

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL 3 0 2010

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-9000a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name Council Grove Downtown Historic District  
Other name/site number 127-564

### 2. Location

000, 100, 200, and 300 blocks of W. Main AND 000 block of N. Neosho and N. Mission.  
Generally spanning from the Neosho River to Belfry on West Main AND extending north to  
Columbia between Neosho and Mission.

not for publication

Street & number  
City or town  
State Kansas

vicinity  
Council Grove  
Code KS      County Morris      Code 127      Zip code 66846

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Patrick Belcher DSHPO

6/14/10

Date

Signature of certifying official>Title  
Kansas State Historical Society

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official /Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- entered in the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National  
Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
 removed from the National  
Register  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Council Grove Downtown Historic District  
Name of property

Morris County, Kansas  
County and State

### 5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
38	24	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
38	24	total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register  
9

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions

(Enter Categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC: single and multiple dwelling and hotel
- COMMERCE: business, professional, organizational, financial institution, specialty store, department store, and restaurant
- SOCIAL: meeting hall, club house, and civic
- GOVERNMENT: government office, post office and courthouse.
- HEALTH CARE: medical business/office and clinic
- TRANSPORTATION: road-related
- RECREATION: theater
- RELIGION: religious facility

#### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling, and hotel
- COMMERCE: business, professional, organizational, financial institution, specialty store, and restaurant
- SOCIAL: meeting hall and civic
- GOVERNMENT: government office and post-office
- HEALTH CARE: medical business/office and clinic
- TRANSPORTATION: road-related
- RELIGION: religious facility
- RECREATION: theater
- VACANT/NOT IN USE
- WORK IN PROGRESS

### 7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style
- LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne, Italianate, and Romanesque
- LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival
- MODERN MOVEMENT: No Subcategory, and Contemporary

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation LIMESTONE, CONCRETE

walls LIMESTONE, BRICK, WOOD, METAL, CONCRETE

roof METAL, ASPHALT, SYNTHETIC

other LIMESTONE, BRICK, METAL, GLASS

### Narrative Description

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

Council Grove Downtown Historic District  
Name of Property

Morris County, Kansas  
County and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations  
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance  
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

#### Period of Significance

1857--1951

#### Significant Dates

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Architects: Louis Simon, C. W. Squires.

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

#### Bibliography

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

#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

# \_\_\_\_\_

- recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Morris County Historical Museum

Council Grove Downtown Historic District  
Name of Property

Morris County, Kansas  
County and State

#### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 25.8

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	1   4	Easting	7   1   8   1   4   2	Northing	4   2   8   1   8   0   1	3	Zone	1   4	Easting	7   1   8   2   1   0	Northing	4   2   8   1   9   5   7
2	Zone	1   4	Easting	7   1   8   0   9   0	Northing	4   2   8   1   9   0   7	4	Zone	1   4	Easting	7   1   8   1   8   4	Northing	4   2   8   2   0   1   2

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

#### 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title Christy Davis and Brenda Spencer

Organization Spencer Preservation Date 20 January 2009

Street & number 10150 Onaga Road Telephone 785-456-9857

City or town Wamego State Kansas Zip code 66547

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name See attached list

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

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

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

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

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## 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Location and Setting

Council Grove, Kansas (population 2321) is located in the center of the eastern half of Kansas, nestled between the state's two major metropolitan areas, Kansas City (120 miles to the northeast) and Wichita (100 miles to the southwest). The small city is the principal population center and county seat of the scarcely populated Morris County (population 6104).

Council Grove boasts a natural setting unique not only to Kansas but to the world. It occupies the heart of the geologic region known as the "Flint Hills," which stretches from Marshall County on the north to Cowley County on the south. The Flint Hills is best known as the world's largest expanse of tallgrass prairie, distinguished by both its tall nourishing grasses and gently rolling hills. The hills' gravelly soil, owing to the concentration of chert or flint, rendered the region less-suited for farming than the previously settled alluvial plain of the Missouri River Valley. Ironically, the difficulty of farming this region served to protect its distinctive natural and cultural landscape. By the late nineteenth century, the area had come to be prized by ranchers whose beef cattle occupied the ecological niche formerly filled by prairie bison. Like the American Indians that preceded them, these ranchers took to burning the prairie on a regular basis to generate the bovine-nourishing grasses and preserve the region's timeless beauty.

Council Grove is located at the head of one of the state's principal rivers, the Neosho, which is known for its strikingly steep and thickly wooded banks. Mid-twentieth-century flood control projects resulted in damming of the river and creation of both the Council Grove Lake and Council Grove Reservoir, both northwest of town. The community grew up along the river's west bank, near Seth Hays' trading post, the region's first white commercial establishment. The original town was platted parallel to the Neosho and the commercial district expanded west of the river along West Main Street, perpendicular to the Neosho. East of the river, Main Street turns true east.

The Council Grove Downtown Historic District encompasses seventy-one (71) properties along West Main Street from Belfry Street on the west to the Neosho River on the east. Although the majority of the district's properties are downtown commercial blocks, there are a number of free-standing buildings on the east, west and north fringes. East of Mission Avenue, the district boundary jumps northward to Columbia Street to incorporate two major free-standing buildings: the Cottage House Hotel on the southwest corner of Neosho and Columbia and the Haslam Hospital on the southeast corner of Neosho and Columbia.

Downtown Buildings

The buildings in the Council Grove Downtown Historic District represent a diverse range of construction dates and architectural styles. The earliest-constructed portion of the Conn Mercantile building, much modified over time, was built in 1853. The newest building, the Stoney Hill Apartment building, was constructed in 1985. Nine properties within the district boundaries are already individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places or contribute to the Santa Fe Trail NHL district. Of the district's remaining 62 properties, 38 are contributors and 24 are non-contributors. Including the individually listed properties, more than 66% of the district properties, at the time of this nomination, are contributors to the district.

The vast majority of district buildings are located in traditional commercial blocks. Exceptions include the following free-standing buildings, located on the fringes of the dense commercial district: Cottage House Hotel and Haslam Hospital on the north; Coffin Building, Old Armory, Gas Station and Flint Hills REA on the east end; and Carnegie Library, KP & L Building, First Baptist Church and Parsonage on the west.

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The architecture of the buildings in downtown Council Grove reflects its status as the center of the community's commercial activity for more than 150 years. Like those in most communities, Council Grove's downtown property owners continually improved and modernized their downtown buildings. As a result, downtown now interprets various periods of development. Many of the oldest extant buildings, including the Conn Mercantile Store (1853) and Miller and Kerr Building (1863) have been modified many times over the years, most recently during the early twentieth century. One rare example of 1860s architecture, the Huffaker Building (1869) has endured incompatible storefront modifications that render it non-contributing. Only twenty district buildings retain their Late Victorian architecture. These include fourteen Italianate buildings, mostly dating from the 1880s real estate boom; five Richardsonian Romanesque buildings, mostly from the turn of the century; and one Queen Anne building.

The district's most prolific style is the Commercial Style, the style of twenty-seven (38%) of the district's buildings. Distinguished by the use of hard brick, recessed mortar joints, and absence of architectural embellishment, the Commercial Style predominated in the early twentieth century, particularly during the building boom in the 1910s and 1920s. Among the Council Grove businesses that adopted the Commercial Style, including the Ford Dealership building, were auto-related.

There is a preponderance of early twentieth-century buildings on the north side of the 300 Block of West Main. Among these are three Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival buildings that make up the Stella Theater complex. In the days of the turn-of-the-century City Beautiful Movement, Neoclassical was the style of choice for freestanding institutional buildings. The district's two Neoclassical Buildings are the U. S. Post Office and the Carnegie Library.

Property Listing  
Following is a list of individual properties in the district by number, identifying building name, address, date of construction and contributing/non-contributing status.

#	Historic Name	Address	Date	Architectural Style	Eligibility
1	NA-Stoney Hill Apartments	20 N BELFRY ST	1985	Other (Contemporary)	Non-Contributing
2	Council Grove Laundry Building	320 W MAIN ST	1920	Commercial Style	Contributing
3	Auto Sales/Garage	318 W MAIN ST	1920	Commercial Style	Contributing
4	Whiting Building	316 W MAIN ST	1918	Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival	Contributing
5	Stella Theater	312 W MAIN ST	1918	Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival	Contributing
6	Whiting Building	310 W MAIN ST	1918	Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival	Non-Contributing
7	Axe Plumbing Building	306 W MAIN ST	1928	Commercial Style	Contributing
8	Dillon Building	304 W MAIN ST	1928	Commercial Style	Contributing
9	Commercial Building	302 W MAIN ST	1912	Commercial Style	Contributing
10	Cunningham Building	300 W MAIN ST	1895	Italianate	Contributing
11	Gas Station	228 W MAIN ST	1955	Other (Contemporary)	Non-Contributing
12	Ford Dealership Building	226 W MAIN ST	1927	Commercial Style	Non-Contributing
13	Dilley Bros. Bakery	220 W MAIN ST	1915	Commercial Style	Contributing
14	Gibson-Miller-Sims Hardware Whse	218 W MAIN ST	1940	Commercial Style	Non-Contributing
15	Phillips Brothers Building	214 W MAIN ST	1914	Commercial Style	Non-Contributing
16	Phillips Brothers Building	212 W MAIN ST	1914	Commercial Style	Contributing
17	Scott and Anderson Building	210 W MAIN ST	1873	Commercial Style	Contributing
18	Scott And Anderson Building	208 W MAIN ST	1873	Commercial Style	Contributing
19	Methe Jewelry Building	206 W MAIN ST	1879	Commercial Style	Contributing
20	White and Crowley Building	204 W MAIN ST	1887	Italianate	Contributing
21	White and Crowley Building	202 W MAIN ST	1887	Italianate	Contributing

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22	Huffaker Building	200 W MAIN ST	1869	Commercial Style	Non-Contributing
23	Commercial Building	15 N NEOSHO ST	1880	Other (2-Part Commercial Block)	Non-Contributing
24	Cottage House Hotel	25 N NEOSHO ST	1879	Queen Anne	NRHP
25	Stenger/Blim House	28 N MISSION ST	1863	Vernacular	Non-Contributing
26	NA-Ambulance Garage	100 Block N MISSION ST	1983	Other (Contemporary)	Non-Contributing
27	Haslam Hospital/Clinic	28 N NEOSHO ST	1935	Other/Prairie Style	Contributing
28	NA-Neosho Plaza Highrise	24 N NEOSHO ST	1978	Other (Contemporary)	Non-Contributing
29	Commercial Building	10 N NEOSHO ST	1888	Other	Non-Contributing
30	Council Grove National Bank	130 W MAIN ST	1887	Italianate	NRHP
31	Munsell Building	126-128 W MAIN ST	1887	Italianate	Contributing
32	G.W. Cleek Building	124 W MAIN ST	1898	Italianate	Contributing
33	Smith Furniture Building	120 W MAIN ST	1898	Italianate	Contributing
34	Meat Market Building	118 W MAIN ST	1890	Commercial Style	Non-Contributing
35	Morris County Savings and Loan	116 W MAIN ST	1887	Commercial Style	Contributing
36	Hays Tavern (Hays House)	112 W MAIN ST	1857;	Vernacular	NRHP - NHL
37	Electric Theater Building	110 (108) W MAIN ST	1930	Richardsonian Romanesque	Contributing
38	A.F. And A.M. Lodge	106 W MAIN ST	1908	Richardsonian Romanesque	Contributing
39	NA - Duckwalls	102 W MAIN ST	1883	Other (Contemporary)	Non-Contributing
40	G.W. Coffin Building	14 W MAIN ST	1972	Other	Contributing
41	Old Armory Building	13 W MAIN ST	1949	Other	Non-Contributing
42	Gas Station	15 W MAIN ST	1900	Other	Non-Contributing
43	Flint Hills REA	10 S WOOD ST	1959	Other	Contributing
44	Council Grove U. S. Post Office	103 W MAIN ST	1939	Neoclassical	NRHP
45	Miller and Kerr Building	111 W MAIN ST	1863	Commercial Style	Contributing
46	Trowbridge Building	113 W MAIN ST	1899*	Other (Two-Part Commercial Block)	Contributing
47	Leach/Keriwell Drug	115 W MAIN ST	1872	Commercial Style	Non-Contributing
48	Old Post Office Building	117 W MAIN ST	1872	Italianate	Contributing
49	Commercial Building	119 W MAIN ST	1863	Italianate	Contributing
50	NA - Plaza Bank	123 W MAIN ST	1973	Other (Contemporary)	Non-Contributing
51	McCardell Building	129 W MAIN ST	1872	Commercial Style	Non-Contributing
52	Conn Mercantile Store	131 W MAIN ST	1853	Italianate	NRHP
53	Indicator Grocery Building	11 S NEOSHO ST	1902	Commercial Style	NRHP
54	Farmers & Drovers Bank	201 W MAIN ST	1892	Richardsonian Romanesque	NRHP
55	Indicator Building	205 W MAIN ST	1902	Richardsonian Romanesque	Contributing
56	Commercial Building	207 W MAIN ST	1903	One-Part Commercial Block	Non-Contributing
57	F.E. Pirtle Jewelry Building	209 W MAIN ST	1903	One-Part Commercial Block	Contributing
58	Bookstore Building	211 W MAIN ST	1882	Commercial Style	Contributing
59	Ewing Smith Building	213 W MAIN ST	1882	Commercial Style	Contributing
60	B.R. Scott Building	215 W MAIN ST	1883	Commercial Style	Contributing
61	Gibson Miller & Simms Hardware	217 W MAIN ST	1884	Italianate	Contributing
62	Commercial Building	219 W MAIN ST	1923	Commercial Style	Contributing
63	I.O.O.F. Building	223 W MAIN ST	1927	Commercial Style	Contributing
64	Pullins Meat Market	225 W MAIN ST	1950	Commercial Style	Contributing
65	Colby's Toggery /Alspaw Jewelry	227 W MAIN ST			

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66	Dumm Furniture	231 W MAIN ST	1884	Commercial Style	Contributing
67	Council Grove Carnegie Library	303 W MAIN ST	1916	Neoclassical	NRHP
68	KP & L	313 W MAIN ST	1967	Modern Movement	Non-Contributing
69	Production Credit Assn.	315 W MAIN ST	1959;	Other	Non-Contributing
70	First Baptist Church	325 W MAIN ST	2000	Richardsonian Romanesque	NRHP
71	Baptist Parsonage	10 S BELFRY ST	1909	Vernacular	Non-Contributing

## INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

The following description of individual properties includes a brief physical description as well as a summary of the building's history/significance, and a statement of integrity that explains the contributing or non-contributing designation.

1.	Stoney Hill Apartments (former gas station site) 20 N Belfry Street	Status: Non-Contributing 127-492
	Legal Description: Lots 9-10, Block 20, Council Grove Original	
	Date of Construction: 1985	
	Current Function: DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling	
	Architectural Classification: OTHER: Contemporary Construction	
	Documentation: N/A	
	Description: The Stoney Hill Apartments, a modern apartment building that fronts Belfry Street, is a two-story frame structure with a clipped gable roof. The exterior material is EIFS panels with Tudor-style timbers in the gable-end. There are balconies on the east facade.	
	History: This site was historically occupied by a corner service station, built in 1928. Shortly after the station closed in 1964, the building was razed. The site was used as a used-car lot in the years prior to the construction of the existing building in 1985.	
	Integrity: The apartment building is contemporary construction built in 1985 and therefore not a contributing member of the historic district.	
2.	Council Grove Laundry Building 320 W. Main Street	Status: Contributing 127-500
	Legal Description: W 25.5' Lot 11, Block 20, Council Grove Original	
	Date of Construction: 1920	
	Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store	
	Architectural Classification: LATE 19 <sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20 <sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block	
	Documentation: Photo #1, 3; Historic Photo #3	

Description: The Council Grove Laundry Building is a one-story brick building with a shaped parapet. Although it is not a high-style example, the building's architecture reflects the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival architecture found in the Whiting Buildings, including the Stella Theater, to the east. The storefront retains its historic brick

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bulkhead, but has replacement multi-light display windows and a covered transom. The entry is a contemporary replacement.

**History:** This building was constructed in 1920 by Whitaker and Featherstone for a new automobile display room, in conjunction with the adjacent garage on the east (McClintock). It was in use as a vulcanizing shop in the 1920s (Sanborn Map) and occupied by Council Grove Laundry from 1929-1979.

**Integrity:** Although the storefront is clearly a contemporary replacement, the character and configuration of the original facade is clearly conveyed. The building is a contributing member to the historic district.

3. Auto Sales/Garage Building  
318 W. Main StreetStatus: Contributing  
127-494

**Legal Description:** E 14.5' of S 110' Lot 11, Lot 12, Block 20, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1919  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant and VACANT: For Lease  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
 Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #1, 3; Historic Photo #3

**Description:** The one-story brick building has a vaulted roof and bell-shaped parapet. Although it is not a high-style example, the building's architecture reflects the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival architecture found in the Whiting Buildings, including the Stella Theater, to the east. The building originally featured a storefront on the east and garage bay on the west with a central entry. The existing east storefront was reportedly installed in 1945 and retains a brick bulkhead and transom, although the transom glass is covered by the metal slat awning. The west storefront was installed in 1975 when the former garage entry was removed and west portion of building became occupied by an auto-parts store. (K. McClintock).

**History:** This building, which appears on the 1922 Sanborn Map, was constructed as an auto garage in 1919 by Whitaker and Featherstone and occupied by Featherstone Brothers Chevrolet (McClintock). Continually functioning as an auto dealership through the 1950s, the dealerships included Mayo Chevrolet by 1939 and McConnell Motors Ford Dealership in the 1950s (Phone directories). McConnell Motors closed in 1958. More recent occupants have included a donut shop and auto repair shop. The east storefront is now occupied by a restaurant and the west storefront space is vacant.

**Integrity:** Although the west storefront is a contemporary replacement, the building maintains the original masonry openings and retains a significant degree of historic integrity. It is a contributing member of the historic district.

4. Whiting Building  
316 W. Main StreetStatus: Contributing  
127-495

**Legal Description:** W 1/2 Lot 13, Block 20, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1918  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival;  
 One-part Commercial Block

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Documentation: Photo #2, 3; Historic Photo #1-4

**Description:** This is one of two narrow storefronts that flank and complement the Stella Theater to this building's east. It is a one-story, one-part brick commercial building with geometric details and bell-shaped parapet, stucco parging and contemporary replacement storefront. There is a shed bay on the rear.

**History:** This building was constructed by T.W. Whiting in 1917-1918 as one of the small one-story commercial storefronts flanking the Stella Theater. The storefront was occupied by Sneider's Garage in 1922 and later John Fredenburg's Chevy Dealership. After Fredenburg moved his dealership from this location in 1927, the building became home to Ideal Cleaners, which occupied the space until the early 1970s (McClintock). Like the Stella Theater, this building was parged in 1946-47.

**Integrity:** This building is essential to the character of the Stella Theater, adjacent to the east. The building's parapet retains its integrity from the building's original construction. The storefront has been remodeled since then with bricked-in transom. But it retains its historic proportions and is therefore classified as a contributor.

5. **Stella Theater/The Ritz Theater** Status: Contributing  
312 W. Main Street 127-1180-00063

Legal Description:	E 1/2 Lot 13 & W 1/2 Lot 14, Block 20, Council Grove Original
Date of Construction:	1918
Current Function:	VACANT: Not In Use
Architectural Classification:	LATE 19 <sup>TH</sup> AND 20 <sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival; Two-part Commercial Block
Documentation:	Photo #2, 3; Historic Photo #1, 2, 4, 5

**Description:** The Stella Theater is a two-story Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Building with a prominent bell-shaped parapet. Many of the building's existing details, including steel casement windows, entrance, marquee, and stucco façade date from an extensive 1947-48 remodel. (McClintock) There is a fly loft and one-story shed bay on the north elevation.

**History:** This theater was built in 1917-1918 by T.W. Whiting, who named the theater for his daughter, Stella. The building functioned continuously as a theater until it closed in the 1970s. In 1936, it was renamed the Ritz Theater. The building is now vacant.

**Integrity:** This building retains a high degree of integrity from its overall design change in the 1940s which has gained significance in its own right. That said, as the parapets of the flanking buildings retain character from their original period of construction, possible preservation treatments for this building including both preservation to the 1940s remodel (the simplest option) or restoration to the building's original appearance.

6. **Whiting Building** Status: Non-Contributing  
310 W. Main Street 127-496

Legal Description:	E 1/2 Lot 14, Block 20, Council Grove Original
Date of Construction:	1919
Current Function:	COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

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**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival;  
One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #2, 3; Historic Photo #1, 2, 4

**Description:** This is one of two narrow storefronts that flank and complement the Stella Theater to this building's west. It is a one-story, one-part brick commercial building with geometric details and bell-shaped parapet, stucco parging and contemporary replacement storefront, which was partially infilled with wood as part of a 1970s remodel which converted the building to an office.

**History:** This building was constructed by T.W. Whiting in 1917-1918 as one of the small one-story commercial storefronts flanking the Stella Theater. The storefront was occupied by Gage Com's Exide Battery shop in the 1920s; by Farmer's Produce in the 1940s and Furman Plumbing and Heating in the 1950s. (Sanborn Maps and Phone Directories) Charles Hall converted the building to offices in 1970s.

**Integrity:** This building is essential to the character of the Stella Theater, adjacent to the west. The building's parapet retains its original construction; however, the transom has been enclosed and the storefront partially enclosed. Fortunately, many of the historic storefront features remain intact. Unfortunately, these have been concealed with new materials, including a shingled shed awning and wood clapboard. The building is classified as a non-contributor. If these wood features were removed revealing the intact historic storefront, this building could contribute to the district.

7. Axe Plumbing Building  
306 W. Main Street

Status: Contributing  
127-497

**Legal Description:** W 1/2 Lot 15, Block 20, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1930  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #1, 3

**Description:** This one-story, one-part blond brick commercial block features a simple corbelled parapet. The storefront retains its original bulkhead, kickplate, orientation, and entrance. But the storefront and transom are partially infilled with wood.

**History:** This site was previously occupied by a wood-framed building (1922 Sanborn Map). W. E. Axe, whose plumbing business occupied the framed building, constructed this brick building by 1937 (1937 Sanborn Map). Axe Plumbing and Heating was still listed at this address in 1945. The building was occupied by Brown & Brown Attorneys and Pio Insurance in the mid-1950s (phone directories). It is now an abstract office.

**Integrity:** This building retains its original brick parapet, kickplate and storefront surround. In addition, it retains its historic storefront opening and door. Although the storefront and transom have been partially infilled with wood, it retains the necessary integrity to contribute to the historic district.

8. Dillon Building

Status: Contributing

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127-498

## 304 W. Main Street

**Legal Description:** E 1/2 Lot 15, Block 20, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1928  
**Current Function:** HEALTH CARE: Medical Business/Office  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
 Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #1, 3

**Description:** The Dillon Building is a one-story one-part red brick building with a corbelled parapet. The brick has been repointed with white mortar. Although the building retains its original kickplate and bulkhead, the transom has been covered and storefront openings filled with multi-light display windows.

**History:** This site was previously occupied by a wood-framed building (1922 Sanborn Map). The existing building was constructed by Charles T. Dillon in 1928 (K. McClintock and extant on 1937 Sanborn Map). The original business occupant is unknown. It was occupied by the Home Gas Co. in the 1940s and 1950s (Home Gas moved to 300 W. Main in 1959). It is now a chiropractic office.

**Integrity:** This building retains its original brick parapet, kickplate and storefront surround. Although the transom has been infilled and multi-pane storefront windows installed, it retains the necessary integrity to contribute to the historic district.

**Status:** Contributing  
127-499

9. Commercial Building  
302 W. Main Street

**Legal Description:** W 1/2 Lot 16, Block 20, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1912  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
 Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #1, 3

**Description:** This building is a one-story, one-part commercial block. The principal material is red brick, accented by white brick. Although the building retains its historic storefront, kickplate and entrance, the transom has been covered. The storefront was remodeled in 1928 (Ken McClintock).

**History:** There was a frame building on this site in 1908 (1908 Sanborn Map). The existing masonry building was in place and occupied by a furniture store by 1914 (1914 Sanborn Map). By 1922, the occupant was a hardware store and the building later housed a restaurant. It was home to the Knacksteadt Café throughout the 1940s and 1950s. The most recent occupant was Ritz Video.

**Integrity:** This building retains its original brick parapet, kickplate and storefront surround. In addition, it retains its historic storefront opening and door. Although the transom is covered, it retains the necessary integrity to contribute to the historic district.

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- 10. Cunningham Building**      Status: Contributing  
300 W. Main Street      127-1180-00027
- Legal Description:** E 1/2 Lot 16, Block 20, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1895  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #1, 3
- Description:** The Cunningham Building is the only nineteenth-century building on the north side of the 300 Block of West Main. It is a two-story brick building with pressed-metal façade and pedimented cornice stamped with the date "1895." Many of the character-defining features, including 1/1 Queen Anne windows on the front elevation and segmental arched 1/1 windows on the side elevation, date from the nineteenth century. The existing storefront, which dates to a 1937 remodeling, features a variegated tile surround and aluminum awning, transom and storefront.
- History:** The building was constructed in 1895 by Alex Cunningham to house his dry good business (Cunningham Grocery, Shoes, Gents' & Furnishings). The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was in use as Public School in 1900 (Sanborn Map). By 1908, the building housed a feed store (Sanborn Map). It later became home to the Production Credit Association Office in the 1940s-1950s and then to Home Gas Company in 1959. Home Gas Co. was purchased by McClintock Gas in 1964 and renamed Council Grove Gas and Service Co. In the 1980s, it was sold to Greeley Gas, which continues to occupy the building today. The upper floor was used as apartments at least from the 1930s-1950s (Phone Directories). The building was previously surveyed in 1971 and 1975 by the Kansas Historical Society, which retains paper survey forms and photographs.
- Integrity:** This building retains a good number of character-defining features, including cornice and wood windows, from its original construction in 1895 and 1937 remodeling. Its high level of historic integrity warrants its status as a contributor to the historic district.
- 11. Gas Station**      Status: Non-Contributing  
228 W. Main Street      127-501
- Legal Description:** Lot 9, Block 8, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1955  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE  
**Architectural Classification:** Contemporary Construction  
**Documentation:** N/A
- Description:** This gas station building is a one-story brick building with aluminum storefront, overhead doors, and decked roof with shallow-gabled front.
- History:** This site was historically occupied by the Rink Theater and Skating Rink. The theater was razed for construction of a Standard Oil Co. station in 1919. In 1955, the existing building was constructed behind the original Standard station, which was subsequently razed. The new building housed the Standard station and later an Amoco Station until the 1970s. It is now a locally owned and operated auto repair shop.

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**Integrity:** This building falls outside the district's period of significance. In addition, it has been altered with changes including a Mansard-type roof. Therefore it is a non-contributor to the district.

12. Ford Dealership Building  
226 W. Main Street

**Status:** Non-Contributing  
127-502

**Legal Description:** Lot 10, Block 20, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1927  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
 Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #4, 5; Historic Photo #6

**Description:** The Ford Dealership Building is a one-story one-part commercial block with a simple soldier-coursed parapet and bulkhead. The building is rectangular in massing with a clipped northeast corner that accommodates an overhead door that opens to the alley. Historic features include steel hopper windows and concrete lintels. The existing storefront, with its nineteenth-century proportions, dates to a 2008 remodel.

**History:** The foundation for the existing building was in place on the 1922 Sanborn Map but construction had been halted. The building was reportedly constructed for Al Smith Motor Co. (Ford Dealership) in 1927. It was occupied by Coolidge Implement (International Harvester dealership) by 1941 until 1980 when Coolidge moved to a new location (K. McClintock).

**Integrity:** This building is classified as a non-contributor due to the major storefront renovations in 2008.

13. Dilley Brothers Bakery Building  
220 W. Main Street

**Status:** Contributing  
127-503

**Legal Description:** Lot 11, Block 8, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1915  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
 Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #4, 5; Historic Photo #6

**Description:** The Dilley Brothers Bakery is a one-story, one-part commercial block with stepped parapet and glazed white brick and terra-cotta details. The transom is covered with corrugated metal. The historic storefront on the west side is intact. The east storefront is partially infilled with a tall brick kickplate.

**History:** The site was formerly occupied by a frame residence, the Stenger House, which was moved to 28 N. Mission in 1914. The existing building was constructed by the Dilley Brothers in 1915 and occupied by the Dilley Bros. Bakery on the east and a printing office on the west (1922 Sanborn). By the 1940s, the building had four small storefronts and housed a variety of occupants including an insurance office and Western Union office and a liquor store in the 1950s (Sanborn Maps and Phone Directories). Farm Bureau expanded into a former café in the west portion of the building in 1972-73 and continues to occupy the building today.

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**Integrity:** Although this building has been altered with an enlarged kickplate on the east side and enclosed transom, the building retains its key character-defining features, including basic storefront configuration and unique brickwork. The building retains sufficient integrity to classify it as a contributor.

14. **Gibson-Miller-Simms Hardware Warehouse**  
218 W. Main Street

Status: Non-Contributing  
127-504

Legal Description: Lot 12, Block 8, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1940  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
Commercial Style; One-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #4, 5, 6; Historic Photo #6

**Description:** This one-story block building with brick façade was built as a warehouse and converted to a pharmacy. A centered double entry, at the location of a former overhead door, is flanked by brick piers and multi-lite windows. The existing configuration dates to 1967 remodel. There is a small concrete block shed bay in the rear.

**History:** The existing building was constructed in 1940 as a warehouse by the Gibson-Miller-Sims Hardware Company (located across the street) to replace a frame warehouse on the same site that was destroyed by fire. The warehouse was converted to a drugstore in 1967. The existing storefront configuration dates to that conversion.

**Integrity:** The building's existing configuration dates to a 1967 remodel. Because this overall design change post-dates the district's period of significance, the building is classified as a non-contributor.

15. **Phillips Brothers Building**  
214 W. Main Street

Status: Non-Contributing  
127-505

Legal Description: W1/2 Lot 13, Block 8, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1914  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional  
Architectural Classification: LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
Commercial Style; Two-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #4, 5, 6; Historic Photo #6, 7

**Description:** The Phillips Brothers Building is a two-story two-part brick commercial building with corbelled parapet. Although the building retains its historic tripartite arched windows and metal bulkhead, the storefront was infilled with red brick in a 1960s remodel. The broken-pediment door and small multi-pane window create a Colonial appearance. This building is a twin to the adjacent building to the east. There is a one-story shed bay at the rear.

**History:** A 1954 article in the *Council Grove Republican* (Centennial Series) noted that this building was constructed by the Phillips Brothers. However, local historian Ken McClintock notes that George R. Phillips conveyed the west half of this building (214) to J.M. Bird the previous year. The existing building was extant but

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vacant on the 1914 Sanborn Map, replacing frame buildings shown on the 1908 Sanborn Map. The building was occupied by a dry cleaner in 1922 (Sanborn) and later by W.E. Axe's Harness Shop (1920s photo). Nix Printing was located on the upper floor in the 1930s and 1940s (photo and directories). The building became home to Hylton's Beer Bar in the 1940s and Wasmund Recreational Parlor in the 1950s. The existing storefront dates to a 1960s office conversion.

**Integrity:** The 1960s enclosure of the storefront renders this building a non-contributor. A more compatible storefront could render this building a contributor.

16. **Phillips Brothers Building** Status: Contributing  
127-506  
**212 W. Main Street**

**Legal Description:** E1/2 Lot 13, Block 8, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1914  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
Commercial Style; Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #4, 5, 6; Historic Photo #6, 7

**Description:** The Phillips Brothers Building is a two-story two-part brick commercial building with corbelled parapet. Among the building's character-defining features are historic tripartite arched windows, metal bulkhead, and historic storefront. The transom has been covered with paneled wood. A centered door and centered window fall between 212 and 214 W. Main, the twin building adjacent to the west. There is a one-story concrete block bay w/ shed roof on the rear.

**History:** This building and the building adjacent to the west were constructed in 1914 by George R. Phillips to replace a frame building that burned in 1913. The existing building was extant but vacant on the 1914 Sanborn Map. It was occupied by a confectionery in 1922 (Sanborn Map) and later housed a variety of restaurants including Peter Pan Ice Cream and A & V Café. Sanborn Maps indicate that apartments were located on the upper floor.

**Integrity:** In contrast to the adjacent building, this building retains its historic storefront proportions and is, therefore, classified as a contributor.

17. **Scott and Anderson Building** Status: Contributing  
127-507  
**210 W. Main Street**

**Legal Description:** W1/2 Lot 14, Block 8, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1873  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #4, 5, 6; Historic Photo #6, 7

**Description:** This two-story, two-part commercial block has a brick facade with shaped parapet and corbelled/dentilled cornice band. Three upper windows are 1/1 double-hung with arched metal hoods and stone sills. The storefront is framed by segmented stone piers. Although the kickplate has been modified with a deep

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uncoursed stone facing, the transom remains open. The building is a twin to 208 Main, adjacent to the east. The center bay with single door entry provides access to the second floors of both buildings.

**History:** The existing building was in place on the first available Sanborn Map in 1885. It was reportedly constructed by local builders Scott and Anderson in 1873 and this half (210) sold to Mary Spencer the same year (K. McClintock). It has housed a variety of businesses through the years. In 1885, the I.O.O.F. was located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor with a grocery store on the ground floor and an insurance office on the ground floor by 1887 (Sanborn Maps). It was home to Frank Prittle's Jewelry Store in the 1890s-1900s, and then occupied by a millinery shop in 1908 (Sanborn Map). By 1922, a variety store occupied the ground floor and the Telephone Exchange was located on the second floor. (Sanborn Map). The Mutual Telephone Co. later moved to the ground floor, occupying the building from 1936-2003. The building was later converted to a barber shop, the current occupant. There is an apartment on the second floor.

**Integrity:** Although the storefront is partially enclosed by a deep kickplate, the upper façade and other storefront proportions have the necessary integrity to render this building a contributor.

18. Scott and Anderson Building  
208 W. Main Street

Status: Contributing  
127-1180-00058

Legal Description: E1/2 Lot 14, Block 8, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1873  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #4, 5, 6; Historic Photo #6, 7

**Description:** This two-story, two-part commercial block with a painted brick facade with shaped parapet and corbelled/dentilled cornice band is a twin to 210 Main, adjacent to the west. Three upper windows are historic 2/2 double-hung with arched metal hoods and stone sills. The storefront is framed by segmented stone piers. A brown brick kickplate, bronze storefront and opaque transom panels date to a 1930 remodel (McClintock). There are two one-story rear bays; one is clay tile and one is concrete block.

**History:** The existing building was in place on the first available Sanborn Map in 1885. It was reportedly constructed by local builders Scott and Anderson in 1873 and the west half (210) sold to Mary Spencer the same year (K. McClintock). The building was occupied by a millinery shop in 1885 through 1914. In 1887, a hand-printing business was located on the upper floor. By 1922, the *Council Grove Republican* Newspaper occupied the ground floor and continues in that location today.

**Integrity:** This building retains not only its nineteenth-century upper facade, but also its early twentieth-century storefront and transom. It retains a high degree of integrity to merit contributing status.

19. Methe Jewelry Building  
206 W. Main Street

Status: Contributing  
127-1180-00055

Legal Description: W1/2 Lot 15, Block 8, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1879  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

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**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #4, 5, 6; Historic Photo #6

**Description:** This two-story two-part brick commercial block has a number of features - including 2/2 windows, arched stone lintels, stone sills, and corbeled parapet - that date to its original period of construction. The storefront features, which include wood-covered transom and bulkhead and asymmetrical aluminum storefront system, date to a 1955 remodel when Vernon Bretz closed his mercantile store on E. Main and opened a shoe store in this location. There is a one-story brick bay on the rear.

**History:** The existing building was in place on the 1885 Sanborn Map, the first available for Council Grove. The building was constructed in 1879 by Council Grove pioneer George Methe, who operated his jewelry store at this location until he retired in 1931 (McClintock). The building was home to Bretz Shoe Store in the 1950s and later White Beauty and Barber Shop and McAfee Beauty Shop.

**Integrity:** This building retains its historic character on the upper facade. Although the storefront has been replaced, it retains its historic open character. The building is a contributor to the district.

20. White and Crowley Building  
204 W. Main Street

**Status:** Contributing  
127-1180-00020

**Legal Description:** E1/5 Lot 15, Block 8, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1887  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #4, 5, 6; Historic Photo #6

**Description:** This building, a twin to the building on the east, is a two-story brick Italianate with 1/1 double-hung windows with ornate metal hoods, and cast-iron storefront frame. The replacement storefront is aluminum and the transom is covered. A single door west of the storefront provides access to the second floor. The rear elevation has stucco parging.

**History:** This building's 1887 construction was a joint effort of J. J. Crowley, who owned this half and W. H. White who owned the east side (202 W. Main). In 1887, the building's use was labeled as "to be Books/Organs." This building, 204 W. Main was home to J.J. Crowley's Harness Shop in the 1890s and occupied by a restaurant in 1908 (Sanborn Map). A pool hall was the occupant in 1914 and 1922 (Sanborn Map). A & P Grocery was listed at this address in 1936; Brunswick Billiard Parlor in 1945; and Ben's Recreation Center in 1954 (Phone Directories). The Chamber of Commerce was located upstairs in the 1930s; and apartments were listed at this address from the 1920s to 1940s (Phone Directories).

**Integrity:** This building retains its historic character on the upper façade. Although the storefront is an aluminum replacement, the storefront retains its historic proportions and open character. The building is classified as a contributor to the district.

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- 21. White and Crowley Building** Status: Contributing  
127-508  
**202 W. Main Street**
- Legal Description:** W1/2 LOT 16, Block 8, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1887  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #4, 5, 6; Historic Photo #6
- Description:** This building, a twin to the building on the west, is a two-story brick Italianate with 1/1 double-hung windows with ornate metal hoods, and cast-iron storefront frame. The storefront retains its nineteenth-century character, with recessed double entry doors and squared storefront windows. The transom is covered with wood. The kickplate is covered with tile, which appears to date to the 1910s or 1920s. A single door east of the storefront provides access to the second floor.
- History:** This building's 1887 construction was a joint effort of J. J. Crowley, who owned the west half and W. H. White who owned this side. This building was labeled "to be hardware/grocery on the 1887 Sanborn map. This building, 202 W. Main was home to Hankin's Hardware in the early days, labeled hardware store on the 1892 Sanborn Map. By 1908, it was listed as a grocery (through the 1920s). Offices were located on the upper level. Brunswick Billiard Hall was listed at this address in the 1930s (Phone Directories).
- Integrity:** This building retains its historic character on both the storefront and upper façade. Although the transom has been enclosed, the storefront retains its historic proportions and open character. The building is classified as a contributor to the district.
- 22. Huffaker Building** Status: Non-Contributing  
127-1180-00076  
**200 W. Main Street**
- Legal Description:** S110' of E1/2 Lot 16, Block 8, Council Grove Original and 5' Strip off Vacated Neosho Street Adjacent  
**Date of Construction:** 1869  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:  
Commercial Style; Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #4, 5, 6; Historic Photo #6, 8
- Description:** The Huffaker Building is a two-story two-part brick building. The building broadly reflects its original Italianate character through its 1/1 double-hung windows with arched hoods. The storefront has changed dramatically over time, with brick piers, aluminum storefront windows and door, and covered transom.
- History:** The building was built by James W. McMillan and Thomas S. Huffaker, a Council Grove pioneer who came to teach at the Kaw Indian Mission and operated a grocery and dry goods store at this location (McClintock). The second floor was known as Huffaker Hall. The building was labeled dry goods, grocery, and shoes on the 1885 Sanborn Map and a hardware store on the 1908 and 1914 Sanborn maps. R.M. Rigdon, an early grocer, occupied the building after Huffaker. In 1885, the upper floor was in use as "school rooms and offices" and in 1887, a hand-printing office (Sanborn Maps). By 1900 through the 1920s, the telephone and telegraph office (Southwestern Bell) was located upstairs. Apartments were listed at this location in the 1930s

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(Sanborn Maps and Phone Directories). In 1922, a clothing store was located on the ground floor. In 1929, the storefront was occupied by discount chain Duckwalls, which occupied the building until the store's move to 205 W. Main in 1961.

**Integrity:** This building is classified as a non-contributor because of incompatible changes to the storefront and missing cornice. If the cornice was re-installed or compatible storefront installed, the building could be re-classified as a contributor.

23.	Commercial Building 15 N. Neosho Street	Status: Non-Contributing 127-1180-00038
Legal Description:	N30' of E1/2 Lot 16, 5' Strip off Vacated Neosho Street Adjacent, Council Grove	
Original		
Date of Construction:	1880	
Current Function:	COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant/Bar	
Architectural Classification:	OTHER Two-part Commercial Block	
Documentation:	N/A	

**Description:** This two-story brick building is marked by its twin projecting bays, wagon-wheel/arched transoms on its second floor. A small projecting roof on upper level of the north (alley) elevation is the location of a former inset bay to allow natural light into the photographer's studio on the 2nd floor (McClintock). The storefront has been modified with brick infill and downsized single-light horizontal windows.

**History:** The existing building is in place on the 1885 Sanborn Map, the first available for Council Grove. The building has been occupied by physicians and/or dentists throughout much of its history. In 1885, a physician was located in the south half of the building. In 1900, a tailor was located on the south and a hand-printing office on the north. By 1908, a photographer was located on the upper floor. Doctor's and dentist's offices were listed on the 1914 and 1922 Sanborn Maps. The building was occupied by Eastman Electric Co. in the 1940s. Dr. W.T. Harvey was listed at this address in 1936; and Dr. I.E. Campbell in 1954 (Phone Directories).

**Integrity:** This building is classified as a non-contributor because the storefront has been enclosed with brick. A 1975 photo illustrates the building's historic storefront. If a more compatible storefront was installed, it could be re-classified as a contributor.

24.	Cottage House Hotel 25 N. Neosho Street	Status: Listed on National Register 127-1180-00039
Legal Description:	Lots 1-6 and Vacated 5' Strip off W side Neosho Street Adjacent, Block 8, Council Grove Original	
Date of Construction:	1879	
Current Function:	DOMESTIC: Hotel	
Architectural Classification:	LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne	
Documentation:	Photo #7, Historic Photo #9	

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**Description:** The appearance of the Cottage House Hotel complex reflects its century-long development, particularly a 5000 square-foot Queen Anne addition. The front, which faces Neosho Street, is symmetrical in design, with a rounded centered tower and turrets. Two rectangular bays project westward from the symmetrical Queen Anne east end. There are two additional one-story free-standing buildings south and southwest of the main building. They house additional guest rooms.

**History:** The development of this property began in 1867 when George Biglin constructed a three-room cottage and blacksmith shop. In 1871, Reverend and Mrs. Joab Spencer bought the property and built a 2-story house engulfing the cottage, beginning the property's history as a boarding house. The Spencers sold the property to Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Mead in 1879 and the Meads built a 5000 sq.ft., Queen Anne addition marking the property's transition from a boarding house to hotel. The business re-opened in February 1881. (Source: Cottage House brochure) Another addition was built circa 1917, by Joe Axe, Marion Scholes, and E. Pattison.

**Integrity:** This building has a high degree of architectural integrity. It is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is classified as a contributor to the district.

25. Stenger/Blim House (now part of Cottage House Hotel)  
28 N. Mission StreetStatus: Non-Contributing  
127-512

Legal Description:	N 89' Lots 7-8, Block 8, Council Grove Original
Date of Construction:	1869
Current Function:	DOMESTIC: Hotel
Architectural Classification:	Vernacular
Documentation:	N/A

**Description:** The Stenger/Blim House, now part of the Cottage House Hotel, is a two-story frame "L" house with one-story hipped-roof porch in the ell at the northwest corner. The house has a two-story shed bay on its south (rear) side and attached one-story garage on the east. The exterior is clad with Masonite siding. It has 1/1 double-hung windows with aluminum storms and shutters.

**History:** The original portion of the existing structure was built by Jacob Stenger at 220 Main in the 1860s. The house was re-located to Mission Street in 1914 by H.E. Blim, who also added the west wing and porch (Appraisal records and McClintock).

**Integrity:** This building is classified as a non-contributor because it has non-original siding. If the siding was removed and historic cladding restored, the building could be a contributor to the district.

26. Ambulance Garage  
100 Block N. Mission StreetStatus: Non-Contributing  
127-513

Legal Description:	S 51' Lot 7-8, Block 8, Council Grove Original
Date of Construction:	1983
Current Function:	COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse
Architectural Classification:	Contemporary Construction
Documentation:	N/A

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**Description:** This is a one-story commercial building with stone veneer facade and shingle mansard parapet. There is a garage bay on the north half of facade and single door with sidelights on the south half of the facade.

**History:** This is the site of a frame-built blacksmith shop dating to the 1880s and into the 1920s (Sanborn Map). The Blim House at 28 N. Mission Street (McClintock) had an ancillary single-story garage located here. This garage was demolished in 1983 to make way for the construction of the current single-story commercial building.

**Integrity:** This building is classified as a non-contributor because it was constructed after the district's period of significance.

**27. Haslam Hospital/Clinic  
28 N. Neosho Street** **Status: Contributing  
127-514**

**Legal Description:** W25.5' LOT 11, Block 20 Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1935  
**Current Function:** DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling  
**Architectural Classification:** OTHER/Prairie Style  
**Documentation:** Photo #8

**Description:** This two-story building has the appearance of a vernacular foursquare single-family residence. It is cubed in-massing with a shallow gable-on-hip roof with small hipped-roof porch on its west (front) elevation. The porch features squat square piers and solid knee wall, features common on Prairie and Craftsman Style homes. This porch provides access to the ground-floor apartment units. A gable-roofed canopy on the north elevation provides access to a separate apartment. Windows, which are generally 6/1 double-hung with storms, are found in singles, pairs, and triplets. Some have storms and shutters.

**History:** The existing structure was built ca. 1935 by Dr. T.P. Haslam as a primary residence and medical clinic. The building is listed as Haslam Hospital on the 1937 Sanborn Map. Dr. Norman Burkett purchased the property for use as an office and residence by 1954. The building was subsequently converted into apartments.

**Integrity:** This building is a contributor to the district because it retains the character of its original construction.

**28. Neosho Plaza High-Rise  
24 N. Neosho Street** **Status: Non-Contributing  
127-515**

**Legal Description:** Lots 6-8; Adjacent 5' Off E Side Neosho Street, Block 7, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1978  
**Current Function:** DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling  
**Architectural Classification:** Contemporary Construction  
**Documentation:** N/A

**Description:** The Neosho Plaza is a five-story high-rise apartment building with scored concrete facade and vertical bands of window units with opaque panels at the base.

**History:** This location was the former site of a residence and Express Office in a small commercial building on the southwest corner of the lot during the 1920s. The high-rise apartment building was built in 1978.

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**Integrity:** This building is classified as a non-contributor because it was constructed after the district's period of significance.

29.	Commercial Building 10 N. Neosho Street	Status: Non-Contributing 127-1180-00042
Legal Description:	N 64' Lot 9, N 64' of W 20' Lot 10, E 5' Vacant Neosho Street Adjacent, Block 7,	
Council Grove Original		
Date of Construction:	1888	
Current Function:	COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store	
Architectural Classification:	Contemporary facade Two-part Commercial Block	
Documentation:	Historic Photo #10	

**Description:** This two-story, three-bay-wide building has been heavily modified since its 1888 construction. The second floor is covered with wood shingles. The storefronts on the north and center bays are enclosed with brick, with small openings for single doors and small windows. A cantilevered aluminum awning, which projects from above the storefront windows, creates a horizontal emphasis. Although the south storefront bay retains its historic cast-iron columns, the storefront has been infilled with wood, interrupted by downsized windows. The existing upper façade, reportedly wood-framed, was reportedly constructed following a 1975 tornado which damaged the parapet and cornice (McClintock).

**History:** According to the 1887 Sanborn map, this building was under construction in 1887, the year following the 1886 fire. It was completed in 1888 as three commercial storefronts (14, 12, and 10 N. Neosho). The first business to occupy the north bay (14), was Pacific Express & Abstract Office. A poultry and produce company was listed as the occupant by 1900, and through the 1920s. The original business in the center bay (12) was a pool/billiards hall. This location was occupied by a second-hand shop, and a public hall on the second floor by 1900. A harness shop was located there in 1908, and a bottling works in 1914. It was home to a cream station in 1922. Western Auto was in this location for a brief period during the 1940s. The southernmost bay (10) was occupied by an agricultural implement dealer from 1887 to ca.1905. From 1908 through the 1920s, it housed a print shop (Sanborn maps). This structure was also occupied by Flemming Produce Co. and Burton Feed Store. After a remodel in the 1970s, this was primarily utilized as office space. Following a 1975 tornado which damaged the parapet and cornice, the upper facade was replaced (McClintock). The existing facade is a contemporary replacement with cast-iron columns in the south bay the only remaining historic elements.

**Integrity:** This building is classified as a non-contributor because the façade is covered with shingles. The façade behind is reportedly wood-framed after a 1975 tornado. However, if plans call for removing the shingles and the necessary historic fabric remains, it may be reclassified as a contributor.

30.	Council Grove National Bank Building 130 W. Main Street	Status: Listed on National Register 127-1180-00006
Legal Description:	S 67.5' of W 1/2 Lot 9, Vacant 5' Strip Off Neosho Street Adjacent, Block 7,	
Council Grove Original		
Date of Construction:	1887	
Current Function:	COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store	

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**Architectural Classification:** ITALIANTE  
Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #9; Historic Photo #10-12

**Description:** The Council Grove National Bank Building is a two-story brick building with metal cornice and arch-shaped corner pediment with balustrade. The canted entry is framed by round cast-iron Corinthian columns and a projecting entablature that forms a second-floor balcony. The second-floor windows are generally 1/1 double-hung units with arched hoods. Upper windows on the front elevation have ornate surrounds with narrow pilasters between windows. Ground-floor windows have stone lintels and sills, and decorative mullion piers and columns. The 1/1 double-hung windows on the first floor have a single-light transom. There is a prominent stone water table.

**History:** The previous structure on this site was destroyed by fire in 1886. The current building was commissioned by Morris County State Bank in 1887 and became Council Grove National Bank in 1901. The Council Grove National Bank remained in operation in this location until the structure sustained damage in a 1978 fire. The McClintock law firm purchased the building and repaired the damage.

**Integrity:** This building retains a high degree of architectural integrity. It is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is classified as a contributor to the district.

31. **Munsell Building**      **Status:** Contributing  
126-128 W. Main Street      **127-1180-00036**  
**Legal Description:** Tr Beginning 20' E SW Corner Lot 9, E 39', N 60', E 1', N 80', W 2', S 64', W 65', S 7.5', E 25', S 67.5', To Point of Beginning (AKA Part Lots 9-10) Block 7, Council Grove Original Town  
**Date of Construction:** 1887  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business  
**Architectural Classification:** COMMERCIAL STYLE  
**Documentation:** One-part Commercial Block  
Photo #9; Historic Photo #10-12

**Description:** The Munsell Building is a two-story brick Italianate commercial building with pressed-metal cornice and decorative stone window hoods. The washers for four iron anchors are visible between the windows and cornice. The seven upper-story windows, historically 2/2 double hung, are infilled. The storefronts were remodeled in the early twentieth century, as evidenced by blond-brick bulkhead and tile kickplates. Each storefront has a centered recessed entry door and bronze frame. The transoms are covered with wood. The two storefronts flank a center bay that houses a sidewalk entry to the second-floor stair. A 1978 fire destroyed the roof and damaged the second floor. The upper windows were covered and roof was rebuilt (lower than original roof). The second floor has been unused since that time. The masonry ties date to repairs following the 1978 fire. These two addresses, 126-128 W. Main, are combined into one building because the legal parcel encompasses both addresses.

**History:** The Munsell Building was built by O.S. Munsell and W.J. McGeorge in 1897, following an 1896 fire. The building's ownership was originally split, with Munsell owning the eastern half and McGeorge owning the western half and incorporating the addresses 126 and 128 W. Main. According to the 1887 Sanborn map, a grocery store was located on the first floor and photo studio on the second floor of the west half. There was a drug & jewelry store on the first floor and AUW Hall (later K of P) on the second floor of the east half. A circa

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1900 photo shows Bigelow & Simpson on the west side and L.M. Troop Hardware on the east. From the 1920s through the 1940s, 128 W. Main was a drug store - Guy Allen Drug, Mallory Drug, then Yuels Drug. During the 1950s this storefront housed a Buchman-Davis Grocery, Buchman-Fischer Grocery, and finally Buchman Grocery. In 1924, 126 W. Main had a bakery. It was the Palace Grocery in the 1930s, M&M Market in the 1940s, and West Sundries in the 1950s. When the second floor and roof of the building were damaged by fire in 1978, the H&R Block was located there. Following the fire, the windows were infilled and the roof was lowered. The second floor has remained vacant. The first floor now houses an insurance agency and a real estate office.

**Integrity:** This building retains its historic character on both the storefront and upper façade, despite infilled second-floor window openings and transoms. It is classified as a contributor to the district.

32. G.W. Cleek's Clothing Building  
124 W. Main Street

Status: Contributing  
127-1180-00018

Legal Description: W 19' Lot 11, E 18' of N 80' Lot 10, E 19' of S 60' Lot 10, Block 7, Council Grove  
Original  
Date of Construction: 1898  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: COMMERCIAL STYLE  
One-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #9-10; Historic Photo #11-13

**Description:** The Cleek Building is a two-story brick building with painted brick facade. The most prominent architectural features are an ornate pressed-metal cornice and window hoods. These details tie the building architecturally to the building adjacent to the east. The depression-era storefront features a glazed-tile kickplate and recessed aluminum storefront. The covered transom featured panels of prismatic glass, still exposed in a 1951 photo. Two entry doors flank the centered display windows. A single door east of the display windows opens to a staircase that provides access to the second floor. There is a one-story stone bay on the rear.

**History:** The former building on this lot was destroyed in the 1886 fire (1887 Sanborn Map). George W. Cleek built the present two-story brick building in 1898 to house his Racket Store. Other early listings include George W. Cleek's Chicago Clothing House in the 1890s and a gentleman's store in 1900. Cleek's business was listed as a dry goods store in 1914 and a clothing store in 1922 (Sanborn Maps). During the 1930s, the location was home to Holke Brothers and Kneeland's Dry Goods. A circa 1940 photo shows Robert's Grocery in operation. There were a number of grocers here. When Powers IGA left this location in 1954, Morris County Home and Auto/Firestone moved in. Igmore Plumbing/heating and appliances was located there in the 1970s. The current occupant is Bowman Interiors.

**Integrity:** This building retains its 1890s upper facade and 1930s storefront. Although the transom is infilled, it retains the necessary integrity to be a contributor.

33. Smith Furniture Building  
120 W. Main Street

Status: Contributing  
127-516

Legal Description: E 1/2 Lot 11, Lot 12, Block 7, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1898

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Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: COMMERCIAL STYLE  
One-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #9-10; Historic Photo #11-13

**Description:** The Smith Furniture Building is a two-story masonry building with design elements, such as a pressed-metal cornice and window hoods, that coordinate with the building adjacent to the west. The window openings on the second floor house double 1/1 windows. Although the building's original storefront was intact in 1951, it has a contemporary red-brick storefront meant to coordinate with the building adjacent to the east. The transom level is boarded up, the entrance system is aluminum, and a cantilevered awning stretches across both this building and the building to the east.

**History:** This building was built by Lon Smith in 1898 for his furniture retail store. C. W. Black purchased the building in 1910 when it was occupied by the Economy Furniture Store. Effie Litke purchased the structure in 1928, and operated Litke's Furniture there through the 1950s. Litke also resided in the building in the 1940s and 1950s. Bosch Furniture and Carpet, which occupies the two buildings adjacent to the east, has expanded into this building.

**Integrity:** This building retains its 1890s upper facade. Although it has a contemporary storefront and infilled transom, it retains the necessary integrity to be a contributor.

34. Meat Market Building  
118 W. Main Street Status: Non-Contributing  
127-517

Legal Description: E 1/2 Lot 11 and Lot 12, Block 7, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1890  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: COMMERCIAL STYLE  
One-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #9-10; Historic Photo #11-12

**Description:** This one-story painted brick building with simple metal cornice was built in 1890. Its contemporary red-brick storefront and shared cantilevered awning was designed to tie this building architecturally to the building adjacent to the west. The transom is infilled. This building no longer retains its own storefront or entrance. Instead, there are three small display windows at the storefront. This building is the center of three buildings occupied by Bosch Furniture Store.

**History:** This building was built in 1890 to replace the McCullom and Mead Building destroyed in the 1886 fire. It was occupied by a meat market (1892 and 1900 Sanborn maps), and later became Central Meat Market. The space was later occupied by a furniture store, and eventually incorporated into the expansion by Litke Furniture (now Bosch Furniture), adjacent to the west. The building was modified with a contemporary storefront; and the brick facade is painted to match the adjacent buildings occupied by Bosch.

**Integrity:** The storefront of this building has been heavily modified and it no longer retains a storefront entrance. Therefore, it has been classified as a non-contributor.

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35. Morris County Savings and Loan Building  
116 W. Main Street

Status: Contributing  
127-518

Legal Description: E 1/2 of Lot 11, Lot 12, Block 7, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1935  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: COMMERCIAL STYLE  
One-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #9-10; Historic Photo #11

**Description:** The Morris County Savings and Loan Building is a one-story one-part commercial block with red brick, stepped parapet capped with cast stone, and unique herringbone-patterned piers. The opaque transom panels appear to date to the cantilevered awning and aluminum storefront. There is a soldier-coursed bulkhead and granite kickplate. The recessed entrance is located on the storefront's east end. The rear of the building has stucco parging on the exterior. This property includes an ancillary single-story metal building across the alley that serves as storage.

**History:** This building sits on the site formerly occupied by the McCollom and Mead Building, destroyed by the 1886 fire. It was occupied by a grocery and tin ware store by 1887, a tailor in 1892, a gentleman's store in 1900, and a grocery store in the 1920s. In 1930, the building was purchased by Morris County Savings and Loan, which remodeled the facade. The Savings and Loan remained at this location until relocating across the street in 1973. The building and adjacent buildings to the west are currently occupied by Bosch Furniture Store.

**Integrity:** This building retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Although the storefront was replaced and transom infilled in the mid-twentieth century, the storefront retains its historic proportions. The building is classified as a contributor.

36. Hays House/Hays Tavern  
112 W. Main Street

Status: National Historic Landmark  
127-1180-00003

Legal Description: Lot 13, W 1/2 Lot 14, Block 7, Original Town  
Date of Construction: 1857; ca. 1930s  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant  
Architectural Classification: Vernacular  
Documentation: Photo #9-10; Historic Photo #11

**Description:** The Hays House is a two-story building with board-and-batten siding on its front elevation. Built before the downtown was platted, the front façade is not parallel to the sidewalk plane. A wood portico, which stretches the full width of the building, aligns with the front elevation of the building adjacent to the west – but not with the building adjacent to the east. The building has replacement windows and doors, some of which are salvaged. There is a one-story brick bay on rear. Although the use has been continuous, the structure has been extensively altered. Documented changes include a fifteen-foot westward expansion, roof changes, and siding.

**History:** Built by Seth Hays in 1857, this site has been in continuous operation as a boarding house/hotel and restaurant under various names, including the Arway Hotel, Grove House, Farmers House, and currently Hays House. Reportedly, the building was initially constructed as a single-story with a gable roof that was raised in the 1880s to add an entire second floor and flat roof. The front facade has board-and-batten wood siding added in

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the 1960s, and features a balcony/porch that was added circa 1900. The interior underwent extensive remodeling in the 1930s. The building was again remodeled by the Judds in the 1970s. The Hays House is a contributing property in the Council Grove National Historic Landmark District (listed in 1963), based upon its role in the town's Santa Fe Trail history.

**Integrity:** This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributor to an NHL district. It is also a contributor to the downtown district.

**37. The Specialty Shop Building** Status: Contributing  
127-519  
108 W. Main Street

Legal Description: E 1/2 Lot 14, W 30' Lot 15, Block 7, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1905  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE  
Documentation: Photo #9-10; Historic Photo #11

**Description:** The Specialty Shop Building is a two-story two-part smooth brick commercial block with a prominent metal cornice and distinctive arched windows with stone lintels. The west window opening houses a two-part arched transom over a 2/2 double-hung window. The east window opening houses a single-pane arched transom and 1/1 double-hung window. There is corbelling between the tops of these windows and the metal cornice. The storefront retains its historic configuration. It wraps around to the building's west side, where a prismatic glass transom is visible. The south storefront transom is covered with an awning. The building's narrow width is owed to its adjacency to the Hays House, which was built prior to the city's platting.

**History:** The building was constructed circa 1905 and extant on 1908 Sanborn Maps. It was occupied by a movie theater (the Electric Theater) on the 1914 Sanborn Map and a bakery in 1922. It was occupied by The Specialty Shop by the mid 1930s through 2007. In 1985, the business expanded to incorporate the adjacent building to the east. Both storefronts were remodeled at that time. It is now a consignment shop.

**Integrity:** This building retains a high degree of architectural integrity, including 1/1 windows, arched transoms, cornice, and corbelling. Although the storefront was remodeled in the 1980s, it retains its historic proportions. It is classified as a contributor.

**38. A.F. & A.M. Lodge (Masonic Building)** Status: Contributing  
127-1180-00019  
106 W. Main Street

Legal Description: E 1/2 Lot 14, W 30' Lot 15, Block 7, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1883  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE  
One-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #9-10; Historic Photo #11

**Description:** The Masonic Building is a two-story red brick building with corbelled brackets on a prominent parapet that conceals a gabled roof. Arched stone surrounds at the five upper-story windows form an arcade.

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The building is delineated from the adjacent buildings by stone quoining. Upper windows are 1/1 double-hung with arched upper sashes. The storefront retains its original stone columns, but is infilled with replacement windows, doors and plywood kickplate that date to a 1985 remodel. A massive mansard canopy, which stretches west to the adjacent building, covers the transom. The rear façade has stucco parging. There is a one-story block bay with shed roof located on rear facade. The storefront was replaced by the Masons in 1929 and removed in the 1970s. The building was remodeled again in 1985 when 106 and 108 were combined into a single business. The 1985 remodel included a one-story rear addition.

**History:** The Masonic Building was built in 1883, and dedicated on June 24, 1884. The Masonic Hall was located on the second floor and later expanded into the adjacent building to the west. The first floor was originally a dry goods and grocery store named D.C. Web Dry Goods, Boots & Shoes. By 1922 and into the 1950s the ground floor was occupied by a restaurant, followed by Western Auto and Blim's. The storefront was replaced in 1929 by the Masons and again in the 1970s. In 1985 Gale's Specialty Shop, located to the west, expanded to incorporate this space and replaced the storefront. Both buildings are currently serving Rerun Consignments.

**Integrity:** This building retains a high degree of architectural integrity, including 1/1 windows with arched transoms and corbelling. Although the storefront was remodeled in the 1980s, it retains its historic proportions. It is classified as a contributor.

39. Duckwalls  
102 W. Main Street

Status: Non-Contributing  
127-520

Legal Description: E 10' Lot 15, Lot 16, W 28.4' Vacant Wood Street Adjacent, Block 7, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1972  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: Contemporary Construction  
Documentation: Photo #9

**Description:** The Duckalls building is a one-story block building with brick facade. An aluminum awning cantilevers over the aluminum storefront. There is no transom. The entrance is on the east end of the front elevation. A parking lot to the east provides off-street parking from Main Street.

**History:** This is the previous site of two historic buildings, the 1887 Gildemeister Building that housed the Etta Opera House and feed store and an 1898 single-story brick steam laundry that faced Wood Street. Both buildings were razed in 1959. The current single-story Duckwalls building was constructed in 1972 (McClintock).

**Integrity:** This building was constructed after the district's period of significance and is, therefore, classified as a non-contributor.

40. G.W. Coffin Building  
14 W. Main Street

Status: Contributing  
127-521

Legal Description: Tr Beginning 99.5' E SE Corner Lot 16, Block 7, Council Grove Original, NELY 47.5', NELY to Center Neosho River, SELY ALG CTR River to S Ln Lot J, WLY to Point of Beginning  
Date of Construction: 1949

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**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business  
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT  
**Documentation:** Photo #11

**Description:** The Coffin Building is a one-story building comprised of two masses. The first mass, on the southeast corner, is a gable-roofed block building with six-light steel windows flanking a centered entry. The west mass is concrete with blond brick with contrasting stone bands on the front elevation.

**History:** The first mass, the block building, was built circa 1920 as a gas station by Kansas-Texas Petroleum Co. The company continued to remain at that location until 1931 (McClintock). The phone book lists El Reco Gas Station at this location in the 1930s. G.W. Coffin relocated his insurance company to this site in 1949, and added a CMU portion to the south side. In 1965, a brick structure was added on to the west to house the telephone dial switching equipment for the Council Grove Telephone Co. This building is concrete with a flat roof and blonde brick and stone veneer.

**Integrity:** This building retains a high degree of integrity from its original construction date of 1949, within the period of significance. It is classified as a contributor to the district.

41. **Snider Motor Co. (Old Armory)** **Status:** Non-Contributing  
13 W. Main Street **127-522**

**Legal Description:** Tr Beginning 85' E NW Corner Block D, SLY 80', ELY 60', SLY 70', ELY to LC River, NWLY to S Ln Main Street RW, WL to Point of Beginning, Block D, Woods Addition, Council Grove  
**Date of Construction:** 1900  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse  
**Architectural Classification:** Other  
**Documentation:** Photo #12

**Description:** The Snider Motor Company is a one-story brick and stone garage with clapboard on the front elevation. There are two arched openings on the front elevation, including a garage door and a partially enclosed opening that houses a window. In addition, there is a single door on the west end of the north elevation. There are multi-light steel windows and arched brick lintels on the rear.

**History:** This location was occupied by Robert's Livery Stable circa 1900 (Sanborn Maps), and continued as a livery through 1908. The 1914 and 1922 Sanborn Maps indicate that the building had been converted to a garage, and E.H. (Tink) Snider's Motor Co was located there. Company C of the National Guard used this structure as their Armory from 1931 to 1954.

**Integrity:** The non-historic clapboard on this building renders it a non-contributor. If it was removed and the building retained sufficient historic integrity, it might be re-classified as a contributor.

42. **Gas Station** **Status:** Non-Contributing  
15 W. Main Street **127-523**

**Legal Description:** Tr Beginning NW Corner Block D, SLY ALG E Ln Wood St 80', ELY 85', NLY P/W E Ln Wood Street 80', WLY on S Ln Main 85' to Point of Beginning, Woods Addition, Council Grove  
**Date of Construction:** 1959

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**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business  
**Architectural Classification:** Contemporary Construction  
**Documentation:** Photo #12

**Description:** This gas station is a one-story building with brick façade, aluminum storefront, and metal mansard roof. The façade is divided into three bays – a storefront with single entry door and display windows and two garage-door bays. The second/center garage door bay is partially infilled with a single window.

**History:** This site was home to frame buildings occupied by various commercial entities, including a clothing store, a wagon shop (1885), a harness shop, and express office (1914). After the frame buildings were destroyed by fire, masonry buildings were constructed. Unfortunately, the permanent buildings were also destroyed by a devastating fire in 1920. A Sinclair Service Station was built on the site in 1923, and remained open into the 1960s. This original station was razed after the existing building was constructed in 1959.

**Integrity:** This building's construction post-dates the period of significance. In addition, the building has been modified since its original construction. Therefore, it is classified as a non-contributor.

43. Flint Hills REA  
10 S. Wood Street

**Status:** Contributing  
127-524

**Legal Description:** S 60' of W 140' Block D, N 10' Vacant Alley Adjacent, Woods Addition, Council Grove  
**Date of Construction:** 1935  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Business and DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling  
**Architectural Classification:** Other  
**Documentation:** Photo #12; Historic Photo #14

**Description:** The Flint Hills REA is a two-story building with gabled roof, stucco façade, 6/6 multi-pane windows and brick storefront. The transom is infilled with wood. A door on the north end of the front elevation opens to stairs leading to the second-floor apartments. Clay tile scuppers beneath the north and south eaves are unique architectural features.

**History:** This building was built by White and Young in 1939 (McClintock) for the Flint Hills Rural Electrification Administration (REA), a New-Deal program that brought electricity to rural areas. The REA remained at this location until it was relocated west of town in 1960.

**Integrity:** This building retains a high degree of integrity from its 1935 construction. Although the transom is infilled, the storefront proportions are intact and it is classified as a contributor.

44. United States Post Office  
103 W. Main Street

**Status:** Listed on National Register  
127-1180-00011

**Legal Description:** Lots 1-2, E 1/2 Lot 3, Block 6, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1939  
**Current Function:** GOVERNMENT: Post Office  
**Architectural Classification:** NEOCLASSICAL

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Documentation: Photo #13; Historic Photo #14

Description: The Council Grove Post Office is a two-story streamlined Neoclassical building with a high water table. The exterior materials are red brick, stone trim and aluminum windows. A horizontal stone band separates the windows from the parapet.

History: Several buildings were demolished to allow for the construction of the post office. The site has been home to the Gilkey Hotel, Hammer & Skinner Produce Co., a barber shop, a medical office, and a printing shop. This single-story brick post office was designed by Louis Simon, and built in 1939 according to the building's date stone. It continues to serve its original purpose.

Integrity: This building is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a contributor to the district.

45.	Drug Store Building 111 W. Main Street	Status: Contributing 127-526
Legal Description:	W1/2 Lot 3, Block 6, Council Grove Original	
Date of Construction:	1863; 1925	
Current Function:	COMMERCE/TRADE: Business	
Architectural Classification:	COMMERCIAL STYLE	
Documentation:	Photo #14, 15; Historic Photo #15, 16	
Description:	This two-story building has a brick façade with corbelled panel dating to ca. 1925. The three double-hung wood windows on the second floor retain their wood-framed screens. Brick piers frame the storefront bay. The recessed stone storefront with planter dates to a 1965 remodel. The storefront has two single doors and one window, all aluminum-framed replacements. A one-story brick bay on the rear has a shallow gabled roof. The east (side) wall is faced with stucco parging.	1/1
History:	This building was first constructed in 1863 (McClintock). It appears on the first-available Sanborn Map in 1885. The one-story rear addition was in place by 1900 (Sanborn). The façade dates to ca. 1925.	
Integrity:	Although the storefront has been altered, the second floor retains a high degree of integrity and the building is classified as a contributor to the district.	
46.	Trowbridge Building 113 W. Main Street	Status: Contributing 127-1180-00014
Legal Description:	E 20.5' Lot 4, Block 6, Council Grove Original	
Date of Construction:	1899	
Current Function:	COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store	
Architectural Classification:	Two-Part Commercial Block	
Documentation:	Photo #14, 15; Historic Photo #15, 16	
Description:	The Trowbridge Building is a two-story brick building with red brick second floor with decorative metal cornice. There a single tripartite window with three-part arched transom and arched pressed metal hood on	9/9

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upper facade. The windows are 1/1 double-hung wood units. The storefront is wood with a lower cornice between the transom and upper facade. The covered transom is used as signboard. The storefront is divided into three bays by square paneled wood piers. The recessed center double entry with paneled wood and glazed doors is flanked by large plate-glass storefront windows with paneled kickplates. The building steps down to one-story in rear. The rear bay is brick with shallow shed roof.

**History:** The original structure was built circa 1860 by Seth M. Hays and G.M. Simcock as a harness shop, at this location two years (McClintock). Dr. Trowbridge remodeled the building and changed the footprint circa 1899-1900 for his dry goods store. By 1908 it was the site of a tailor on the ground floor and hand printing shop on the second. It was a dry goods store in 1914, and a gentleman's store in 1922 (Sanborn Maps). It is unknown whether the 1899 remodel enveloped the previous structure. It is now the location of Trowbridge Classics.

**Integrity:** This building retains a high degree of integrity on both the first and second floors. Although the transom has been covered, the storefront retains its historic configuration. The building is classified as a contributor.

47. Leach/Kenwell Drug Building  
115 W. Main Street

Status: Non-Contributing  
127-1180-00035

Legal Description: W 19.5' Lot 4 & E 2.5' Lot 5, Block 6, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1870  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: COMMERCIAL STYLE  
Two-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #14, 15; Historic Photo #15, 16

**Description:** The Leach/Kenwell Drug Building is a two-story tan brick building with corbelled stepped parapet with rough stone cap. The second-floor windows feature a continuous stone sill and continuous soldier-coursed brick lintel. There are three window openings on the second floor – two single windows and a double window – separated by brick pilasters. The window openings have been downsized and have wood infilled above replacement 1/1 units. Historic cast-iron piers flank a modified storefront whose features include wood infill, an entrance, a recessed niche, and multi-pane windows. Because the building is occupied by an adjacent business to the west, there is no first-floor entrance. A recessed bay exposes a hex-tile apron that reads "Kenwell Drug." The single door on the east end of the storefront provides access to the upper level. There is a one-story concrete block addition on the rear.

**History:** The existing building was built in 1872 and extant on 1873 Birdseye View illustration of Council Grove, and 1885 Sanborn Maps. It has been utilized largely by pharmacies, including Leach Drug (est. 1892) since that time. This building, along with adjacent buildings to the east and west were reportedly remodeled in 1884 when limestone columns were installed to frame each storefront (McClintock). A.J. Kenwell purchased and remodeled the structure in 1922, adding the existing soda fountain and "Kenwell Drug" in the hexagonal mosaic vestibule tiles. Smith Pharmacy was located here in the 1950s, Alderman Apothecary remains in operation. The building is used by the business that occupies the adjacent building to the west.

**Integrity:** The enclosed storefront, coupled with the partially enclosed second-floor windows render this building non-contributing. If the storefront was opened in the future, the building's status could be re-evaluated.

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48. Old Post Office Building  
117 W. Main StreetStatus: Contributing  
127-527

**Legal Description:** Lot 5 Less W 14.5' & less E 2.5', Block 6, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1890  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #14, 15; Historic Photo #15, 16

**Description:** The Old Post Office building is a two-story painted brick building with stone quoining, prominent cornice and window hoods. It matches the adjacent building to the west. The ornate metal cornice has brackets and steeply pitched centered pediment. The upper-story windows are 2/2 double-hung units with ornate stone lintels and natural-faced stone sills. Stone columns frame the storefront, which is topped with a steel lintel with rosettes. The covered transom is used as a signboard. The storefront has been infilled with wood and multi-pane windows which match the treatment of the adjacent building to the east. A recessed centered bay provides access to the first floor. There is a gabled one-story brick bay on the rear.

**History:** The original structure was built in 1872 and occupied by boots/shoes and clothing shops from 1885-1900 (Sanborn Maps). Best & Bingham Gent's Furnishings was in this location in the 1890s (Council Grove Republican, 1954). Initially, the building resembled the appearance of the neighboring building at 115 W. Main (1873 Birdseye View). It was remodeled in 1884 by Payton Jones (McClintock: Council Grove Cosmos Feb. 8, 1884), and the footprint was modified between 1900 & 1908 (Sanborn Maps). The extant facade is shared by 119 to the west, though the two structures were independently constructed and the joint front facade an 1884 modification. The building served the post office by 1914 through 1937.

**Integrity:** Although the storefront has been modified, the upper facade has a high degree of integrity, with 2/2 windows and cornice. Therefore, it has been classified as a contributor.

49. Commercial Building  
119 W. Main StreetStatus: Contributing  
127-1180-00016

**Legal Description:** W 14.5' Lot 5 & E 9' Lot 6, Block 6, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1863  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** ITALIANATE  
**Documentation:** Two-part Commercial Block  
Photo #14, 15; Historic Photo #15, 16

**Description:** This building is a two-story painted brick building with stone quoining, prominent cornice and window hoods. It matches the adjacent building to the west. The ornate metal cornice has brackets and steeply pitched centered pediment. The upper-story windows are 2/2 double-hung units with ornate stone lintels and natural-faced stone sills. Stone columns frame the storefront, which is topped with a steel lintel with rosettes. The transom retains a segment of its prismatic glass. The storefront is a twentieth-century replacement with traditional proportions, including a recessed entry with tile apron. A canvas awning separates the transom from the storefront display windows. The storefront windows are framed in bronze and have tile kickplates. There is a one-story concrete block bay with a shallow gabled roof at the rear.

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**History:** Ledrick & Robbins built this two-story brick building in 1863 for their Pioneer Outfitter/Mercantile. The building was occupied by a Dry Goods Store in 1885 (Sanborn Map). There was a millenary shop here from 1887 through 1908, and a jewelry store by 1914 and into the 1920s (Sanborn Maps). The ground floor was divided into two retail bays by 1939 and the east half was the Rendezvous Restaurant into the 1980s. The west half was occupied by Scholes Jewelry and later Gheres Jewelry. The second story housed apartments. This building is the west half of the two-story brick facade dating to an 1884 remodel by Payton Jones (McClintock; *Council Grove Cosmos* 8 February 1884).

**Integrity:** This building retains a high degree of integrity on both its first and second floors. It is classified as a contributor to the district.

50. Plaza Bank  
123 W. Main Street

Status: Non-Contributing  
127-528

Legal Description: W 31' Lot 6, Lot 7, Block 6, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1973  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution  
Architectural Classification: Contemporary Construction  
Documentation: Photo #15

**Description:** This contemporary one-story brick-faced building is slightly set back from neighboring buildings. The façade, with its brick arcade, is capped by a metal mansard canopy. The eastern two bays have multi-light windows. The west bay houses an ATM. The second bay with a pedimented surround is the main entry. The west half of the lot is used for drive-through access. The east elevation is brick with drive-through window. The rear of the building is painted concrete block.

**History:** This was the site of the Stewart & Williams Building (1882) and White & Barth Building (1883). The Citizens State Bank was located in 121 W. Main from 1912 to 1927, and a series of barber shops were located in 123 W. Main. After the Stewart & Williams building was damaged by fire in 1972, both buildings were purchased by Morris County Savings and Loan Assn. The buildings were demolished to allow for construction of the existing structure. Farmers and Drovers Plaza Bank is the current occupant.

**Integrity:** Because this building's construction post-dates the district's period of significance, it is classified as a non-contributor.

51. McCardell Building  
129 W. Main Street

Status: Non-Contributing  
127-529

Legal Description: Lot 8, Block 6, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1872  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: COMMERCIAL STYLE  
Two-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #15, Historic Photo #15, 16

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**Description:** This two-story brick building shares an address and legal description with the adjacent building to the west. The upper façade is brick with a corbelled parapet. A single opening with stone sill on the upper façade houses a replacement anodized aluminum window unit. The first floor is sheathed with EIFS to match the adjacent building to the west. A single recessed entry on the building to the west provides access to both buildings. In lieu of a storefront entrance, the first floor has a contemporary five-light display window. The exposed east elevation, which is coated with concrete parging, opens to a drive-thru bank on the lot to the east. The building steps down to one story in the rear with an open car-port bay on the south.

**History:** This building was reportedly constructed in 1872 by H. H. McCardell for his harness shop (McClintock). The existing building was in place and occupied as grocery store on 1885 Sanborn and continued in that role through 1914 (Sanborn Maps). It was M. Schulthes Grocery in the 1880s (1954 Centennial article in CGR). By 1922, it was occupied by a wallpaper/paint business and later became a part of the hardware store adjacent on the west. The existing façade reportedly dates to a 1919 remodel.

**Integrity:** The changes to this building's storefront, including the absence of a storefront entrance, render it a non-contributor.

52. Conn Mercantile Building  
131 W. Main Street

Status: Non-Contributing  
127-530

Legal Description: Lot 8, Block 6, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1858  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #15; Historic Photo #15, 16

**Description:** The Conn Mercantile is a two-story stone building with red brick façade and pressed-metal cornice. The two openings on the second floor of the front elevation each house three contemporary windows. The storefront is accessed via an entrance on the east end of the façade. The first floor has a single masonry opening with five-light contemporary window unit. There is no articulated transom or kickplate. The "storefront" and second-floor brick facing wrap around to the north end of the west elevation. The west elevation is limestone with 1/1 double-hung upper windows with arched upper sashes. The ground floor appears to have housed at least two separate business entries at one point. There is a metal fire-escape on the west elevation. The rear facade is stone on the ground floor and brick on the upper floor.

**History:** The two-story stone building was built in 1858 by partners Thomas C. Hill, James Munkres, and Malcolm Conn as a Santa Fe Trail supply house. Thereafter, it housed a grocer, tin ware store, and hardware store. A datestone that reads "1858-1934" suggests that the red-brick facade with pressed-metal cornice dates to 1934. Prior to 1943, Rumsey & White Hardware Store was in this location and expanded to incorporate the building to the east, maintaining two public entries. The hardware store remained in this location into the 1950s. At that time, two public entries were maintained (McClintock). The 1885 Sanborn Map (earliest available) illustrates separate buildings at the rear of the site, fronting Neosho Street. Between 1900 and 1908, the building at 131 W. Main was expanded to fill the entire lot (1908 Sanborn Map). The 1858 building had a gable roof which was replaced by a flat roof when the walls were extended upward to two-stories. The existing brick front is a 1934 renovation. Rumsey and White expanded their hardware business into the adjacent building to the east in 1943. The building was occupied by a hardware store until 1980.

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**Integrity:** The changes to this building's facade, including the infilled storefront, render it a non-contributor.

53. **Indicator Grocery Building**  
11 S. Neosho Street

**Status:** Listed on National Register  
127-531

**Legal Description:** Building is included in address and legal description of corner bank, Lots 1-2, Block 9, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1902  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution  
**Architectural Classification:** COMMERCIAL STYLE  
One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #16; Historic Photo #18

**Description:** The Indicator Grocery Building is a one-story brick building with a limestone foundation and decorative metal band with corner pilasters to match the corner bank building. The storefront has a central entry flanked by display windows. The transom is covered by a canvas awning. A concrete ramp that runs along the south half of the façade provides access to the entry. This building is connected to the corner bank by a modern brick bay on the north side of this building. The existing storefront was constructed in 2007.

**History:** Built in 1902 as part of the Indicator Building, this single-story brick building has a limestone foundation. The structure was extant on 1908 Sanborn Maps. This was the location of a grocery store related to the Indicator Mercantile. The building was owned by the Farmers & Drovers Bank. When Indicator did not reopen the grocery following the 1903 flood, Loy and Raley became the new proprietors. The building was the site of a harness shop in 1922, S.A. Feigley's Tailor Shop in the 1930s, A.J. Frank's Tailor Shop in 1940, and now is occupied by the bank to the north.

**Integrity:** This building is individually listed on the National Register and is a contributor to the district.

54. **Farmers and Drovers Bank**  
201 W. Main Street

**Status:** Listed on National Register  
127-1180-00001

**Legal Description:** Lots 1-2, Block 9, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1892  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution  
**Architectural Classification:** RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE  
Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #16, 17, 19; Historic Photo #17-21

**Description:** The Farmers and Drovers Bank is a two-story brick building with rough-faced stone water table, lintels and pilasters. Like many nineteenth-century banks it features a canted corner with raised entry. This one is embellished with pilasters and topped with a turret with a conical metal roof. The water table is interrupted with arched openings. A row of windows on the first floor of the east elevation, capped with arched stone surrounds, form an arcade. The second-floor windows on this façade are single double-hung wood windows with Queen Anne transoms. These are divided into pairs by stone pilasters that rise from a continuous stone sill and articulate the ground-floor arcade. These pilasters extend through the cornice and are topped by a finial. The front elevation is narrow with a single arched window opening on each level. The building is capped by a metal

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cornice band. Centered on the narrow front elevation is a decorative pediment that is inscribed "Farmers & Drovers Bank."

**History:** Farmers & Drovers Bank, founded by W.H. White and Jacob Barth in 1882, was originally located in the Ewing Smith Building at 213 W Main. The present site was purchased in 1887, but construction was delayed by the post-1880s-boom recession. Construction began in 1892 and was completed in 1893 (date stone). The Farmers & Drovers Bank has occupied this location since, with varied businesses on the second floor. The building was designed by architect C. W. Squires, known for his county courthouses. The builder was J. Roussellet. The stone mason was Jack Jones; Louis Patterson was the brick mason. The building was remodeled in 1937. Farmers & Drovers added the adjoining Indicator Building in 1902, not extant in an 1893 photo. The bank expanded into the Indicator Building in 1981.

**Integrity:** This building is individually listed on the National Register and is a contributor to the district.

55.	Indicator Building 205 W. Main Street	Status: Listed on National Register 127-532
	Legal Description: Original	Included in legal description of corner bank, Lots 1-2, Block 9, Council Grove
	Date of Construction:	1902
	Current Function:	COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution
	Architectural Classification:	RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE Two-part Commercial Block
	Documentation:	Photo #16, 17, 19; Historic Photo #18-21

**Description:** The Indicator Building, constructed in 1902, coordinates architecturally with the adjacent Farmers and Drovers Bank. Character-defining features include deep red smooth brick, a simple cornice, and 1/1 windows with arched transoms and stone arches. Brick and stone pilasters, which divide the parapet into three bays, tie the corbelled brick parapet to the metal conice. The storefront is defined by a decorative stone cornice and brick piers. The storefront has a wide, recessed central bay and stone kickplate. A two-story brick addition on the rear extends to the alley. The rear elevation of the addition has a row of 1/1 double-hung windows with arched-brick lintels on the upper facade. First-floor openings have been infilled.

**History:** The Indicator Building was built in 1902 by the Farmers & Drovers Bank. Unfortunately, the business for which the building is named, the Indicator Mercantile Store, only operated here until the 1903 flood. Loy and Raley Mercantile followed, followed by a series of chain stores, including J.C. Penney's from 1929-1972, Duckwalls from 1961-1972, and later Gambles. The second story housed the local dance hall known as Security Hall.

**Integrity:** This building is individually listed on the National Register and is a contributor to the district.

56.	Commercial Building 207 W. Main Street	Status: Contributing 127-533
	Legal Description: Grove Original	Building is included in legal description of corner bank, Lots 1-2, Block 9, Council

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Date of Construction: 1903  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Civic  
Architectural Classification: One-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #16, 17, 19; Historic Photo #19-21

**Description:** This one-story brick building is distinguished by a pressed-metal façade and ornate pressed-metal cornice. It retains a historic glass transom. The historically compatible storefront with recessed entry is a twentieth-century replacement. The kickplate is ribbed metal. The rear facade is exposed red brick.

**History:** This single-story brick building was built after the previous structure was lost in the 1903 flood (McClintock). Sanborn Maps confirm the footprint changed between 1900 and 1908. This location was home to a boots/shoes/clothing store in 1908, dry goods in 1914, and Gambles in the 1930s and 1940s.

**Integrity:** Although the storefront has been modified, it retains its historic proportions. Also, the upper façade retains its historic integrity. Therefore, this building is classified as a contributor.

57. Commercial Building Status: Non-Contributing  
209 W. Main Street 127-1180-00017

Legal Description: E 1/2 Lot 3, Block 9, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1903  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant  
Architectural Classification: One-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #16, 19; Historic Photo #19-21

**Description:** This one-story brick building with ornate metal cornice coordinates with the adjacent building to the east. Stone piers frame the storefront, which is partially infilled with board-and-batten siding over the transom. The kickplate is blond brick. Display windows are downsized with wood siding. There is a one-story concrete block addition at the rear.

**History:** Like the adjacent building to the east, this building was constructed to replace a building destroyed in the 1903 flood. The building was commissioned by H.E. Richter for F.E. Pirtle's Jewelry & Music Store. Pirtle's store was extant on 1908 and 1914 Sanborn Maps. United Stores Co. occupied the building in the 1930s; Hastings Place in the mid 1940s; and Gambles in 1946.

**Integrity:** The infilled storefront and transom render this building a non-contributor. If a compatible storefront was installed, the building's status could be re-evaluated.

58. Bookstore Building Status: Contributing  
211 W. Main Street 127-534

Legal Description: W 1/2 Lot 3 & Lot 4, Block 9, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1875  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: COMMERCIAL STYLE  
One-part Commercial Block

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## Documentation:

Photo #19; Historic Photo #19-21

**Description:** The Bookstore Building is a one-story brick building with paneled wood and corbelled brick parapet. The transom covered with wood. A canvas awning spans the full width of the building between the transom and storefront, and continues across the building to the east. Stone piers frame the storefront. The storefront is an aluminum replacement with opaque panels at the kickplate. The storefront angles back to a recessed central entry. There is a one-story shed bay on rear. The stone cornice band visible above the transom matches the band on neighboring building(s) built by B.R. Scott. It is one of five buildings with identical storefronts when constructed in the 1880s. The buildings also had similar pressed-metal cornices.

**History:** This building, which appears on the first-available Sanborn Map (1885), was built in 1882 (McClintock). It housed a bookstore and post office from 1884 to 1907. The bookstore remained years after the post office relocated. It was owned by Leslie Smith from 1904 to 1939, and named Ruddick's from 1939 to 1969.

**Integrity:** Although the transom has been infilled and storefront remodeled, the storefront retains its historic proportions and stone piers. It is classified as a contributor.

59. Ewing Smith Building  
213 W. Main StreetStatus: Contributing  
127-535

**Legal Description:** Building included with address and legal description of 211 W. Main: W 1/2 Lot 3 & Lot 4, Block 9, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1875  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** COMMERCIAL STYLE  
One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #19; Historic Photo #19-21

**Description:** The Ewing Smith Building is a one-story building with tan brick facade. Subtle detailing includes soldier-coursed cap and bulkhead and geometric cast-stone blocks. The transom is covered with wood siding. A canvas awning, which continues from the adjacent building to the east, spans the full width of the building between the transom and storefront. The storefront is a mid twentieth-century replacement with blond-brick piers and kickplate. The display windows and recessed off-set door are aluminum. There is a one-story gabled block bay on the rear. This is one of five buildings with identical storefronts featuring an arched-stone band (visible on 215) when constructed in the 1880s. The buildings also had similar pressed-metal cornices. (K. McClintock) This building had an overall design change in the ca. 1920s.

**History:** This structure was built by Ewing Smith in 1882 and was home to Farmers & Drovers Bank from 1882 to 1883 (McClintock). It was extant on 1885 Sanborn Maps. Between 1922 and 1968, this was the site of a series of drug stores, including Joe Clark Drug Store in the 1930s and Ferguson Rexall Drug in the 1940s and 1950s. It now houses a gift shop.

**Integrity:** Although the transom has been infilled and storefront remodeled, the storefront retains its historic proportions and its 1920s parapet. It is classified as a contributor.

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60. **B.R. Scott Building**  
215 W. Main Street Status: Contributing  
127-1180-00015
- Legal Description:** W 1/2 Lot 4, Block 9, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1875  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** COMMERCIAL STYLE  
One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #19; Historic Photo #19-21
- Description:** The B.R. Scott Building is a one-story brick building with stone detailing. The shaped stone cornice band is inscribed "B.R. Scott." A brick parapet with corbelled brick panels extends above the stone cornice. Stone pilasters divide the storefront into three bays. Although these stone pilasters are extant, the storefront has been modified many times throughout the years. The transom is covered with wood. The entrance is aluminum. The display windows are surrounded by mid-century blond brick. The rear facade is red brick with window openings infilled with concrete block. The building is one of five buildings with identical storefronts when constructed in 1880s. The buildings also had similar pressed-metal cornices.
- History:** This single-story brick building with stone and brick facade was built in 1883 by B.R. Scott, originally one of five contiguous structures with similar facades. The building was extant as a hardware store on 1885 Sanborn Maps. It was occupied by a grocer by 1887 through the 1930s. It was home to Admire Studio by the 1940s until 1983, followed by a second photographer who remained there until 2004. The facade reads "B.R. Scott" in a lower stone cornice below the detailed brick parapet with corbelled brick panels. The storefront is broken into thirds by four similar stone pilasters between blond brick window surrounds. The transom is covered by wood. The rear facade is red brick with CMU in-filled window openings.
- Integrity:** Although the storefront and transom have been partially infilled, this building retains its unique 1875 character, including its long narrow piers and stone name plate. It is classified as a contributor.
61. **Gibson Miller & Sims Hardware Building**  
217 W. Main Street Status: Contributing  
127-1180-00043
- Legal Description:** E 1/2 Lot 5, Block 9, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1884  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #19; Historic Photo #19-21
- Description:** The Gibson Miller and Sims Hardware Building is a two-story brick building with textured stucco parging on its upper facade. The pressed-metal cornice spans this building and the building adjacent to the west. Three 2/2 double-hung windows on the upper facade have arched metal window hoods. An arched transom and window hood is extant at the former opening in the center of the two buildings; but the opening is infilled. The lower cornice, which matches those found on adjacent buildings to the east, is barely visible at the top of existing shingled mansard awning over the transom. The storefront, with wood shingles over piers and kickplate, is a contemporary replacement. A single door entry to the upper floor is located on the west end of the storefront. The main first-floor entrance is immediately to the east of the stair entrance. The rear elevation is exposed brick. The intact "1884" date plate is reportedly extant under the existing storefront. Stucco parging was reportedly

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installed in a 1924 remodel of the Gilwood Café at 219 W. Main, adjacent to the west (McClintock). It appears in a 1929 photograph.

**History:** Built by Gibson & Davidson for their implement store in 1884, this building was extant on the 1885 Sanborn Maps. The two-story brick building was the site of various hardware stores including Gibson & Clyborn Hardware, followed by Gibson-Miller-Simms Hardware, and housed a roller rink on the second floor in 1885. The building now houses Midland Care Hospice.

**Integrity:** The building's upper façade reflects a 1924 remodel. Although the storefront is a replacement, it retains its historic proportions. Therefore the building is classified as a contributor.

62. Commercial Building  
219 W. Main Street Status: Contributing  
127-1180-00037

Legal Description: W 1/2 Lot 5, Block 9, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1884  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate; Two-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #19; Historic Photo #19-21

**Description:** This two-story brick building has textured stucco parging and a pressed-metal cornice that continues across the building adjacent to the east. The upper facade has a single masonry opening with tripartite Chicago-Style window: 1/1 units flanking a single-light with five-light transom. The storefront is a contemporary replacement with an aluminum-framed door. There is a canvas awning over the transom. The rear facade is exposed brick.

**History:** This building was constructed in 1884 and was extant on the 1885 Sanborn Map. The first floor was occupied by a grocery store through 1900 and vacant in 1908 with a telephone office on the second floor. The storefront became home to a millinery shop in 1914, a furniture store in 1922, and remodeled for Gillwood Cafe in 1924. The space later housed King's Cafe, followed by Mallory's Café. It is currently vacant.

**Integrity:** Although the transom has been infilled and storefront remodeled, the storefront retains its historic proportions and historic second-floor character. It is classified as a contributor.

63. I.O.O.F. Building  
223 W. Main Street Status: Contributing

Legal Description: W25.5' LOT 11, Block 20 Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1923  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: COMMERCIAL STYLE  
Two-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #18, 19; Historic Photo #19-21

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**Description:** The I.O.O.F. Building is a two-story brick building with a tall corbelled parapet and stone and terra-cotta details. The upper facade is uniquely detailed with contrasting brick and stone panels over upper windows. The three window openings are filled with Chicago-style three-part windows with 1/1 units, separated by brick pilasters. A stone arch with keystone frames a carved-stone panel over the central window. The recessed storefront, with its covered transom, random-laid limestone kickplate and wood infill, is a contemporary replacement. The rear facade is brick.

**History:** The I.O.O.F. Building was built in 1923 to replace the lodge's previous building on this site, destroyed by fire in 1923. Before the fire, Frank Gurtler's store was on the first floor. In addition to the I.O.O.F. Hall, the building housed the Post Office, which was located on the first floor from 1937 to 1939, and the People's Food Market in 1940.

**Integrity:** Although the storefront has been partially infilled, this building retains a high degree of integrity on the second floor with features including 1/1 double-hung windows and unique stone details. It is a contributor to the district.

64. **Pullins Meat Market**  
225 W. Main Street

Status: Contributing  
127-536

Legal Description: E 1/2 Lot 7, Block 9, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: ca. 1927  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: COMMERCIAL STYLE  
One-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #19, Historic Photo #19-21

**Description:** The meat market building is an intact one-story Commercial Style building with tan brick facade with simple stepped parapet and subtle brick detailing. The storefront is an aluminum replacement unit with opaque panels over the transom and kickplate. There is a central recessed entry.

**History:** This circa 1927 building was built for the A.L. Pullins Meat Market, which occupied the previous building it replaced. Other meat markets previously at this location include Gilliam Meyers Meat Market in the 1940s and O'Maley's Locker Service in the 1950s.

**Integrity:** Although the storefront has been modified, the storefront proportions remain. This building is a contributor to the district.

65. **Colby's Toggery Building**  
227 W. Main Street

Status: Contributing  
127-537

Legal Description: W 1/2 Lot 7 & E 1/2 Lot 8, Block 9, Council Grove Original  
Date of Construction: 1950  
Current Function: COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
Architectural Classification: COMMERCIAL STYLE  
One-part Commercial Block  
Documentation: Photo #19, Historic Photo #20, 21

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**Description:** The Colby's Toggery Building is a one-story block building with red-brick facade. The blond brick parapet cap aesthetically ties this building to the adjacent blond-brick buildings. The blond brick kickplate and aluminum storefront clearly reflect the building's mid-century construction. The building is "L" shaped with the east half of building extending farther south than the west half. There are three small portable ancillary storage sheds at the rear of the property.

**History:** The single-story building with two storefronts was built in September of 1950 for Colby's Toggery to the East and Alspaw's Jewelry Store to the West. Colby's expanded to incorporate the entire building when Alspaw's closed in 1961. Although the red brick on this building appears to pre-date 1950, an empty lot on the 1944 Sanborn Map appears to corroborate the 1950 construction date.

**Integrity:** This building has changed little since its 1950 construction date. It is a contributor to the district.

66.	Durland and Block Furniture and Undertaking Building 231 W. Main Street	Status: Contributing 127-538
	Legal Description: Date of Construction: Current Function: Architectural Classification:	1' x 140' TR W & P/W Block 9, W 1/2 Lot 8 Less E 6 1870 COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store COMMERCIAL STYLE
		Two-part Commercial Block Photo #19; Historic Photo #20
	Documentation:	

**Description:** Unique details distinguish this two-story brick building from others downtown. Among the character-defining features, which date to a 1928 overall design change, are a centered Chicago-Style window, corbelled parapet, soldier-coursed bulkhead, and corbelled surround. The storefront is bronze-framed with an opaque-glass transom. The recessed entry on the east side features a historic door and mosaic tile apron. A "Durland and Block Furniture" ghost sign is found on the rear elevation. There are modern painted signs on the west facade. Original window openings on west facade have arched-brick lintels with stone keystones. There is a one-story garage bay with overhead door on the rear elevation.

**History:** This ca. 1884 two-story brick building with stone foundation was extant on 1885 Sanborn Maps. J.W. Dumm extended the structure 40 feet in 1887. C.W. Black owned a furniture store here in 1910, and for an extended period of time Durland and Block were proprietors of an undertaking business on the second floor. The building was occupied by Sharpe Furniture in the 1950s. The existing brick facade dates to an overall design change in 1928 (McClintock), and varies from that shown on a 1910 photo postcard.

**Integrity:** The only change to this building's exterior is the infilled transom. It retains a high degree of integrity and is, therefore, a contributor to the district.

67.	Carnegie Library 303 W. Main Street	Status: Listed on National Register 127-1180-00074
	Legal Description: Date of Construction:	Lots 1-2, Block 19, Council Grove Original 1875

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**Current Function:** EDUCATION: Library/Civic  
**Architectural Classification:** NEOCLASSICAL  
One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #21, 22; Historic Photo #22

**Description:** The Carnegie Library is a 1-1/2 story building with projecting center bay. The ground floor, which sits atop a high water with full-height windows, is accessible via stairs at the center bay. The brick facade features brick quoining at the corners and around masonry openings. The center bay has an arched parapet with stone panel inscribed "Library." A metal cornice band, located approximately 2' beneath the stone parapet cap, wraps around the building. Openings in the center bay are arched; the rest are rectangular. All main-floor openings have brick lintels with stone keystones and corners. A flat metal canopy extends over the central entry. The multi-lite door, sidelights and arched transom are original. First-floor windows are contemporary replacements but were likely sets of 2-3 windows originally. Basement windows are the original 3/1 double-hung wood units with soldier-coursed brick lintels. A small hipped bay in the center of the east elevation provides an accessible basement entrance.

**History:** The original Council Grove Library was established in 1876, and subsequently destroyed by fire in 1886. In 1903 the Carnegie Corporation offered \$10,000 toward the construction of a new library. Construction was delayed by the 1903 flood. Voters approved the project in 1914, the cornerstone was set in 1916, and the project was completed in 1918. A.T. Simmons of Bloomington, Illinois, was the architect, Joe Axe was the builder, and Martz & Snider were the plasterers. The library remained in this location until 2002 when it relocated to 829 W. Main. The building later became home to the Police Department, followed by Morris County Historical Society (Council Grove Republican, 23 April 2008).

**Integrity:** This individually listed building is a contributor to the district.

68. Kansas Power and Light (KP & L) Building  
313 W. Main Street

**Status:** Non-Contributing  
127-539

**Legal Description:** Lots 3-4, Block 19, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1967  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** MODERN MOVEMENT  
One-part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo #21, 22

**Description:** The KP & L Building is a one-story block (CMU) building with stone-panel veneer on the front elevation. The façade has no transom. The storefront has anodized aluminum door and windows and stone kickplate. The center entry bay is flanked by "bay" windows on each side. The building is free-standing with parking on-site.

**History:** This building was constructed in 1967 for Kansas Powers & Light (now Westar), which occupied the building until 1990. There was a residence on this site in 1937 (1937 Sanborn Map). The City of Council Grove demolished a second commercial building in 1991 to allow for a parking lot to the east. The building housed City Hall from 1990 to 2008 (McClintock).

**Integrity:** This building is a non-contributor as its construction post-dates the district's period of significance.

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**69. Production Credit Association Building**  
315 W. Main Street**Status: Non-Contributing**  
**127-540**

**Legal Description:** Lots 5-6, Block 19, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1959; 2000  
**Current Function:** COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store  
**Architectural Classification:** Other  
**Documentation:** Photo #21, 22

**Description:** The Production Credit Building is a contemporary two-story free-standing building with parking in the rear. The building has shallow hipped roof on first floor with second floor set-back on rear half of building. The upper floor has hipped roof with front gable bay. Windows are multi-light contemporary units. Entry is at recessed bay on the northeast corner.

**History:** The original structure located on this site was built in 1909 for Whiting Garage. Gage Coms Chevrolet was located there in the 1940s. The business was owned by Bert Grauel in 1944. It was lost in a 1956 fire. The existing one-story building was constructed by Production Credit Association in 1959. It was remodeled in 2000 by Aldrich CPA, and a second floor and hipped roof were added toward the rear of the building.

**Integrity:** Because this building's construction date and contemporary overall design chage post-date the district's period of significance, the building is classified as a non-contributor.

**70. First Baptist Church**  
325 W. Main Street**Status: Listed on National Register**  
**127-1180-00075**

**Legal Description:** N 90' Lots 7-8, Block 19, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1909  
**Current Function:** CIVIC  
**Architectural Classification:** RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE  
**Documentation:** One-part Commercial Block  
Photo #21-23

**Description:** The First Baptist Church is a 2 1/2 story Romanesque Revival brick building with battered stone foundation. The plan form is generally rectangular with a complex hipped roofline. The front (north) facade is asymmetrical with a projecting square tower at the northwest corner that houses the main entrance. The ground floor is above grade and accessed by stairs at the corner tower. The front facade is divided into four bays. The tower is repeated in the third bay from the west with a gabled wall dormer between the two towers on the second bay. Bay 4, which incorporates the church nave on the building's east end, has a curved facade. The facade is intricately detailed with two-tone brick and stone detailing. Dark brick quoining accentuates the building corners and brick corbeling beneath a stone cornice band gives the appearance of crenellations. Upper windows are a variety of styles, some being single-light replacements. A three-part window with large central arch with tracery is the focal point in the gable dormered second bay. This treatment is repeated on the west facade. The basement level is above grade with full-height windows. The windows are generally 1/1 with the upper sash featuring perimeter stained glass in primary colors. The gabled wall dormer is repeated on the west facade with a steep hip roof topped by an octagonal cupola. The entry tower and gabled dormers feature round stone finials. A ramp from the sidewalk in front of the building provides an accessible entrance on the northeast corner of the building, at the basement level.

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**History:** The First Baptist Church was built from 1908 to 1913. The permit was issued to M.E. Leatherwood & Baptist Church in 1905; the cornerstone was laid in 1909; and the church began being used when partially completed in 1910. The church operated here until 1993. In 1994, the building was sold to the Council Grove Community Foundation for use as a community center. The complete history of this building is documented in the National Register nomination.

**Integrity:** This individually listed building is a contributor to the district.

71.    **Baptist Parsonage**  
10 S. Belfry Street

**Status:** Non-Contributing  
127-541

**Legal Description:** S 50' Lots 7-8, Block 19, Council Grove Original  
**Date of Construction:** 1905  
**Current Function:** DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling  
**Architectural Classification:** VERNACULAR  
**Documentation:** Photo #22

**Description:** The Baptist Parsonage is a 1 ½ story frame house with steep hipped roof and central brick chimney. A front-facing gabled dormer and small gabled canopy in the center of front (west) façade mark the entrance. The house has 1/1 double-hung wood windows with aluminum storms. There is a 1 ½ story gabled addition on the rear and one-story shed bay at the southeast corner.

**History:** The First Baptist Church built this frame residence in circa 1905 to serve as church parsonage (McClintock). The home was extant on the 1908 Sanborn Map. The history of the church is documented in the National Register nomination.

**Integrity:** This building is classified as a non-contributor because of its non-original siding.

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Council Grove Downtown Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the commercial growth and development of the community of Council Grove, Morris County Kansas from its early days as the western outfitting post on the Santa Fe Trail through post-World War II. It is also being nominated under Criterion C as a collection of buildings representing a wide range of commercial architectural styles from ornate 1880s Italianate and Romanesque designs to simple 1920s Commercial Style structures. The following historic context covers the history of the city of Council Grove from its founding to the present.

The district's period of significance stretches from 1857 to 1951. The 1857 date marks the year of construction of the Hays House. There are a number of reasons 1951 was chosen as the closing date for the period of significance. First, Council Grove was ravaged by a major flood in 1951. Although a couple of free-standing buildings (modified gas stations) were constructed in the district after that time, there were no standard commercial blocks built during the 1950s and 1960s. After the flood, downtown buildings were supplanted by free-standing commercial buildings in the outskirts of town, generally farther from the Neosho River. In addition, 1951 marked the pinnacle in the town's tourism efforts, with the opening of the Kaw Mission State Historic Site.

**ELABORATION**

"Oasis in the Wilderness"

Council Grove is located at the head of the Neosho River, which stretches southeast 450 miles through southeast Kansas to Oklahoma. The traditional home of the Kansa, Osage, and Wichita Indians, the Neosho Valley faced a period of rapid change during the mid-nineteenth century when the area was opened to Euro-American traders, emigrants and settlers.

Like the Euro-American settlers that followed them, the Kansa Indians had moved west along the Missouri and Kansas Rivers. By the early nineteenth century, the tribe occupied a twenty-million-acre domain covering much of northern Kansas. Despite the Federal Government's pledges that the lands west of the Mississippi River would stand as a "Permanent Indian Frontier," the promise of economic opportunity pulled the growing white population west. An increasingly wide array of Indian peoples, already devastated by disease and removal, were relegated to smaller and smaller tracts of land in what would become Kansas.

While the "Permanent Indian Frontier" was being parceled for native and emigrant tribes, white opportunists sought access to new markets. In 1821, the same year Missouri attained statehood, Mexico won independence from Spain, opening the ancient trade center of Santa Fe for the first time to American merchants. In 1821, Missouri capitalist William Becknell became the first white trader to haul wagons of goods along traditional Indian footpaths stretching from northwest Missouri to Santa Fe.

In the decades after the trail was marked in 1824, thousands of fortune seekers followed Becknell's path. In 1825 the Federal Government surveyed the route and negotiated with the Osage Indians to ensure a protected right-of-way for the Santa Fe Trail. The treaty was signed at the Council Oak, among a rare grove of old-growth trees from which Council Grove was named. In 1827, Kit Carson carved the name "Council Grove" into a buffalo hide or bark and nailed it to the Council Oak to mark the location for passersby.

For the first two decades, Council Grove was simply a place with ample natural resources – mature trees, plentiful water, fertile grasses and safe crossings - where freighters could meet, rest, and leave messages before continuing on to Santa Fe. In his 1831 guide, Joseph Gregg cautioned that readers should not be confused by the "imposing title" of Council

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Grove and assume it was a "snug and thriving village." "It should be observed," he warned, that the "last human abode" on the trail was at Independence, Missouri.<sup>1</sup>

The trail gained significance during the Mexican War (1846-1847) when it became an essential military supply route. Freighter traffic increased after Santa Fe came under U. S. control in 1848. All traffic spiked after the 1849 California Gold Rush.<sup>2</sup> As the Santa Fe Trail evolved into an overland highway for American merchants, Council Grove gained prominence as the principal outpost between Missouri and Santa Fe.

"Flush Times"

The settlement of Council Grove began to take shape in the years between an 1846 Kansa Treaty and the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act. Under the 1846 treaty, the Kansa Indians were further relegated to 256,000-acre reservation, with tribal members concentrated into three villages southeast of Council Grove.<sup>3</sup> Until the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act opened the new territory to white settlement, it technically remained an Indian Territory off-limits to white settlers – except agents, traders and mail carriers that held government contracts. The first permanent white settler, Seth Hays, came to Council Grove in 1847 to operate the Kansa Indian trading post under government contract. Hays, who had operated a Kansa trading post on the prior reservation in present-day Shawnee County, catered not only the Kansa Indians but also the overland freighters who rendezvoused at Council Grove. Thomas Huffaker, who came to Council Grove in 1850 to run the Indian Mission School, was appointed by the Southern Methodist Church, which held the federal contract to provide this service.

For years, Council Grove was the only trading post between Independence, Missouri and Santa Fe – and boasted the only mail station between Westport and San Francisco.<sup>4</sup> So when Congress enacted the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854, which opened the Kansas Territory to permanent white settlement, Council Grove's evolution from outpost to settlement was inevitable. By 1854, Seth Hays had competition from the Withington Brothers, Chouteau Brothers, A. J. and Josh Baker, E. Mosier and Christopher Columbia, who had also opened shop in the outpost.<sup>5</sup>

In the dawning days of the Kansas Territory, Council Grove seemed a logical location as territorial capital. But when Territorial Governor Andrew Reeder visited, the outpost still fell on disputed Kansa land.<sup>6</sup> Despite the land's uncertain ownership status, whites continued to settle in the area. In 1855, there were 39 adult males in the voting district that included Morris County. With government permit requirements lifted, new merchants poured in and the founders reinvented themselves. M. Gilkey built the town's first hotel in 1856.<sup>7</sup> In 1857, Tom Hill built his Last Chance Store, the westernmost supply shop in town. Malcolm Conn, a Maryland-born merchant, also opened a store. On the site of his original log cabin (1847), Seth Hays built his Hays Tavern (1857).<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Joseph Gregg, *Echoes of Yesterday: Council Grove, KS 1854-1954* (1831), 29.

<sup>2</sup> John Carl Campbell, *Historic Happenings in Morris County, Kansas, 1820-1993* (1993), 41.

<sup>3</sup> In 1951, the Indian Claims Commission ruled that the government's compensation for the tribe's vast acreage was "so grossly inadequate as to constitute unconscionable consideration." The commission ruled that the Government owed the tribe nearly \$2.5 million in compensation. *New York Times*, 18 September 1951.

<sup>4</sup> William G. Cutler, *History of the State of Kansas* (Andreas: Chicago, 1883).

<sup>5</sup> Cutler; Lalla Maloy Brigham, *The Story of Council Grove on the Santa Fe Trail* (Council Grove: Kansas, 1921), 11.

<sup>6</sup> Frank Blackmar, *Kansas: a cyclopedia of State History, Embracing Events, Institutions, Industries, Counties, Cities, Towns, Prominent Persons, etc.* (Chicago: Standard Publishing Company, 1912).

<sup>7</sup> Blackmar.

<sup>8</sup> Hays House National Register Nomination.

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The town's early settlers bet on its future success, forming the Council Grove Town Company in 1857. Officers included Seth Hays, Ohio-born farmer Christopher Columbia, and Ohio-born newspaper editor/attorney S. N. Wood and Thomas Huffaker, a Missouri-born farmer who came to Council Grove to teach at the Kaw Indian Mission School. The county, first established in 1854, was not formally organized until 1858. Tensions between the white settlers and the Kansa Indians reached a boiling point in 1859, when a quarrel escalated into what came to be known as the "Indian Raid of 1859" in which Indians, who were later hung on Main Street, reportedly shot hotelier Charles Gilkey and a young man named Parks.<sup>9</sup>

Under increasing pressure from squatters, merchants and speculators, the Federal Government negotiated a new treaty with the Kansa in 1859. Under the agreement the Kansa reserve was further diminished to 80,000 acres. By the time the town company sold its first lots in 1860, Council Grove's population had grown to 770.<sup>10</sup> However, many of them were forced to rely on federal aid for survival in those early years when drought decimated their crops.<sup>11</sup>

Unlike many fledgling Kansas communities, Council Grove fared well during the Civil War. Even as permanent settlers made their way to the area, Council Grove's economy was tied to its place as a trading center for the Kansa Indians, Santa Fe Trail freighters, and Federal Government. Merchants later reminisced about the "flush times."<sup>12</sup> The early businessmen included general merchants Simcock and Conn and Ledrick and Robbins; carpenters Lockwood and Carey; wagonmakers Columbia and Johnson; blacksmiths Strieby and Whitsitt; saloon proprietors Sharp and Bernstein; Hawkins meat market; union mills and the Council Grove Hotel.<sup>13</sup> In 1863, at the height of the "flush times" dry goods partners Beach and Kilby built the town's first brick building.<sup>14</sup>

Merchants, most of whom were from Southern states and Missouri, made war-sized profits. And many speculated that the town's southern roots protected it from guerilla raids.<sup>15</sup>

Trails to Rails

By the post-war years, as Civil War veterans and homesteaders made their way west, a town's success was measured not only by its proximity to trails, but also by its access to railroads. This became increasingly important to Council Grove with the imminent removal of the Kansa Indians to Indian Territory in 1873, a key revenue source for merchants. Despite the best efforts of town boosters and predictions of early state leaders, the early railroads passed by Council Grove. The Union Pacific chose a route following the line of the Smoky Hill Trail – through Junction City, Abilene and Ellsworth. The stage company followed.

Early boosters did not leave the town's fate to chance. In September 1865, in an effort to lure the Santa Fe Railroad to Council Grove, Morris County citizens voted overwhelmingly in favor of issuing \$100,000 in bonds.<sup>16</sup> But the celebrated rail line, which generally followed the route of the Santa Fe Trail, bypassed Council Grove in favor of a route that passed

<sup>9</sup> John Maloy, *History of Morris County, 1820-1890* (Council Grove, Kansas: Morris County Historical Society, 1981), 23.

<sup>10</sup> Bringham, 29.

<sup>11</sup> Maloy, 24.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, 46.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Connie Essington, "Semester Project for Problems in Basic Design," (Kansas State University: Kansas, 1979), 11.

<sup>15</sup> Simcock was from Virginia; Robbins, was a native of Kentucky who came to Kansas from Missouri; Witsitt was from North Carolina; Hawkins came from Missouri. (1860 Census)

<sup>16</sup> Cutler.

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through coal-rich Osage County.<sup>17</sup> Council Grove's past successes had caused it to overestimate its attraction to railroad officers. It seems likely that the city's southern roots dissuaded the Santa Fe, whose founders hailed from the free-state stronghold of Topeka.<sup>18</sup> It is also possible that the line simply chose to serve communities closer to farmland, versus the rocky Flint Hills prairie whose value as rangeland would not be appreciated until the ranching boom of the 1880s. The rail's arrival at Junction City marked the end of Council Grove's trail days.

In 1867, still smarting from its failure to attract the main UP and ATSF lines, Morris County fought to entice branch lines. In June 1867, voters approved the issue of \$165,000 in bonds to lure the Union Pacific's Southern Branch. The line, which came to be known as the Missouri, Kansas and Topeka Railway (KATY) brought the first railroad to Council Grove in 1869.<sup>19</sup> The KATY, which connected Council Grove to the ATSF in Junction City, remained the city's only railroad until the Missouri Pacific reached Council Grove in 1885.

The KATY railroad brought elements of both flux and permanence to the growing town. Like many rail heads in the years following the Civil War, Council Grove marketed itself as a shipping point to drovers herding cattle north from Texas. In the summer and fall of 1870, drovers brought 100,000 Texas longhorns to Council Grove to ship east.<sup>20</sup>

The development of new rail heads at points farther south and west, and arrival of more permanent settlers put an end to Council Grove's days as a cowtown. In 1870, the year that came to be called the "Emigrant Year," colonists, including a large group from Ohio, arrived from the east.<sup>21</sup> By 1870, the town's population had reached 1080.<sup>22</sup> Businesses included Farwick dry goods, Shamleffer and James dry goods and groceries; McCollom and Mead, hardware; Richter Bros drugs and medicines; Bradford and Neal, drugs and medicine; Munkres ag implements and wagons; and Fields stoves and tinware.<sup>23</sup>

In 1871, Council Grove was incorporated for the first time as a city of the 3<sup>rd</sup> class (between 500 and 2000 inhabitants).<sup>24</sup> The newly incorporated city made improvements necessary in an increasingly competitive climate, including the installation of street lamps.<sup>25</sup> From the time of Morris County's organization in 1858 until 1871, Council Grove was the county's only incorporated city. But the KATY railroad brought opportunity to new reaches in the county. In 1871, a second town, Parkerville, was incorporated, raising questions about Council Grove's undisputed status as county seat. In the nineteenth century, county-seat status was essential to a town's success, attracting the attention and money of eastern investors, railroad speculators, and area farmers.<sup>26</sup> Amid the usual, and likely valid, claims of electoral corruption,

<sup>17</sup> James R. Shortridge, *Cities on the Plains: The Evolution of Urban Kansas* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2004), 113.

<sup>18</sup> Loyalty questioned after the Yeager Raid, *New York Times* 27 May 1863. In 1859, the territorial legislature renamed the county "Morris" after an Ohio Senator. It had formerly been named "Wise" after Henry Wise, a governor of Virginia. Brigham, *History of Morris County*, 9.

<sup>19</sup> Cutler.

<sup>20</sup> Brigham, 49; Campbell, 91-92.

<sup>21</sup> Brigham, 49.

<sup>22</sup> US Census.

<sup>23</sup> Campbell, 92.

<sup>24</sup> WPA, Kansas Historical Records Survey Project: Inventory of the County Archives of Kansas, no. 64, (Morris Co.: June, 1942), 65.

<sup>25</sup> Essington, 14.

<sup>26</sup> Dearment, Robert K. and Richard Maxwell Brown, *Ballots & Bullets: The Bloody County Seat Wars of Kansas* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006).

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the issue was settled in Council Grove's favor in a bloodless 1871 election.<sup>27</sup> Like those in many aspiring centers of trade, Council Grove boosters tried to construct their way out of any future predicaments. After a second failed attempt by Parkerville, the Council Grove township officers built the county courthouse and donated it to the county in 1874.<sup>28</sup> Like many Kansas towns, Council Grove experienced a period of rapid growth in the 1870s and 1880s. By 1874, the city boasted two broomcorn factories.<sup>29</sup> In the years immediately following the arrival of the KATY railroad and county-seat designation, a more-permanent brand of commercial buildings were built on Main Street. Among these was the distinctive Italianate Scott and Anderson Building (1873) at 208-210 W. Main (Properties #17-18).

But the community was not without its challenges. Because the majority of the town's trade came from farmers, who accounted for up to 90% of the state's population at the time, Council Grove's success or failure depended greatly upon the success or failure of the farm economy. Farmers hauled grain to the town's elevators and mills, bought agricultural implements from local dealers, and frequented general and hardware stores. The city's resolve was tested in 1873 when the area was besieged by a devastating prairie fire, financial panic and destructive grasshopper plague.

Despite its setbacks, the town's population grew from 1080 to 1634 between 1870 and 1880. Permanent commercial construction finally resumed in the late 1870s. In 1879, George Methe, who had founded his jewelry store in 1872, constructed an Italianate building at 206 W. Main (Property #19).<sup>30</sup>

Among the factors in the recovery of the local economy was the arrival of a second railroad. On April 25, 1881, Morris County passed bonds to lure the Topeka, Salina and Southwestern Railroad, later part of the Missouri Pacific (MOPAC) line.<sup>31</sup> Between the time the bonds passed in 1881 and the railroad reached Council Grove in 1885, many new commercial buildings were built. Among the most substantial of these were the Masonic Lodge, built at 106 W. Main (Property #38) and the Gibson, Miller and Simms Hardware Building at 217 W. Main (Property #61).<sup>32</sup>

By 1885, when the MOPAC Railroad arrived, the town had grown to 2500.<sup>33</sup> There were two continuous blocks of commercial buildings downtown, stretching east along Main Street from Second Street to the Neosho River. There was a smattering of additional businesses, the most substantial being the S. A. Brown and Company Lumber Yard west of Second Street. Among the more interesting businesses was the Council Grove Roller Skating rink, located at the northeast corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main.<sup>34</sup>

By the mid 1880s, it had become clear that the Flint Hills region, with its rocky soil and nutrient-rich grasses, was suited to ranching and cattle filled the ecological niche that had been held by the nearly extinct bison. American people had acquired a taste for beef after the Civil War when cowboys drove Texas longhorns to Kansas rail heads. Soon, ranchers were raising their own herds on the abundant prairie grasses for shipment east.

The fires that breathed life into the Kansas prairie could annihilate a downtown. On September 19, 1886, a devastating fire in Council Grove's downtown destroyed all the buildings on Main Street between the Hays House (then the Arway

<sup>27</sup> Cutler.<sup>28</sup> WPA, 34-37.<sup>29</sup> Campbell, 94.<sup>30</sup> Brigham, 91.<sup>31</sup> Brigham, 62.<sup>32</sup> Gibson and Davidson was founded in 1876. Brigham, 91. The Masonic lodge was organized December 14, 1861;<sup>33</sup> Brigham, 88.<sup>34</sup> Brigham, 60.<sup>34</sup> 1885 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

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Hotel) and Neosho Street.<sup>35</sup> Although the fire was a distressing blow, it occurred during the statewide real estate boom, when businessmen had the confidence to rebuild. Two major buildings, the Munsell and McGeorge Building at 126 W. Main and the Council Grove National Bank at 130 W. Main, were constructed to replace buildings lost in the fire.<sup>36</sup> Among the downtown buildings constructed in 1887 alone were the Opera House (razed), just west of the Neosho River on the north side of Main Street, the White and Crowley Building at 204 W. Main (Property #20), and the Sims Mercantile at 401-403 E. Main. In an effort to better protect downtown buildings from fire, the city constructed a new waterworks. It was completed in February 1888.<sup>37</sup> Other 1880s improvements included a street-car system in 1886. The boom reached a fevered pitch in 1887, when the city was abuzz with news that the Rock Island Railroad would name Council Grove as a division point.<sup>38</sup>

The Rock Island Railroad's decision to award division-point designation to Herington instead left the town demoralized and put an abrupt end to the real estate boom. The blow was exacerbated in 1889 when many downtrodden citizens left Morris County and Kansas to take part in the Oklahoma Land Rush.<sup>39</sup> Many farmers, who had mortgaged their land to buy industrial-age farm equipment and the additional acreage necessary to raise cash crops, lost their farms in sheriff's sales.<sup>40</sup> The growing number of destitute citizens necessitated the development of a county poor farm where the poor could work in return for food and board. The Board of County Commissioners bought 199 acres for this purpose in December 1889.<sup>41</sup>

The economic downturn left many boom-time projects uncompleted. Among them was the construction of the Farmers and Drovers Bank building, which was postponed until 1892.<sup>42</sup> Another was the reconstruction of some buildings lost in the 1886 fire. A large stretch of these commercial buildings, at 122-124 W. Main, lay in ruins until finally replaced by George Cleek in the late 1890s. Despite the economic ups and downs in the final two decades of the nineteenth century, more downtown buildings, twenty that are still extant, were constructed in those two decades than in any other two decades in the city's history. Despite losses to Oklahoma and elsewhere, the population of Council Grove grew between 1880 and 1900 from 1634 to 2860.<sup>43</sup>

A New Century

When commercial construction finally resumed in earnest in the early twentieth century, the new buildings, like those nationwide, lacked the architectural luster of their 1870s and 1880s predecessors. Most were one-story affairs with simple, applied details, such as pressed-metal parapets and cornices. Among the major construction projects in the dawning years of the twentieth century was the 1902 addition to the county courthouse.<sup>44</sup>

A single event in the dawning years of the twentieth century forever changed the face of Council Grove. After a month of rain in the spring of 1903, the Neosho River rose "several feet above all recorded high water marks."<sup>45</sup> The flood waters stretched west along Main Street as far as Belfry Street, destroying the Main Street Bridge, damaging downtown buildings

<sup>35</sup> Brigham, 63.

<sup>36</sup> The fire resulted in a \$100,000 loss, Brigham, 63.

<sup>37</sup> Maloy, 116, 120, 121.

<sup>38</sup> Shortridge, *Cities*, 168.

<sup>39</sup> Maloy, 122.

<sup>40</sup> Campbell, 124.

<sup>41</sup> WPA, 43.

<sup>42</sup> Julie Wortman, Farmers and Drovers Bank Building National Register Nomination, 1982.

<sup>43</sup> US Census.

<sup>44</sup> WPA, 34.

<sup>45</sup> Blackmar, 321.

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and taking the lives of three people. A flood-related fire, which destroyed "part of the block west of the Farmers and Drovers Bank," exacerbated the situation.<sup>46</sup> The floods damaged both buildings and the businesses that occupied them. Among the casualties was the Indicator Mercantile Company. The business, which occupied two downtown buildings built by the Farmers and Drovers Bank in 1902 (Properties #53 and 55), did not re-open after the flood. The existing buildings at 207 and 209 West Main (Properties #56 and 57) were both built to replace buildings lost in the flood. The flood delayed the construction of the Carnegie Library (Property #67).

Eight of the buildings in the district (Properties #37, 41, 53, 55, 56, 57, 70, 71) were constructed during the first decade of the twentieth century. At the end of the decade, in 1910, the county reached its peak population of 12, 397.<sup>47</sup>

All Roads Lead to Council Grove

In July 1901, onlookers watched agape as W. E. Dennison rambled along Council Grove's Main Street in his new motorized contraption. There is little doubt that Dennison, ironically employed as a railroad conductor, could have anticipated the impact the automobile would have on his community. Just over a decade later, by 1913, there were 228 cars in the county – and autos had evolved from entertaining gadgets to legitimate modes of transportation.<sup>48</sup>

With railroads in place to connect farmers, ranchers and merchants to broader markets and suppliers, Kansans turned their focus to the development of a system of passable roads. By 1921, there were "forty-seven miles of permanent hard surfaced roads authorized to be built in Morris County."<sup>49</sup>

The Kansas Good Roads Association, organized in 1900 by bicycle enthusiasts, set its sites on improving state laws to transform the Kansas road system from a mix of disparate county roads departments to a unified statewide system. In 1909, a group of Good Roads' advocates organized to form the New Santa Fe Trail Association with the aim of constructing a "New Santa Fe Trail" to connect Hutchinson and Garden City.<sup>50</sup> By 1915, plans called for the highway to stretch from Kansas City to the Hutchinson to connect to the transcontinental highway.

Despite its name, the main road would bypass the historic trail town of Council Grove instead opting for the Progressive-Era strongholds of Ottawa, Emporia, Newton, Hutchinson and Dodge City.<sup>52</sup> In 1926, it became part of U. S. Highway 50 and the "Santa Fe Trail" hook line faded into history. Council Grove was served by the highway's northern branch, Highway 50-N (now 56). Three highways – Highway 50-N, Highway 13 (now 177) and Highway 4 – passed through Council Grove by 1932.<sup>53</sup> In 1941, the county boasted 819.5 miles of township roads, and 93 miles of state highways. Still, U. S. Highway 50-N (now 56) was the only fully paved highway.<sup>54</sup>

Downtown businesses adjusted to serve the emerging auto culture. Before auto owners built garages adjacent to their homes, they housed their cars at downtown garages, where they could fill their gas tanks and make repairs. The first of

<sup>46</sup> Brigham, 64.<sup>47</sup> WPA, 90.<sup>48</sup> Campbell, 138, 158.<sup>49</sup> Brigham, 98.<sup>50</sup> L. Robert Puschendorf. "Trails of the Twentieth Century: John C. Nicholson and Newton, Kansas." *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* Autumn 2009, 32, no. 3.<sup>51</sup> Emporia Weekly Gazette, 1/7/1915.<sup>52</sup> Puschendorf, 161.<sup>53</sup> 1932 Kansas Department of Transportation map. Available online at "KDOT Historic State Maps," <http://www.ksdot.org/burtransplan/maps/historicstatemaps.asp>.<sup>54</sup> WPA, 73-74.

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Council Grove's downtown garages was built between 1908 and 1914, on vacant land on the south side of Main between Second and Third Streets. Many early garage owners/operators had owned livery stables. Between 1914 and 1922; a livery on the east end of Main Street was converted to a 15-car auto garage and filling station. A collection of auto-related businesses – an auto bus line, a second 15-car garage, and a gas pump – replaced a second livery stable on the west side of First Street (Neosho) south of Hockaday. The skating rink at the northeast corner of Main and Second (Mission), gave way to a stuccoed filling station. The machine shop to the station's north was converted to an auto repair shop.<sup>55</sup> The building at 318 W. Main (Property #3) was built as an auto sales and garage in 1920; and 226 W. Main (Property #12) was constructed in 1927 as a Ford Dealership.

The Good Roads Movement brought new promise to history-rich Council Grove. Fueled by record-high grain prices, the number of automobiles in Kansas ballooned from 10,490 to 134,000 between 1910 and 1917.<sup>56</sup> The development of roads and increasing numbers of reliable autos coincided with a new interest in history and an increase in leisure time. For the first time, Kansans had the means and time to easily access the structures that interpreted the state's early history. Many were disappointed in what they found: derelict, vandalized and nearly forgotten structures. An outcropping of stone on the Santa Fe Trail known as Pawnee Rock had been quarried for building stone. Women's efforts to preserve these properties brought the issue to the attention of the Kansas Legislature, which established a system for the protection of these sites.<sup>57</sup>

Interest peaked in 1921, when the nation celebrated the centennial of the Santa Fe Trail. To the new brand of auto tourists, Council Grove marketed a long list of attractions: the "Mystic" Padilla Monument, the Custer Elm, the Post Office Oak, and (while still in private hands) the Kaw Mission. A new site, the Monument to the Unknown Indian, was unveiled during the Santa Fe Trail Centennial. The site marked the place of re-burial of Indian remains discovered on a Boy Scout hike the year before.<sup>58</sup>

Thousands of tourists and citizens alike attended Council Grove's week-long centennial celebration replete with concerts, pageants and four nights of dances. Advertisements encouraged visitors to "Leave your car with us and go about enjoying the celebration with a feeling of security for your automobile."<sup>59</sup> The event marked Council Grove's "coming out" as a full-fledged tourist town.

Other attractions and events followed. In the early twentieth century, a Missouri contingent of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) commenced efforts to mark the route of the Santa Fe Trail. By the late 1920s, plans included the construction of a "Madonna of the Trail" monument in each of the twelve states along the "National Old Trails Road" an early ocean-to-ocean highway that covered the route of the Santa Fe Trail from Missouri to Santa Fe. The DAR chose Council Grove as the location for the Kansas monument, which was dedicated in 1928.<sup>60</sup> In 1931, the Knights of Columbus dedicated a memorial to Father Fray Juan de Padilla, who according to local lore was killed nearby in 1542.

<sup>55</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.<sup>56</sup> Shortridge, *Cities*, 288.<sup>57</sup> Miner, *Kansas: The History of the Sunflower State, 1854-2000* (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2002), 212.<sup>58</sup> A source from the Santa Fe Trail Centennial provided the following account: "...no doubt was a Kaw chief. This deduction is derived from finding close by, the skeleton of a horse, a chief's riding equipment, and the Indian's fighting arms." *Echoes*, 21.<sup>59</sup> Centennial ad for Wilson Brothers Ford, Lincoln, Fordson.<sup>60</sup> Ironic given that the Santa Fe trail was a merchant route, versus emigration trail;  
<http://www.dar.org/hatsociety/content.cfm?ID=323&hd=n>.

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The monument was "built from the original stones" which is believed to mark the grave of America's first Christian martyr.<sup>61</sup>

Auto tourists could choose from a number of lodging options. Some stayed at the Arway Hotel, built in 1857 as the Hays House (Property #36). Others stayed at the Cottage House Hotel (Property #24), which was expanded in the early 1910s. For the more adventurous and thrifty visitors, Council Grove offered the Maple Grove campground, adjacent to the historic Terwilliger House, which had been converted to a service station.

Hard Times

By the time Council Grove hit its stride as an early tourist town, the nation was falling into economic calamity. Hard times reached Kansas in the early 1920s, when the inflated war-time crop prices plummeted, leaving farmers saddled with the debt that had been necessary to increase production.<sup>62</sup> Morris County suffered a series of devastating blows – both economic and environmental. A flood in May 1929 washed out the Missouri Pacific tracks and left homeowners and merchants scrambling. When the water rose to knee-deep on Main Street, merchants began using boats to "salvage merchandise from stores and save personal property."<sup>63</sup>

The 1929 flood prompted a series of efforts related to flood control. When federal funds became available through the New Deal, flood control advocates initiated their appeals. In 1934, Kansas groups petitioned the federal government for \$40 million to fund a flood water storage facility at Council Grove at the head of the Neosho River.<sup>64</sup> In January 1940 construction began on Canning Creek Lake, now known as Council Grove City Lake. The project was completed, with help from the WPA, in 1942.<sup>65</sup>

Council Grove received federal funds for other public projects. The city built a new water plant in 1933. In 1936, the county received WPA funding to replace the 1890s brick jail with a new concrete building.<sup>66</sup> The Federal Government constructed the city's first free-standing post office building (Property #44), still in use today, in 1939. A new building was constructed at 10 S. Wood Street (Property #43) in 1939 to house the Flint Hills Rural Electrification Administration (REA), a New-Deal program that brought electricity to rural areas.

These federal projects brought some hope and relief to the distressed community. Before the worst was over, many of the area's banks, including Council Grove's Citizens Bank, the Parkersville Bank, Delavan Bank, Latimer Bank, and Wilsey Bank, closed their doors.<sup>67</sup> In 1934, the Cottage House Hotel, Council Grove's most exclusive hotel since the late nineteenth century, was sold at sheriff's sale.<sup>68</sup>

<sup>61</sup> *Echoes of Yesterday*, 3; "George P. Morehouse, Padilla and the Old Monument Near Council Grove," *Kansas Historical Collections*, Vol. X, pp. 472-479.

<sup>62</sup> WPA, 89.

<sup>63</sup> *Hutchinson News*, 11 May 1929.

<sup>64</sup> *New York Times*, 18 March 1934.

<sup>65</sup> Campbell, 193; John Steele, "Council Grove: high quality water in the Flint Hills," *Kansas Rural Water*, <http://www.krwa.net/lifeline/archives/00111council.html>, Nov. 2001.

<sup>66</sup> WPA, 42.

<sup>67</sup> Campbell, 190.

<sup>68</sup> Martha Hagedorn-Krass, Cottage House Hotel, National Register Nomination, 1988.

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Both the national and local economies shifted during World War II. The U. S. Army opened the Delavan Air Base, also called Herington Air Base, on 9000 acres in west Morris County for processing its B-29 airplanes.<sup>69</sup> Between 1942 and 1944, the number of personnel stationed at the base increased exponentially from 200 to over 3000. The Cottage House Hotel, rescued at sheriff's sale at the height of the Great Depression, was enlisted into service to provide housing for base employees.<sup>70</sup>

Post-War Years

The years following World War II were a time of significant public investment and interest in Council Grove. Since the 1929 flood, Kansans had lobbied for federal funds to control the flood-prone Neosho River. In 1934, supporters had approached the Federal Government for \$40 million in funds for "flood water storage at Council Grove."<sup>71</sup> But major efforts toward flood control were not made until the post-war years. The Flood Control Act of 1950 included provisions for flood control of the Neosho River Basin in Kansas and Oklahoma. After a decade of delays and planning, construction on the \$11.5 million Corps of Engineers project at Council Grove Reservoir, just northwest of town, was finally completed in 1964.<sup>72</sup>

Unfortunately, the flood control project did not begin soon enough. In 1951, the rushing floodwaters spilled over the banks of the Kansas, Neosho, Marais Des Cygnes and Verdigris Rivers after record rains in June and July. On July 11, 1951, the Neosho River at Council Grove, the head of the Neosho River, was flowing at 121,000 cubic feet per second. The Great Flood of 1951 left \$935 million in damage and twenty-eight fatalities in its wake – mostly downriver at Iola and Parsons.<sup>73</sup>

Among the Council Grove properties damaged by the Great Flood was the Kaw Indian Mission. During the 1950-51 legislative session, Council Grove Senator W. H. White and White City Representative L. J. Blythe introduced legislation authorizing \$23,500 for the purchase of the property as a State Historic Site. When the rains came, the site caretaker had "just moved in." "The first floor, the installations in the basement, and the grounds were badly damaged."<sup>74</sup> Repairs could not begin until the state emergency fund board appropriated funds in March 1952. The museum opened in September.<sup>75</sup>

The Kaw Mission gave Council Grove's tourist economy a boost. In 1954, the new state historic site welcomed 5716 visitors from "thirty-seven states and nine foreign countries."<sup>76</sup> In 1969, 840,000 people visited the new Council Grove Reservoir.<sup>77</sup> The reservoir drew visitors to the area's other historic sites. Annual visitation to the Kaw Indian Mission had topped 9000 during the 1960s. One indication of the community's pride in the site was a feature in the local newspaper. The "Museum Scorecard" published weekly visitation numbers.<sup>78</sup>

<sup>69</sup> Campbell, 196.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid, 189; Cottage House Hotel, National Register Nomination.

<sup>71</sup> New York Times, 18 March 1934.

<sup>72</sup> The other Kansas lakes created by this act were John Redmond Reservoir (Coffey County) and Marion Lake (Marion County).

<sup>73</sup> USGS, "The 1951 Floods in Kansas Revisited," 4, <http://ks.water.usgs.gov/pubs/fact-sheets/fs.041-01.pdf>.

<sup>74</sup> "The Annual Meeting," *Kansas Historical Quarterly* v. 20, no. 1 (February 1952), 24-25.

<sup>75</sup> "The Annual Meeting," *Kansas Historical Quarterly* v. 20, no. 5 (February 1953), 362.

<sup>76</sup> "The Annual Meeting," *Kansas Historical Quarterly* v. 21, no. 4 (Winter 1954), 300.

<sup>77</sup> Campbell, 197.

<sup>78</sup> Historic Sites Records, Kansas State Historical Society.

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Through the efforts of its dedicated citizens, Council Grove became one of the state's first heritage-tourism destinations. In 1963, three years before the National Historic Preservation Act, preservation advocates successfully nominated one of the state's first National Historic Landmarks, a district that included four Santa-Fe-Trail-related sites -- trail ruts, Council Oak, Post Office Oak and Hays Tavern.

Council Grove continues to pride itself as a tourist town.

**SUMMARY**

The buildings in downtown Council Grove interpret the history of the community's permanent commercial development. The district's buildings reflect a wide range of time periods stretching from the mid-nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century. The Council Grove Downtown Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Community Planning and Development for its association with the growth and development of Council Grove and Criterion C for its architectural significance.

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**10. GEOGRAPHIC DATA**

**UTM References, cont.**

#	Zone	Easting	Northing
5.	14	718381	4282082
6.	14	718402	4282027
7.	14	718497	4282060
8.	14	718541	4281957

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Council Grove Downtown Historic District includes the properties located within the following boundary: beginning on the northeast corner of Belfry Street and the east/west alley between Main Street and Hockaday Street, then north along Belfry Street to the southeast corner of the alley between Main Street and Columbia Street, then east along the alley between Main Street and Columbia Street to Mission Street, then north along Mission Street to Wood Street, then south to the alley between Columbia Street and Main Street, then east along the alley to the Neosho River right of way, then south to the alley between Main Street and Hockaday Street, then west along the alley to the point of beginning at Belfry Street. The legal descriptions for the properties included within the district boundaries are included in Section 7. The boundaries are also identified in the enclosed maps.

**Boundary Justification**

This district includes Council Grove's historic commercial core. It includes all of the buildings facing Main Street between Belfry and the Neosho River, as well as free-standing buildings to the north along Columbia, Neosho and Mission Streets. The district is bounded on the east by the Neosho River. To the west and south are non-commercial buildings.

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

**Photo Log**

Photographer: Brenda R. Spencer  
Date: January 2010 (unless otherwise noted)  
Original Files: Photographer holds original digital image files

<u>Photo #</u>	<u>Camera Direction</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	NE	North side of 300 block W. Main Street; Buildings #2 -10
2	N	Stella Theater and Whiting Buildings (#4-5-6), N side 300 block W. Main Street (October 2008)
3	NE	North side of 300 block W. Main Street; Buildings #10-2
4	NE	North side of 200 block W. Main Street; Buildings #12 - 22
5	NE	Buildings #12-22 on north side of 300 block, W. Main Street
6	NW	North side of 200 block W. Main Street; Buildings #22-14

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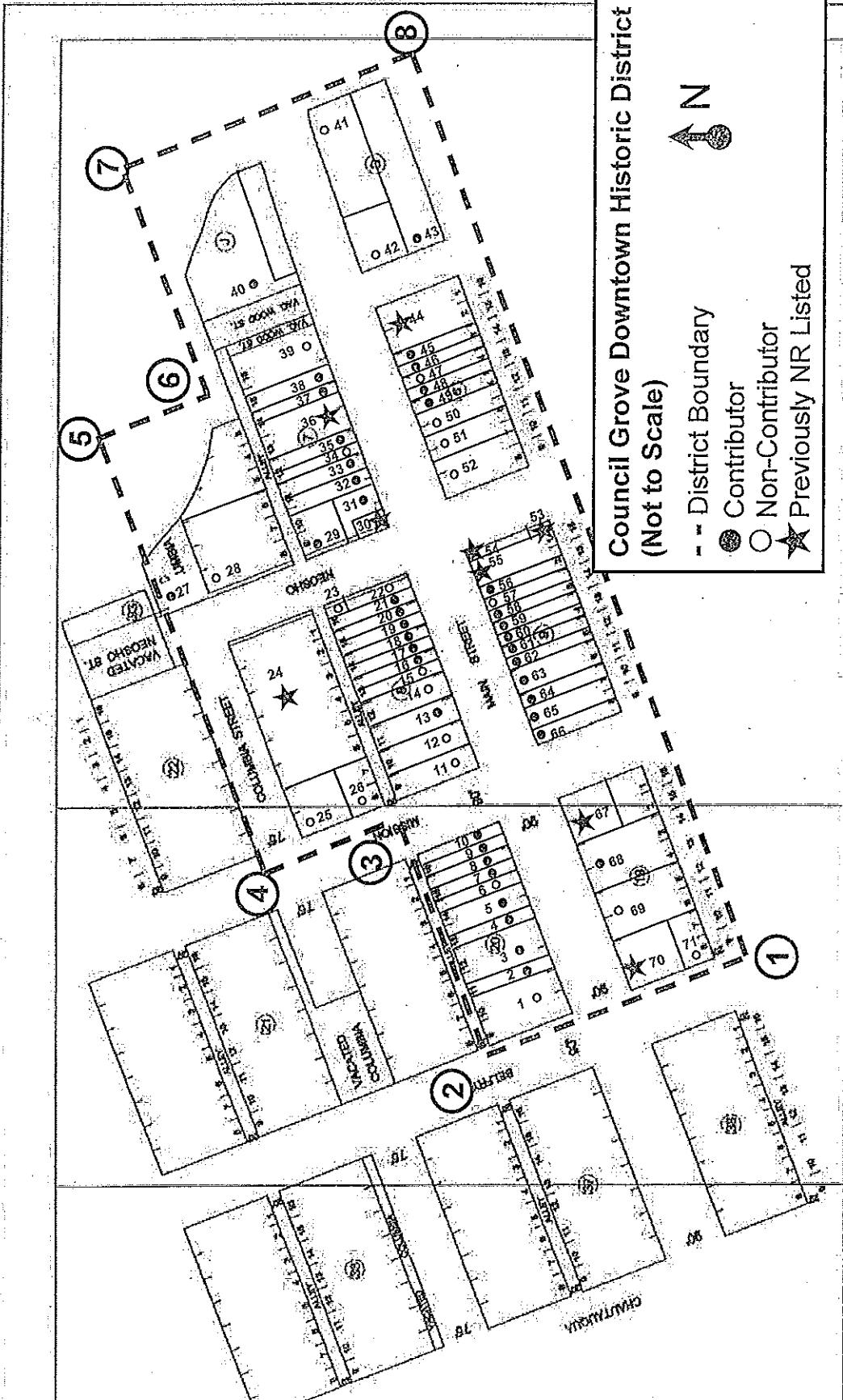
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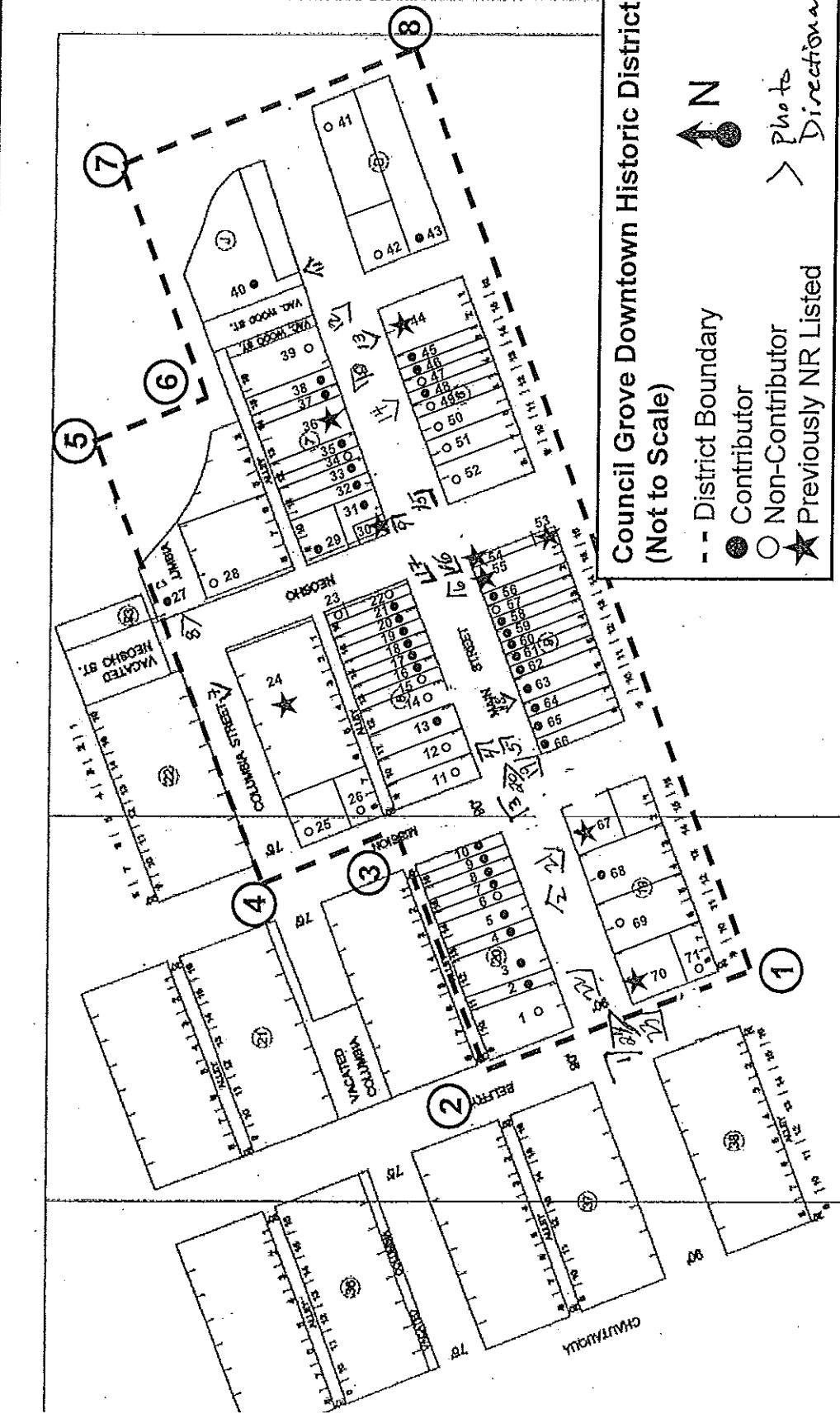
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7	NW	Cottage House Hotel (Building #24) on N. Neosho, Individually listed on NR
8	NE	Haslam Hospital (Building #27) on N. Neosho (October 2008)
9	NE	North side of 100 block W. Main Street; Buildings #30-39 Morris County Bank on corner is individually listed on NR
10	NW	Buildings #38-32 on north side of 100 block W. Main Street
11	NE	The Coffin Building (#40) at east end of W. Main (north side) (October 2008)
12	SE	Buildings #41, 42 & 43-the old armory, gas station and REA bldg at east end of W. Main (south side)
13	SW	U.S. Post Office (Building #44) south side, 100 block W. Main (October 2008)
14	SE	South side of 100 block W. Main Street; Buildings #45-49
15	SE	South side of 100 block W. Main Street; Buildings #52-45
16	SW	SW corner of S. Neosho and W. Main Street, 200 block W. Main Buildings 53-57
17	S	Farmers and Drovers Bank and Indicator Building (#54-56) Individually listed on NR
18	S	I.O.O.F. Building (#63) -new facade constructed after 1926 fire 200 block W. Main Street, south side (October 2008)
19	SE	South side of 200 block W. Main Street; Buildings #66-54
20	E	W. Main Street, looking east from Mission Street (200 block)
21	SE	Carnegie Library (1919) Building #67, 300 block W. Main (October 2008) Individually listed on NR
22	SE	South side of 300 block W. Main Street; Buildings #67-70
23	SE	First Baptist Church and Baptist rectory at SE corner of W. Main Street and S. Belfry (Buildings #70-71) Church is individually listed on NR
24	E	W. Main Street looking east from Belfry (300 block)

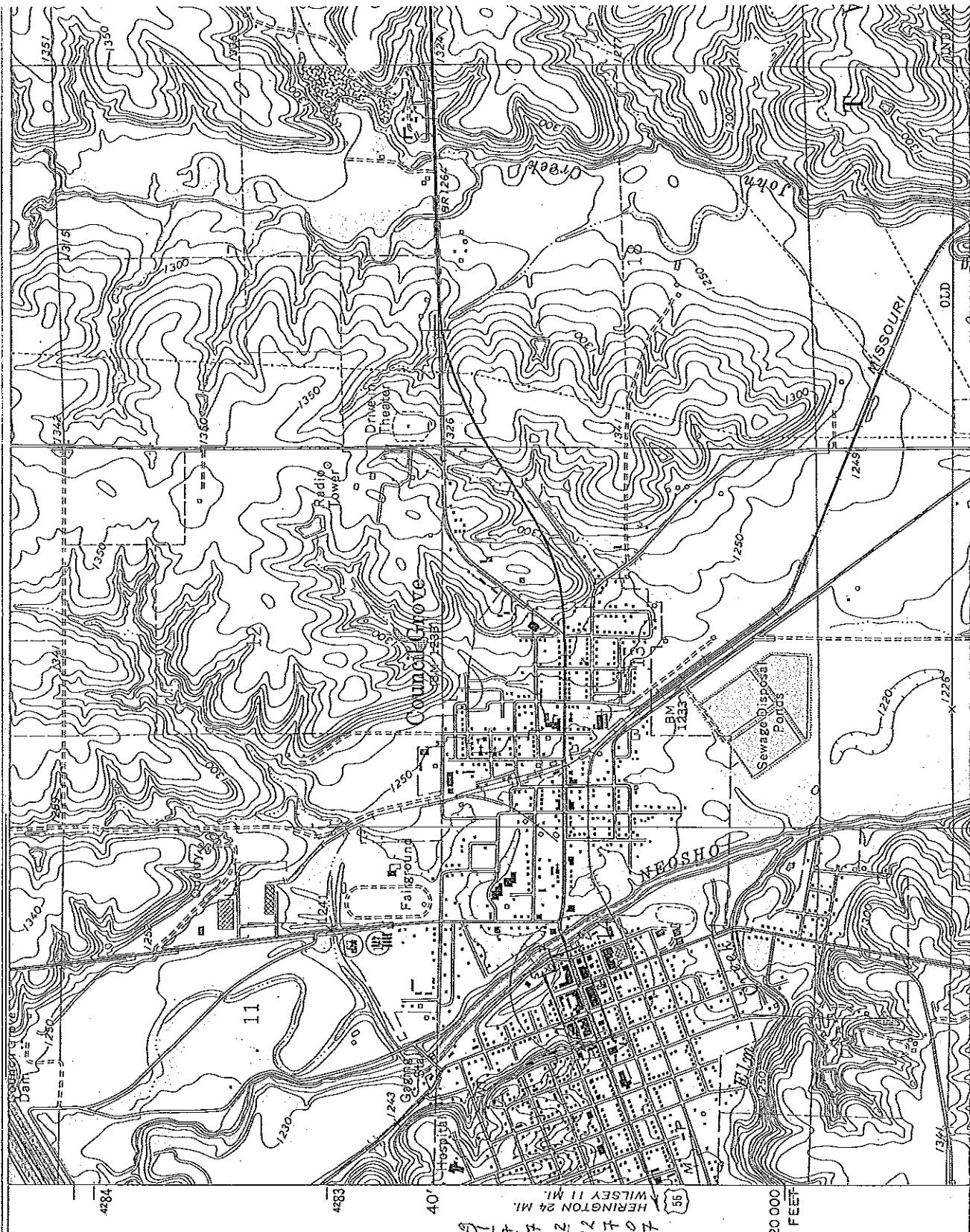


**COUNCIL GROVE - BELFRY TO RIVER**



COUNCIL GROVE - BELFRY TO RIVER

5



Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	14 718 142	428 1807
2.	14 718 090	428 1967
3.	14 718 210	428 1957
4.	14 718 184	428 2012
5.	14 718 321	428 2082
6.	14 718 402	428 2027
7.	14 718 497	428 2060
8.	14 718 541	428 1957

WILSEY 11 MI  
HERINGTON 24 MI  
16

120,000  
FEET