moved his drugstore from its location at 201 Main Street E into the building after having the interior remodeled, a new storefront installed, and a new stairway built. At the same time, the second floor was remodeled to accommodate doctor's offices, to be used by Dr. E. E. Novak (*The Times* 1927b).

8.4.1 Description

This two-story brick building, rectangular in plan, is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 177). The storefront of the building has been fully replaced since the 1920s. It currently extends in front of an exterior staircase, now enclosed, and therefore abuts the neighboring building on the east, which was not the case historically. The storefront is topped by a full-width metal-frame canopy clad in faux-shake panels, likely metal. Below the canopy, the walls are clad in a stone veneer. Near the east end is an added metal-framed glass door to the enclosed staircase. The metal-framed glass door to the first floor, which has sidelights and a transom window, is centered on the building. Flanking it on both sides are two metal-framed plate-glass windows.

Above the canopy, the façade is original brick, now painted mauve, in a stretcher-bond pattern. A stringcourse of projecting brick is located at the level of the windowsills. Two windows are symmetrically placed in the upper story. The east window is a single-light window, likely fixed. The sill is painted white, and its material is therefore indeterminate from the street. The lintel is a flat arch of brick set in a vertical stretcher-bond pattern. The west window is an oriel window, the corbelled base of which is no longer present but is evident in a historical photograph (Figure 178). The surround, which is painted but appears to be wood with pressed-metal details, otherwise remains intact and includes a cornice underlined by dentils and a repetitive festoon pattern on the apron. The center pane is a single-light fixed window, while the angled openings contain 1/1 double-hung sash windows.

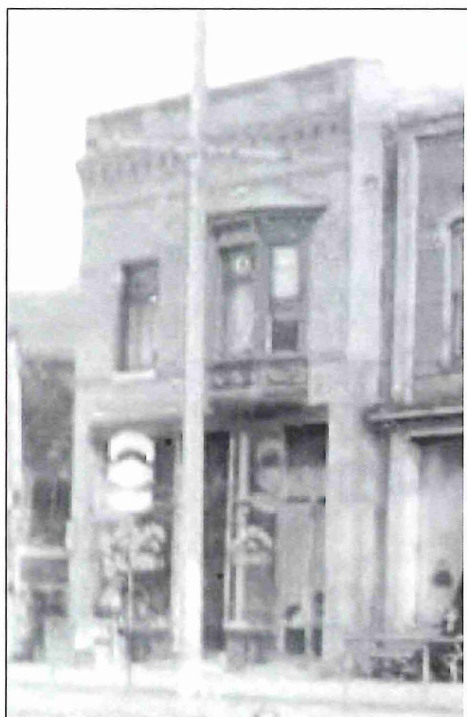


FIGURE 177. MARUSKA BUILDING, LOOKING SOUTHWEST

A couple of courses above the bay window is a stringcourse comprising two corbeled stretcher-bond courses. The cornice features decorative brickwork, with a band of repeating brick corbels underlining a projecting stretcher course, which in turn underlines a band of alternating projecting rowlock brick, creating a denticulate effect. The brick parapet above obscures the flat roof behind it and is capped with metal coping. The parapet replaces the original, which is visible in a historical photograph, though the material is difficult to discern there (see Figure 178).

The east elevation is primarily yellow brick in a common-bond pattern and has terra cotta coping. A few courses of replacement red brick are located under the coping. An arched window opening is located near the north end, with a flat-arch lintel in the same fashion as that of the east opening on the façade and containing a 1/1 double-hung sash window. Two lintels of the same type are visible on the second story near the entrance for the enclosed staircase, the openings for which have been infilled with brick and the stair enclosure.

The storefront is clearly modern and the paint color on the upper portion of the façade is regrettable from a historical perspective. The Maruska building, however, has not added any new architectural elements to the upper story, and it retains enough of its original design, materials, and workmanship, most notably in the oriel window and the fairly ornate brick cornice, that despite these conditions and the loss of the parapet, it is still easily recognizable as the building constructed in 1902.



Dvorak 2015:76

FIGURE 178. MARUSKA BUILDING, CIRCA 1912, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

8.4.2 Evaluation

The Maruska building is not a strong example of early-1900s commercial architecture. It is not strongly representative of a particular style, nor does it convey a classical sense of order. Although the brickwork in the cornice and the oriel window are attractive features, the building is fairly basic in its design. The Maruska building therefore does not meet Criterion C.

8.4.3 Recommendations

Based on a lack of significance, the Maruska building is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

8.5 THE SAVOY / NEW PRAGUE / GRANADA THEATER (LE-NPC-031) 110 Main Street E

In the decades before movies and the 1915-1916 construction of the Savoy Theater, New Prague's theater-style entertainment was largely the product of traveling troupes, who beginning in the late 1880s and early 1890s were hosted at either the CSPA (later Zapadni Ceska-Bratrska Jednota [ZCBB]) hall (razed), City Hall, or the second-story hall of the Rybak block (102 and 104 Main Street E) (*The Times* 1931a:64). In truth, the citizens of New Prague got their first taste of moving pictures in 1900, when footage of the defeat of the British at Spion Kop and other events of the Boer War were shown at the ZCBB hall for 10 and 20 cents admission (3/15/1900). It was over a decade later, however, before Albert Rybak decided to go into the business of showing motion pictures regularly, purchasing a Motiograph projector in the spring of 1911 (4/13/1911) and entering into a partnership with M. J. Simmer and John F. Barta to form the New Prague Amusement Company. Motion pictures were shown at the ZCBB hall three times a week, as the hall in the upper story of the Rybak block underwent remodeling, cosmetic improvements, and the installation of a ventilator, electric fans, and a new side entrance. In November of 1911, the Savoy Theater opened in the hall, featuring "The Winters Tale," "Historical Tale of Leontes," and a Mutt and Jeff comedy reel, and the films of the New Prague Amusement Company were subsequently shown in that venue (6/1/1911, 7/13/1911, 7/20/1911, 11/9/1911, 11/16/1911; *The Times* 1916d, 1931a:64). For a time beginning in January of 1912, the Nickolay Bros., as the Metropolitan Motion Picture Co., attempted to compete with the Savoy, having purchased a Powers Moving Picture Machine for use in their hall, but after a year or two, announcements for movies at the Nickolay Bros. Hall no longer appeared in the newspaper, suggesting that the venture had come to an end (1/11/1912).

With New Prague's moviegoers firmly in hand, in 1915, the management of the New Prague Amusement Company decided to build a dedicated theater building, and with this purpose purchased a lot on Main Street in July of that year. Reporting on the purchase, *The Times* (1915g) noted, "New Prague has long felt the need of a place where an evening's entertainment could be provided regularly and it is hoped that the Savoy will be given liberal patronage."

The opportunity to grant such patronage began with the grand opening of the theater on Friday, September 8, 1916, the theater having been completed a week or so prior (*The Times* 1916d). It boasted a seating capacity of approximately 400 persons, 350 on the main floor and 50 to 60 in the balcony. The venue could be used for either stage or screen performances, with a dressing room, "a full set of modern scenery

including a box set interior [and] a new picture screen the same as is used in the leading movie houses in the cities" (*The Times* 1916d), along with a then-modern projector, or as the *Times* put it, "motor-driven picture machine." Measuring 122 feet north-south by 31 feet east-west, the theater building was built with a pressed-brick front and "artistic canopy over the sidewalk." Interior features included tile floors and weathered oak finish in the lobby, automatic ventilators and steam heat, and an inclined theater floor with "modern wooden-standard theater chairs" in a mahogany finish, with all construction work done by New Prague-based contractors and as many materials as possible obtained from New Prague-based suppliers. Beginning in 1917, Albert Rybak leased the theater from the company, and he managed it independently until his death in November of 1920 (*The Times* 1920b). In February of 1921, *The Times* announced that M. J. Simmer and his son, Thomas, would be managing the theater, which they did for one year before John Barta began to run it independently under a lease, in the way that Albert Rybak had (*The Times* 1921f, 1922d).

Circa 1924, the New Prague Amusement Company sold the Savoy to a John Bowman, but his ownership was short-lived, as he sold to E. R. Schutte roughly one year later (*The Times* 1931a:64). During Schutte's ownership, the "talkies" came into vogue, and he outfitted the theater with a Vitaphone system in late 1929, allowing for its first talking picture, "Broadway Scandals," to be shown in December of that year (*The Times* 1929b, 1929c). Between the time he took over the theater and the summer of 1931, Schutte additionally upgraded the HVAC system and carried out interior remodeling. Then, in the early hours of July 29, 1931, a short circuit in the wiring system heated the acoustics-related insulation to the point it emitted a gas that fueled an explosion, blowing out the doors and windows and gutting the interior of the building (*The Times* 1931b).

Schutte began the process of having the theater rebuilt in September of 1931, and while early reports indicated the building would be enlarged by 20 feet, it does not seem that this expansion occurred, as the current dimensions of the building match those reported in 1916 (*The Times* 1931c). The rebuilding process included the renovation of the second story into an apartment intended to be for the Schutte family, and it was likely for this reason that the upper-story window openings on the façade were converted from small oval windows in the exterior bays and three small arched windows in the center bay (Figure 179) to larger, rectangular window openings. In November of 1931, however, with construction near completion, E. R. Schutte sold the theater to John Sullivan and Ernie Hill, the latter a Minneapolis resident who was already running theaters in Staples, Milaca, and Holdingford. Sullivan moved to New Prague from Minneapolis to manage the theater, while Hill booked the movies from his home office. With Schutte went the Savoy name, and the theater was rechristened the New Prague Theater (*The Times* 1931d, 1931e).

The New Prague Theater was a theater modern in both technology and its visual aesthetic. It was described by *The Times* (1931f) on December 3rd, the eve of its grand re-opening, as an "achievement of the latest in fine modernistic art." It featured such elements as woodwork in black enamel and silver trim, a gold ceiling in the lobby, and deep red silk wall panels, "with large modernistic designs in silver and black [giving] the appearance of increased height" in the auditorium proper. Just over two years later, however, all of this grandeur was lost when another fire took its toll, yet again gutting the interior of the building and collapsing the roof, the *Times* noting, "The theatre was handsomely decorated at the time it was last rebuilt, with



Times 2006:23

FIGURE 179. THE SAVOY THEATER, ORIGINAL CONFIGURATION OF FAÇADE

painted wall panels, richly decorated ceiling and lobby, luxurious velvet carpets and upholstered seats. Friday morning saw a blackened, water-soaked interior, open to the sky" (*The Times* 1934a). Still, once again, the brick walls of the exterior remained intact. The manager, at this time, was John F. Wright, who reassured the public that the theater would be back in operation shortly. He was true to his word, and the theater reopened on September 15, 1934, rechristened as "The Granada" (Figure 180).

he general contractor for the rebuilding project was Wick & Gunderson, while the interior decoration of The Granada was the product of Dahlstrom & Weinberger, who had done the same type of work in 35 other theaters over the two years prior to being hired by Wright. Both firms were based in Minneapolis. *The Times* (1934b) referred to their finished product as "a revelation of harmonious architectural line and beautiful coloring."

The primary color scheme of the interior was gold, green, and black, but in addition, orange was brought into the lobby; rust, brown, and yellow into the foyer; and rust, red, and tan into the auditorium. The design of the latter room incorporated six full-length panels on each side, dark green with gold scrollwork, separated by gold and black pilasters, to which decorative uprights were attached, the overall effect accentuating the height of the room. The panels were backed with Celotex, a material with desirable acoustic properties. The ceiling was created from hundreds of cut pieces of the same material, which were formed into an artistic design and painted green, red, and black on a tan background. The seats, with green backs and rust seat cushions, faced a stage having a proscenium arch. Technologically, the theater featured a modern sound system, a remote-control lighting system, and air conditioning. Alterations to the exterior



Dvorak 2015:82

FIGURE 180. THE GRANADA THEATER, 1939

were limited to the addition of a “new canopy, brilliantly lighted with neon lights in varied colors” and moving the ticket booth “to the street entrance. The booth [was] built of vitro-lite, and . . . hung with draperies of shimmering gold and black” (*The Times* 1934b).

Wright ran the theater for another 23 years before selling it to George P. Jonckowski, who renamed it the Prague. The Prague Theatre operated for 30 years, showing its last movie on August 13, 1987. Three weeks later, the seats were sold in sets of 4 or 6, advertised as pieces of New Prague history. After it closed, the building served a variety of commercial functions until 2014, when it was turned into a live-performance theater by DalekoArts, which continues to put on performances there at present (*The Times* 1957; 8/13/1987, 9/3/1987).

8.5.1 Description

This two-story, flat-roofed building, rectangular in plan, is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 181). Two exterior and two interior pilasters, divide the façade into three bays, the center one wide and the exterior two narrow. The pilasters extend slightly higher than the rest of the parapet, creating a battlement effect. The theater is faced in subtle polychrome brickwork. The pilasters incorporate dark colors of brick at the corners to mimic quoining, divide the façade into three bays, the center bay being wide and the exterior two being narrow. At the top of each pilaster and the wall face in between, running below the stone coping, is a band of solid brick in alternating colors. Centered between each set of pilasters in the upper story is a diamond motif created from darker colored bricks. Sills for the upper-story windows and the transom windows on the lower story are rowlock brick in alternating colors.

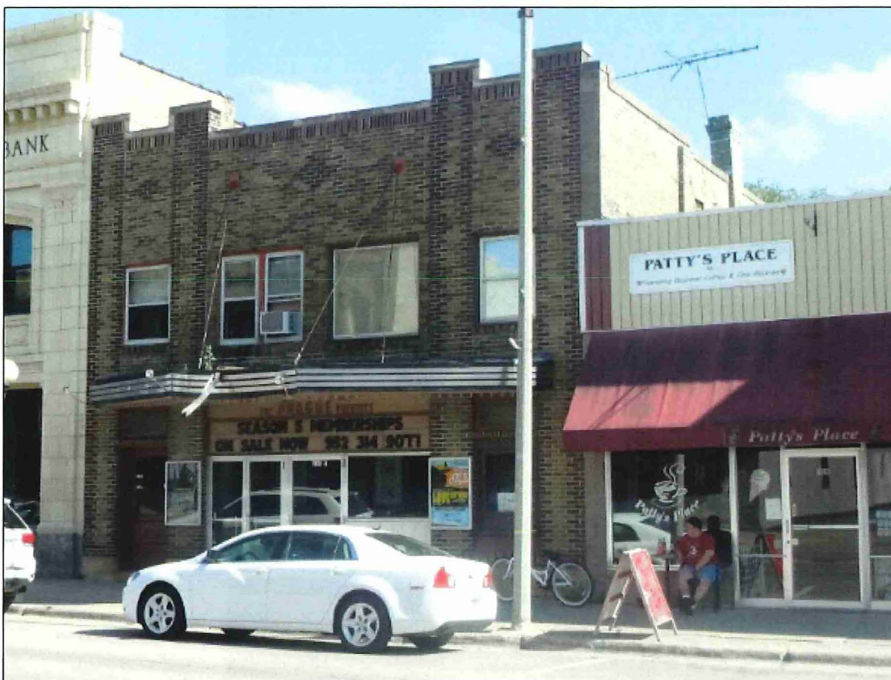


FIGURE 181. THE SAVOY/NEW PRAGUE/GRANADA THEATER, LOOKING SOUTHEAST

In the exterior bays, the upper-story window openings and lower-story door-size openings and transom windows extend from pilaster to pilaster. The window openings contain 1/1 double-hung sash windows. The eastern door-size opening contains a single-panel door that provides entry to the private upper story, while the west has wood paneling in the lower half and a ticket window in the upper half. In the center bay, the upper story contains two symmetrically placed window openings, the east containing paired 1/1 double-hung sash windows and the west containing a replacement picture window. The lower story contains the entrance to the theater, consisting of a centered single-panel metal-framed glass door and double metal-framed glass doors on its west. To the east of the center door is a wide sidelight with lower corrugated metal panel. The totality of these components runs from pilaster to pilaster, and above them is a flush marquee sign. Above the marquee sign and running between the exterior pilasters is a projecting marquee-light installation suspended from steel cables threaded through rings encased in two figural lion faces on the upper portion of the façade. This suspension system, including the lions, has been present since the time the theater was constructed, as indicated by a historical photograph (see Figure 179).

Because of the potential for this property to be significant with regard to the theater architecture of the 1930s, the interior of the building was accessed, upon which it quickly became evident that its loss of integrity was too severe for that to be the case. While remnants of the 1930s design, including the artistically designed ceiling and portions of the pilasters and panels on the east sidewall of the auditorium, remain visible, they have been painted black. On the east wall, the paint allows only minimal evidence of the colors and scrollwork above an added wall that now covers the lower majority of the original one (Figures 182 and 183). This and other added walls, including the one that now forms the backdrop of the stage, have altered



FIGURE 182. THE SAVOY/NEW PRAGUE/GRANADA THEATER, DETAIL OF EAST WALL OF AUDITORIUM, LOOKING EAST



FIGURE 183. THE SAVOY/NEW PRAGUE/GRANADA THEATER, DETAIL OF CEILING

the square footage of the auditorium, making it much smaller than it was when the building housed a movie theater (Figure 184). While any number of other alterations are evident in the auditorium and throughout the remainder of the interior of the building, description of these would be excessive, given that they would concern almost entirely post-1987 materials and design, and the ready apparentness that the theater is not significant for its interior architecture.



FIGURE 184. THE SAVOY/NEW PRAGUE/GRANADA THEATER, AUDITORIUM SEATING, LOOKING NORTHEAST

8.5.2 Evaluation

When the Savoy Theater was completed in 1916, it strongly embodied Longstreth's (2000:39) characterization of the many commercial buildings of this era having a "classical sense of order but contain[ing] few . . . references to past periods" (see Figure 174). The pairs of pilasters extending above the rest of the roofline at each end created a mildly medieval effect and imposed order on the façade, on the lower level framing the public entrance in the center, the private entrance in the east bay, and the display space for event announcements in the west bay. Brick courses over the latter two components carried the horizontal line of the canopy covering the public entrance across the building, dividing the lower from the upper zone. In the upper zone, the pilasters framed the brick-formed diamond motif centered in each bay, and a symmetrical arrangement of arched and oval windows, in which the east and west bays each contained a centered oval window, while the center bay featured three arched windows spaced at equal distances from each other and the interior pilasters.

Although the pilasters still effect the same overall order in the façade, the elements being framed have been altered and do not follow suit, particularly in the center bay. In its upper zone, although the two overall openings are symmetrically sized and spaced, these larger, rectangular openings do not allow for the repetition of equal spacing between each other and the interior pilasters, and more problematically, one contains paired 1/1 double-hung sash while the other contains a single picture window, which is visually disjointing. In its lower zone, the asymmetrical arrangement of the doors and sidelights of the replacement entrance are highlighted by the metal framing, all of which strongly contrasts with the 1916 visual aesthetic. The Savoy Theater therefore cannot be considered a particularly good example of 1910s, small-town commercial architecture, and it therefore does not meet Criterion C.

8.5.3 Recommendations

Based on a lack of significance, the Savoy Theater is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

8.6 ZAK SALOON / VANASEK HARDWARE BUILDING (LE-NPC-034) 120 Main Street E

Based on a few different articles, Thomas Zak's saloon was built in 1875. A 1934 article in the International Milling Company's company newsletter, *The Grist* (1934:5), published a photograph dating to 1875 and indicated that the Zak Saloon/Vanasek Hardware brick building had not yet been built. According to a 1931 article in *The Times* (1931a:1), the Zak Saloon was the second brick building to be constructed in town, after Frank Mikiska's building (razed), which also does not appear in the *Grist* photo. The obituary of Mathias Remes, published in *The Times* in 1917, notes that he started his meat market business in 1875, which was housed in a building known to have been brick (*The Times* 1931a:16). The Zak Saloon, therefore, would have been built sometime in 1875 after the photograph of Main Street was taken, but as the second brick building, before the construction of the first Remes meat market. Zak operated a brick yard briefly during the 1870s, in which the bricks for his building were manufactured (*The Times* 1931a:1).

In 1880, Thomas Zak sold the building to T. F. Vanasek, who operated a hardware store there for the next 21 years (*The Times* 1931:61; 11/14/1901). When he retired in November of 1901, he sold or otherwise transferred the building and the contents of the store to his brother, Frank, his son, Benjamin, and J. F. Rehor, who operated the hardware store as the New Prague Hardware and Implement Company (11/28/1901). Rehor passed away in 1905, after which Frank purchased Rehor's interest in the company (3/2/1905, 6/22/1905). A few years later, Frank's son, Edward, bought into the business (*The Times* 1920c, 1931a:61). In 1917, the rear elevation was removed and a brick addition constructed in its place to provide additional floor space (*The Times* 1917g). *The Times* (1931a:61) reported in 1931 that Edward was running the business at that time.

8.6.1 Description

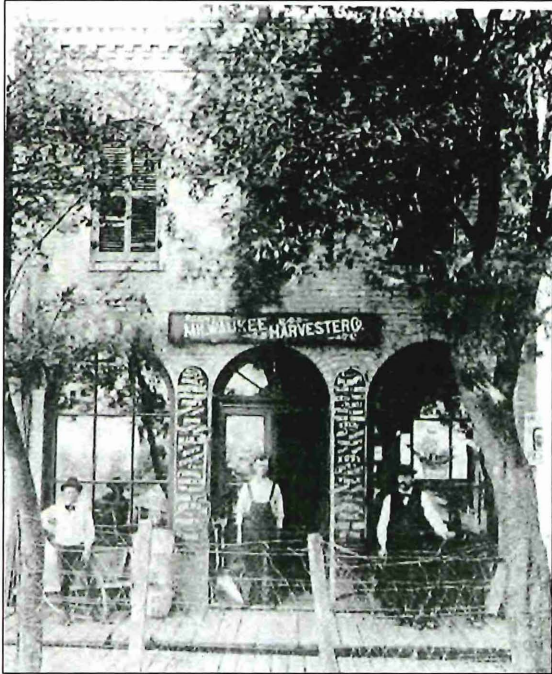
This two-story, Romanesque Revival-style commercial building is rectangular in plan with a flat roof, and it is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 185).⁹ The walls are yellow brick in a common-bond pattern. The lower story is arcaded with three semicircular arched openings, which originally contained arched multi-light glass windows on the east and west and a double door with arched transom window in the center (Figure 186). All contain wood infill in the arches, underneath of which the center arch contains a metal replacement door with sidelight, while the exterior two hold rectangular replacement display windows over wood-faced bulkheads. Dennis Dvorak (2017, personal communication) of the New Prague Area Historical Society notes that the three-arched arcade is an architectural device commonly occurring in the town of Trebon, located in South Bohemia; it was additionally used in New Prague's Church of Saint Wenceslaus (Figures 187 and 188). Census records indicate that Thomas Zak was born in Bohemia. Although the 1875 Minnesota territorial census lists his birthplace in Austria, Austria was recorded as the birthplace for all Bohemians in Lanesburgh Township in that year.¹⁰ The 1885 Minnesota census lists his birthplace as Bohemia, and his son Anton's entry in the 1900 U.S. census indicates Bohemia as the father's place of birth.



FIGURE 185. ZAK SALOON/VANASEK HARDWARE BUILDING, LOOKING SOUTH-SOUTHWEST

⁹ Figure 185 was photographed during the Phase I survey in July of 2016. A subsequent visit to New Prague in October of 2017 revealed that the plywood infill in the east bay had been replaced with a window. The text reflects the updated appearance.

¹⁰ At the time, Bohemia was a crown land of the Austrian Empire.



Dvorak 2015:96

FIGURE 186. ZAK SALOON/VANASEK HARDWARE BUILDING, CIRCA 1895



<https://media-cdn.tripadvisor.com/media/photo-s/0b/98/98/75/trebon-town-square.jpg>

FIGURE 187. TOWN SQUARE IN TREBON

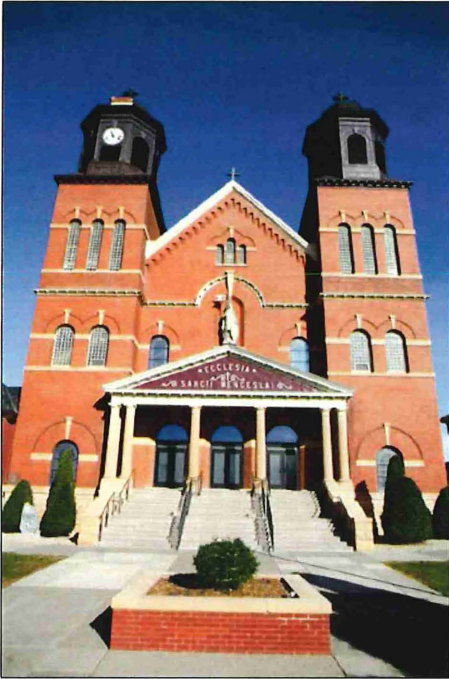


FIGURE 188. CHURCH OF ST. WENCESLAUS, LOOKING NORTH

In the upper story are three symmetrically placed segmental-arch window openings with rowlock-brick lintels and sills, and containing arched 2/2 double-hung wood sash windows. The parapet features a dogtooth brick course with a projecting stretcher course above and below. Below the lower projecting course are corbel courses, while above the upper is brick coping. The east elevation has metal coping.

The rear addition is not visible from Main Street, and its south wall is its only visible exterior wall, due to the presence of adjoining buildings to the east and west (Figure 189). Two segmental-arch lintels are visible on the south wall, underneath of which the door/window openings have been infilled in a variety of materials. A modern door has been added west of center on this elevation.



FIGURE 189. ZAK SALOON/VANASEK HARDWARE BUILDING, SOUTH ELEVATION, LOOKING NORTH

8.6.2 Evaluation

The Zak Saloon/Vanasek Hardware building is one of the earliest commercial buildings on Main Street, yet its exterior is one of the most intact, the only alteration being the materials contained within the arches in the lower story. As the arches themselves have not been altered, the Zak Saloon/Vanasek Hardware building is additionally a good, though simply executed, example of the Romanesque Revival style as applied to a small-town commercial building. Its simplicity reflects the early period, relative to the development of New Prague, in which it was constructed: It is one of only two Main Street commercial buildings that predate the arrival of the railroad and the earliest remaining example of brick commercial architecture. Importantly, it is an example in which the architecture serves to reflect the Bohemian-immigrant roots of the city (see Section 3.3.1). The Zak Saloon/Vanasek Hardware building therefore is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of ethnic heritage, and under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The period of significance is 1875, the year in which the building was constructed.

The Zak Saloon/Vanasek Hardware building is in its original location and continues to function as a commercial building within New Prague's main commercial district; therefore, its integrity of location and association is excellent. With the exception of the replacement materials contained within the arches of the storefront, the 1875 portion of the Zak Saloon/Vanasek Hardware building, that visible from Main Street, retains its original exterior design, materials, and workmanship; therefore, integrity of these aspects is very good. As some of the surrounding commercial buildings have fair to poor integrity and some were constructed after the period of significance, integrity of setting and feeling are slightly diminished, but as

these buildings are appropriately scaled and replicate historical uses, and as several buildings with good integrity are present, integrity of these two aspects is still considered to be good.

8.6.3 Recommendations

The Zak Saloon/Vanasek Hardware building is recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the area of ethnic heritage and under Criterion C in the area of architecture.

8.7 TYRA BUILDING (SC-NPC-055) 125 Main Street E

Construction of Joseph Tyra's building began in April of 1902 and was completed that June. Tyra previously operated a dance hall in another Main Street location, but he did not continue it in the new building. It is possible, however, that he ran a saloon out of the first floor. He leased the front portion of the second floor to the Orr Brothers for their dental practice, which they began there in the fall of 1902. In early 1904, an attorney, E. W. Komarek, added his office to the upstairs, while late that year, George Kostohryz and Albert Bartyzal partnered to run a saloon out of the first floor (Sanborn 1899, 1904; *The Times* 1902c; 4/17/1902, 6/5/1902, 6/12/1902, 9/11/1902, 1/21/1904, 12/8/1904). It is not clear when Kostohryz departed the business, but Albert Bartyzal's Saloon operated until 1972 (Dvorak 2015:152), presumably by successive generations of the family.

8.7.1 Description

This two-story brick, flat-roofed building is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 190). Its storefront is unified with the one to its east by their materials. A canopy clad in wood shakes and with metal coping extends along the full length of both buildings, underneath of which the walls are clad in wood channel siding oriented diagonally above wood channel siding oriented vertically, the vertical siding constituting the height of the window bulkheads. Two large picture windows are located on the façade on either side of a recess that contains poured-concrete steps leading up to a replacement door to the saloon. Metal treads and metal rectangles applied to the stair face are located on the upper two of these steps. The sidewalls of the recess are occupied by narrow plate-glass windows. At the east end of the building is another recess containing carpeted poured-concrete steps leading up to a replacement door that provides access to the upper story.

The upper story of the façade and the visible secondary elevations feature original brick laid in a common-bond pattern, although that of the façade has been painted. The remaining elevations are unpainted yellow brick. Brick pilasters extend down both ends of the façade. Between these, at the top of the wall, is a series of short arches, with corbelling where each arch meets the next. A historical photograph shows a simple corbelled brick cornice above that has since been lost (Figure 191). The upper story of the façade additionally contains three regularly spaced, arched window openings with iron sills and ornamental iron lintels. They are occupied by 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows.



FIGURE 190. TYRA BUILDING, LOOKING NORTHEAST



MNHS ML5.9 NP p2

FIGURE 191. TYRA BUILDING, CIRCA 1945, LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST (BUILDING INDICATED BY ARROW)

On the west elevation are five upper-story segmental-arched window openings, the lintels consisting of two courses of rowlock brick. The sills are metal. Near the north end of the lower story is a replacement door, adjacent to which on the south is a large opening infilled with concrete block. Slightly farther south are two more narrow openings, likely for former doors, one infilled with concrete block and one with brick.

On the east elevation is one arched window opening that is partially blocked by the neighboring building, as well as two rectangular window openings containing 1/1 double-hung sash windows. Metal coping runs along the top of the building.

While the replacement storefront is a clear departure from the building's historical design, materials, and workmanship, the Tyra building is otherwise largely original in these regards. The lost cornice was a short, simple construction of stretcher brick, the loss of which does not substantially negate the building's historic design.

8.7.2 Evaluation

The Tyra building is not a noteworthy example of early-1900s commercial architecture. It is not strongly representative of a particular style, and although the three upper-story windows are regularly spaced, their placement without the contribution of other architectural features is not enough to achieve a classical sense of order. The Tyra building therefore does not meet Criterion C.

8.7.3 Recommendations

Based on a lack of significance, the Tyra building is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

8.8 SOUKUP BUILDING (SC-NPC-004) 123 Main Street E

This two-story brick building was constructed with a one-story rear section circa 1885 (Sanborn 1887). Reference to a property dispute over a 12-foot strip of land between it and the Topka block at 121 Main Street E identified its original owner as Frank Soukup, who ran a dry goods and grocery store out of the building (Willson 1894:66; Sanborn 1887).

Circa 1895, the rear section was expanded to the north and with an upper story, through either the enlargement or replacement of the original rear section (Sanborn 1892, 1899). The Soukup store went out of business in early 1906, and in August of 1907, Peter Nickolay bought the building for \$6,300. The following spring, he moved his confectionary stock there for part of his overall general store operation, which he ran there until December of 1911. At some point thereafter, or possibly during Nickolay's tenure, it came to be named The Golden Rule Store, and as of February 1914, advertisements indicated a Miss Lund as its proprietor (*The Times* 1914b). After the *Times* building was destroyed by fire in April of 1916, the newspaper rented the building to house its job department, by which time Lund was presumably gone. In May of 1918, proprietors Vales and Jirik announced the opening of The Golden Rule under their ownership

at the Soukup building (*The Times* 1918). At some point within the next nine years, that store went out of business, and a C. B. Rogness opened a grocery store there. While that store was present, Mrs. Soukup sold the building to Mary Tikalsky for \$6,000 (1/18/1906, 8/29/1907, 3/12/1908, 12/21/1911, 2/12/1914, 7/21/1927).

When the neighboring building at 123A Main Street E was constructed circa 1935, the second floors were opened up to each other to accommodate a bowling alley (Dvorak 2015:156). An additional two-story section was constructed on the back of the building during the early 1940s, adjoining a former dry cleaning shop to the northeast, the dry cleaning shop having been constructed between 1919 and 1931 (Sanborn 1919-1944, aerial photograph 1940).

8.8.1 Description

This two-story, brick building is rectangular in plan and is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 192). The east elevation of the original two-story section visible above the neighboring building has been parge coated. The façade and west elevation of the original two-story section are red brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern with contrasting yellow-brick detail.

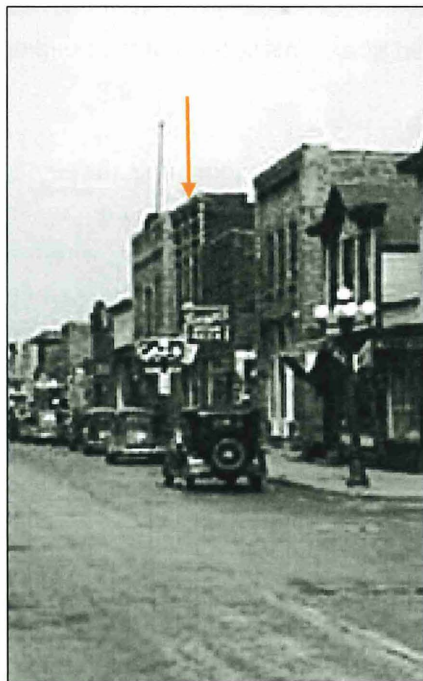
The façade features yellow-brick pilasters, full length at the east and west ends, and the two between limited to the upper story, creating three bays in that story. Each bay contains a segmental-arched window opening with a corbelled stone sill and yellow-brick, segmental-arched lintel with corbeling at both ends. What looks like some type of rigid plastic covers the windows in the east and west bays. The center bay opening



FIGURE 192. SOUKUP BUILDING, LOOKING NORTHEAST

holds an original arched 2/2 double-hung wood-sash window, but the lower panes have been lost and the widow is blocked from the inside by plywood. Above the lintels and separated from them by a few courses of red brick is a stringcourse consisting of three courses of projecting yellow brick in a stretcher-bond pattern which runs between the pilasters. Above the stringcourse and separated from it by a few courses of red brick is a series of yellow-brick corbels, which underline three courses of yellow brick in a stretcher-bond pattern. Above these courses, is the parapet, which historical photographs demonstrate is a replacement, slightly recessed and constructed of yellow brick sometime between circa 1945 and 1963. The original parapet introduced additional contrasting brickwork below corbelled brick courses (Figure 193).

The storefront is divided from the upper story by a bracketed and dentilled wood cornice. The cornice, along with the wood framing surrounding the doors and windows, has been painted black. Extending down from the cornice and continuing the lines of the upper-story pilasters are two slender Corinthian columns, painted black. To the exterior of each column is a large plate-glass display window in front of the base of which a new wrought-iron planter has been installed. Over each large window is a three-light transom window, obscured from the street by a cloth-covered canopy. Between the columns is a recess containing a replacement door with sidelights, replacement lower transom light, and upper divided transom light. Windows also occupy the sidewalls of the recess. The bulkheads have been refaced in an indeterminate material, painted black.



MNHS ML5.9 NP p2



MNHS ML5.9 NP p5

FIGURE 193. SOUKUP BUILDING, CIRCA 1945 (LEFT) AND 1963 (RIGHT), LOOKING WEST-NORTHWEST (BUILDING INDICATED BY ARROW)

The west elevation of the original two-story portion is styled similarly to the upper story of the façade, although the red brick is in a common-bond rather than stretcher-bond pattern. Because it lacks a storefront, all pilasters are full length, and these create four bays. These are divided by a yellow-brick stringcourse between the upper and lower stories, and the lower zone is further divided by a stringcourse of stone, below which the walls and adjoining portions of the pilasters have been faced with a plaster-effect stucco. Below this treatment at the base of the west wall, the bases of the pilasters and what may be bulkheads have been parge coated and painted red. In the zone above the plaster-look panels, only the northernmost bay contained an opening, with a rowlock-brick sill, but it has since been infilled with brick. In the upper story, the original arched windows exist in various states of completeness, and all openings have been boarded up on the interior. On this elevation, the replaced portion of the parapet is concrete block. On both elevations and the east elevation, extending on the west and east elevations to the circa-1895 expansion, the parapet is capped with terra cotta coping.

The visible portion of the circa-1895 east elevation is parge coated. The contemporaneous west elevation is exposed common-bond yellow brick. A former doorway on this elevation has been infilled with brick, as has the segmental-arched window opening above it, though the rowlock-brick lintel and metal sill remain in place. A door has been added at the north end of this elevation, at its junction with the early-1940s addition.

The early-1940s addition is of structural-tile construction, but the lower story has been parge-coated. The upper story contains a small window opening on the west elevation, which has been boarded in. On the north, a metal staircase leads up to a second-story replacement or added door. This section of the building has metal coping.

Unless one makes a point of peering down the narrow vacant strip between this building and the one at 121 Main Street E, only the original circa-1885 building registers in views from Main Street, and it appears to generally retain its original design, materials, and workmanship. Although many upper-story windows are boarded in or over due to the loss of panes, a few still exhibit the original sash, and the replacement windows have not yet been put into place. The stone sills are still intact. Minus the lost parapet and the stucco/parge on the bases of the pilasters on the west elevation, the original brickwork is present on both the façade and west elevation. The wood cornice separating the upper story from the storefront appears to be integrated into the construction and therefore not a later addition. The stucco in the lower part of the west elevation, however, is not original, and it is not known whether it covers former display windows, more brick, or some other material.

The storefront itself exhibits a few clearly modern elements, most of which are cosmetic, and the glass may have been replaced. The storefront otherwise, if not the circa-1885 original, dates to the period of significance, as indicated by the wood framing and Corinthian columns. Further support for the dating of the storefront comes from a 1963 photograph of the building (see Figure 188), in which these elements, minus the mullions of the former three-light transom window, appear exactly as they are currently, and they

are unlikely to have been selected in a storefront modernization between the end of the period of significance and the 1960s.

8.8.2 Evaluation

Although this building does not strongly allude to any particular historicist architectural style, it represents one version of commercial architecture that extended through the 1880s, relatively ornate compared to its predecessors, with the "cornice . . . accentuated [and] windows frequently embellished by decorative surrounds or caps . . . Underlying [such elements] was a new taste for decoration and the increasing desire to have the buildings themselves perceived as ornaments to the community" (Longstreth 2000:29, 31). Further, the brickwork in the upper story well exemplifies the high level of workmanship that went into the decorative aspect of commercial brick architecture during the late nineteenth century.

The upper story, however, is not complete, due to the loss of the parapet, which in this case formed the upper portion of the cornice and was elaborate enough that it was key to accentuating the cornice. Further, while historically unsympathetic window replacements have not been installed, the loss of the window glass and covering or infilling the original sash diminishes the integrity of materials and design, as do the stucco and parge treatments on the lower portion of the west elevation. For these reasons, the building does not rise to meet Criterion C as an excellent example of late nineteenth-century, small-town commercial architecture.

8.8.3 Recommendations

Based on a lack of significance and integrity, the Soukup building is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

8.9 THOMAS TOPKA'S BLOCK (SC-NPC-003) 121 Main Street E

This two-story building was constructed in 1883 to house a general store in the west half of the first floor, a saloon and billiards hall on the east half of the first floor, and a social hall on the second; the building's original owner and proprietor was Thomas Topka (Sanborn 1887; *The Times* 1895:56-57; Dvorak 2015:158). A one-story, gable-roofed section attached on the back with open porch on its east was the living quarters for the Topka family (Sanborn 1887; *The Times* 1895:56-57; Dvorak 2015:158).

In 1906, C. F. Vanasek & Company opened a flour and feed store in the west half of the first floor, while Topka continued to operate the saloon and social hall, his son Frank serving as bartender (Minnesota Census, Population Schedule 1905; 2/22/1906). Frank went to work at the First National Bank in the fall of 1908, when Anton Budin began renting the saloon. In October of 1909, J. W. Shimota took it over, then Budin returned to run it again in October of 1910. Budin retired in 1914, upon which Albert Chalupsky and his son, Ben, became the operators. Albert sold his interest to Frank Meskan in the fall of 1916, and Ben sold his to the same in February of the following year (10/1/1908, 10/28/1909, 9/29/1910, 4/16/1914, 9/21/1916, 2/15/1917). In the next few years, John S. Hoffer's soft drink parlor replaced the saloon, and he

began running the dance hall. Mary J. Tikalsky purchased the building from Frank Topka in November of 1921, at which point she had the entire first floor remodeled to accommodate her general store, but left the second-floor dance hall intact. Either at this time, or sometime between 1921 and 1931, the one-story dwelling on the back was removed and replaced by a two-story structural-tile addition, which served as a warehouse for the Tikalsky store (Dvorak 2015:158). The first floor was remodeled by the Tikalskys again in 1962 to update the store's appearance, lighting, and furnishings (*The Times* 1921e, 1962a), and their store remained until 1978. Circa 2000, another, vinyl siding-clad addition was added to the back of the structural-tile one. The building housed a flooring store in the west half and a yoga studio in the east half at the time of the survey.

8.9.1 Description

This two-story building is rectangular in plan, has a flat roof, and is of the two-part commercial-block type (Figure 194). The walls of the 1883 construction are yellow brick in a common-bond pattern. The storefront features a centered door opening, within a brick surround. In the upper part of the surround, above the door is a shallow triangular keystone arch comprising three courses of yellow rowlock brick, angled to meet at a corbelled keystone, and with brick corbelling at the outer ends. This arrangement is repeated with either two or three courses of brick above all upper-story window openings in the façade and east elevation. The doorway, which once held a door with transom window and opened to the staircase to the second floor, is now open and leads to a recess that holds two doors, one leading to the east section and the other to the west. In front of the doorway are doorway-width poured-concrete steps. Historically, or at least when the building was constructed, building-width wooden steps were present (Figure 195). On either side



FIGURE 194. THOMAS TOPKA'S BLOCK, LOOKING NORTHWEST



MDL <http://reflections.mndigital.org/catalog/npa:45#/image/0>

FIGURE 195. THOMAS TOPKA'S BLOCK, CIRCA 1885

of the doorway are wood-framed plate-glass windows, tripled on each side. Each triplet replaces a recessed double door with transom window, tall narrow windows in the sidewalls of each recess, and flanking, flush, four-light display windows that extended equal to the height of the transom window. A large cloth-covered canopy shelters each set of tripled windows. The bulkheads have been parge coated, as have the bases of the brick pilasters to the exterior of the windows at each end of the façade. The brick pilasters extend up the full height of the building, but are interrupted by the embedded wood and metal base for the cornice over the storefront. This ornamental, dentilled and bracketed cornice has been lost.

Above the cornice and set slightly farther apart than the door surround are two yellow brick pilasters, which create three bays in the upper story. In the center bay is a single window opening containing paired 1/1 double-hung sash replacement windows. Each of the exterior bays holds two symmetrically placed window openings, situated slightly higher than the center opening, each of which holds a 1/1 double-hung sash replacement window. The stone sills for these windows are intact. Formerly functional shutters for all openings have been removed, as has a balcony with wrought-iron railing that used to be located in front of the center bay. Above the windows and separated from them by several brick courses is a stringcourse comprising a dogtooth course with a single course of projecting stretcher brick above and below, which is interrupted by the pilasters. At the top of the parapet are corbeled courses that extend down into corbeled points in a repetitive pattern. Above the corbeled courses in the center bay is a segmental brick pediment formed by a rowlock-brick course over a header-brick course, flush with the pilasters and bordering a stretcher-brick inset flush with the rest of the wall. Historically, numbers applied to form the year "1883" were located in the upper courses, while the inset contained applied letters reading "T. TOPKA'S BLOCK."

The east elevation features regularly spaced, full-length brick pilasters resulting in seven bays. Running between each set of pilasters and dividing the upper and lower stories is another dogtooth- and stretcher-brick stringcourse. In the upper story, each bay is occupied by a single window opening with stone still and containing a 1/1 double-hung sash replacement window. As with the façade, the shutters have been removed from these windows. Running between the pilasters and above the windows, at the height of the dogtooth- and stretcher-brick stringcourse on the façade, are three corbelled brick courses. Additional corbelled courses are located along the top of the parapet, but do not include the repetitive point motif; instead they incorporate a dogtooth course. The stacks of two interior chimneys which once extended above the roof are no longer evident. In the lower story of the east elevation, door openings in the fourth and fifth bays from the south have segmental-arched lintels of rowlock brick with a corbelled keystone. These openings have been infilled with brick, as have window openings in the northern two bays. In the northernmost bay is an added industrial single-panel door. An open metal staircase with wood landing at the top has been added on this elevation.

Only the upper story is visible on the west elevation of the original two-story section. It includes four segmental-arch window openings, the sills for which are replacement brick. These have been infilled with glass block.

The structural-tile addition incorporates two upper-story window openings on both the west and east elevations. Those on the east contain sliding windows, and those on the west glass block.

Unless one makes a point of peering down the narrow vacant strip between this building and the one at 123 Main Street E, only the original 1883 building registers in views from Main Street. Setting aside the storefront, Thomas Topka's block appears very much as it did at the time of its construction, the most notable differences being the replacement windows, and the losses of the cornice over the storefront, the wrought-iron balcony, and the shutters. Otherwise, the exterior is largely original in its design, materials, and workmanship on all three visible elevations. The storefront has kept the original brick door surround and exterior pilasters.

8.9.2 Evaluation

Although Thomas Topka's block does not strongly allude to any particular historicist architectural style, it is a strong representation of one version of commercial architecture that extended through the 1880s, relatively ornate compared to its predecessors, with the "cornice . . . accentuated [and] windows frequently embellished by decorative surrounds or caps . . . Underlying [such elements] was a new taste for decoration and the increasing desire to have the buildings themselves perceived as ornaments to the community" (Longstreth 2000:29, 31). Unlike many of the city's brick commercial buildings, this one has not suffered the loss of its parapet, so the brick cornice accentuated by the repetitive corbelled points and segmental brick pediment is intact. So, too, are the decorative triangular keystone arches over the windows. The loss of the shutters, balcony, and cornice, though slightly diminishing the integrity of materials, workmanship, and design, do not detract from these features or otherwise strongly affect the architecture of the main massing.

Although the upper-story windows have been replaced, they remain within their original openings, and from the exterior, the frames for those in the two fully exposed elevations (south and east) are similar in width to those present historically. While the doors and windows in the lower story of the east elevation have been infilled with brick, they were toward the rear of the building in bays that are not readily visible from Main Street. Because the added staircase on the east elevation extends from the rear of the building forward, and both it and the landing at the top are open, they still allow most of the elevation to be visible, lessening the impact of an added, modern structure.

The configuration of the storefront has changed substantially with regard to the way in which the building is entered. The visual impact of this change, however, is mitigated to a fair degree by the maintenance of the original door surround and exterior pilasters, and therefore of the horizontal aspect of the storefront openings. In fact, the canopies are the greatest visual and material detriment present on the storefront, but these could easily be removed.

Overall, Thomas Topka's block is a strong representative of late-nineteenth century, small-town commercial architecture, and it well demonstrates the earliest aspect of the period of transition from primarily frame to the primarily brick architecture that would define the visual character of New Prague's commercial core going forward. Thomas Topka's block therefore is individually significant under Criterion C. The period of significance is 1883, the year in which the building was constructed.

Thomas Topka's block is in its original location and continues to function as a commercial building within New Prague's main commercial district; therefore, its integrity of location and association is excellent. With the exception of the revisions to the storefront, as noted above, and minor cosmetic elements that could be restored (shutters, balcony, cornice) or removed (canopies), the building retains its original exterior design, materials, and workmanship; therefore, integrity of these aspects is good. As some of the surrounding commercial buildings have fair to poor integrity and some were constructed after the period of significance, integrity of setting and feeling are slightly diminished, but as these buildings are appropriately scaled and replicate historical uses, and as several buildings with good integrity are present, integrity of these two aspects is still considered to be good.

8.9.3 Recommendations

Thomas Topka's block is recommended as eligible for listing in the National Register as an individual resource under Criterion C in the area of architecture.

PHASE II RESULTS – THE NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY (LE-NPC-049)

400 Main Street E

No statewide historic contexts currently extend to 1963, the year in which the New Prague Memorial Library was constructed. Historic contextual information for the library is provided below, followed by a current description of the building and the evaluation of its National Register eligibility.

9.1 THE NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The call for a public library in the city of New Prague began at least as early as 1898, in which year the *Times* (1898b) lamented, "This place is sadly in need of a Public library," and hatched a plan whereby the female contingent of the city could use the newspaper's facilities to put out a "special women's edition" of the publication, and the advertising proceeds would go to establishing the proposed institution. Whether or not the planned edition was brought to fruition, the library was not. In December of 1902, the *Times* again editorialized in favor of a library, vaguely referencing a "movement . . . on foot to start a public library here" (12/11/1902, 12/18/1902). It would be nearly 20 years, however, before a public library was realized. In 1921, New Prague's American Legion was offered a public library by the Minnesota State Historical Association, which upon acceptance was installed in the Legion's club room and could be accessed during very limited hours (*The Times* 1921g; 4/7/1921).

In 1956, the United States Congress passed the Library Services Act as a step in remedying the absences of and deficiencies in library services in rural areas, which the act defined as areas with populations of 10,000 or less. The purpose of the act was to provide to those areas federal funds, to be matched by the states, for library materials, as well as equipment, staff salaries, and other expenses associated with operating a library (Fry 1975:10-11). In response to the Library Services Act, the Minnesota Legislature passed an act in 1957 appropriating funds for matching (Extra Session 1957, chapter 3, sec. 2, subd. 10), marking the first time that Minnesota state-aid monies would be used toward public libraries (United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare, Office of Education, Library Services Branch [LSB] 1963:76). The state act required that to qualify for these monies, the county in which the library was to be located had to annually contribute funds obtained through taxes toward maintenance of those expenses identified by the federal act.

Several counties were eager to take advantage of this funding, and in order to offset the financial burden, many chose to organize jointly with other counties, which allowed for the sharing of staff and equipment. The first of these joint library systems was the Dakota-Scott Regional Library System, which formed in 1958 (Wolston 2001:4). The system was approved for federal and state funding in November of that year, and Robert H. Rohlf, the administrative assistant and new buildings officer of the Minneapolis Public Library, was named its director. Its first library was operated through two bookmobiles that began running in the summer of 1959 (*The Times* 1958c, 1959c). The limited availability of the bookmobiles, at two hours per week, was not sufficient to meet the high demand of library patrons in New Prague, so the city established a branch in the city. Located in the basement of a Red and White grocery store, it opened in February of

1960 and gave patrons 12 hours per week in which to obtain materials. The basement location was far from ideal; it was not conducive to patron access, and it flooded with three feet of water after a heavy rain in the spring of 1960, shutting the library down for nearly two weeks (*The Times* 1960c, 1960d). The Library Services Act, however, explicitly precluded the use of associated funds for obtaining land or constructing a building for a public library.

In the fall of 1960, the New Prague city council appointed a library board of eleven members, which was responsible for ensuring that the library was serving the community to its fullest extent, that its materials, equipment and location were in good condition, and that it had all the resources it needed for successful operation. By the beginning of 1961, the idea of a permanent public library building was on the table. With the imposition of taxes to obtain it legally prohibited, the library board determined that the best strategy was to appeal to local organizations to make sizeable donations for this purpose, so as to shift the cost burden away from city residents, who would also be asked to make contributions. The V. F. W. was the first to be publicly approached, and it led the charge by committing to four percent of the cost up to 3,000 dollars. The library board then established a formal fund, to which organizations and individuals alike could make voluntary contributions. Soon after, the next major donation came through, with the local American Legion post committing to 20 percent of the cost up to 15,000 dollars. Although on its way to having a new library building, the city opted not to wait to leave the grocery store basement, and the library was moved to a recently vacated bakery building in December of 1961. In the same month, the city council approved the northwest corner of Memorial Park as the site for the new building, which eliminated the cost of purchasing land while providing more space than would otherwise be obtainable in town; therefore, although part of the Dakota-Scott system, the library would be built in Le Sueur County (*The Times* 1960e, 1961c, 1961d, 1961e, 1961f, 1961g, 1962b).

Other events, however, were unfolding behind the scenes as these events were occurring. In late 1960, New Prague's then-mayor and chairman of the library board, Robert Morgan, contacted the Western Foundation, to request "assistance in constructing or acquiring physical quarters for the New Prague Library" (Letter, Robert J. Morgan to Board of Trustees of the F. A. Bean Foundation, December 8, 1960, New Prague Library Project File, Western Foundation Papers, held at the MNHS [Library File]). The Western Foundation, a charitable organization founded by the Bean family in 1939 and presided over by Atherton Bean (F. A. Bean, III), included in its mission the support of "religious, charitable, scientific, or educational purposes" ("Historical Note," finding aid, Western Foundation Records Collection, Minnesota Historical Society). Finding the proposed library a worthy cause, the Western Foundation quietly committed to the cost of the building and the architect's fee, with the understanding that the donation would remain anonymous until such time as the foundation authorized (Letter, Atherton Bean to Robert Morgan, May 31, 1961, Library File). For the foundation's contribution, the library was to in some fashion memorialize Atherton's parents, F. A. Bean, Jr. and Bertha Boynton Bean. In May or June of 1961, the Western Foundation hired the architectural firm The Cerny Associates, Inc., to design the building, who assigned John G. Rauma to be the project architect.

The Cerny Associates was begun in 1960 by Robert Cerny, following his tenure in the firm Thorshov & Cerny. Cerny, who graduated with a bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1932 (Regents of the University of Minnesota 2016) and his master's degree in the same field from Harvard University, was additionally a professor of architecture at the University of Minnesota from 1937 to 1976. During its 18 years of existence, The Cerny Associates "became one of the most successful [architectural firms] in Minnesota" (Lathrop 2010:35).

John Rauma received his bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Minnesota in 1950 and his master's degree from MIT in 1952. He was hired at Thorshov & Cerny in 1954, and while serving as chief designer there, he was appointed by Ralph Rapson, in 1956, to be on the faculty of the University of Minnesota's School of Architecture. When Thorshov & Cerny dissolved, he followed Cerny to The Cerny Associates, where he was employed for three years before starting his own firm with David J. Griswold, which would last until 1989. With Thorshov & Cerny, he "provided design leadership for the air passenger terminal [Lindbergh Terminal/Terminal 1] at Wold-Chamberlin Field [Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport], and participated in the design of the Minneapolis First National Bank Building" (University of Minnesota, College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture [U of M] 1996), as well as designed the University of Minnesota's School of Architecture Building (Rapson Hall). His involvement in the design of other University of Minnesota buildings, such as Middlebrook Hall, an addition to Sanford Hall, and Willey Hall, would follow once Griswold & Rauma was formed (U of M 1996; Lathrop 2010:181). By no means, however, was the work of the firm limited to the University, as it additionally designed institutional, commercial, and industrial buildings, apartment buildings, churches, healthcare facilities, and even a military training base (Collection Overview and Collection Organization, "John G. Rauma Papers," Northwest Architectural Archives, <http://archives.lib.umn.edu/repositories/8/resources/2191>). In 1970, Rauma was advanced to the American Institute of Architects' (AIA) College of Fellows, "one of the highest honors the AIA can bestow upon a member. Elevation to Fellowship not only recognizes the achievements of the architect as an individual but also elevates before the public and the profession those architects who have made significant contributions to architecture and to society" (AIA 2017). In 1982, Rauma became the architectural advisor for the Minnesota Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board (U of M 1996).

When Rauma was tapped to design the New Prague Memorial Library in 1961, it had been two decades since the publication of the seminal work on modern library design by Joseph L. Wheeler, a librarian, and Alfred M. Githens, an architect, titled *The American Public Library Building: Its planning and design with special reference to its administration and service*. This detailed volume captured every conceivable aspect of planning and designing a library building, inside and out, not only architecturally but also in relation to functional considerations like space planning, activity flow, lighting, temperature control, furniture, equipment, and down to such minutiae as having "bronze card frames about 3" x 5'" (Wheeler and Githens 1941:418) at the ends of shelving ranges. Their introductory statement on future library buildings, though bordering on the melodramatic, captures an underlying principle that was being applied to the architecture of not only libraries but also several other building types in a country turning away from elitism, thanks to the soaring numbers of citizens in the middle class:

The library buildings of the future must be a total departure from the buildings of the past. With few exceptions they have given the people of America the false impression that libraries are aloof, unaware of what is going on in the world, unresponsive to current problems and demands. Their buildings have been palaces for the learned, pretentious, withdrawn, dull, self-sufficient, making no appeal to the average passerby to come inside. Compared with the banks, the post offices, even the stores of today, most libraries are totally eclipsed in their architectural appeal to the people.

. . . The new generation of librarians and architects must rise up with a mighty resolution to crush this evil tradition in design, this false attempt at heavy dignity and copying of outworn patterns, and produce new libraries which will be the liveliest and most inviting buildings in their communities, full of color, action, and interest, where all will delight to come, and yet where the student who seeks quiet will find it thoughtfully provided [Wheeler and Githens 1941:11-12].

Although public library buildings accordingly began to make architectural appeals to the people by eliminating the monumentality, grandeur, and ornament of their predecessors, they apparently did not hold much in the way of architectural appeal. In assessing the trends in public library architecture since the publication of Wheeler and Githens' volume, librarian Joseph A. McDonald, Jr. (1967:1) noted that from 1949, the first year of existence for the AIA's National Honor Awards, through 1961, only three public libraries were recognized, this despite the fact that a library construction boom was occurring throughout the United States during this period (Mohrhardt and Ulveling 1952:149). Largely, McDonald (1967:1) surmised, this lack of appeal was due to an overreaction to previous library architecture, "a case of form following function with a vengeance."

In part, however, it seems that public libraries of the mid twentieth century suffered from a professional disconnect that did not afflict many other building types. In the ten years prior to the design of the New Prague Memorial Library, with few exceptions, professional architectural journals were relatively mute on the subject of public libraries. The public library was not, during those years, a featured building type in *Progressive Architecture*, and between that journal, *Architectural Forum*, *Architectural Record*, and the *Journal of the American Institute of Architects (JAIA)*, design guidance came only in a single 1952 article in *Architectural Record* and an AIA Building Type Reference Guide published in 1959 in the *JAIA* (Cowgill and Pettengill 1959a, 1959b). The latter journal, in 1958, published an article by attorney and then-Vice President of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Leland Hazard, intended to review the "functions of the contemporary library in our urban areas," but it culminated in the suggestion of a reversal of the direction promoted by Wheeler and Githens:

How will the ideal central city library look? . . . Who knows? . . . But I predict that some day some architect will bring it off and that when he does, the building will be less eager than the contemporary library structures, less ashamed of its intellectuality, more proud of its hidden recesses, not quite so pleadingly open to everyone, more happy to give sanctuary

to those who would come from afar already knowing what treasures lie within [Hazard 1958:31].

This notion ran counter to the praise lauded four years earlier on Philadelphia's glass-fronted Mercantile Library in one of *Architectural Forum's* few pieces to highlight public libraries during the 1950s: "Unlike most libraries which hide from people behind a landscaped plot and a parade of pillars, Philadelphia's new Mercantile Library is an extrovert. Its open show-window front removes all library mystery, does away with steps, makes using books seem natural, easy, popular" (*Architectural Forum* 1954:113). The professional discussion, therefore, on the architecture of public libraries appears to have been both conflicting and limited. It was not until 1963 that the American Institute of Architects, in partnership with the American Library Association and the National Book Committee, created a national library building award (*Architectural Record* 1963).

That is not to say that architects were not concerned with libraries, as many, like Githens, worked closely with librarians to address issues in library planning, including from theoretical perspectives. Librarians, for their part, recognized the need for buildings that were attractive and would pique public interest, but their primary concerns lay with the ability of library buildings to facilitate their functions and their longevity in doing so. As might be expected, the planning of library buildings from this perspective was a topic at the forefront of their professional discussions in journal articles, conferences, and published volumes, from which, often in cooperation with interested architects, detailed ideas evolved. Not only were a variety of necessary functional areas defined, but so also were the ways in which they should be located in relation to each other. Librarian Hoyt Galvin and architect Martin Van Buren (1959:23-24), for example, identified 17 functional areas for small public libraries, and for these provided such guidance as the periodicals reading area "should be open to general public areas and easily accessible from the main entrance with visual control from the lending desk," while the lending desk was to be located "near the main entrance [and] should afford visual control of children's area, open stacks and reading areas." Other ideas were infinitely more specific, such as recommendations for minimum spacing between bookshelves to accommodate the various positions patrons would take in looking for and retrieving volumes, the number of staff work spaces per 100 square feet, and the incorporation of low ceilings to "facilitate good lighting and the replacement of electric lamps, reduce heating costs, and because . . . smaller wall areas make cleaning and repainting cheaper" (Mohrhardt and Ulveling 1952:155; Hoyt and Van Buren 1959:45; McCarthy 1964).

Ultimately, library building design was deceptively complex. Much more than locations from which to obtain books, libraries constructed after World War II were expected to provide reading lounges, research and work spaces, audio-visual resources and equipment, exhibition space, and community meeting space in an environment that was both physically and psychologically comfortable. Due to differences in the needs and numbers of patrons, special libraries (i.e., trade, professional, club, government [Cowgill and Pettengill 1959a:55], academic libraries, and public libraries required different design principles, as did subtypes within each of these categories. With regard to public libraries, large, urban central libraries, branch libraries, community libraries, regional libraries, and rural libraries could not be treated in the same manner. Consideration had to be given to the communities to be served: their numbers, their interests,

and their existing built environment. By, and long before, 1961, the consensus resulting from the need to address these complexities was that for any new public library, an associated librarian must develop a program to be provided to the architect prior to their starting the design process. The program was to consist of:

. . . a written statement prepared by the librarian or other competent authority describing the purpose, scope and function of the library building. It should state as comprehensively as possible the specific needs of the library and should outline in detail the areas, their requirements, relationships and functions within the building. In addition, it should define the aesthetic character of the building and chart generally the type and nature of furnishings and equipment" [Galvin and Van Buren 1959:42].

Some in the field (e.g., Morhardt and Ulveling 1952:150) submitted that it was necessary to retain a library building consultant, a librarian experienced in and therefore better able to speak to planning and building concepts, to serve as something of a translator between the librarian and the architect. After receiving the program, the team was to continue working together throughout the process to ensure the architect's vision was compatible with that of the librarians and ultimately pleasing to the library's patrons. This notion was encapsulated by architect J. R. Bailey (1963:98) when he said, "It must be remembered that a library building is not designed from the inside out nor from the outside in, but from all sides with each space consideration given skillful treatment to create a synthesis."

Despite all the nuances of library design on the whole, some architectural commonalities tended to occur in the small public library buildings of the mid twentieth century. Primary among these were the street-level entrance and a façade containing a wide expanse of glass. The latter provided those outside with a visual invitation to enter, and at night, an "attractively lighted showcase" (Mohrhardt and Ulveling 1952:152), while during the day, it provided those inside with ample amounts of natural light as well as views to the outside. Materials overall were "practical and simple" (Galvin and Van Buren 1959:57), as was the resultant aesthetic. Beyond the glass, masonry, whether of natural stone, brick, or other human-made material, was frequently employed on the exterior. Durable and easy to maintain, masonry was also attractive, and for that reason often left exposed in the interior. Precast concrete, another durable and low-maintenance material which came into architectural vogue during the mid twentieth century, was also frequently employed on the exteriors of small public libraries (Galvin and Van Buren 1959:60). Interiors tended to feature low, acoustic ceilings and plentiful lighting over largely open public spaces, with any necessary compartmentalization created physically through bookshelves and visually through other furnishings (e.g., children's chairs), rather than permanent walls, allowing for future rearrangement. Permanent walls were reserved for masking non-public spaces, such as utility rooms, staff workrooms, and storage rooms, from patrons. Certainly, however, architects put their individual stamps on small public library buildings, charged as they were wrapping all of the practicalities into an aesthetically pleasing package. As stated by librarian Ralph Ellsworth in 1961, "Let there be no mistake about this: a library building is a serious work of art, and as a work of art, it is unique and precious and not to be thought of in the collective sense. Architects know this" (Ellsworth 1964:9).

The program for the New Prague Memorial Library was developed by Robert Rohlf in December of 1961, after Atherton Bean encouraged Mayor Morgan "to bring Rohlf and Cerny together to make sure that good library design characteristics are incorporated" (Memorandum from Atherton Bean to the Trustees of the F. A. Bean Foundation, Inc., and The Western Foundation, Inc., November 28, 1961, Library File). The six-page plan was highly detailed. It explicitly called for, among other conditions, a one-story building with a modified L plan; a setback from the street to allow for landscaping, but not more than 15 feet; parking for 20 cars; floor-to-ceiling windows along the north wall and no windows at all on the west wall; and light levels of 75 foot-candles or more in the reading and book area, as well as specified the square footages of various activity areas and the numbers and dimensions of furnishings to be placed therein (Rohlf 1961). It is evident that Rauma's design included alterations from this program; for example, the library did not end up in an L plan, and it sits back approximately 30 feet back from Main Street. The design was, however, ultimately approved by Rohlf, as well as the Western Foundation and the City in March of 1962, pending a few requested minor changes (Memorandum, John C. Rauma to multiple parties, March 12, 1962, Library File; *The Times* 1962c). These changes, such as adding mullions to the floor-to-ceiling windows to prevent people from walking into them, were incorporated into the final design.

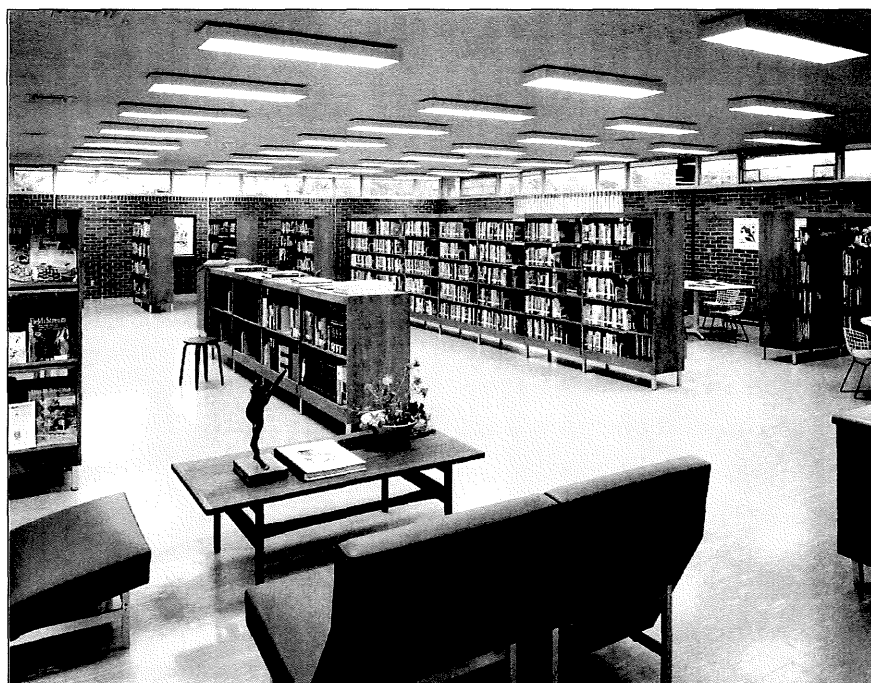
The consultation between Rohlf, Rauma, and the other interested parties, resulted in a building that, inclusive of furnishings and equipment, cost \$123,000, \$12,000 of which comprised the VFW and American Legion donations, and the remaining \$111,000 of which was donated by the Western Foundation (New Prague Memorial Library dedication program, International Multifoods Corporate Records, held at the MNHS [Dedication Program]; *The Times* 1964c). It was described in a *Times* (1963a) headline as "Combin[ing] Beauty, Practicality And [the] Latest Library Concepts In [a] 4,000 Square Foot Area." Constructed by Berglund-Johnson, Inc., in 1962-1963 as a one-story, rectangular-plan, steel-frame building, it featured a façade largely occupied by an aluminum-framed window wall. The window wall was flanked on both ends by face brick in varied shades of brown, which carried around the remaining elevations; a narrower window wall was located on the rear of the building to allow a view of Memorial Park from the south end of the reading room. Above the walls, precast-concrete fascia panels in white or possibly a light gray visually lightened the expression of a substantial flat roof, the deep eaves of which extended out to supporting reinforced-concrete columns set in a "gravel moat" (*The Times* 1964d), creating what was dubbed a pavilion-style building (Dedication Program; *The Times* 1962d; Lundegaard 1963). Beyond the building was \$300 worth of trees contributed by the New Prague Business and Professional Association, consisting of six junipers, six variegated dogwoods, three Colorado blue spruce, three purple leaf cherries, three flowering crabs, three silver maples, two English ivies, and one mock orange (*The Times* 1963b).

On the interior, the building's 4,000 square feet of floor space allowed for future increases in materials, equipment, and furniture. The outermost walls were clad in face brick matching that on the exterior, into which a "specially designed metal molding" (*The Times* 1963a) was installed upon which art or other display materials could be hung. To allow for these displays, none of the shelving abutted the walls. Functional areas included the foyer, a cloakroom, a reading room with separate children's and adult areas, a community room, a workroom, two restrooms, a kitchenette, an HVAC room, and a utility room. Inside the foyer, a

plaque was installed which read, "In memory of Francis A. and Bertha B. Bean this library is presented to the city of New Prague for the use and enjoyment of its citizens" (Lundegaard 1963).

The primary public areas, consisting of the reading room and community room, were suitably furnished and arranged. In the reading room, flooring was "wheat-colored vinyl tile" (*The Times* 1963a), and regularly spaced rows of rectangular fluorescent lights with honeycomb screens supplemented the daylight coming through the window wall and clerestory windows. The book racks, librarian's desk, tables, chairs, and other furnishings used matching wood, which was birch with a fruitwood finish, except in the age-separated reading areas, where the children's chairs were white metal with yellow cushions and the adults' chairs were "bronze green naugahyde." Separation was achieved through the placement of the bookshelves (Figure 196). The community room was intended to have a warmer feel, both literally and figuratively. A freestanding ceramic stove was located on a tile floor near the south wall, the only one of oak in this room. The flooring was otherwise green carpeting meant to complement a "modern Scandinavian design, with upholstered chairs in pumpkin, dark brown and antique gold" (*The Times* 1963a). The bronze green naugahyde of the reading room was used on a bench in this room, which also featured walnut lamp tables and wheat-colored draperies in the corners. The room was illuminated from the ceiling by regularly spaced incandescent lights in round fixtures (Figure 197).

In 1964, The Cerny Associates entered the library into a competition and received one of seven awards for architectural excellence given by the Minnesota Society of Architects, American Institute of Architects. *The*



Library File

FIGURE 196. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY READING ROOM, 1963



Library File

FIGURE 197. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, COMMUNITY ROOM, 1963

Times (1964d) quoted a description, though unclear as to whether it was made by the judges or in the submittal, which among more straightforward features, such as “a floating roof supported on circular columns” and “clerestory windows [that] divide the roof and wall structure, with floor-to-ceiling glass at the street elevation,” noted the reflection of “the strong module set by the existing trees” in the circular columns.

The library stood in this fashion for 35 years before the eventual insufficiency of the space reached a point where it could no longer be disregarded. Despite the intent of the original design to accommodate future growth, an 80 percent increase in the city population and the continual acquisition of new materials were creating crowded quarters. Additionally, the building was lacking in ADA compliancy, energy efficiency, and data cabling (*The Times* 2000a). In the summer of 1998, the city council approved the addition of a bond referendum for a library addition to the ballot for the November election, which passed. The following January, the architectural firm of Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle Ltd. was selected to design the project, which was assigned to Ryan Thuftedal. The construction contract was subsequently awarded to Kratchovil Construction Company, a New Prague outfit, and the expanded library was dedicated in October of 2000 (*The Times* 1998, 1999a, 2000b, 2000c).

One more addition has been made to date to the New Prague Memorial Library. In 2008, New Prague residents Joseph and Emma Tikalsky donated \$100,000 to build an addition to the library in memory of Joseph’s grandmother, Mary Jo Tikalsky, a Czech immigrant. The small, one-room addition, built off the east elevation of the 2000 addition, was also designed by Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle, and it was constructed by K. A. Witt Construction, Inc. It holds a collection of books in the Czech language and other

materials honoring Mary Jo's heritage, and it provides a secluded, quiet area for patrons wishing to read or work outside the relative bustle of the main sections of the library.

9.2 DESCRIPTION

The New Prague Memorial Library is a one-story, flat-roofed building with an irregular plan caused by the staggering of the generally rectangular plan of the portion constructed in 2000 with that of the rectangular portion constructed in 1963. The 1963 section has a poured-concrete foundation, while those of the 2000 section and the attached 2008 addition are rock-faced concrete block.

The façade of the building, which due to the placement of the additions is limited to the 1963 section, is occupied primarily by a floor-to-ceiling window wall, the single panes of which have been replaced with double panes, as is the case with all windows on the original section (*The Times* 2000a; Figure 198). Metal muntins in a dark brown hue divide it into a grid in which the upper and lower horizontal elements are short and the center one tall. These muntins replace the original aluminum ones, which were in a light, likely silver-colored finish (Figure 199). The vertical elements vary between narrow and wide, but without a regular or repeating pattern. Incorporated within this wall is an off-center, single-panel, metal-framed glass replacement door, which extends the height of the lower two horizontal elements. It is in the location of what was formerly part of a wide sidelight on the east side of the original double doors, which no longer exist, leaving the sidelight to their west to be reconfigured into vertically separated windows. Comparison with a historical photograph (Figure 200) indicates that the lower horizontal muntins did not all form a



FIGURE 198. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, LOOKING SOUTH



Times 1963a

FIGURE 199. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, PARTIAL EXTERIOR, 1963



Library File

FIGURE 200. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 1963

continuous line as they do currently. The upper horizontal muntins, however, formed a continuous line under the clerestory windows, as is presently the case.

The clerestory windows are carried across the remainder of the façade and around to the remaining elevations of the 1963 section, following a repeating pattern of narrow-wide-narrow, with variation on the rear elevation. At the end of each series of three windows in this pattern, a metal mullion runs down the face of the wall to the foundation. The clerestory windows are underlined by brown rowlock-brick sills, and the walls below are brown brick laid in a stretcher-bond pattern. A service or employee entrance is located in the south elevation in the second bay from the west. The need to follow the vertical framing members of this entrance creates part of the variation in the clerestory window pattern on this elevation. The cause of the rest of the variation is unclear. An added metal-framed glass door with sidelights is located at the east end of the visible portion of this elevation.

The roof of the 1963 section features deep eaves and wide fascia. The precast concrete which forms the fascia has been sheathed in dark brown standing-seam metal and has metal coping. Supporting the roof at its four corners are cylindrical concrete columns. An additional three columns are regularly spaced in front of the façade, and one is located behind the rear elevation, where plans indicate two more existed paralleling those in the front prior to the construction of the addition in 2000.

The addition built in 2000 is aesthetically similar but not identical to and just slightly taller than the original building (Figure 201). The rear (south) elevation, which faces the park and constitutes the primary elevation of the addition, features a window wall with wide vertical metal muntins creating four bays. The uppermost horizontal division of these bays consists of four identically sized lights, below which are identically sized but shorter lights. A projecting metal canopy that evokes a pergola runs below these shorter lights, extending a short distance beyond the window wall on both ends. Below the canopy, the center two bays contain a tall light over a short light. The exterior two bays are each divided into a narrower tall light over short light nearest the center bays and a single metal-framed glass door to its exterior. The uppermost horizontal division of the window wall continues as clerestory windows of the same width to the ends of this elevation and around to the remaining elevations. The clerestory windows are underlined by concrete sills, below which the walls are brick of a lighter brown than the original. The brick is laid in a stretcher-bond pattern, with the exception of a rowlock-brick stringcourse corresponding to the level of the base of the "pergola," though it is present on all four elevations. Exception to the brick walls is located at the inverted northeast, southeast, and southwest corners of the addition, where the walls are floor-to-ceiling glass, and at the north end of the west elevation, at the junction with the original building. There, a metal-framed glass door is present, adjacent to which on the north is the book depository.

The roof of the 2000 section features deep eaves but these flare upward and outward, as opposed to the right-angular nature of those on the original (Figure 202). The soffits are stucco-covered panels and the fascia are clad in metal. The four corners of the roof are supported by concrete columns of similar form to those on the original but with striation that creates a turned appearance.



FIGURE 201. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, LOOKING NORTHEAST



FIGURE 202. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 2000 ADDITION, LOOKING NORTH

A short, glass-walled walkway extends from this addition to Tikalsky memorial addition built in 2008 (Figure 203). It is clad in the same brick as the 2000 section on the north and south walls. On the east are tripled, metal-framed plate-glass windows, with sheet metal panels cladding the walls above and below. The same type of panels are located on the west wall on either side of the walkway.

Although the core of the project in 2000 was an addition, changes were effected to the interior of the 1963 portion of the building both to address its deficiencies and to create continuity between the two sections. The floor, including the concrete subfloor, was replaced (*The Times* 2000d). The foyer was narrowed, and the glass wall on its east, which contained a door to the reading room, eliminated. A hallway was extended due south from the foyer to the new south entrance, the cloakroom eliminated, and new restrooms constructed, likely altering the workroom (private areas of the original library were not accessed) (Figure 204).

The community room retains its face-brick walls with metal bracket for display installation, and an acoustical tile ceiling, though it is possible that the latter is a replacement. The ceramic stove was removed, and the oak wall behind it replaced with sheet rock (Figure 205). It received new carpeting, and the incandescent light fixtures were replaced with suspended, rectangular fluorescent lights.

In the reading room, the brick walls are present around the exterior, except in the large section of the south wall that was removed to connect the original section to the addition (Figure 206). The ceiling was removed



FIGURE 203. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, 2008 ADDITION



FIGURE 204. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, HALLWAY FROM NORTH ENTRANCE, LOOKING SOUTH



FIGURE 205. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, COMMUNITY ROOM, LOOKING WEST



FIGURE 206. NEW PRAGUE MEMORIAL LIBRARY, ORIGINAL READING ROOM, LOOKING EAST

and the joists left exposed, to “allow for installation of indirect lighting throughout the entire structure, which is better for reading” (*The Times* 1999b). Carpeting has been installed throughout. This room retains the staff desks and the children’s area, and it appears to otherwise contain primarily book stacks.

9.3 EVALUATION

The New Prague Memorial Library is the result of the city of New Prague’s efforts to obtain a bona fide library building to serve the public, i.e., one designed with library functions in mind. The scope and nature of these efforts, however, was not particularly noteworthy from a historical perspective. In sum, although the citizens of New Prague were enthusiastic about a library building, the building was the result of a city-appointed board soliciting and receiving three large donations, rather than any broad-based community effort. The obtainment of the building was not the outgrowth of any important social programs, such as the Works Progress Administration Statewide Library Project, but was instead the culmination of a natural progression from bookmobile to quarters of convenience to a dedicated building. Although the library was a branch of the Dakota-Scott Regional Library System, it does not represent the development of that system in a unique or important way. The New Prague Memorial Library therefore is not significant under Criterion A. No individuals of historical significance are associated with the library in an important way, and it is therefore not significant under Criterion B.

The New Prague Memorial Library is not innovative or outstanding in the body of work designed by, nor does it appear to have influenced the future architectural directions of either The Cerny Associates as a firm or John G. Rauma individually, and it does not possess high artistic value.

Although the New Prague Memorial Library as designed in 1961 and completed in 1963 exhibited a relatively simple and understated aesthetic, it was one that well typified the application of Modern design principles to small public library buildings during the late 1950s and early 1960s. That the library managed to do so without adopting the surmised overreaction to earlier library architecture mentioned in the context above could be largely attributed to the floating roof, concrete columns, and wide expanse of glass on the façade. These architectural features, along with the building's easy maintenance materials, and its encouragement of public use through the open public spaces on the interior and the atmosphere created by the arrangements and types of furnishings led to the library's recognition as significant architecture by the AIA, Minnesota Society of Architects. The library as completed in 1963, therefore, could have been considered significant under Criterion C for its exemplification of the Modern style as applied to small public libraries during the mid twentieth century. The character-defining features of the library as originally constructed are the window wall, which invited the public and natural light into the building and provided views out; the floating roof and concrete columns, which created a pavilion-like effect, as well as tied the visual aesthetic of the building to the trees surrounding it along Main Street and in the park; and the combination of materials, which created a building that, in the words of Rohlf's (1961:1) program for it, was "beautiful and functional, and yet economical to maintain."

For properties with significance under Criterion C in the area of architecture, however, the most important aspects of integrity are design, materials, and workmanship. Because of the offset connection of the rear wall of the 1963 library and the north wall of the 2000 addition, the 1963 library largely retains its original form and massing, and views of the building from Main Street appear very much as they did historically. The later addition, therefore, and by extension the small, 2008 addition attached to it, do little to interfere with the original design. The 1963 building retains its brick-faced exterior walls and the majority of the exterior concrete columns. Material changes have been made, however, affecting the design of the building. These changes include the replacement of the windows, a process that included reconfiguring the mullions in the window wall; elimination of the wide, welcoming entrance formed by the double doors and wide sidelights in favor of a single door with narrow sidelights; and replacement of the light-colored aluminum framing with dark brown framing, all of which despite the expanse of glass create a heavier, darker, and less open effect in the façade. This effect is compounded by the covering of the fascia's precast-concrete panels with dark brown standing seam metal, which visually weighs down the columns rather than extending the visual trajectory of the concrete from the columns up to the roof, thereby reducing the impression of a unified pavilion-like structure. Although these material changes may seem minor, their impact is magnified in a building whose architectural features are limited and understated. Further, the integrity of design, materials, and workmanship must be held to a higher standard in a building that has to convey the historic significance of its architecture despite the presence of a later, equally sized addition to which it is now connected. As such, the library retains only fair integrity of design, materials, and workmanship.

9.5 RECOMMENDATION

Because it lacks sufficient integrity to convey its historic significance, the New Prague Memorial Library is recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

Three properties within the APE are listed in the National Register: Schumacher's New Prague Hotel/Hotel Broz (LE-NPC-004), the First National Bank (LE-NPC-007), and the St. Wenceslaus Church Complex (SC-NPC-006, SC-NPC-007, SC-NPC-008) (Figure 207). The architectural history investigations for the TH 19 Reconstruction Project identified an additional 109 architectural history properties within the APE, 103 of which are recommended as not eligible for listing in the National Register. The remaining six properties are recommended as eligible: Henry Heinen's Big Bargain Store (LE-NPC-013), the New Prague Times and Suel Printing Company building and addition (LE-NPC-014), Zak's Saloon/Vanasek Hardware building (LE-NPC-034), the M&StL Railway Company depot (SC-NPC-001), the Thomas Topka block (SC-NPC-003), and the F. A. Bean, Jr. house (SC-NPC-017).

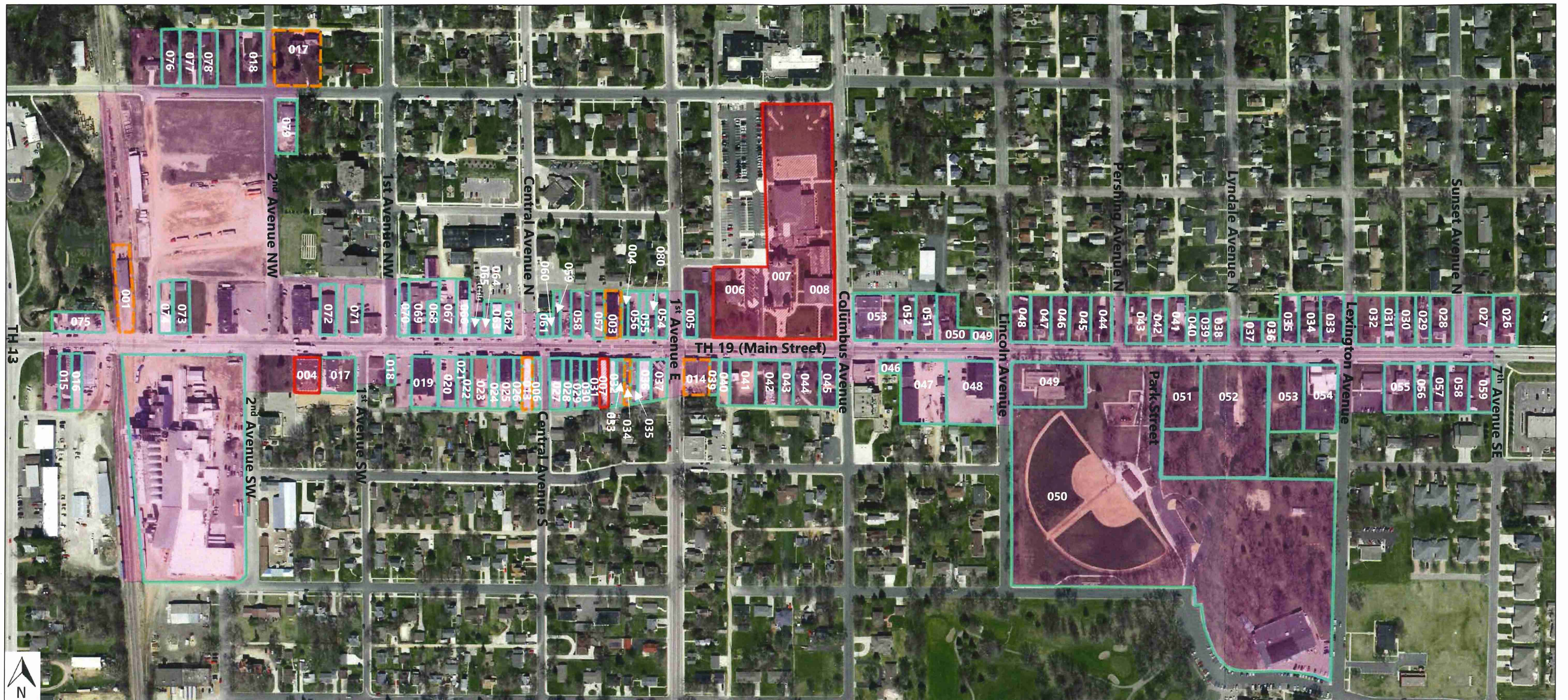
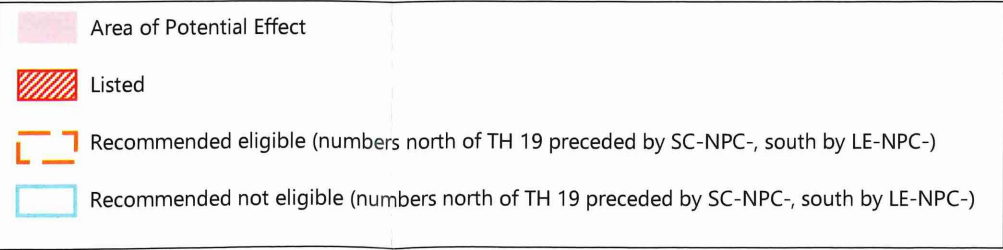


FIGURE 207. PHASE I AND II ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY RESULTS



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1900b Thanks, Awfully. 23 August:5.

1902a The City Council Meeting. 12 June:1.

1902b Big Tornadic Storm. 19 June:1.

1902c Building Boom. 17 April:1.

1903a Our Milling Company. 26 March:1.

1903b Notice To The Public! 12 November.

1903c Big Store Closed. 12 November:5.

1904 Our Own Light. 29 September:5.

1907a Mammoth Store [advertisement]. 26 September:4.

1907b A Noted Wedding. 29 August:1.

1911 Celebrates Christmas. 28 December:1.

1912 Building Sold. 22 February:1.

1914a Miss Piesinger's Drug Store Moved Into New Quarters. 16 July:1.

1914b The Golden Rule [advertisement]. 12 February.

1915a Building Boom at New Prague. 19 August:1.

1915b Purchase Site for New Theater Building. 1 July:1.

1915c Fire Damages Remes Building. 7 January:1.

1915d White Way For New Prague? 8 July:1.

- 1915e "White Way" Completed. 11 November.
- 1915f Twenty-Five Years Ago. 14 October:1.
- 1915g Purchase Site For New Theater Building. 1 July:1.
- 1916a New Prague Flouring Mill Company. 14 December.
- 1916b Building Boom Continues. 12 October:1.
- 1916c New Prague Building Notes. 13 July:1.
- 1916d Savoy Theater Completed. 31 August:1.
- 1916e Four Buildings Condemned. 10 August:1.
- 1916f Frank Building Completed. 23 March:1.
- 1916g Model Office Building/Grain Tanks of Over 500,000 Bu. Cap. To Be Built. 13 April:1.
- 1916h Work Rushed On Skyscraper. 23 November:1.
- 1916i Soukup Building Rented. 27 April:1.
- 1916j New Meat Market Completed. 23 November:1.
- 1917a Livery and Garage Now Run by Separate Firms. 18 January:1.
- 1917b Large Contract Is Awarded. 19 April:1.
- 1917c Will Erect a New Building. 12 April:1.
- 1917d Our Future Home Now Under Construction. 3 May:1.
- 1917e The New Home of the Times. 13 September:1.
- 1917f Mathias Remes Passed Away. 19 April:1.
- 1917g Building Large Addition to Store. 22 November:1.

- 1918 The Golden Rule [advertisement]. 16 May.
- 1919 Brief Descriptive Sketch of the Local Business Firms Whose Advertisements Appear in the Holiday Edition. 18 December.
- 1920a New Prague Flouring Mill, Our Mammoth Industry. 16 December.
- 1920b Albert A. Rybak, Prominent Businessman and City Official Died Monday. 25 November:1.
- 1920c Brief Descriptive Sketches of the Local Business Firms Whose Advertisements Appear In the Holiday Booster Edition. 16 December.
- 1921a Work Commenced on Oil Filling Station. 26 May:1.
- 1921b Hoffer Moves to Bastyr Building. 8 December.
- 1921c Ambroz & O'Connell Dissolved Partnership. 24 February:1.
- 1921d Platform at Depot is Repaired. 13 October:1.
- 1921e Mrs. M. J. Tikalsky Purchased Topka's Block. 10 November:1.
- 1921f Change In Management of Savoy. 3 February:1.
- 1921g Legion Will Secure Library. 3 February:1.
- 1922a General Office Will Be Moved to Mill City. 3 August:1.
- 1922b James J. Leonard. 19 January:1.
- 1922c Maruska & Rynda Will Open Store Soon. 2 March:1.
- 1922d Savoy Management Changes This Week. 2 February:1.
- 1923a Mill General Offices Move to Minneapolis. 21 June:1.
- 1923b Ambroz Buys Interest of Partner in Garage. 27 September:1.
- 1923c Mill General Offices Move to Minneapolis. 21 June:1.
- 1923d Extensive Improvements In Mill Powerhouse. 6 September:1.

1923e Emil F. Remes Killed When His Auto Overturned Near Northfield, Last Friday. 26 April:1.

1923f *Remes Enters Firm of Cash Meat Market.* 17 May:1.

1923g E. F. Rynda Buys Out Interest of W. Maruska. 22 March:1.

1927a Many Attend Dedication Services Sunday. 19 May:1.

1927b J. J. Remes Leases Maruska Building. 21 July.

1928 Rybak Block Will Be Remodeled, Repaired. 10 May:1.

1929a Contract is Let for New Park Pavilion. 23 May:1.

1929b Savoy Theatre Installs Vitaphone Talkie Equipment. 28 November:1.

1929c Savoy Theater Opens Sunday With Talking Pictures. 19 December:1.

1930a New Creamery Building is Opened For Business. 8 May:1.

1930b F. A. Bean, Sr., Founder-President, of International Milling Company, Dies At Advanced Age of 90 Years. 27 February.

1930c New Creamery Building Is Opened For Business. 8 May:1.

1931a Diamond Jubilee Edition, Anniversary Supplement. 27 August.

1931b Savoy Theatre Badly Guttred By Fire Wednesday Morning. 30 July:1.

1931c Work is Started Rebuilding Savoy. 10 September:1.

1931d Savoy Rebuilding Progressing Steadily. 8 October:1.

1931e New Prague Theater Will Be One Of the Finest in the State. 26 November:1.

1931f Grand Opening of New Prague Theatre, Fri. Evening. 3 December:1.

1934a New Prague Theatre Badly Damaged By Fire On Thursday Afternoon. 19 April:1.

1934b New Granada Theatre Ready For Opening Saturday Evening. 13 April:1.

- 1939a This Was New Prague in Year 1870. 7 September:6.
- 1939b Local Flour Mill Was Forerunner Of Present Great Milling System. 7 September:2.
- 1945 From Steam To Electric Power. 15 November:1.
- 1946a New Prague's Business District Will Get Several New Buildings This Spring. 11 April:1.
- 1946b Extensive 1946 Building Program in New Prague is Delayed By Scarcity of Building Materials, Etc. 15 August:1.
- 1946c Ballinger Dairy Observes Twentieth Anniv. – June 6, 1926-June 6, 1946. 6 June:1.
- 1948a Brick Addition Being Built on Ray's Garage. 22 July:1
- 1948b Gamble Store In New Prague Completely Destroyed By Fire Early Sunday Morning. 2 September:1.
- 1948c Gamble Store to Have Open House. 19 November:1.
- 1957 Theatre Opening Features Ribbon, Friendly Persuasion. 1 August:1.
- 1958a State Bank Will Celebrate Diamond Anniversary With An Open House. 30 October:1.
- 1958b International Milling Company Is Building Mill in Venezuela. 6 March:1.
- 1958c Robert H. Rohlf appointed first library director. 20 November:1.
- 1959a Two new commercial buildings now under construction here. 23 July:1.
- 1959b Work proceeding on IMCO flour storages structure. 29 October.
- 1959c The New Prague Times marks 70th anniversary. 3 September:1.
- 1959d 1600 secure library cards in first week. 9 July:1.
- 1960a Construction is underway on addition to Times building. 4 August:1.
- 1960b Law And Real Estate Offices Move To New Suel Building. 8 December:1.

- 1960c New Prague, Dakota-Scott Regional Library host open house Friday. 11 February:1.
- 1960d New Prague public library reopens in same quarters. 9 June:1.
- 1960e City Appoints Library Board. 8 September:1.
- 1961a Fire at Gamble Store Causes Heavy Damage. 13 July:1.
- 1961b Gamble Store Reopens Today With Enlarged and Redecorated Quarters. 12 October:1.
- 1961c New Prague Leads Entire Area In Library Usage. 16 February:1.
- 1961d VFW Pledges Approximately \$3000 To Launch Public Library Drive. 23 March:1.
- 1961e Announce Library Fund Is Open To Contributions. 30 March:1.
- 1961f New Prague American Legion Post Pledges Up to \$15,000 For Library. 20 April:1.
- 1961g Local Boys Move 5,000 Books To New Library Location In Less Than 2 Hours. 28 December:1.
- 1962a Interior Remodeling Project Underway at Tikalsky's Store. 12 April:1.
- 1962b City Council Re-Affirms Approval of Park Site For Public Library Bldg. 8 February:1.
- 1962c Council Unanimously Accepts Plans For Library Building. 15 March:1.
- 1962d Low Bid Was \$99,700 On New Public Library; Completion In 120 Days. 26 July:1.
- 1963a New Library Combines Beauty, Practicality And Latest Library Concepts in 4,000 Square Foot Area. 6 June:1.
- 1963b B.&P's Landscaping Project Adds To Library's Beauty. 6 June:1.
- 1964a New Post Office Bldg. Under Construction of Modern Design. 12 November:1.
- 1964b The New Prague Times Observes Diamond Anniversary This Week. 3 September:1.
- 1964c Western Foundation, Inc., Receives 'Who's Who' Award For Library Gift. 30 July:1.
- 1964d New Prague Memorial Library Wins Award as One of State's Top Architectural Designs. 24 September:1.

1965 Post Office Will Be Moved To New Building, Saturday. 28 January:1.

1977a IM begins warehouse. 28 April:1.

1977b IM mill expansion project completed, production capacity up by 50 percent. 15 December:1.

1981 Arthur J. Suel, retired Times publisher, former NP Postmaster, dies suddenly. 8 October:1-2.

1988 ConAgra is new owner of flour mill. 25 February:1.

1998 Council puts library referendum on ballot. 6 August:1.

1999a City council selects architect for library project. 21 January:1.

1999b NP Library plans unveiled. 19 August:1.

2000a Library nearly doubles in size. 26 October:5B.

2000b Library turns new page on Sunday. 26 October:1B.

2000c A view of the "new" New Prague Memorial Library. 2 November:3.

2000d Room to Read. 26 October:4B.

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