

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in 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 any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Neosho Commercial Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Along sections of Main, Spring, Washington and Wood Streets not for publication N/A

city or town Neosho vicinity N/A

state Missouri code MO county Newton code 145 zip code 64850

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

24 June 1993
Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the

National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the

National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Neosho Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Newton County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>33</u>	<u>8</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>33</u>	<u>9</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| <u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> business/professional/ |
| <u></u> | <input type="checkbox"/> financial institution/ |
| <u></u> | <input type="checkbox"/> specialty store/department/ |
| <u></u> | <input type="checkbox"/> store |
| <u>GOVERNMENT</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> city hall/courthouse |
| <u></u> | <input type="checkbox"/> correctional facility |

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> business/professional/ |
| <u></u> | <input type="checkbox"/> financial institution/ |
| <u></u> | <input type="checkbox"/> specialty store/department |
| <u></u> | <input type="checkbox"/> store/restaurant |
| <u>GOVERNMENT</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> courthouse |
| <u>RECREATION AND CULTURE</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate/Romanesque
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival/Classical Revival
MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Stone
roof Asphalt
walls Brick
other Metal/Wood/Stone
Wood

Narrative Description

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

Neosho Commercial Historic District

Newton County, Missouri

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions).

- Architecture
Commerce
Politics/Government

Period of Significance

Ca. 1868 - 1943

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Architect/Davis, Neal C.
Builder/Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

Summary

The Neosho Commercial Historic District is located in and around the original Court Square of Neosho, Missouri. The district is composed of one- to four-story commercial buildings constructed primarily between 1868 and 1915. The district retains its original street and block pattern from its original survey and plan. Within the district are 41 buildings of which 33 would be considered contributing to the character of the district. On the courthouse lawn is a modern pergola which is included as a non-contributing structure.

Neosho became an important commercial and trading center after the Civil War. By the late 1860s a series of one- and two-story brick commercial buildings were constructed on the Court Square facing the courthouse. These buildings were typical One-Part and Two-Part Commercial Blocks constructed in Missouri during the 19th century. Common details for these buildings include storefronts with display windows and cast iron columns or pilasters, and upper facades with sheet metal or brick decoration. The Italianate style with its arched entrances and bracketed cornices was used for many of the buildings constructed in these years.

By the early 20th century, the Neosho Court Square contained solid blocks of masonry buildings on all four sides facing the courthouse. The tallest of these, the four-story Haas Building was completed in 1906. The majority of buildings constructed after 1900 on the square were built with brick and glass storefronts and upper facade details such as rectangular windows and cornices of corbelled brick, cast concrete, or terra cotta. Several bank buildings were constructed with Colonial Revival details and the remodeling of the First National Bank in 1922 resulted in a Temple Front, Neo-classical facade.

In addition to the commercial buildings the Court Square and environs has also been the center for county and city public buildings. The present Newton County Courthouse was built in the center of the square in 1936 and replaced an earlier Second Empire style courthouse built in 1878. The oldest public building in the district is the Newton County Jail completed in 1888. This Second Empire style brick building is located one block north of the square and housed the county jail for almost fifty years. During the early 20th century city offices were located in the Haas Building prior to the construction of the Auditorium and City Hall on W. Main Street in 1938. Both the courthouse and city hall buildings were constructed in the Art Deco style by architect Neal Davis.

Since the 1930s few new buildings have been constructed in and around the Court Square area. The major changes to the buildings have been alterations to storefronts and the covering of upper facades with artificial sidings. Alterations have been most extensive on the west side of the square and this block no longer retains its historic integrity. The north, east, and south sides of the square plus adjacent blocks retain their original architectural character and are the most representative collection of historic commercial buildings in Neosho.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

Individual Property Descriptions:

1. 101-103 E. Main Street (McGinty's): This two-story building was originally built in 1895 as part of the Golden Eagle Building. The storefront dates from ca. 1945 and has blue carrara glass paneled bulkheads, copper and glass display windows and tile floors. The upper facade has metal panels added ca. 1970. The building's upper facade is presently concealed and the building no longer retains its original integrity. (NC).

2. 105-109 E. Main Street (Matter's Jewelry; Picci's; Oldham Jewelry): Constructed in 1895 at a cost of \$15,000, this two-story, Two-Part commercial building was originally the home of the Golden Eagle Department Store. The building has three separate storefronts divided by original brick piers with stone detailing. The 105 storefront was remodeled ca. 1945 and has red tinted carrara glass panels, aluminum and glass display windows and door. Across the storefront is a wood and metal canopy. Adjacent to the storefront is an entrance which leads to the staircase. This entrance has a 12-light glass and wood door added ca. 1940.

The 107 storefront has a recessed entrance with two ca. 1970 glass and metal doors. Transoms have been enclosed on this storefront and wood panels added at the bulkheads. An additional solid wood door leads to the second story staircase. Over the door are two original single light transoms. The display window of this storefront has been altered but retains some sections of stone bulkheads. The 109 storefront was altered ca. 1960 with brick bulkheads and metal and glass display windows and doors. The storefront's transom is covered with wood panels.

The upper facade of the building has rectangular one-over-one and six-over-six wood sash windows with added storm windows. Windows have stone lintels and sills. The windows in the upper facade of 109 E. Main Street have been enclosed with wood panels and two, single light windows. Above the windows is a soldier course belt course. At the roofline is an original sheet metal cornice with large brackets and floral panels. (C)

3. 111 East Main Street (Neosho Savings and Loan Association): This is a two-story, brick and stone veneer Temple Front commercial building constructed in 1922. The building is three bays wide with full height Corinthian columns and pilasters on the main facade. The building's storefront was altered ca. 1980 with the addition of anodized aluminum, metal and glass display windows and doors. On the second story of the upper facade are three bays of original one-over-one wood sash, tri-part windows. Above the second story is a stone cornice and frieze inscribed "Neosho Building and Loan Association." Above this frieze is a concrete cornice with modillion blocks and dentils. At the roofline is a stone parapet wall. Windows on the alley facade have been bricked in. The interior was remodeled in 1992.

This building was originally the First National Bank and was built in 1905 on a lot purchased from M.E. Benton. In 1922, the bank purchased the adjoining lot and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

building and remodeled and rebuilt the two buildings fronting forty feet on the square. The Neosho Building and Loan Association dates to 1884 and occupied several locations before moving into the First National Building ca. 1965. (C)

4. 113 East Main Street (Neosho Savings and Loan Association): 113 East Main Street is a two-story brick, Two-Part, three-bay commercial building constructed ca. 1905. The storefront and upper facade were altered in 1992 for use by the Neosho Savings and Loan Association. These alterations have included the removal of the storefront and addition of an arched window on the first story, and rebricking of the upper facade. Due to these alterations the building no longer retains its historic integrity. (NC)

5. 121-127 E. Main Street (Neosho Gift, Etc.; Dollar General Stores): This two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building was constructed in 1906 with four separate storefronts. The 121/123/125 storefronts are occupied by one business and have been altered with ca. 1970 brick bulkheads and metal and glass display windows and doors. Adjacent to the 121 storefront is an original recessed entrance with a single-light glass and wood door. The transom above these storefronts has been covered with wood panels. The 127 storefront contains a separate business and was remodeled ca. 1985 with metal and glass display windows and door. The storefront retains wood bulkheads which may be original. The transom above the storefront has been covered with wood panels. Adjacent to the 127 storefront is an entrance to the second floor. This entrance has a single-light glass and wood door and added wood panel over the glass light. The upper facade of the building has not been altered and retains its original design. The upper facade is divided into four bays with each bay containing paired one-over-one sash windows. These windows share rock faced stone lintels and sills. Below the windows is a belt course of yellow glazed brick and yellow glazed brick is also used in corbelling above the windows. Dividing the upper facade bays are brick piers with glazed brick panels. Below the roofline the glazed brick has been used to create diamond patterns. At the roofline is a parapet of rock faced stone. The building was built for the Briggs Hardware Company in 1906 after fire destroyed its original 1896 building. (C)

6. 129 East Main Street (Pizza Hut): This two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building was constructed in 1906 to replace an earlier building at this location destroyed by fire. The building is distinguished by its exterior of glazed white tile. The storefront is chamfered with a corner granite column and decorative capital at the southeast corner of the building. The storefront has been altered with metal and glass display windows and door, but retains some sections of frame bulkheads and display windows. Above the storefront is a terra cotta cornice with rectangular panels and egg and dart molding. The upper facade has three window openings containing original rectangular one-over-one wood sash windows. Below the roofline is another terra cotta cornice with dentils and a plain frieze. Similar window bays are located on the east facade and entrances on this facade have both original single-light glass and wood doors and ca. 1980 aluminum and glass doors. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

7. 107 West Main Street (Newton Co. Abstract and Title Co.): Two-story brick, Two-Part, rectangular plan commercial building built ca. 1920. The storefront has been altered with added stone veneer and ca. 1970 metal and glass doors. The transom has been covered with metal panels. Beneath the second story windows are bands of soldier and sailor brick courses. The upper floor windows are paired one-over-one rectangular wood sash. At the roofline is a flat parapet with concrete coping. (C)

8. 109-111 West Main Street (Neosho Auditorium and City Hall): Built to house city offices and an auditorium, this two-story civic and governmental building was designed in the Art Deco style by architect Neal C. Davis. It was constructed in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration. On the main facade are five sets of double doors of single-light glass and wood design. Above the doors are large single-light rectangular transoms with opaque lights. Also above the doors are chevron panels and vertical fluted panels. Windows are four-light hopper design. In the second story central bay the window openings have structural glass blocks. At the roofline is concrete indented panels. The building originally housed the city hall, public library, and meeting areas. The auditorium has a stage at one end, hardwood floors, and original wood seats in the gallery, which is lighted by original multi-light casement windows. (C)

9. 100 East Spring Street (Merle Norman Cosmetics): The Rice Building is a two-story brick, Two-Part, four-bay commercial building constructed in 1898. The storefront is chamfered and retains an original brick pier at the southwest corner. The storefront was altered ca. 1925 and in 1989. The primary entrance has a ca. 1925 single-light glass and wood door and a rectangular single-light transom. In the east bay of the storefront is a secondary entrance which also has a ca. 1925 single-light glass and wood door and transom. The central bay has metal and glass display windows added in 1989. Dividing the east bay from the rest of the storefront is an original cast iron pilaster. Above the storefront is a multi-light transom added ca. 1925. On the upper facade are four window openings with original one-over-one rectangular wood sash windows. The windows share rock-faced stone lintels and sills. At the roofline is a sheet metal bracketed cornice. The interior of this building was remodeled in 1989. (C)

10. 102-104 East Spring Street (Sim's Paint and Wallpaper; Rita's Sewing Center): Between 1909 and 1916 a one-story brick building was constructed at 102-108 East Spring Street with four separate storefronts. The building section at 102-104 has ca. 1970 metal panels over the upper facade and altered storefront. The storefront has added stone and concrete bulkheads and aluminum and glass display windows. Due to these alterations this building no longer retains integrity. (NC)

11. 106-108 East Spring Street (Stephen Morrow, Dentist; International Tours): This one-story brick, One-Part, two-bay commercial building was constructed ca. 1910. The building has two storefronts both of which were altered ca. 1960 with brick and stone veneer panels, and metal and glass display windows and doors. Across the width of the building is a ca. 1970 metal and wood awning. Above each storefront is a transom panel, each of which have been covered with wood panels.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

The upper facade is composed of rectangular recessed brick panels. Below the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice. The storefront's original metal canopy remains and has a pressed metal ceiling. This canopy is now supported by metal columns. (C)

12. 110 East Spring Street (Taylor's Books): Two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building constructed ca. 1880. The building has a storefront which was altered ca. 1940. In the west bay is an original recessed entrance with a single-light glass and wood door and rectangular single-light transom. At the corner of this bay is an original cast iron pilaster. The central bay of the storefront is composed of glass and wood display windows on a tile bulkhead. In the east bay is a secondary entrance leading to the second story. This entrance has a ca. 1930 multi-light glass and wood door and adjacent to the door is an extended wood pier with Carrara glass panels. Above the storefront is a transom which has been covered with wood panels. The second story contains three window openings with each opening covered with wood panels. These window openings match those found at 114 East Spring Street and have cast iron sills and hood molding. Above the windows are round vent openings with star shaped grilles and a corbelled brick cornice at the roofline. (C)

13. 112 East Spring Street (McKean's Paint and Wallpaper): 112 East Spring Street is a two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building constructed ca. 1880. The building has a storefront added ca. 1980 with brick veneer bulkheads, and metal and glass display windows and door. The upper facade has two rectangular window openings which have been covered with wood panels. The window openings retain original rock faced rectangular lintels and sills. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice. The side entrance has a solid core door and windows have been enclosed. The interior was remodeled in the 1970s. (C)

14. 114 East Spring Street (Jerry's Fashions): This two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building with Italianate detailing was built ca. 1880. The storefront was altered ca. 1965 and has stone veneer bulkheads, an added wood canopy, aluminum and glass display windows and an enclosed transom. On the second story are three window bays with arched openings. The window openings have been covered with wood panels but retain original cast iron sills and sheet metal hood molding. The hood molding has acroterion panels. Above the windows are two round vent openings with star shaped grilles. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice. The upper facade is similar in appearance to 110 East Spring Street. (C)

15. 122 East Spring Street (Johnston's True Value): One-story brick, One-Part commercial building constructed ca. 1918. The building has a storefront altered ca. 1970 with metal and glass display windows and doors. Across the width of the storefront is a ca. 1980 metal awning. Above the storefront is a transom which has been covered with wood panels. The upper facade is composed of brick with a stuccoed surface. This facade has recessed brick and stucco panels. At the roofline is a stepped parapet. This building was constructed on the site of the 1885 opera house which burned in 1916. The present building appears to have been constructed within a few years after the fire. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

16. 124 East Spring Street (Johnston's True Value): This two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building was constructed ca. 1880. The building retains a ca. 1913 storefront with marble bulkheads, copper and glass display windows, and a central recessed entrance. The entrance retains a ca. 1913 tile floor and glass and wood door with a leaded glass transom. Adjacent to the door is a large single-light sidelight. Across the width of the building is a ca. 1970 metal awning and sign. Above the storefront is a large transom with opaque glass lights. On the second story are six window bays with rectangular window openings. The window openings have been enclosed with wood panels. Above the windows are rock-faced stone lintels and the windows rest on smooth stone sills. At the roofline the original cornice has been removed and covered with metal panels. The side entrance on the east bay leads to a staircase and the second story. This entrance has a ca. 1960 metal and glass door. This building was occupied by the Newton County Hardware Company in 1913 and the building has housed various hardware stores to the present. (C)

17. 126 East Spring Street (Shoe Center): 126 East Spring Street is a two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building constructed ca. 1880. The storefront was altered ca. 1960 with glass and metal display windows and doors. Across the width of the storefront is a ca. 1970 metal awning. The transom panel above the storefront has been covered with wood panels. On the second story are four window openings with rectangular one-over-one windows set within brick segmental arches. The arches have stone shoulders and stone keystones. All four windows share a continuous stone sill. At the roofline is a large sheet metal bracketed cornice with floral rosettes. (C)

18. 130 East Spring Street (Michael Shurley, Optometrist): The Haas Building is a four-story brick, Two-Part commercial building constructed in 1906. The storefront was altered ca. 1970 with the addition of concrete panels and a shed roof wood awning. The southeast corner of the storefront is chamfered and has an original granite column. Above the storefront level is a concrete cornice with modillion blocks. Window openings on the upper facade have been enclosed with wood panels and one-over-one rectangular metal windows. Over the windows are concrete label lintels. The upper facade is composed of two bays with each bay divided by brick pilasters with Doric capitals above the fourth floor level. Below the roofline is a concrete cornice with large modillion blocks and brackets. At the roofline is a stepped parapet with concrete coping. The interior of the first floor was remodeled ca. 1960. The upper floors are now used as apartments. An original staircase remains in the lobby off North Washington Street. At the rear is a ca. 1960 concrete block wing. (C)

19. 200 E. Spring Street (Machine Mart): This two-story brick building was constructed ca. 1895 and rebricked on the main facade ca. 1920. The storefront has ca. 1920 brick bulkheads and added aluminum and glass display windows and door. The main facade's upper floor windows have been enclosed with brick. Windows on the west facade are original one-over-one wood sash. Below the roofline are rectangular panels of soldier and sailor brick coursing. Despite the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

window enclosures the building retains its sufficient design from the early 20th century to be contributing to the district. (C)

20. 202 East Spring Street (Smile Shoppe): The building at 202 East Spring Street was built ca. 1890 and is a two-story, Two-Part brick building. The building's west bay has an original single light glass and wood door which leads to a staircase and the second story. The storefront was altered ca. 1965 but retains original cast iron pilasters. The transom has been enclosed. On the upper facade are three window bays with each window covered with wood panels. Windows retain original cast iron sills and hood molding. There is a corbelled brick cornice at the roofline. The interior was remodeled in 1989 and made into separate offices. (C)

21. 204 East Spring Street (Vacant): This is a one-story brick, One-Part commercial building constructed ca. 1905. The building retains its original storefront and has brick bulkheads, fluted wood pilasters, copper and glass display windows, and a three-light transom. The entrance has a single-light glass and wood door with a rectangular single-light transom. Across the storefront is a structural steel lintel. At the corners are brick quoins with stone bases and capitals. Above the storefront is a corbelled brick cornice and panels. At the roofline is a pedimented stone parapet. (C)

22. 100-102 West Spring Street (Bashful Lady; Toni's): This building is a two-story brick, Italianate, Two-Part commercial building constructed ca. 1875. The corner storefront (100) was remodeled ca. 1985 in keeping with the original character of the building. It has a recessed entrance with a single light glass and wood door, frame bulkheads, large display windows and a multi-light transom. The 102 storefront has original wood bulkheads, display windows, and a recessed entrance with a ca. 1920 single-light glass and wood door. The transom panel has been covered with metal panels. Framing the storefront are stone quoins. The upper facade has six window bays with original two-over-two segmental arched sash windows. All windows have pedimented sheet metal hood molding and metal sills. At the roofline is a sheet metal cornice with dentils and a central pediment. Eight window bays extend on the east facade as does the cornice. The building originally had an iron balcony on the second story. On the east facade is an original four panel wood door and a second story arched transom. The stairs on this facade have been removed. The interior has an original wood ceiling and added metal cove panels. (C)

23. 104 West Spring Street (M.D. Weston, Optometrist): Constructed ca. 1880, this property is a two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building. The building's storefront was altered ca. 1980 with wood panels and metal and glass display windows and door. The upper facade is composed of two asymmetrical bays with the west bay containing a narrow one-over-one rectangular wood sash window. The window is set within a segmental arch and has brick label hood molding. The east bay has paired one-over-one rectangular wood sash windows set within a segmental arch with brick label hood molding. Dividing the two bays is a brick pier. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property
Newton County, Missouri
county and State

24. 112 West Spring Street (Tumble Town): The Heaton Building is a two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building with Italianate detailing constructed in 1895. The building's storefront was altered ca. 1960 with brick veneer, double doors of wood and glass, and metal display windows. On the upper facade are three window bays with each bay containing an original one-over-one rectangular wood sash window. The windows have brick relief arching with rock-faced limestone shoulders and keystones in the arches. The windows share a continuous stone sill. At the roofline is a sheet metal cornice with rectangular panels and rosette and floral designs. Beneath the cornice is a datestone inscribed "Heaton 1895." (C)

25. 114-118 West Spring Street (Dance Center; Joplin Globe; Bert Hurn, Attorney): The Berger's Block is a two-story brick, Two-Part, Italianate commercial building constructed in 1886. The building's storefront was altered ca. 1970 with brick veneer bulkheads, metal display windows and panels, and wood and metal doors. The upper facade is composed of seven window bays. The west three bays have one-over-one rounded arch sash windows with brick relief arching and stone sills. The east four window bays have rectangular twelve-over-twelve sash windows with single-light arched transoms. These windows also have brick relief arching and connecting the windows are corbelled brick belt courses. Dividing the window bays are brick wall buttresses. At the roofline is a sheet metal cornice with brackets and rosettes. The central bay has an elaborate stamped metal panel inscribed "Berger's Block 1886." Just below this metal panel is a small stone datestone inscribed "June 1, 1886." At the corners of the building are pyramidal design metal finials. (C)

26. 121 North Washington Street (Newton County Historical Museum): Two-story brick, three-bay, Second Empire style, governmental building constructed in 1888. The building has a limestone foundation and is of five-course common bond brick. The main (W) facade was covered with stucco ca. 1920 when a two-story porch was added to the main facade. The porch has a concrete and stucco railing with square stucco columns. The second story of the porch is enclosed and has paired one-over-one sash windows. The main entrance has a ca. 1960 wood and glass door and a two-light transom. Windows are arched one-over-one rectangular wood sash with stone sills and brick relief arching. At the roofline is a bracketed wood cornice. The building has a mansard roof with asphalt shingles.

The building was constructed to serve as the sheriff's house and county jail until the new jail was built on top of the new courthouse in 1936. The building was designed and constructed by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis at a cost of \$6000. Six jail cells were originally located in a two-story rear ell constructed of brick. This ell has been removed. The Newton County Historical Museum has occupied the building since 1958. (C)

In 1991 and 1992, a log dwelling and frame schoolhouse have been located on the lot adjacent to the building. Both properties are non-contributing to the character of the district. (NC) (NC)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

27. 201 North Washington Street (Ratliff Feed and Supply): This four-story brick, three-bay, two-part commercial building was built with Romanesque and Italianate influences in 1898. The first story of the main facade has a sheathing of rock-faced limestone. The entrance is set within a large Romanesque arched opening with radiating voussoirs. The arches spring from bases which have four marble columns and floral capitals. The entrance has ca. 1970 metal and glass doors but retains its original cast iron columns, frame bulkheads, display windows and transoms. Display windows which flank the entrance bay are also original with three-light transoms. Above the storefront is a stone frieze with incised chevron molding. The upper facade has three bays. The central bay has three one-over-one rectangular wood sash windows while the flanking bays have two one-over-one wood sash windows. Each window has a rock-faced stone lintel and sill. Dividing each bay are rock-faced stone piers and at the corners of the building are also stone piers. Windows on the fourth floor are arched with stone keystones. At the roofline is a large sheet-metal cornice with dentils and brackets. The central bay of the cornice is pedimented with a stamped panel inscribed "Edw. Haas, 1898." The north and south facades are divided into six bays with similar window designs. At the rear of the building is an original one-story wing with arched windows and corbelled brick panels. The interior retains an original pressed metal ceiling, columns with pressed metal panels and Corinthian capitals, and a cast iron safe. (C)

28. 101-103 South Washington Street (Masonic Lodge; Velveten Rabbit; Brighten Your Home Interiors): The Masonic Lodge is a two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building originally constructed in 1883 and remodeled in 1913. The building has three bays with the central bay containing an entrance opening onto stairs leading to the second story. This entrance has a ca. 1960 metal and glass door, original brick piers, and above the door are yellow glazed brick belt courses and pediment. The 101 and 103 storefronts were both remodeled ca. 1960 with brick bulkheads and metal and glass display windows. The 103 storefront retains its original entrance with a single-light glass and wood door. Transoms over both storefronts have been covered with wood panels. Above both storefronts is a belt course of yellow glazed soldier and sailor brick courses. The upper facade is composed of two bays with extensive use of yellow glazed brick. The two window openings on the facade contain ca. 1960 metal windows. The window openings retain original surrounds with glazed brick lintels, sills, and quoins. The corners of the building also have glazed quoining. Above the windows are brick dentils, rectangular panels, and belt courses of glazed brick. At the roofline is terra cotta coping at the parapet walls and decorative concrete finials. The interior has been remodeled but retains open floor space. (C)

29. 105-107 South Washington Street (Metcalf Studio): This two-story brick, two-part commercial building was constructed ca. 1928. The storefront is divided into two bays with both bays altered ca. 1990 with wood panels and wood and glass doors. Dividing the storefront bays are brick piers of soldier and sailor brick coursing and concrete capitals. Above the storefront is a soldier course belt course. On the upper facade are six window openings with each opening containing a ca. 1990 one-over-one fixed window. The windows share a sailor course brick

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

sill and the window surrounds have soldier coursing and concrete shoulders. Below the roofline is a large rectangular brick panel with sailor or header bond brick. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice and terra cotta coping at the parapet. (C)

30. 109 South Washington (Oddfellows Hall; Town and Country Carpet): Two-story brick building constructed ca. 1880 and remodeled ca. 1905. The building presently has an aluminum facade and storefront added ca. 1970. The building burned in 1969 but the original walls remain. The storefront has stone veneer and aluminum and glass display windows. The upper facade is covered with aluminum panels. This building originally housed the B.H. Kirk Wagon factory. In the early 1900s the main facade was remodeled with an added side staircase leading to the Oddfellows Hall on the second story. The original facade has been concealed and the building no longer retains integrity. (NC)

31. 115-117 South Washington Street (Mardick Furniture; East Side Shoe Store): One-story brick building constructed ca. 1890. The 115 storefront has original brick piers but the door has been removed. The 117 storefront has an original single light glass and wood door. Bulkheads were covered with an aluminum and plastic upper facade in 1989. The upper facade has aluminum panels added in 1989. Historic photographs show the building as having large transoms and a corbelled brick cornice. These details remain but are hidden beneath the added panels. Due to alterations the building no longer retains integrity. (NC)

32. 119-123 South Washington Street (Sims, Bridges, and Dolence, Attorneys; Ozark Business Systems; Radio Shack): This two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building was constructed in 1902. This building has three separate sections and on each section is a stone panel at the roofline inscribed with what appears to be original occupant names. The 123 section has "Miller-Wills" inscribed; the 121 section has "The Times" inscribed; and the 119 section has "J. Pickens" inscribed. All of the storefronts have been altered in recent decades with a variety of materials such as brick veneers and metal and glass doors and display windows. The upper facade has six bays of window openings with the openings in the 119/121 sections covered with wood panels. The 123 section retains original one-over-one rectangular wood sash windows and all window openings have smooth stone sills and rock faced stone lintels. Below the roofline are brown glazed brick belt courses and a blind Romanesque arcade. Dividing each bay are rounded brick and stone buttresses topped with stone finials. At the roofline is rock faced stone coping and finials. (C)

33. 125 South Washington Street (WXY Sporting Goods): Constructed in 1917 to house the Neosho Savings Bank, this is a two-story brick, Two-Part, commercial building. The building's storefront retains original brick piers, stone quoins, and brick bulkheads. The storefront, which was rebricked ca. 1970, has ca. 1970 metal and glass display windows and door. Above the storefront is a transom covered with a wood sign panel. On the upper facade are three bays with the central bay containing paired one-over-one rectangular wood sash windows. The east and west bays have one-over-one sash windows. The windows have stone sills

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

Neosho Commercial Historic
 District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

and lintels. Below the east and west windows are rectangular brick and concrete panels. Below the roofline is a concrete cornice with modillion blocks. At the roofline is a parapet wall with concrete coping. The entrance on the south facade has original single light glass and wood double doors and an arched transom (enclosed with wood). The entrance has an arched opening. A garage bay was added to the 208 E. Main storefront. The 210 storefront has an original single light glass and wood door. The rest of the storefront has concrete bulkheads and added wood panels replace display windows. In 1916 the Neosho Savings Bank purchased the lot and architect Neal C. Davis designed a new building for the bank which was completed in 1917. The building was occupied by the bank until the 1930s. (C)

34. 110 North Wood Street (Vacant): This two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building was constructed ca. 1900. The building's storefront was altered ca. 1970 with concrete bulkheads, metal and glass display windows and doors and side entrance. Above the display windows is a ten-light transom which appears to date to a ca. 1920 remodeling. The upper facade retains its original pressed metal design. There are four window bays with original one-over-one rectangular wood sash windows. Dividing each bay are paired Ionic design engaged metal columns. These columns have floral panels. Above the windows is a frieze with rosettes. The original cornice at the roofline has been removed. (C)

35. 112 North Wood Street (Michael Kelley, C.P.A.): This address is composed of two one-story buildings which have been joined together as one building. The south section is a ca. 1900 brick building with ca. 1960 storefront. There is no entrance but there are two windows. Above the windows is an original ten-light transom. At the roofline is a sheet metal cornice. The interior was remodeled in 1981 and in 1988 the building next door was purchased and remodeled. The north section was built ca. 1960 and is of concrete block with a brick facade. Due to building's age and alterations it is non-contributing to the character of the district. (NC)

36. 114 North Wood Street (Severs and Stroop): Two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building constructed in 1905. The building's storefront has been somewhat remodeled with a ca. 1970 glass and metal door at the entrance. In the north bay is a secondary entrance leading to the second story staircase. This door is an original two-light glass and wood design with a rectangular transom. Display windows and frame bulkheads are original and over the entrances and windows are multi-light transoms. Across the width of the storefront is a structural steel lintel. On the upper facade are two window bays with each bay containing paired one-over-one rectangular wood sash windows. The windows rest on a continuous rock-faced stone sill and above the windows are stone lintels. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice and stone parapet. The brick just below the roofline is textured and there is a stone panel inscribed "Heating and Plumbing." (C)

37. 116 North Wood Street (Neosho Beauty College): One-story brick, One-Part commercial building constructed ca. 1930. The building retains most of its original storefront with brick bulkheads, concrete bulkheads, and copper and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

glass display windows. The storefront has three bays with the central bay containing an original single-light glass and wood door. Above the door is a ca. 1980 stained glass light. Dividing each bay is a brick pier. The south storefront has a ca. 1960 glass and metal door. The upper facade is of wire brick with an inset rectangular panel of header bond brick. At the roofline is a stepped parapet with terra cotta coping. (C)

38. 200 South Wood Street (Floyd's Jewelry): Originally built in 1913 to house the Newton County Bank, this two-story brick, Two-Part commercial building was constructed with Colonial Revival detailing. The building has a chamfered corner entrance with a square stone column. Part of the storefront was covered with metal panels in 1967 but visible are rock-faced stone bulkheads and brick piers. The entrance and display windows are of ca. 1970 metal and glass. The building has stone quoins. On the upper facade, facing Wood Street, are four window bays with rectangular one-over-one wood sash windows and brick soldier course lintels. At the northeast corner, the bay projects slightly and has stone quoins. Below the roofline is a terra cotta cornice with modillion blocks. On the Main Street facade are seven window bays with both paired and single one-over-one sash windows. (C)

39. Courthouse Square (Newton County Courthouse): This two-story Carthage stone governmental building was constructed with Art Deco influences in 1936. The building was constructed in a cross gable plan with one-story wings extending to the north and south from the east and west sections of the building. The building is oriented with the primary entrances located on the east and west facades. These facades are composed of five bays while the north and south facades are also of five bays. The exterior of the building is of smooth stone panels and rests on a raised basement. The basement level has small rectangular window openings with ca. 1980 two-light casement windows. The entrance surrounds have fluted pilasters and concrete panels with chevron molding. The doors were added ca. 1980 and are of aluminum and glass design. Window openings have incised stone lintels but the windows are ca. 1980 metal casement design added ca. 1980. Each bay is divided by fluted pilasters. At the roofline are diamond shaped stone fret bands and panels inscribed with chevron molding and motifs such as the scales of justice and eagle and floral designs. On the north facade a one-story wing was added ca. 1980 to provide for handicapped access. On the south facade is a large ca. 1980 HVAC unit which has been surrounded with a chain link fence. The interior retains original wood doors, marble wainscoting, fluted marble pilasters, and metal staircases. (C)

The landscape architect for the courthouse grounds was M.V. Woodward. Much of this original design has been lost through the introduction of modern sidewalks and landscape elements. At the southeast corner of the courthouse grounds is a rectangular brick pergola constructed in the 1970s. This structure was constructed as an exact replica of the early 20th century pergola which stood at this location. Due to its recent construction, the pergola is included as a non-contributing structure (NC).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

Summary

The Neosho Commercial Historic District is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture and under Criterion A in the area of commerce; in addition, the Newton County Courthouse, individually eligible under Criterion C, architecture, and Criterion A, politics/government, is located within the boundaries of the district. The district contains the largest collection of historic commercial and public buildings in Neosho. The district is composed of forty-one primary buildings, of which thirty-three are counted as contributing, and one noncontributing structure located in and around the city's Court Square, which has been the traditional commercial and governmental center of Neosho and Newton County since the mid-19th century (see Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri MPS: Commercial Development of Neosho, ca. 1868-ca. 1943; and Civic and Governmental Buildings in Neosho, 1888-1943). The period of significance extends from circa 1868, the approximate date of construction of the earliest buildings, to 1943, the arbitrary fifty year limit. Commercial significance of the district continued unabated until that time, as well as the political/governmental significance of the courthouse, which is the oldest extant building which has served as the center and focus of county government in Newton County.

Neosho was a small trading center of a few buildings when it was selected as the seat of Newton County in 1839. A survey of the community was undertaken in 1846 which laid out the Court Square and surrounding blocks. The design of the Court Square followed that of the "Shelbyville Plan" which has lots arranged to face a central courthouse block. A brick courthouse replaced an earlier log structure in 1850 and over the next decade numerous dwellings and commercial buildings were constructed in and around the Court Square.

Following the Civil War, Neosho became a prominent commercial area of southwest Missouri during the late 19th century. The population of the community grew from approximately 500 to 2,725 in 1900. During these decades dozens of brick commercial buildings were built around the square containing a wide variety of businesses. In addition to shops and stores the city also boasted numerous manufacturing companies such as wagon factories and mills. A new courthouse was constructed in 1878 followed by a county jail in 1888. At the turn of the century Neosho was a thriving community connected by three rail lines and exporting a variety of products and agricultural produce.

The Court Square continued as Neosho's commercial and governmental center well into the 20th century. Numerous commercial building were constructed from 1900 to 1930 including the four-story Haas Building on the north side of the square. During the Depression the federal government assisted in the completion of the present Newton County Courthouse and Auditorium and City Hall. The Court Square's period of significance extends to the fifty year limit, or 1943.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

The early 20th century appearance of the Court Square continues largely to the present. The majority of the existing buildings on the square pre-date 1930 and display their original upper facade design and decoration. Alterations have been mainly confined to the building's storefronts except for properties on the west side of the square which is omitted from the district's boundary. The Neosho Commercial Historic District remains an important commercial and governmental center of the region. The district includes 41 buildings, of which 33 would be considered contributing to the character of the district. The district contains the largest contiguous collection of historic commercial, civic, and governmental buildings in Neosho.

The Neosho Commercial Historic District contains properties included within the contexts of Commercial Development of Neosho, ca. 1875 - ca. 1943; and Civic and Governmental Buildings in Neosho, 1888-1938. These contexts are more fully described in the multiple property submission "Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri."

Neosho Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Newton County, Missouri
County and State

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 9.9 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	377980	4081240	B	15	378260 4081220
C	15	378240	4080920	D	15	377960 4080940

 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 Philip Thomason
organization Thomason and Associates date March 1, 1993
street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone 615-383-0227
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

=====
Additional Documentation
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

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

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 15

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property
Newton County, Missouri
county and State

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary for the Neosho Commercial Historic District includes Block 11, Lots 3, 4, and 5; Block 12, Lots 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 12.1, and 13; Block 13, Lots 1, 11, 11.01, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20; Block 18, Lot 1; Block 19, Lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12; Block 24, Lots 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 6.01, 7, 8, 9; Block 25, Lots 1, 2, and 3, all in the Original Town of Neosho, Newton County, MO.

Verbal Boundary Justification:

The boundary for the Neosho Commercial Historic District is drawn to include the largest concentration of pre-1940 commercial and public buildings retaining integrity in and around the Court Square of Neosho. The boundary includes the north, west, and south sides of the square plus adjacent blocks of Main Street, Spring Street, Washington Street, and Wood Street. The boundary is drawn to include contiguous commercial buildings located within one block of the Court Square which are historically associated with the square's commercial development. The boundary extends on the north to include the Newton County Jail and Haas Wholesale Grocery Company building due to their significance in local commerce and association with county government. The west side of the square no longer retains integrity due to extensive alterations and is excluded from the district boundary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 16

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property
Newton County, Missouri
county and State

The following information is the same for all photos:
Neosho Commercial Historic District, Newton County, Missouri
Photo by: Thomason and Associates, Nashville, Tennessee
Neg: Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Date: January, 1993

- Photo No. 1: 100 block E. Main Street, view towards southwest.
Photo No. 2: 121-127 and 129 E. Main Street, view towards southwest.
Photo No. 3: 111 and 113 E. Main Street, view towards southwest.
Photo No. 4: 111 E. Main Street, view towards south.
Photo No. 5: 101-103 and 105-109 E. Main Street, view towards southwest.
Photo No. 6: 200 S. Wood Street and 100 block W. Main Street, view towards southwest.
Photo No. 7: 111 W. Main Street, Neosho Auditorium and City Hall, view towards southwest.
Photo No. 8: 100 block of W. Spring Street, view towards northwest.
Photo No. 9: 112 and 114-118 W. Spring Street, view towards northwest.
Photo No. 10: Detail of cornice at 114-118 W. Spring Street, view towards north.
Photo No. 11: 100 block of N. Wood Street, view towards northwest.
Photo No. 12: 100 block of E. Spring Street, view towards northeast.
Photo No. 13: 100 E. Spring Street, view towards northeast.
Photo No. 14: Entrance detail of 124 E. Spring Street, view towards north.
Photo No. 15: 130 E. Spring Street, view towards north.
Photo No. 16: 200 block of E. Spring Street, view towards northeast.
Photo No. 17: 121 and 201 N. Washington Street, view towards northeast.
Photo No. 18: 121 N. Washington Street, view towards northeast.
Photo No. 19: 201 N. Washington Street, view towards northeast.
Photo No. 20: 101-103 and 105-107 S. Washington Street, view towards southeast.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 17

Neosho Commercial Historic
District
name of property

Newton County, Missouri
county and State

Photo No. 21: Cornice detail of 119-123 S. Washington Street.

Photo No. 22: 119-123 and 125 S. Washington Street.

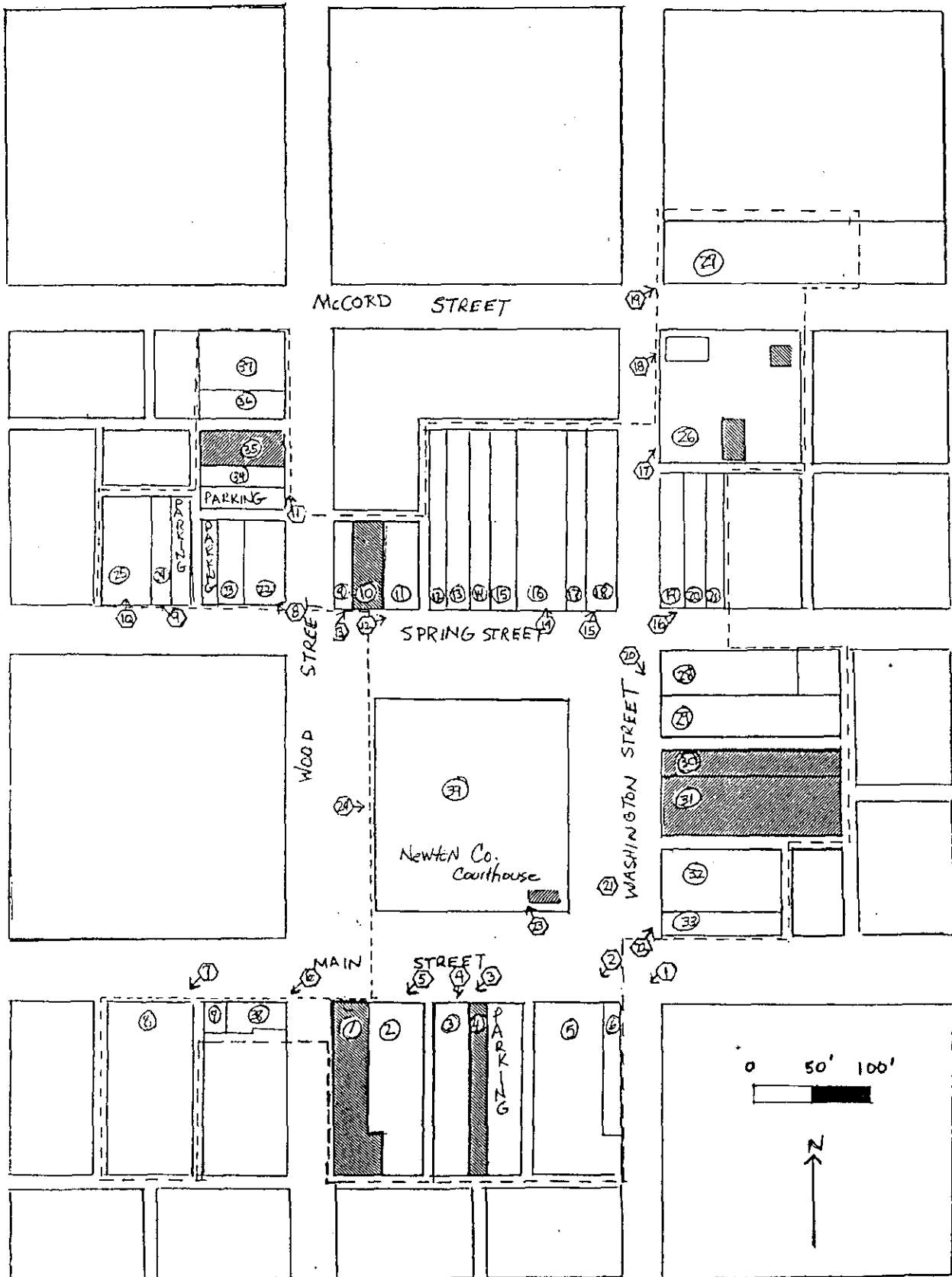
Photo No. 23: Newton County Courthouse, view of south facade facing northwest.

Photo No. 24: Newton County Courthouse, view of west facade, facing east.

Neosho Commercial Historic District, Neosho, Newton County

DISTRICT BOUNDARY = - - - -

NONCONTRIBUTING = [hatched box]



Historic Reserves of Neosho, Newton County, MO (MRS.)
 Neosho Commercial Historic District
 Neosho, Newton County, MO

A. 15/377980/4081240

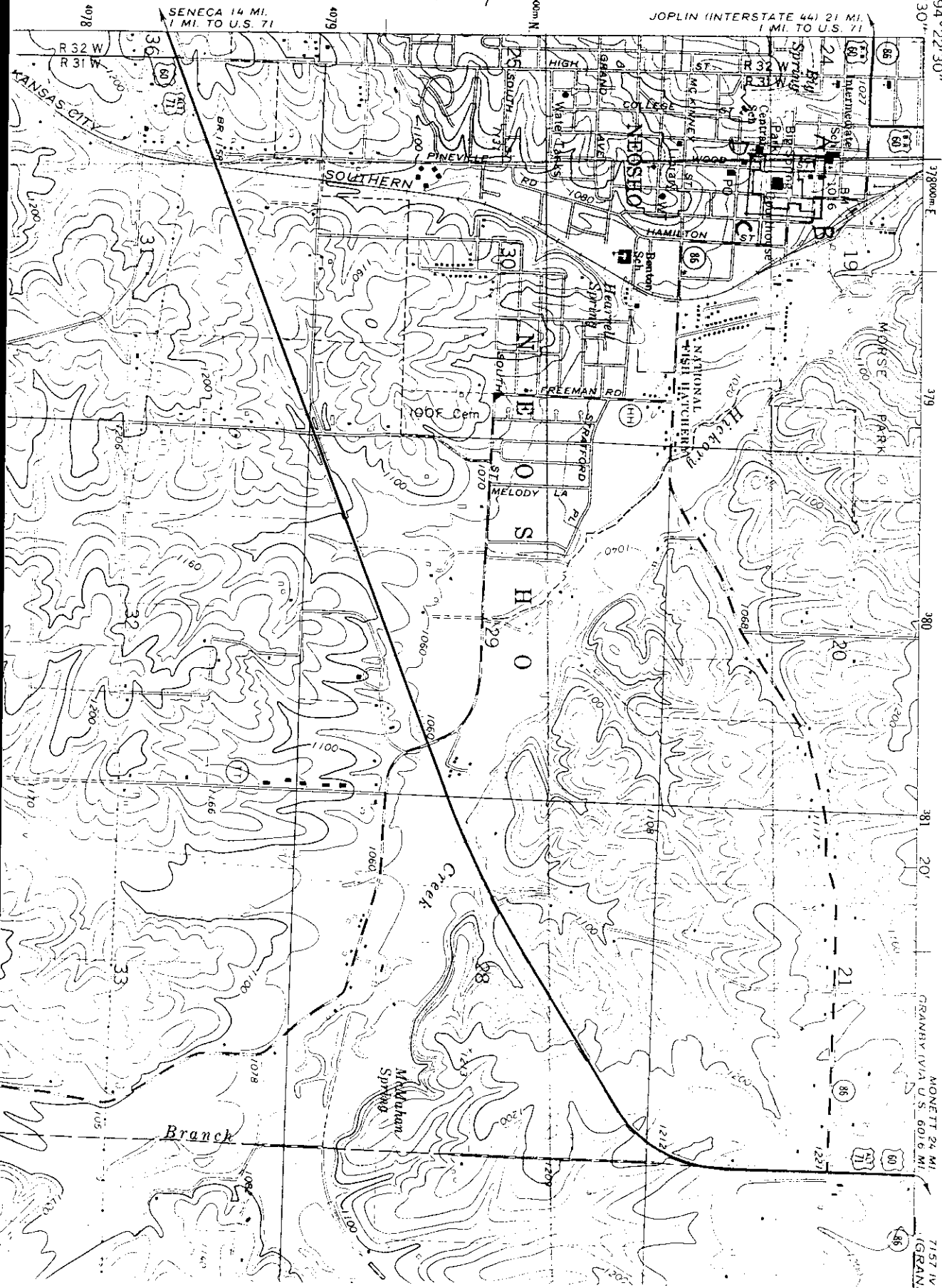
B. 15/378260/4081220

C. 15/378240/4080920

D. 15/377960/
4080940

7157 IV NW
(TIPSTON FORD)

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY











NEOSHO BUILDING & LOAN ASSOCIATION

Neosho
SAVINGS
AND
LOAN
ASSOCIATION

ONE-UP WINDOW

SPEED
LIMIT
15

TWO
HOUR
PARKING

02234F







Municipal Auditorium
Civic Center
MUSKOGEE HIGH SCHOOL
AFJ - ROTC
MILITARY BALL
SAT JAN 30 6-45 PM

MUSKOGEE
AUDITORIUM
CITY HALL















WINTER-MECHANIC
SUPPLIES

MasterCard
VISA
Discover
American Express

3-PK. 1/2" SUPER-HIGH INTENSITY FLASHLITES
799

PLASTIC STORAGE SET
699

3-PK. 1/2" ROLLER COVERS
188

SCREW-DRIVER SET
488

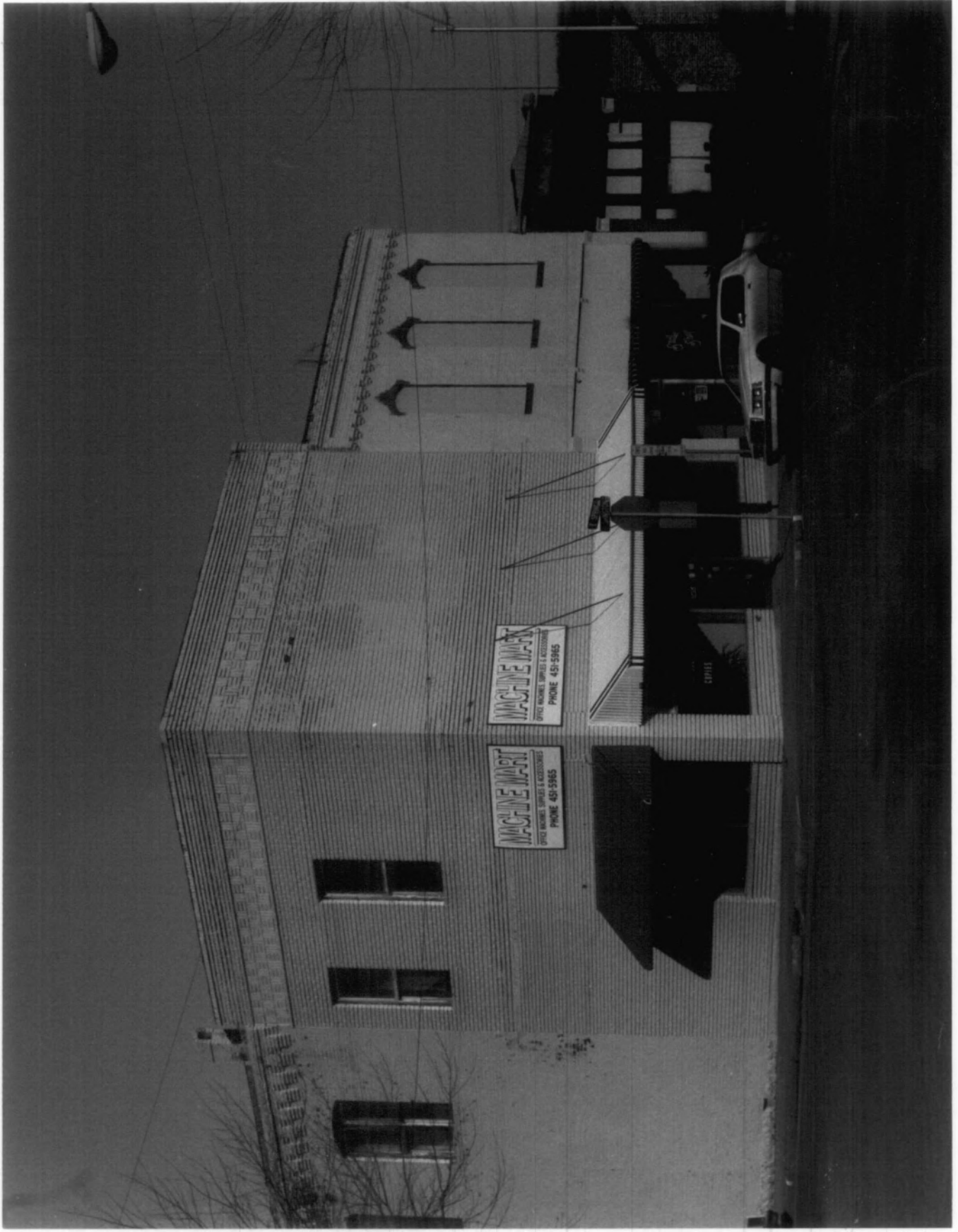
MasterCard
VISA



Quality Heating Products
MARTIN INDUSTRIES
A THORNTON COMPANY

RINSEVAC
CAR WASHING SYSTEM
I'm a participating
dealer.

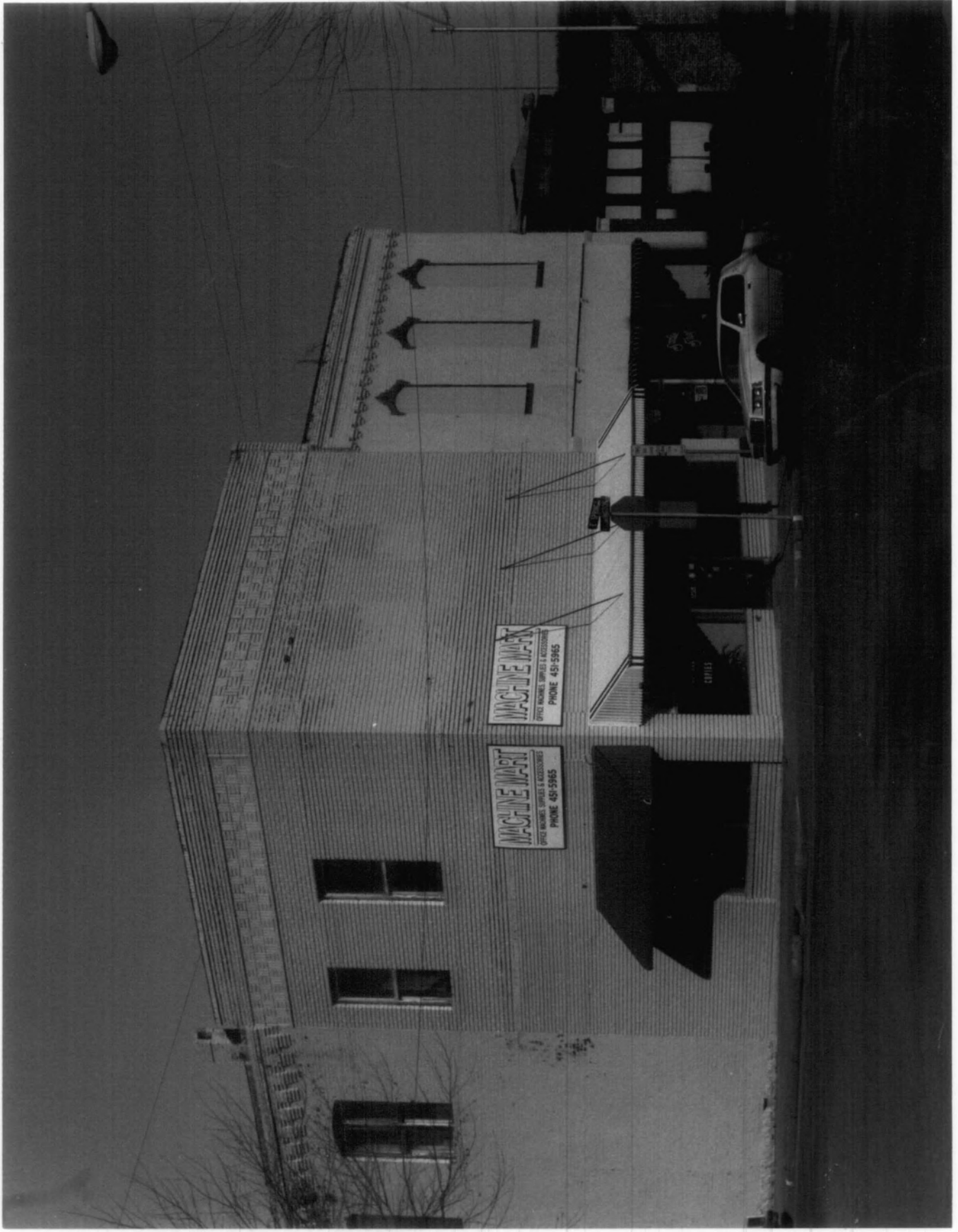




MACHINE MAX
OFFICE MACHINES, SUPPLIES & ACCESSORIES
PHONE 451-5965

MACHINE MART
OFFICE MACHINES, SUPPLIES & ACCESSORIES
PHONE 451-5965

1001



MACHINE MAX
OFFICE MACHINES, SUPPLIES & ACCESSORIES
PHONE 451-5965

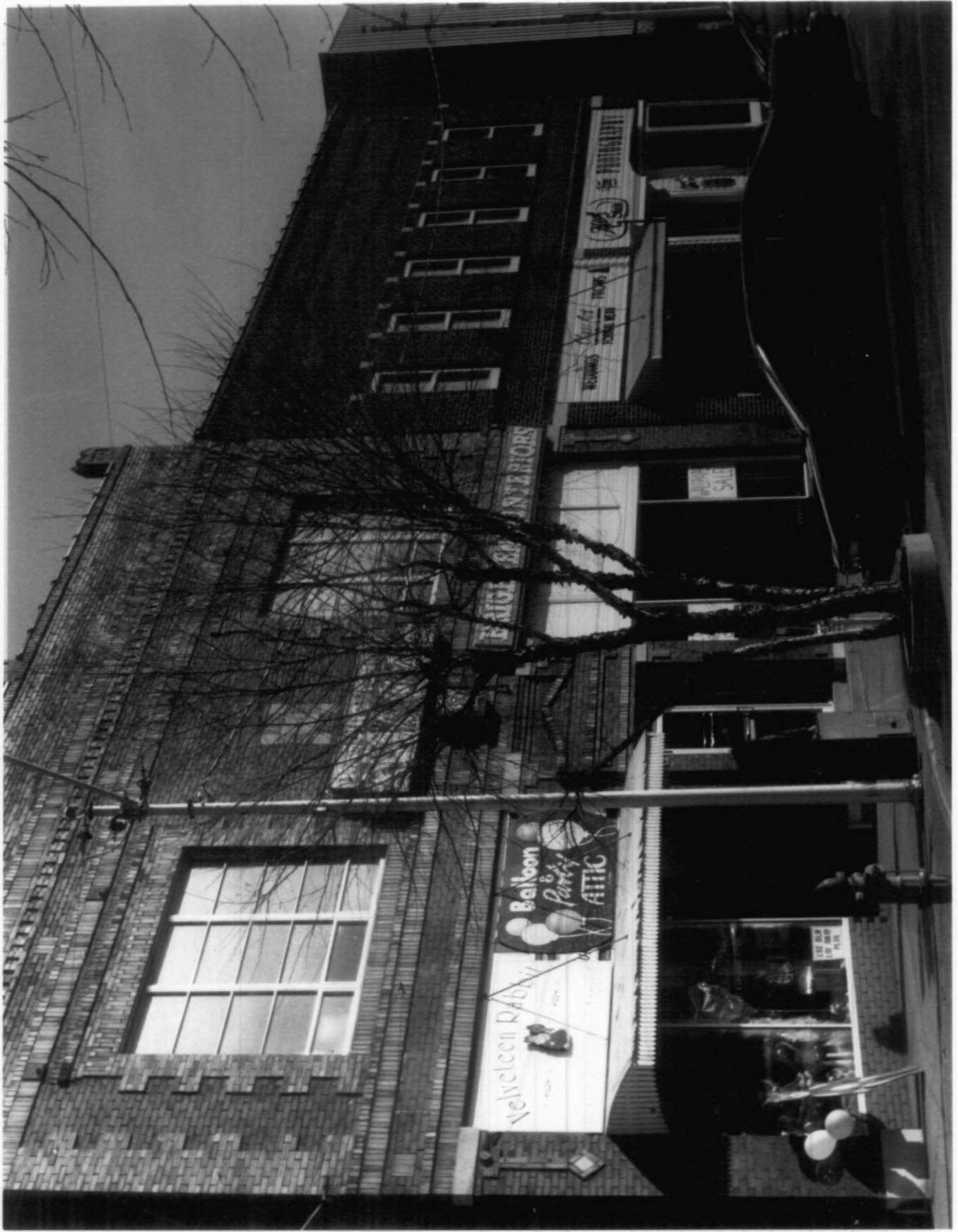
MACHINE MART
OFFICE MACHINES, SUPPLIES & ACCESSORIES
PHONE 451-5965

17111









Velveteen Rabbit

Balloon & Party ATTIC

TRIPLE INTERIORS

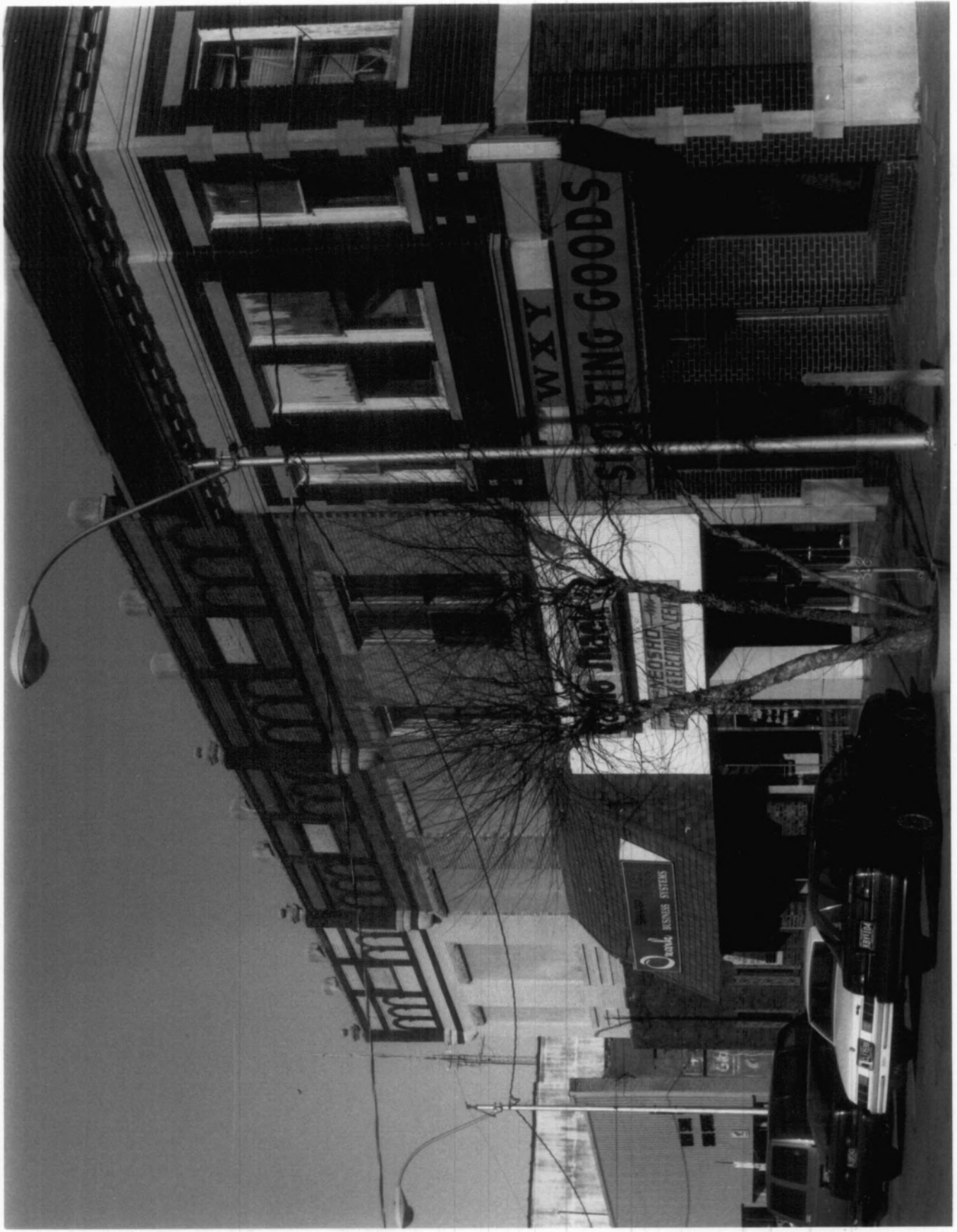
THE PHOTOGRAPHY

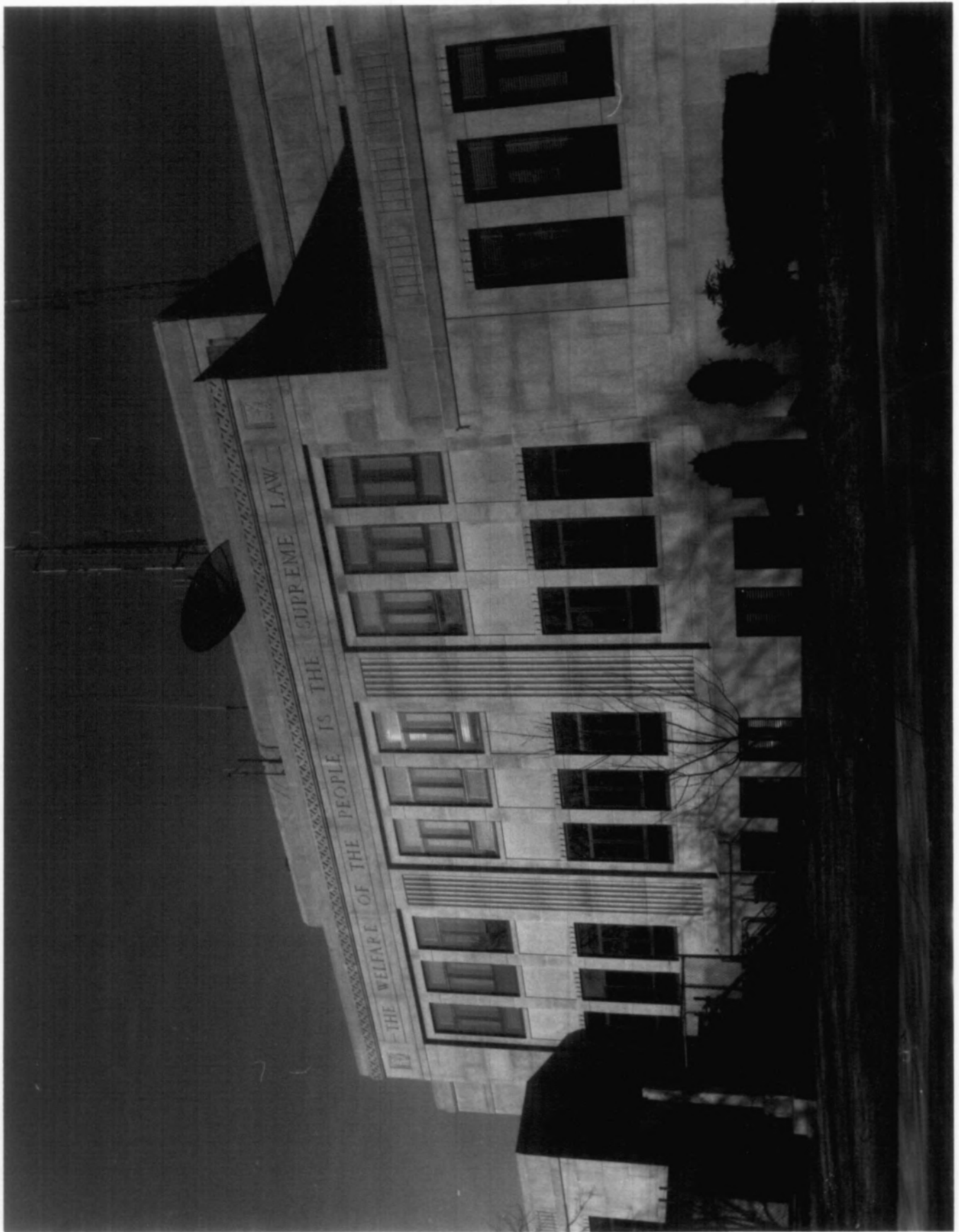


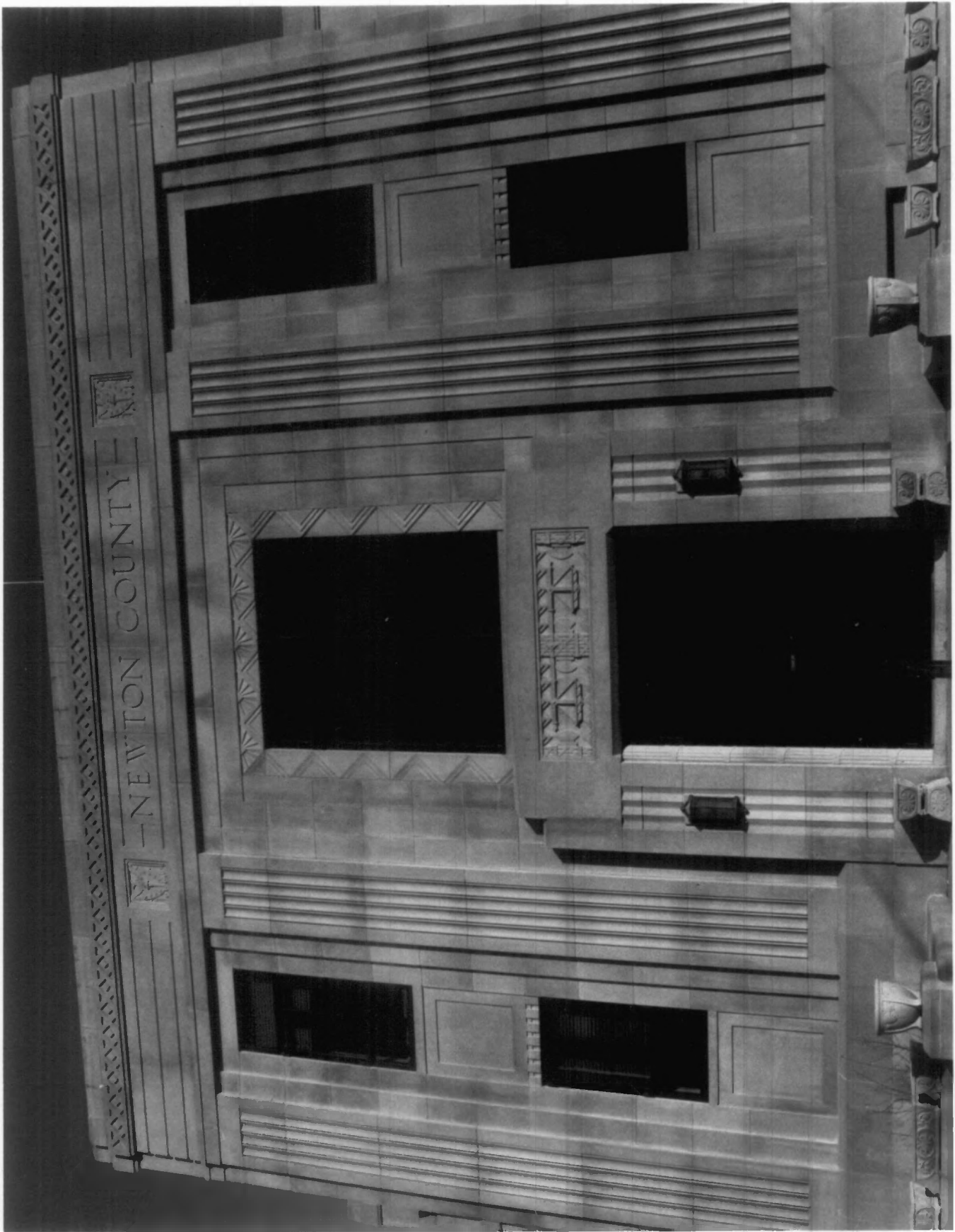
SALE











United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Multiple Property Documentation Form**

This form is used for documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Complete each item by entering the requested information. For additional space, use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

New Submission Amended Submission

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

B. Associated Historic Contexts

(Name each associated historic context, identifying theme, geographical area, and chronological period for each.)

Commercial Development of Neosho, ca. 1868 - ca. 1943
Civic and Governmental Buildings in Neosho, 1888 - 1943
Residential Development of Neosho, 1855 - 1943 (Not included in this submittal)
Religious Buildings in Neosho, 1895 - 1943 (Not included in this submittal)
Educational Buildings in Neosho, 1891 - 1943 (Not included in this submittal)

C. Form Prepared by

name/title Philip Thomason/Principal
organization Thomason and Associates date March 1, 1993
street & number P.O. Box 121225 telephone (615) 383-0227
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature and title of certifying official Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO

Date

24 June 1993

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

I hereby certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper

Date

=====

Table of Contents for Written Narrative

=====

Provide the following information on continuation sheets. Cite the letter and the title before each section of the narrative. Assign page numbers according to the instructions for continuation sheets in *How to Complete the Multiple Property Documentation Form* (National Register Bulletin 16B). Fill in page numbers for each section in the space below.

	Page Numbers
E. Statement of Historic Contexts (If more than one historic context is documented, present them in sequential order.)	E-1 - E-10
F. Associated Property Types (Provide description, significance, and registration requirements.)	F-11 - F-16
G. Geographical Data	G-17
H. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods (Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.)	H-18
I. Major Bibliographical References (List major written works and primary location of additional documentation: State Historic Preservation Office, other State agency, Federal agency, local government, university, or other, specifying repository.)	I-19

=====

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 120 hours per response including the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section E Page 1

INTRODUCTION AND ORGANIZATION

This multiple property group submittal for Neosho is organized with reference to two contexts; Commercial Development of Neosho, ca 1868 - ca. 1943; and Civic and Governmental Buildings in Neosho, 1888 - 1943. These contexts are preceded by a discussion of Neosho's geographical information and historic overview.

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Neosho, the county seat of Newton County, Missouri, is located in the southwest corner of the state along the western slope of the Ozark Mountains. The city is located 23 miles south of Joplin and 66 miles southwest of Springfield, at the intersection of Highways 60 and 71. The city is served by the Burlington Northern and Kansas City Southern Railroads. The 1990 census reported Neosho's population at 9,254.

The city is 1,041 feet above sea level and has a mild climate. Temperatures average 79 degrees during summer months and 37 degrees during winter. The area receives an average of 43 inches of rainfall each year with heaviest rainfall during spring and summer months. Neosho's topography is hilly and wooded with many sinkholes which provide natural drainage. Rocky topsoil covers deep limestone reserves, creating a natural reservoir. Hardwood trees such as ash, oak, walnut and maple dominate the area.

Neosho gets its name from its earliest known inhabitants, the Osage Indians, who called the area "Ne-u-zhu" which meant "many waters" or "the meeting of waters." Neosho, still often referred to as the "City of Springs" boasts more than ten natural springs which have been in constant use for centuries by Indians, early settlers, retailers and industries. The city's largest and best known spring is Big Spring, located two blocks west of the Courthouse Square, which empties into Hickory Creek. Big Spring was used by the Osage Indians for ceremonial purposes and early settlers used the spring for drinking water and to power grist mills. Other springs important to the development of Neosho include Hearrell, McMahn, and Walbridge Springs.

The Neosho Court Square and its environs contain all of the properties included in this nomination. The Court Square was laid out in 1839 when Newton County was formed and Neosho designated the county seat. The plan of the Court Square followed that of the Shelbyville Square Plan which has a central block of a grid for the courthouse and lots arranged to face it. In Missouri, 57 of the present 114 county seats were laid out in Shelbyville plans (Ohman, History of Missouri's Counties: 33). The Newton County Courthouse is bracketed by Wood Street on the west, Washington Street on the east, Spring Street on the north, and Main Street on the south. These streets are aligned in an east/west and north/south axis.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section E Page 2

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

During the 1830s, white settlers of English, Scotch, and Irish origin began moving into the area which became Neosho. Early settlers include Campbell Price who arrived in 1833 to find Levie Lee and James McCord, Neosho's earliest known white settlers, living near Walbridge Spring (Neosho, City of Springs: 7). In 1839, Newton County was organized and Neosho was chosen as the county seat by Hugh Shannon, John Reed and Jacob Testerman who were appointed by the state's governor as county judges. According to a survey performed in 1846, the town covered an area of about 40 acres and was laid off beginning at the "west edge of the large spring and...northeast of a large white oak," which included land originally belonging to John McCord (Ibid). Part of McCord's relinquished land was returned to him which he subdivided because of its proximity to Neosho. This area, later added to the city, is still called "McCord's Addition to Neosho." (England: 2).

At the time of the 1846 survey, Neosho was laid out at right angles with "seven degrees variation to the west" (Ibid: 1). The original town was comprised of Spring, Main, and Hickory Streets crossed by Jefferson, Wood, Washington, and Lafayette Streets running north to south. Plans for Neosho's first courthouse were laid out in 1840. The courthouse was constructed of oak logs with "one good chimney," a fireplace, one window and a door. This building was located off the square and was replaced by a new brick courthouse located in the center of the public square which was completed in 1850.

Religious services were important to Neosho's early settlers who were provided with a Methodist Circuit Rider during the 1830s. In 1843, Neosho appointed its own circuit member, Anthony Bewley, and its Methodist Church split into two organizations: the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. These churches remained separate congregations until 1939 when they again unified. The Cumberland Presbyterian faith organized a congregation of 18 members in 1837 but did not build a church until after the Civil War in 1870. Neosho's first church was built in 1859 by the First Baptist congregation which was organized in 1847 (Ibid: 3).

Schools were also an important part of early Neosho. "Subscription" schools at which students paid a dollar per course were established in the area as early as 1835 when three were set up along Shoal Creek. Neosho's first school, set up around 1840, was also a subscription school (Ibid: 2). The first public school of Neosho met at the old Masonic Hall located at the corner of Spring and Lafayette Streets. Around 1850, "Miss Savage's Academy" was organized which later became Central School. These organizations served Neosho until the Civil War (Neosho, City of Springs: 73).

By the early 1840s, several business establishments were already in full operation. The earliest merchant in Neosho was A.B. Anthony who owned a log store on Hickory Creek (Ibid: 113). In 1841, Anthony moved his business to the Court Square where there were also three log structures serving as tavern, dining hall and kitchen, owned by William Elam. Dr. Barlow owned a cabinet shop on Main Street and John and William Gibson had a blacksmith shop at the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section E Page 3

corner of Wood and Main Streets. In 1856, Neosho's population was between 300 and 500 persons. During this period, the town had a hotel, saloon, and at least four stores including a general store and a grocery store.

During the 1840s, mining became a part of Neosho when lead was discovered and used for making bullets. Neosho's early commercial development was dominated by lead and zinc mining and Newton County spearheaded one of the state's earliest commercial operations. Northwest of the city, a lead mine was established. Lead was transported by wagon from Neosho to Indian Territory, then shipped down the Arkansas and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. In 1850, lead was produced on a large scale and approximately 8,000 people settled near the mines although Neosho's population remained right around 500 (England: 3).

Neosho's growth and development was halted with the coming of the Civil War. The residents of Neosho were divided in their loyalties but sided more with the Confederate cause than the Union. The Confederate Neosho Company was organized in October 1860 and mustered under Captain Henderson Jennings as part of the State Guards. The Company was active for six months, during which time it saw action at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Lexington and Neosho. The Company disbanded after six months leaving its members to re-enlist elsewhere. Many inhabitants moved out of the city due to Union sympathies or merely because they did not want any involvement in the war. No major battles were fought in the Neosho area but skirmishes and guerilla activity took their toll on lives and property (Neosho, City of Springs: 14). The town's schools closed their doors and court was suspended for four years. A large part of the city was burned during 1863 and the courthouse was badly damaged.

Following the war, railroad construction into the area spurred population growth and renewed commercial activity, encouraged into the area by the railroad. The Southwest Branch of the Atlantic and Pacific (A & P) Railroad reached Neosho from Pierce City in 1870. The A & P eventually became the San Francisco and St. Louis (Frisco) Railroad. The Kansas City-Fort Smith and Southern Railroad, known locally as "The Splitlog", entered Neosho in 1887. The railroad was built by Mathias Splitlog and the first rail was laid opposite Neosho's fairgrounds. This line was intended to haul ore but more often carried hardwood timber. The Splitlog was sold to the Kansas City-Pittsburg and Gulf Railroad (now KCS) in 1893. The Kansas City Southern was built to ship coal, lead, zinc, petroleum and wood products out of Arkansas and Louisiana. A route was to extend from the Gulf of Mexico to Kansas City and Neosho was connected to the line in 1888 (Ibid: 189-195).

The Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad was the last of the major railroads to come through Neosho. It began in Eureka Springs, a resort town in Arkansas, and was extended to Neosho in 1908 tying into the Frisco and Kansas City Southern tracks. By 1908, the Missouri and North Arkansas provided 361 miles of track from Joplin, Missouri to Helena, Arkansas, on the Mississippi River.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section E Page 4

With consistent rail service, Neosho boomed in the late 19th century shipping out vegetables and fruit from surrounding farms. This prosperity was reflected in the dozens of brick commercial buildings constructed on the Court Square between 1870 and 1900. This prosperity led to the development of Martling and New Neosho along the railroads to the north of Neosho. New Neosho, or "Newtown" as it was later called, was laid out in 1871 by A.W. Benham just north of the Neosho town limits. New Neosho's streets were called avenues so they wouldn't be confused with streets of the same name in Neosho. A railroad depot was built on Benham Avenue in New Neosho along with a roundhouse and cattle pens. In 1881, New Neosho was annexed by Neosho.

The 1870s and 1880s were busy decades in Neosho. On the Court Square a variety of new commercial buildings was constructed for occupants such as Washer & Clark, carriage manufacturers on the south side of Spring Street. The east side of the square included Uhlman & Maas, druggists and Crowds & Noble general store. Small industries set up shop such as J.E. Alexander & Co.'s mill which produced sashes, doors and blinds, and lumber for builders. A cabinet shop run by H. Stallbaum took over an old storehouse on the south side of the square. Bakeries, confectionaries, physicians offices, stone masons, blacksmiths, a brewery and tannery were all part of Neosho's post-Civil War Court Square area. This business development was mirrored with the expansion of the town's residential areas to the east, west, and south of the Court Square. In 1879 alone, 32 homes were built along with sidewalks of brick and stone. (Goodspeed: 272-273)

From 1870 to 1900, Neosho grew from approximately 500 citizens to 2,725 (Kohler, "Neosho, Missouri": 21). With the increased population came new churches, schools, and industrial growth including lead mining. The Neosho Smelting Furnace began operation in 1871 and shipped 150 pigs of iron within the first month that it had opened (Goodspeed: 279). Immigrants from Germany, France, and Switzerland came into the area and joined the large Scotch-Irish community. Among these new immigrants were Herman and John Jaeger from Switzerland. Herman Jaeger planted a vineyard just outside of Neosho and in 1889 won the Medal of the French Legion for supplying grapes to France which had lost many of its grapes to blight and drought. An apple orchard was also planted outside of Neosho during this period of time, helping to establish fruit as a commercial enterprise in Neosho. Neosho's most important cash crop was strawberries which residents began growing in 1899. These early strawberry farms provided work for people traveling west who stopped during harvest season to earn money to continue their journey. The berries were transported by railroad and kept cool by "icing railroad cars" at the Neosho Ice Company (England: 6).

In the 1870s, mills and factories were built to can produce, process wool, tobacco, ice, and flour, and manufacture metal and machinery, pianos, and lumber. Wagon production was another industry spawned by the railroad. During the late 1800s, it was estimated that Neosho produced approximately 2,500 wagons each year. Neosho's most successful wagon company was started in 1872 by D.H. Kirk who operated a factory on the east side of the Court Square.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section E Page 5

Neosho's success in canning and wholesale produce became evident in 1898 with the construction of the four-story brick Haas building on North Washington Street. The Haas Wholesale Grocery Company, one of the major businesses of the city, was a center for canning and shipping in southwest Missouri. The Haas family later built another four-story building on the north side of the Court Square. In 1907, a canning factory was opened to capitalize on abundant tomato and strawberry supplies.

Neosho also became well known in the late 19th century due to its spring water and hotels. The Big Spring was purchased by Ed Clark in 1882 and he used the spring to power his wagon factory. David Mendell also owned part of the spring property and opened a hotel in 1890 known as the Mendell House. In 1894, Neosho tried to trade city lots for Big Spring property but the City Council refused to make a decision. In 1903, the Commercial Club managed to obtain property for a park which cost about \$4,000 and did not include the spring. By 1926, the spring was at last a part of the property. The Mendell House was moved across the street from its original location and later became known as the Big Spring Inn.

In 1886, the Neosho High School was built which held its first commencement in May, 1889. Black students in the city were educated at a schoolhouse on Grant Street. One of the school's students was George Washington Carver, who lived in Neosho for about three years. Carver, the son of a former slave, moved to Neosho around 1870 to live with Andy and "Aunt" Maria Watkins, who were among the town's most prominent black citizens. Aunt Maria served as a midwife to many of Neosho's women (England: 5). During the early 1890s, the one-story Lincoln School was built which had 158 students enrolled by 1901. Concern about the building's safety resulted in its demolition in 1930.

The Methodist Episcopal Church, South founded the Neosho Collegiate Institute in 1878. This was Neosho's first school to offer higher education. In 1884, a new building on North Wood Street was constructed of brick and stone. Because of debts, the institute closed in 1887. In 1888, the organization reopened and changed its name to Scarritt College, after Dr. Scarritt of Kansas City who donated \$5,000 to the school. The college operated well into the early 20th century. Among Scarritt's alumni was Will Rogers, America's famous columnist and comedian.

The increase in manufacturing and shipping in the early 1900s resulted in continued population growth. From 1900 to 1910 the city grew by almost 1,000 residents to 3,661. Many of the original one-story brick and frame commercial buildings on the square were replaced with new two-story buildings. A new brick courthouse was constructed in 1878 which was two stories high and had a basement and symmetrical towers (Ibid: 1-2). Neosho expanded its telephone and electrical service during this decade and the city's wooden water pipes were replaced by iron pipes in 1906 to prevent leakage and increase water pressure (Ibid: 4-5).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section E Page 6

A major industry of these years was the William P. Stark Nursery located at the northern edge of Neosho. This nursery was established in 1912 in the building of the Mutual Wagon Factory. In 1931, the nursery was reorganized as the Neosho Nurseries Company and served a four-state region. Dairy and poultry businesses were also important in the early 20th century with the Pet and Carnation Companies each establishing creameries in town. Poultry farming gradually replaced vegetables and fruits as the dominant agricultural activity in the surrounding area during the early 20th century.

Over the next two decades Neosho's population grew slowly but steadily reaching 4,485 by 1930. Residential areas continued to expand and the Sale Hospital opened in 1927. The Depression had a significant effect on the local economy but a number of notable Public Works Administration projects took place during the 1930s. These included the paving of sidewalks, improvements to Big Spring Park, construction of a new courthouse in 1936, and construction of a new auditorium and city hall building in 1938. The 1936 courthouse was funded by the Public Works Administration, and its cornerstone was laid by Missouri Senator Harry Truman.

In 1941, the United States War Department authorized construction of a army training center southeast of Neosho known as Camp Crowder. By November 1941, more than 13,000 people obtained jobs on the site constructing dozens of frame barracks and other buildings. Used as a signal corps training center, Camp Crowder was the home of more than 45,000 troops during World War II. The impact of Camp Crowder on Neosho was enormous. There was a great demand for housing to serve the many laborers and civilians employed at the Camp and commercial activity increased. The influx of so many new people strained relations with local citizens and this impact was examined by a University of Missouri study in 1944 (Kohler, "Neosho, Missouri":1). At the end of World War II, the site was disengaged as an active area until 1951 when it was used as a reception area during the Korean War. The camp was deactivated again in 1958 and declared as surplus in 1962 (Neosho, City of Springs: 27).

Neosho has been called the "Flower Box City" since 1955, when the Flower Box Program started and 3,000 flower boxes around the city were filled with blooms. In 1967, the city installed a flower clock from Switzerland which appropriately reflects its nickname. Neosho's economy continued to grow after World War II, with several new industries moving into the area, including AeroJet General, which opened a rocket-engine testing facility for its Rocketdyne Division, La-Z-Boy Furniture and Teledyne. In 1956, Southwest Lime Company opened an underground warehouse using a cave which provides year-round storage and is located on a rail siding. The city received the "All America City" Award in 1958 for outstanding civic efforts after annexing 1,600 acres in 1957 which more than doubled the size of Neosho. Visitors today can still see a ceramic tile mural commissioned in 1964 by a local artist which shows the city's history. The town's economy is now based upon a variety of manufacturers and there is also a regional shopping center for the surrounding area.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section E Page 7

COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF NEOSHO, CA. 1868 - 1943

Neosho's Court Square has been an economic, social, and governmental center of the community for over one hundred years. The square has been Neosho's primary commercial area and it contains many of the community's oldest businesses. The Court Square area is significant under Criteria A and C for its role in local commerce and pre-1940 commercial architecture.

Neosho was the trading center of Newton County in the years before the Civil War. The war resulted in the destruction of much of the town's commercial buildings and it was several years before construction of substantial commercial buildings occurred. The Court Square was the center of the town's business activities and in 1869 the square was composed of two dozen businesses. Just off the square were small manufacturing companies such as the Washer and Clark carriage company and Stallbaum's cabinet shop (Goodspeed: 272).

Before the Civil War, a few dwellings were located on the square but these were razed the following decade to make way for commercial buildings. The oldest remaining building on the square appears to be the Alexander Stewart building at 100-102 W. Spring Street constructed in 1868 (Ibid). This two-story brick building has Italianate detailing and retains much of its original design. From 1879 to 1883 a number of brick buildings were constructed including the McElhany and Price Opera House on the north side of the square. Bricks were available from several brickyards in Neosho including the Elliot Carnes brickyard established in 1869 and the Budd Kelley brickyard opened in 1884 (Ibid: 274).

The 1884 Sanborn Insurance Map shows at least a dozen two-story brick buildings located on the four sides of the square. A number of these on the north and west sides of the square exist to the present and are some of the oldest commercial buildings remaining in Neosho. These buildings housed dry goods stores, clothing stores, hardware companies, furniture stores, and saloons. There were also several boarding houses, meeting halls, and at the northeast corner of the square was a school (Sanborn Map, 1884). Also in 1884 the original Masonic building was constructed at the northeast corner of the square (Goodspeed: 275). Several other brick buildings including the Berger's Block on W. Spring Street were built in the late 1880s.

The commercial activity of Neosho was enhanced by the establishment of a number of manufacturing companies in the 1880s. Although the B.H. Kirk Wagon Factory was located on the square, the majority of these businesses were located on streets just off the square. These businesses included the Neosho Planing Mills and Alexander and Sons Plow Factory. This increased commercial activity resulted in the organization of the Bank of Neosho in 1884 and the Neosho Savings Bank in 1885 (Ibid: 281).

Commercial businesses expanded during the 1890s and early 1900s and many new brick buildings were constructed. One of the most prominent of these was the Golden Eagle building constructed in 1895 at the southwest corner of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section E Page 8

square. The Golden Eagle building housed a well known dry goods store and was one of the largest businesses of the period in Neosho. The two-story Rice building was constructed on the north side of the square in 1898 along with several other brick buildings.

The tallest building of the 19th century was constructed by Edward Haas on North Washington Street in 1898. The Haas Building was the home of the Haas Wholesale Grocery Company, one of the leading produce companies of southwest Missouri at the turn of the century. The company built its building adjacent to the Kansas City Southern Railroad and shipped produce throughout the region. The company's business prospered and in 1906 Edward Haas constructed a four-story brick building at the northeast corner of the square. This building was constructed to house a bank and offices and was the largest building constructed on the Court Square.

The Briggs Hardware store was another important business of the early 1900s. This business was established in 1896 in a building on the south side of the square. A fire destroyed this building in 1906 and the present building was completed the same year. This company continued to operate in this building until the mid-20th century (Neosho, City of Springs: 170). The building adjacent to the Briggs Hardware Store at the corner of E. Main and S. Washington also burned in 1906 and was rebuilt with a glazed brick front. This building housed businesses on the first floor and the second floor served as an annex for the Spring City Hotel across the street.

By World War I, the Neosho Court Square appeared much as it does today. All four sides of the square were composed of one- to two-story commercial buildings except for the four-story Haas Building. The Masonic Hall on the east side of the square was remodeled with its present front in 1913 ("Neosho-Past, Present, and Future"). The original opera house on the north side of the square burned in 1916 and was replaced by the present building at 116 E. Spring Street.

During the 1920s most businesses on the Court Square and adjacent streets flourished and a 1926 Neosho Daily Democrat article described the business houses as a "subject of pride to citizens" (Neosho, City of Springs: 116). Businesses on the square included McGinty's Department Store, Matter's Jewelry, the Price Brothers Drug Store, the Newton County Hardware Store, and Briggs Hardware Store. Four banks were in operation on the square including the First National Bank in their remodeled building on the E. Main Street.

Since 1940 the Court Square has continued to be a major commercial area of Neosho. Despite the development of suburban areas and strip shopping centers the Court Square is an active shopping area containing restaurants, clothing stores, department stores, and offices. Almost all of the storefronts are occupied and upper floor space is used for storage or offices. Traditional businesses remaining on the square include McGinty's Department Store, Matter's Jewelry, and the Bank of Neosho. Unlike many other Missouri communities, Neosho's historic downtown area continues to be an important center for business and commerce.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section E Page 9

CIVIC AND GOVERNMENTAL BUILDINGS IN NEOSHO, 1886-1943

The Court Square is significant under Criteria A and C for its significance in local Politics/Government and for the architectural styles of its civic and governmental buildings. Newton County and Neosho governmental offices have been traditionally located in or near the Court Square area. Newton County was created in 1839 and the following year funds were provided for the construction of a courthouse. The first Newton County courthouse was a small log building measuring 18' by 20' with a stone chimney (Ibid: 28). This building was used until 1847 when a one-story brick courthouse building was erected in the center of the square. This building was badly damaged during the Civil War and was razed in 1866. The county court then met in several locations until a two-story brick courthouse was constructed in 1878. This building was designed in the Second Empire style and featured a slate mansard roof and two symmetrical towers (Ibid: 30-31). The county offices remained in this building until the present building was constructed in 1936.

In 1888, the Newton County Jail was constructed on N. Washington Street one block from the Court Square. The building was designed in the Second Empire style and housed the sheriff's residence and office. At the rear of the building was a one-story wing containing the jail cells. The building was designed and constructed by the Pauly Jail Building and Manufacturing Company of St. Louis at a cost of \$6000. This building was used as the county jail until 1936 when the jail was moved to the third floor of the courthouse. In recent decades the building has housed the Newton County Historical Society's offices and Museum.

The most dominant building in Neosho's Court Square is the Newton County Courthouse whose cornerstone was laid on July 30, 1936. The building was designed by St. Louis architect Neal C. Davis, a native of Newton County, and financed by the Public Works Administration and a local bond issue. This two-story Carthage stone building was constructed with Art Deco influences in a cross plan with one-story wings extending on all sides. The building continues to house the county government and the interior retains its original wood doors, marble wainscoting, fluted marble pilasters, and metal staircases. Neosho was incorporated in 1866 and a mayor-aldermanic form of government was adopted in 1877 (Ibid: 51). City offices met in a variety of locations during the late 19th century. City offices were established in the 1906 Haas Building on the Court Square and this building housed the city government until the construction of the City Hall building in 1938.

Neosho's Auditorium and City Hall is located one-half block west of the square on Main Street. The two-story building was also designed in the Art Deco style by architect Neal C. Davis and constructed in 1938 with financial assistance from the Public Works Administration. The building originally housed the city hall, public library, and meeting areas. The auditorium has a stage at one end, hardwood floors, and original wood seats in the gallery, which is lighted by original multi-light casement windows.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section E Page 10

In 1944 the city changed its government to a council-manager form. In recent years city offices have moved out of the City Hall to other locations and the building is presently used for offices and meeting space.

Two federal buildings were constructed in Neosho, the U.S. Post Office and the National Fish Hatchery. The U.S. Post Office was constructed in 1934 on Hickory Street and is an example of a Colonial Revival post office building constructed by the Work Projects Administration. The post office has been determined by the U.S. Postal Service to be ineligible for the National Register. The National Fish Hatchery was established in 1888 and largely rebuilt in the 1930s. The main building of the complex was constructed in recent decades and the property has been determined ineligible for the National Register.

The Newton County Courthouse, Newton County Jail, and Auditorium and City Hall are located in and around the Court Square and are included within the Neosho Commercial Historic District.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section F Page 11

NAME OF PROPERTY TYPE - COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

Description:

The buildings on Neosho's Court Square were constructed primarily between ca. 1868 and ca. 1915. The buildings follow forms of the One-Part and Two-Part Commercial Blocks typical of commercial buildings constructed throughout the country during this period (Longstreth, Main Street: 24, 54) One-Part Commercial Blocks were constructed with storefronts and ornamental framing, while Two-Part Commercial Blocks have separate storefronts and upper facades. Although narrow with 20' to 25' storefronts, most buildings extended back 100' or more to rear alleys.

The north, east, and south sides of the public square retain much of their architectural character and this area has been identified as meeting National Register Criteria. These sides of the square and adjacent blocks comprise the Neosho Commercial Historic District. The west side of the square is composed of turn of the century buildings but the majority of buildings have been covered with metal facades and this side of the square no longer retains integrity.

The square was first laid out in 1846 and the earliest buildings were one-story frame structures that were soon replaced by more substantial brick buildings as the city grew and prospered. After the Civil War, two-story brick buildings were constructed on all four sides of the Court Square facing the courthouse. Over two dozen brick buildings were erected on the square by the end of the century.

The majority of the buildings constructed during this period are of brick construction with a few embellished with upper facades of stamped metal. The building at 110 N. Wood Street is a good example of a stamped metal facade and displays decorative pilasters dividing the window bays. Stone is used for decoration such as window sills, lintels, belt courses and piers. Excellent stonework can be seen at the 1898 Haas Building entrance surround. Glazed brick was sparingly used with the white glazed facade at 129 E. Main Street displaying the most significant use of this material.

A number of buildings retain original storefront elements such as frame or brick bulkheads, plate glass display windows, transoms, and recessed entrances. The storefront at 124 E. Spring Street displays an especially ornate entrance with a leaded glass door and sidelight. Cast iron was used on storefronts for structural and decorative columns and examples of cast iron are visible at 100 and 110 E. Spring Street. During the early 20th century polished granite was used for decorative columns at the Haas Building and 129 E. Main Street. A few buildings retain storefronts of tinted glass known as Carrara glass applied during the 1930s and 1940s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section F Page 12

Upper facades of the Court Square buildings retain much of their original character and include rectangular and arched windows, corbelled brick decoration, and blind arcades. Sheet or stamped metal was widely used for cornices and can be found on many buildings. The Berger's Block at 114-118 W. Spring Street and the Golden Eagle Building have fine examples of stamped metal cornices. Stamped metal and cast iron were also used for window cornice decoration at buildings such as 100-102 W. Spring Street and 126 E. Spring Street.

The interiors of the most Court Square buildings consisted of open floor space on both floors. Decorative elements in these buildings were largely confined to stamped metal ceilings, ornate staircases, and fluted door surrounds. A few buildings such as the 1908 Haas Building were constructed with separate offices and meeting rooms on the upper floors. The Haas Building is the most notable of these and retains its original four-story staircase. In recent years the majority of the Court Square building's first floors have been remodeled or altered.

Stylistic influences of the downtown commercial buildings range from the Italianate style to the Colonial Revival style. The Italianate style is present through the use of decorative cornices, arched windows, or windows with embellished hoods. The building at 102-104 W. Spring Street is an example of this Italianate influence. The 1898 Haas Building displays detailing representative of the Victorian Romanesque style through its use of stone and brick on the main facade, rounded arched entrance, and decorative granite columns framing the entrance.

After 1900 many of the Court Square buildings were constructed with Colonial Revival detailing such as the Neosho Savings Bank at 125 S. Washington Street, and the Newton County Bank at 200 S. Wood Street. Both buildings were constructed with stone or cast concrete cornices with modillion blocks, and corner quoins. The Neo-classical style was used for the remodeling of the Temple Front, First National Bank at 111 E. Main Street. This building is distinguished by its full-height Corinthian columns. Little new construction occurred on the square after 1920 and there are no existing examples of Art Moderne or Art Deco commercial buildings.

In recent years many of the original storefronts have been remodeled or altered with modern metal or wood panels. Upper facade remodeling or concealment has also taken place but the majority of buildings within the proposed Neosho Commercial Historic District display their original upper facade detailing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section F Page 13

Significance:

The commercial buildings in and around the Court Square area of Neosho are significant under Criteria A and C for their architectural character and role in the community's period of growth and development during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. After the Civil War, Neosho became a thriving county seat and regional trading center. The town was served by a number of railroads and was a center for small manufacturing companies and the shipping of agricultural products. Between 1890 and 1920 Neosho more than doubled in size and the present Court Square is indicative of this growth and prosperity.

At the turn of the century the Court Square was the center of Neosho business and commerce. Its brick buildings contained a wide variety of stores, banks, offices, and recreational businesses such as theaters and saloons. The businesses on the square provided employment for Neosho residents as well as essential goods and services.

One of the best known businesses on the square in the late 19th century was the Golden Eagle Department Store. This store was begun in 1883 and in 1895 the company constructed the two-story building at 101-109 E. Main Street. The Golden Eagle had such innovations as the Barr system of cash carriers and baskets which served to connect the different departments with the cashier's office via overhead lines (Neosho, City of Springs: 132). Another early department store was McGinty's which was founded in 1904 and moved into the Golden Eagle building in 1918. This store became one of the best known in the four-state area and remains in operation at the southwest corner of the square (*Ibid*). The interior of this building burned in 1949 and this section of the Golden Eagle building no longer retains its historic character.

Matters Jewelry was founded in 1892 and was originally located in the 300 block of Spring Street. The business has occupied its present site in the Golden Eagle building since 1956. Also in 1956, Matters was recognized by the National Jeweler as one of the 300 oldest jewelers in the country, and the third oldest in Missouri. Several drug stores have operated on the square such as the Evans Drug store and the Price Brothers Drug Store. The Evans Drug store was originally located in the building at 129 E. Main Street before moving to the west side of the square. The building was later sold to the Guthries Drug Company which operated at this location for several decades (*Ibid*: 140).

The Court Square has been the traditional financial and banking center of the community since the late 19th century. The Bank of Neosho was organized in 1884 and is the oldest bank operating in Newton County (*Ibid*: 142). Other early banks include the Neosho Savings Bank, incorporated in 1885 and the First National Bank of Neosho, organized in 1902. The First National Bank originally leased a building on the south side of the square until it purchased two buildings in 1922 and remodeled them into the Temple Front building at 111 E. Main Street. The Newton County Bank was organized in 1913 and constructed the two-story brick building at 200 S. Wood Street. This bank

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section F Page 14

remained in operation until the Depression when its assets were assumed by the Bank of Neosho (Ibid: 146).

The Court Square was also the home of several hotels during the late 19th and early 20th century. Perhaps the most famous was the Spring City Hotel, later known as the England Hotel. This building was constructed ca. 1884 at the southeast corner of the square and stood until the mid-20th century when it was razed. At least two existing buildings were used as hotels during the early 20th century. In addition to housing various businesses on the first floor the Berger's Block's upper floor was operated as a hotel for many decades. The second floor was known as the Globe Hotel, the Central Hotel, and during World War II it was the Comfort Lodge housing dozens of Camp Crowder workers. The four-story Haas building has had several uses during this century. For several decades it was home of the Neosho Savings Bank and city offices. The Neosho Hospital leased the top two floors in the 1920s and the upper floors were used as the Newton Hotel.

The Court Square continues to function as Neosho's center of commerce and finance. In recent years "strip" commercial activity has taken place to the west of the downtown area, primarily along Neosho Boulevard. Despite this shift in shopping patterns the downtown area remains an important business center and few buildings are vacant. New construction has been limited and the Court Square displays much of its historic appearance and vitality.

Registration Requirements:

Commercial properties in Neosho are significant primarily through their architecture and through their associations with the commercial history of the community. To be architecturally significant a building must be a fine example of a particular style or possess unusual design elements and detailing. The building must also possess integrity of setting and location, design, workmanship, and materials. This includes all original upper facade decoration, the majority of original storefront elements, evidence of the original interior floor plan, and most interior features. Under these registration requirements the 1898 Haas Building on N. Washington Street is the only individually eligible commercial building in Neosho. This building is included as contributing in the Neosho Commercial Historic District.

To be historically significant a building must be the site of a business of particular importance to the community, must be associated with an individual of particular importance, or be associated with an important event or occurrence. The 1898 Haas Building is the only commercial building which appears to meet individual registration requirements for historical significance due to its prominence in regional produce shipping and commerce.

Commercial buildings may also meet registration requirements if they form a significant grouping which retains integrity of setting and location. To be eligible these buildings must be contiguous at their original locations and a significant concentration must retain integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. Buildings which retain integrity are

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section F Page 15

those which have original upper facade detailing and materials and have feeling and association of a particular era. The retention of original storefront elements is not necessary if the majority of upper facade detailing remains intact. A grouping of buildings may also be considered significant if they collectively have particular historical significance in the commercial growth and development of the community.

Under these registration requirements the majority of the buildings on the north, east, and south sides of the Court Square and several side streets would be considered contributing to the Neosho Commercial Historic District. The 1990 inventory of Neosho did not inventory any other commercial buildings meeting individual or district National Register criteria outside the boundary of the Neosho Commercial Historic District.

NAME OF PROPERTY TYPE - CIVIC AND GOVERNMENTAL BUILDINGS

Description:

Neosho retains four civic and governmental buildings constructed prior to 1940 in the downtown area. The oldest of these is the Newton County jail constructed in 1888 on N. Washington Street. This building was designed in the Second Empire style and served as the sheriff's house and office. At the rear of the building was a brick wing containing jail cells but this wing has been removed. The building served as the Newton County jail from 1888 to 1936. In recent years the building has housed the Newton County Historical Society and Museum.

Neosho was the site of two major Public Works Administration projects during the 1930s: the construction of the Newton County Jail in 1936; and the construction of the Auditorium and City Hall in 1938. Both buildings were designed in the Art Deco style by architect Neal Davis. The exteriors of both buildings are of Carthage stone and feature detailing such as chevrons, fluted pilasters, and stylized panels and friezes. The buildings are the only examples of the Art Deco style in the downtown area of Neosho.

Another Depression-era public building is the U.S. Post Office completed in 1934 on Hickory Street. The Post Office is a one-story brick building designed in the Colonial Revival style by government architect Louis Simon. The building has not been extensively altered and retains its original design and detailing.

Significance:

Civic and Governmental buildings are eligible under Criteria A and C if they are notable examples of an architectural style or were of particular importance in a governmental role or function. The Newton County Courthouse has served as the county's courthouse for over fifty years and it retains its original Art Deco design and detailing. The Newton County Jail served as the county's primary correctional facility from 1888 to 1936 and retains the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section F Page 16

majority of its original design. Both buildings are reflective of the county government's historic growth and development.

The Auditorium and City Hall is the only notable city building constructed prior to 1940. The building was designed to consolidate municipal offices and serve as the city's public auditorium and library. The building served in this capacity for several decades before the offices and the library moved to other locations. The building continues to be used as a city auditorium and meeting hall.

The U.S. Post Office and the National Fish Hatchery are the only federal properties constructed in Neosho prior to 1940.

Registration Requirements:

Civic and Governmental buildings met registration requirements if they played an important role in local government operation; were a particularly noteworthy architectural design; if they retained integrity of design, materials, craftsmanship, feeling and association; and if they retained integrity of location and setting. Under these requirements the Newton County Courthouse and Auditorium and City Hall were determined to meet eligibility criteria. The Newton County Jail has been altered through the removal of a rear wing and addition of a second-story porch and stucco exterior on the main facade. This porch and stucco exterior were added prior to 1940 and are considered historic alterations. Sufficient integrity of the original design and pre-1940 additions are considered present for the building to meet eligibility criteria. All three buildings are included as contributing buildings in the Neosho Commercial Historic District.

The U.S. Post Office has been evaluated by the Postal Service and determined not to meet National Register criteria. Due to alterations and post-1940 additions, the National Fish Hatchery has been determined not to meet National Register criteria.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section G Page 17

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

The Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri are located within the corporate limits of the city of Neosho, Missouri.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section H Page 18

SUMMARY OF IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION METHODS

In 1990, the City of Neosho received a grant from the Historic Preservation Program of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to conduct an architectural and historical inventory of properties within the city limits of Neosho, Missouri. The purpose of this inventory was to identify, photograph, and conduct research on approximately 200 properties associated with the historical growth and development of the community. In order to complete the inventory the City of Neosho solicited proposals from qualified consultants and selected Thomason and Associates, Historic Preservation Consultants from Nashville, Tennessee, to complete the project.

To complete the survey, the consultant drove every street within the city limits of Neosho and identified properties which met survey criteria. For properties which were inventoried, a Missouri survey form was completed, black and white photographs were taken, and data was gathered concerning the property's architectural style and detailing. At the majority of properties questionnaire forms were distributed to gather additional historical data.

At the conclusion of the survey, 208 Historic Inventory Forms and photographs were completed and submitted to the Department of Natural Resources and to the City of Neosho. Historical background for many of the properties was collected using questionnaires that were completed by property-owners.

The consultant identified several areas and a number of individual buildings which appeared to meet National Register criteria. These recommendations were reviewed by the staff of the Historic Preservation Program and they agreed that the Neosho Commercial Historic District met National Register criteria (Letter from Lee Gilleard to Jim Taylor, March 14 1991). In 1992 the City of Neosho received a grant from the Department of Natural Resources and selected Thomason and Associates to prepare the nomination.

In January 1993 the consultant re-examined the proposed district area and recorded changes which occurred since the completion of the survey in 1991. This examination included taking new photographs, completing additional historical research, and gathering present day maps.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Historic Resources of Neosho, Newton County, Missouri

Section I Page 19

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Campbell's Gazetteer of Missouri. St. Louis: R.A. Campbell, 1875.

England, Judge Ray. "History of Neosho." Manuscript on file at the Newton County Historical Society. 1986.

Goodspeed's History of McDonald and Newton Counties. Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1888. Reprint ed. by the McDonald County Historical Society, Pineville, Missouri, 1972.

Hart, Louise, and Mary Ellen Dennison. "Neosho, Its Past Present and Future." Manuscript on file at the Newton County Historical Society. 1907.

Kohler, Lucille T. Neosho Missouri, Under the Impact of Army Camp Construction. Columbia: University of Missouri, 1944.

Longstreth, Richard. The Buildings of Main Street. Washington, D.C: The Preservation Press, 1987.

"Neosho, Missouri." Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1884, 1891, 1896, 1902, 1909, 1916, 1926. New York: Sanborn Map Company.

Newton County Historical Society. Neosho: A City of Springs. Neosho, MO: Newton County Historical Society, 1992.

Ohman, Marian M. A History of Missouri's Counties, County Seats, and Courthouse Squares. Columbia: University of Missouri, 1983.