

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District

Other names/site number N/A

Name of related Multiple Property Listing N/A

## 2. Location

Street & number Along portions of 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, Center and Cross Streets

N/A
-----

 not for publication

City or town Sarcoxie

N/A
-----

 vicinity

State Missouri Code MO County Jasper Code 097 Zip code 64862

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D



Aug 27, 2014

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

Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District  
Name of Property

Jasper, MO  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
26	2	buildings
1		sites
1		structures
	1	objects
28	3	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade/specialty store

Commerce/Trade/financial institution

Commerce/Trade/department store

Commerce/Trade/restaurant

Commerce/Trade/professional

Commerce/newspaper

Government/city hall/police station

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade/specialty store

Commerce/newspaper

Commerce/Trade/professional

Government/city hall/police station

Government/city library

Non-profit/Senior Center

Non-profit/Museum

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

One-Part Commercial Block

Two-Part Commercial Block

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Asphalt

other: \_\_\_\_\_

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION ON CONTINUATION PAGES**

Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District  
Name of Property

Jasper, MO  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Areas of Significance**

Commerce  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c. 1890-1965  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE ON CONTINUATION PAGES

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

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

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

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

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

Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District  
Name of Property

Jasper, MO  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 5.5 acres

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Please see Boundary Description for additional coordinates

1	<u>37.068271</u>	<u>-94.117018</u>	3	<u>37.069993</u>	<u>-94.116869</u>
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
2	<u>37.068222</u>	<u>-94.116091</u>	4	<u>37.06980</u>	<u>-94.116000</u>
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

\_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1927 or \_\_\_\_\_ NAD 1983

1 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

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

**Boundary Justification** (On continuation sheet)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Michelle Gautz, edited by Kristi Chase (MO SHPO)

organization N/A date May 17, 2014, rev. August 6, 2014

street & number 1203 Center Street telephone 417-548-2577 or 417-437-5697

city or town Sarcoxie state MO zip code 64862

e-mail mjgautz@hotmail.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:**
  - A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Photographs**
- **Owner Name and Contact Information**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)



**Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District**

Name of Property

**Jasper, MO**

County and State

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## Photographs

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

## Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District**

City or Vicinity: **Sarcoxie**

County: **Jasper**

State: **Missouri**

Photographer: **Katrina Keys, Sarcoxie Record Newspaper**

Date

Photographed: **May 16, 2014**

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

- 1 of 11: Sarcoxie Public Square looking southwest
- 2 of 11: Sarcoxie Public Square looking north
- 3 of 11: 111 S. 5<sup>th</sup> looking west
- 4 of 11: Streetscape –West Side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street looking southwest
- 5 of 11: Streetscape –West Side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street looking west
- 6 of 11: Streetscape –West Side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street looking northwest
- 7 of 11: 6<sup>th</sup> & Center Streets looking southwest
- 8 of 11: Streetscape-East Side of 6<sup>th</sup> Street looking north
- 9 of 11: Streetscape-South Side of Center Street looking southeast
- 10 of 11: Streetscape-South Side of Center Street looking southwest
- 11 of 11: Streetscape-North Side of Cross Street looking northwest

## Figure Log:

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

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

- Figure 1 J. P. Boyd Mill, c.1878-1900, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 2 Frisco Train Depot west of Sarcoxie Historic District, Larry Myers personal collection, May 19, 2014.
- Figure 3 First National Bank, c. 1901, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 4 Flood on S. 6<sup>th</sup> St., 1904, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 5 Pile & Sabert Furniture & Coffin, c.1890, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 6 Cameron Mine, c.1912, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 7 Sale Day, 1932, showing east side of commercial district, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 8 Sarcoxie Concert Band in front of the Sarcoxie Gazebo, c. 1904, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 9 Merchant's Prize Day, 1930, Sarcoxie Square, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 10 Aerial View of Sarcoxie Square from water tower, 1923, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 11 Train being loaded with ice for the strawberries for shipping, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 12 West Side View of Sarcoxie Business District, c.1920-1933, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 13 Sarcoxie Business District from northeast corner, 1938, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 14 South Side Sarcoxie Business District, c. 1904-1911, Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO.
- Figure 15 1876 Plat Map of Sarcoxie
- Figure 16 1895 Plat of Map Sarcoxie
- Figure 17 Contextual Map
- Figure 18 Historic District Boundary and Contributing/Non-contributing Map
- Figure 19 Photo Map

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Continuation Sheet

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<b>Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District</b>
Name of Property Jasper, Missouri
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**SUMMARY**

The city of Sarcoxie is located in Southwest Missouri in Jasper County. It is approximately 46.9 miles west of Springfield, 19 miles east of Joplin, 18 miles south of Carthage, Mo. and a mile from the I-44 corridor. The land area for the city is 1.08 square miles.<sup>1</sup> Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion A, COMMERCE. The nominated district contains 28 properties (26 contributing buildings and 2 non-contributing), 1 contributing structure (Gazebo), 1 contributing site (public square) and 1 non-contributing object (Figure 18). The population in 2012 was 1,297(0%urban, 100% rural).<sup>2</sup> The dates of building construction of the contributing properties range from c.1889 to 1940. The buildings are mostly one and two part commercial block plans. The period of significance for the district is 1890-1962. Overall, the district has retained historical integrity and reflects continued commercial development for Sarcoxie, Missouri, throughout the period of significance.

**NARRATIVE**

The majority of the buildings in the Sarcoxie Historic Business District are brick one or two story buildings with flat roofs (Photo 19). Many of the buildings share a common wall with the adjoining building. The existing brick buildings were built c.1889-1923, replacing frame buildings built prior to those dates.<sup>3</sup> At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many frame buildings were heavily damaged or destroyed by devastating fires.<sup>4</sup> The south and west sides were especially affected by the fires with less damage occurring to the north side. Residents and local entrepreneurs quickly replaced the buildings with the brick buildings currently standing.

Many buildings indicate quality workmanship performed by skilled bricklayers present at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Decorative corbelled cornices and entablatures are present which contribute to the historic character of the buildings. Historic cast iron storefront columns still remain at 508, 512, and 514 Center Street and 501, 507 Cross Street (Photo 9,10,11). Elaborately pressed

<sup>1</sup> Sarcoxie, Missouri, Wikipedia, <http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sarcoxie,missouri>, Accessed April 19, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> Sarcoxie, Missouri(MO 64862) profile: population, maps, real estate...<http://www.city-data.com/city/Sarcoxie-Missouri.html>

<sup>3</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance maps 1884,1900,1910,1918, (maps taken from Sarcoxie, Jasper County, Missouri, Site Survey report, State Historic Preservation Office, February 10, 2012) Beacon Site Mapping & Data Site, Jasper County, Missouri, *Sarcoxie Record*, "Yesteryear", provided dating for buildings.

<sup>4</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, "Yesteryear", January 2, 2008.

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<b>Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District</b>
Name of Property Jasper, Missouri
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metal facades and cornices exist, as shown at 111 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 509 Cross Street (Photo 5, 11) (Figure 12). Over the years, alterations have occurred to the storefronts in an effort to modernize the building.

Historically, shops occupied the lower levels with offices and family dwellings on the second floor level. Currently, most of the buildings are filled with business operations, apartments, government offices, a museum, the city library and the Senior Center. Currently, two of the properties are not providing commercial services but are housing merchandise.

The properties sit at a zero lot line next to the cement sidewalk on the square and brick walks on South 5<sup>th</sup> and South 6<sup>th</sup> Streets. Buildings on the historic square face the public park on their respective streets.

**Square and Gazebo: Contributing site and structure, c.1840, 1904;**  
**Sign: Non-contributing object, Modern (Photo 1, 2) (Figures 8, 9, 13)**

The buildings on the square surround a small park (a contributing site) containing a Gazebo in the center of the park. The park has a grassy area with lots of shade trees, four cement cast drinking fountains, four elevated flower beds, and picnic tables that provide additional seating to relax, visit with friends, or watch entertainment that is performed on the gazebo platform during city events. Leading to the Gazebo are four concrete sidewalks that enter the square from four sides. Additional flower beds are placed on the northeast and southwest corners. There are two memorials, one recognizes the city's 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the other is a memorial honoring our veterans. A flag pole with flag hoisted sits on the southwest corner. The gazebo features an elevated concrete pad and eight wood columns supporting a shingled roof. The contributing structure is painted white with black wrought iron railing. Diagonal parking surrounds the park and business district. Eight street lights are placed strategically around the outer edge of the park on each corner. A modern changeable letter sign sits at the northeastern corner of the square and is considered a non-contributing object.

**1. 111 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Contributing, 1902, Aleshire Garage**

Property type: One-part commercial block, Garage (Photo 3)

This two-story high brick building sits south of the square behind 502 Center Street. This building was constructed in 1902. The garage was expanded in 1940; at which time, the flat roofed building was added. There is a door facing east that provides entry into the brick garage and two larger doors that slide so vehicles can enter. The large, sliding doors have a stone header and 12 small windows on the upper half of the doors. The entry door to the north has a glass transom

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Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District	
Name of Property	Jasper, Missouri
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above the door. There is an entry door on the south side leading into the garage from the alley. The front façade is brick, reflecting varying colors, with a stone plaque and two 1/1 windows in the upper façade. The windows are recessed with brick arch lintels and brick soldier course sills. They are situated on either side of the stone plaque where E.H. Wormington, 1902, is engraved. The expanded section is single story with a flat roof. A small asphalt awning extends across the front.

**2. 101 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Contributing, 1889, Sarcoxie Record<sup>5</sup> (Figure 12)**

Property type: One-part commercial block-Newspaper office **(Photo 4)**

This one-story commercial brick building sits on the southwest corner of the square at the intersection of N. 6<sup>th</sup> and Center Streets. It was built 1889. This storefront has a wooden door on the west and is then divided into two sections of plate glass display windows, supported by a 19<sup>th</sup> century-style bulkhead(with wainscot inside). Transom windows above are accessible inside, but covered by a wood and shingle awning outside. The building's cornice includes painted decorative bracket corbelling details and awning. Both are continued through the adjacent two buildings (103 and 105 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street).

**3. 103 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Contributing, 1889, Sarcoxie Record (Figure 12)**

Property type: One-part commercial block -Newspaper **(Photo 4)**

Built in 1889, this one-story commercial brick building shares common walls with 101 and 105 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The storefront has recessed wooden double entry doors with glass panels. The main entrance faces the square. Plate glass pictured in early photographs has been replaced with French door panels over a 19<sup>th</sup> century-style bulkhead. The configuration of the doors and windows match early photographs taken of the building. The cornice of the front façade features painted decorative brackets and a wood and shingle awning that continues on to the two buildings adjacent (101 and 105 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street).

**4. 105 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Contributing, 1889, Residence (Figure 12)**

Property type: One-part commercial block **(Photo 4)**

Built in 1889, this one-story commercial brick building shares common walls with 103 and 107 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The main entrance faces the

<sup>5</sup> This one-story building is 52 foot wide and is divided into three store fronts (addresses 103 and 105) with 8 inch wood-framed plaster and lathe walls at 19 ft. and 31.4 ft. Owner of 103 N. 6<sup>th</sup> St. provided a partial copy of a blueprint survey. Copy includes survey marks at the front and back of property but cuts off below "Survey of..."

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Name of Property Jasper, Missouri
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square. There are two large storefront plate glass display windows on either side of a modern door. Earlier photographs show a double door entry with an awning extending from above a transom. The cornice of the front façade features painted decorative brackets and corbelling and a wood and single awning that continues on to the two buildings south of it (101 and 103 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street).

**5. 107 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Non-Contributing, c.1900 (Figure 12)**

Property type: One-part commercial block<sup>6</sup>, vacant **(Photo 4)**

This one-story commercial brick building, built in c.1900, shares common walls with 105 and 109 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The main entrance faces the square. At ground level, the front façade has been heavily modified with non-historic metal siding and two large plate glass windows. The entry door is steel with full glass panel inset. A blue dome awning extends over the entry. Early photos show large storefront windows and transoms above the large storefront windows and double doors. The original corbelled cornice has been removed. The transoms have been covered with corrugated aluminum siding. The upper level of the façade is mortar covered brick with no apparent ornamental features exposed. The façade has been modified and non-historic changes to the storefront have resulted in integrity issues. Therefore, the building is non-contributing.

**6. 109 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Contributing, c.1900 (Figure 12)**

Property type: One-part commercial block, Law office of deceased Robert Baker<sup>7</sup> **(Photo 5)**

This two-story commercial brick building, built c.1900, shares common walls with 107 and 111 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The main entrance faces the square. The top floor features decorative cast iron columns and three recessed painted brick panels topped with projecting brick spandrels and brick bracket cornice details. An early photograph indicates that three large windows were located in the areas now covered with corrugated aluminum. The ground floor features a continuation of the decorative cast iron columns, roughhewn limestone, large plate glass windows and a recessed entryway. The large glass windows rest on limestone sills. The entry door is wood with an aluminum screen door. The two stories are divided by a metal clad wooden awning.

<sup>6</sup> Recent owner is related to the Sam Feather family that operated a confectionary at this location c.1950. She has plans to redo the front of the building revealing the integrity behind the aluminum façade and open a confectionary in the future.

<sup>7</sup> Mr. Baker's estate still maintains all of the items and legal records in the building but the office is no longer operating.

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7. 111 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Contributing, c.1900-1908, Sarcoxie, City Hall (Figure 12)

Property type: Government, City offices (Photo 5)

This two-story commercial brick building, built c.1900-1908, shares common walls with 109 and 113 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The main entrance faces the square. The top story façade features painted projecting brick with decorative brickwork painted in accent colors and I-beam lintel. An early photograph shows 6 recessed panels and 5 single plate glass windows, which sit below the recessed brick. The windows have been altered by placing an asphalt shingled awning below the decorative lintel. The awning extends the width of the ground floor. The ground floor is mortar covered brick and wood with a large plate glass window with two 1/1 windows on each side. The entry door is steel with glass on the upper half with cross-buck pattern on lower half.

8. 113 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Non-contributing, c.1900, Sarcoxie Police (Figure 12)

Property type: Government, City Police Department/conference room (Photo 5, 6)

This two-story commercial brick building, built c.1900, shares common walls with 111 and 115 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The storefront was greatly modified in 1963. At that time, a wide opening was put in so the building could serve as the fire department. The wide opening provided access for city fire truck to be driven inside, and has since been enclosed. The corbelled cornice, the recessed brick and fixed single window panes were all removed. The main entrance faces the square. The top story façade is cinder block. The decorative I-beam lintel dividing the front remains. The ground floor is rough cut cedar siding and has two double hung 1/1 vinyl windows. The façade is divided by an asphalt shingle awning across its width. The building is currently owned by the city and houses a conference room and the police department. The façade has been modified and non-historic changes to the storefront have resulted in the loss of integrity. Therefore, the building is non-contributing.

9. 115 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Contributing, c.1890-1900, Jubilee Christian Outreach (Figure 12)

Property type: One-part commercial block, Thrift store, owned by Freedom Christian Fellowship INC, Non-profit (Photo 6)

This two-story brick commercial building, built in c.1890-1900, shares common walls with 113 and 117 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The main entrance faces the square and is divided into three bays by brick pilasters that reach to the top of the building. The top story of the façade

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features painted brick and mortar with decorative corbelled brickwork along the cornice. The ground level façade is of particular interest and denotes the building's history as a former movie theater with its angled recessed entryway, brickwork, mortar, and plate glass windows (not original). The second floor windows are 1/1 and set in recessed brick panels and have projecting brick spandrels with recessed panels above them.

**10. 117 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Contributing, 1923 (Figure 12)**

Property type: One-part commercial block, Machine shop (**Photo 6**)

This one-story commercial brick building, built in 1923, sits on the northwest corner of the square at the intersection of Cross Street and N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. It shares a common wall with 115 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The main entrance faces the square. The front façade is plaster covered (masonry and Portland cement mix), added in 1927 by Virgil Sheldon.<sup>8</sup> The building features a slight central arch in the roofline as an architectural feature. Seven plain pilasters reach to the lintel in which five plate glass windows with two recessed panels (or transoms) above each sit on limestone sills. An earlier photograph showed two French style windows in the brick arch but they have been filled and covered with stucco. An entry door is in the northwest corner. Imprint of Sarcoxie Trading Post can still be seen on the plastered façade.

**11. 101 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Contributing, 1904, resident (Figure 14)**

Property type: Two-part commercial block (**Photo 7**)

This two-story brick building, built in 1904, sits on the southwest corner of the square at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and Center Streets and shares a common wall with 103 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street. A description taken from portions of the current owner's National Register nomination states:

The foundation is made of flat limestone rocks and mortar and capped with flat limestone slabs. The 6<sup>th</sup> Street wall faces east and has a concrete wall approximately 2½ feet tall that once supported glass display windows. Two columns of brick and mortar support the window casings. Above the windows is a wooden support beam that supports the double row of 20 single pane glass windows (covered with aluminum panels) and a canopy that overhangs the sidewalk, early 1900 indicated no overhang, overhang added c.1930-40s. Brick and mortar is located between the floors. There are 22 1/1 windows (3 x 7½ feet high) positioned around the second floor. The 1/1 windows have a

<sup>8</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, "Yesteryear", June 27, 2007.

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limestone sill and lintel above them. Corbel brick work starts above the windows on the southeast corner and extends around the building to the northwest corner.<sup>9</sup>

The main entrance has a corner entrance facing the Sarcoxie Historic District Square. It is outlined in stone quoining and has large rusticated lintels over the boarded up entrance transom. Small French style (12) windows are located on the west side of the double hung doors. The north and east walls feature red brick with decorative brickwork details toward the roof line. Of particular interest is a limestone plaque in the lintel below the corbelled brick cornice located above the front door which features the year the building was constructed (1904) and the Masonic square and compass symbol. The wall facing Center Street has three double hung windows (2 ft. x 3 ft.) about 6 feet above the sidewalk and 2 entry doors near the rear of the building with limestone thresholds and limestone lintels. The west wall starting at the limestone foundation is plain brick and mortar up to the roof line with 3 windows on this wall. The wall facing S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street has 3 French style windows with 15 2x2 non-historic windows and wood paneling. The transom has been covered with corrugated metal.

**12. 106 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Contributing, 1910-1911, Parmley Garage**

Property type: One-part commercial block, garage **(Photo 8)**

This one-story commercial brick building, built in 1910-1911, stands behind 520 Center Street. The main entrance faces 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The façade features red brick with decorative brick cornice. The ground level features a large expanse of eighteen small window panes facing S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The entry door is recessed with twelve of the same small windows sitting at an angle on both sides of the original entry door. The front façade has been modified with a large roll-up garage style door and one on the south side of the garage. The original transom of Frank Lloyd Wright glass panels on the front façade have recently been removed due to insurance liability and replaced with painted plywood. Prior to the installation of the garage door, glass originally ran across the front of the building. Imprint of Sarcoxie Furniture Company can still be seen in the brick inset.

<sup>9</sup> Aleta Motes interview and NRHP nomination of 101 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Parts of description taken from nomination to NRHP, February 3, 2014.



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13. **502 Center Street, Contributing, c.1902-1903, Sarcoxie Insurance (Figure 13,14)**

Property type: Two-part commercial block (Photo 9, 10)

This two-story commercial red and tan brick building, built c.1902-1903, sits on the southeast corner of the square at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> and Center Streets. It shares a common wall with 504 Center Street. The ground floor façade has been modified with vinyl siding and store front plate glass windows. There is a large plate glass window with a narrow, vertical pane to the west. Above the store front is an I-beam lintel with decorative fastener.

Three pilasters stretch to the decorative brick work near the roof line. It has 2 entrances that face the square, one to the east that accesses the commercial ground floor and one to the west accessing the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. The transom above this stairway entry has retained the 2 original panes. The top façade contains a recessed, decorative brick cornice that continues to the adjoining buildings at 504 and 506 Center Streets. The second floor has three 1/1 windows with large, rusticated stone lintels and narrow stone sills that match the upper windows in the buildings at 504 and 506 Center Street.

14. **504 Center Street, Contributing, c.1902-1903, Residence (Figure 13, 14)**

Property type: Two-part commercial block (Photo 9, 10)

This two-story commercial red and tan brick building shares common walls with 506 and 502 Center Street. It was built c.1902-1903. It has one entrance situated mid-point of the store front facing the square. The top façade is brick with a decorative brick cornice that continues to the adjoining buildings at 506 and 502 Center Street. The ground floor façade has been heavily modified with wood siding and the removal of the plate glass windows. The entry door has been replaced by a plain steel door. Above the wood siding is an I-beam lintel with decorative fasteners. The original cast iron column is still exposed with a brick pilaster reaching the cornice between 504 and 506 Center. The second floor has two 1/1 windows with large, rusticated stone lintels and narrow stone sills that match the buildings at 506 and 502 Center Street.

15. **506 Center Street, Contributing, c.1902-1903, Greg's Woodworking (Figure 13,14)**

Property type: Two-part commercial block (Photo 9, 10)

This two-story commercial red and tan brick building shares common walls with 508 and 504 Center Street. It was built in c.1902-1903. It has two entrances that face the square with one accessing the

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commercial ground floor and the other accessing the second floor. The door to the second floor is steel with a 9 pane window. The entry door to the first floor has an older style wood screen door with an inner wood door with a glass window. The ground floor façade has been heavily modified with stone and mortar and a plate glass window. The original cast iron columns are still exposed. The ground level and upper façade are divided by a wood and shingle awning that runs the width of the building. The second floor façade is brick with a decorative cornice continued from the adjoining buildings at 502 and 504 Center Street. It has two 1/1 windows with large, rusticated stone lintels and narrow stone sills that match the buildings at 502 and 504 Center Street.

**16. 508 Center Street, Contributing, c. 1900, Sarcoxie Public Library (Figure 13,14)**

Property type: One-part commercial block Government (Photo 9, 10)

This one-story commercial brick building shares common walls with 512 and 506 Center Streets. It was built, c.1900-1902. At that time, it was called the Red Front Mercantile. The ground floor features five original decorative cast iron columns. The store front faces the square and is recessed behind the decorative iron columns. A recessed plate glass door and large original plate glass windows extend the width of the building. The transom above the ground level windows in earlier photographs has been covered with wood paneling. The top façade is red painted brick with a decorative brick corbelled cornice that continues to the adjoining buildings at 512 and 514 Center Streets.

**17. 512 Center Street, Contributing, c.1900, Velten Warehouse (Figure 13,14)**

Property type: One-part commercial block (Photo 9, 10)

This one-story commercial brick building shares common walls with 514 and 508 Center Streets. It was built c.1900. The balance of the ground floor façade has been heavily modified with metal siding and windows replacing the transom and storefront windows. The main entry contains a plan wood door with upper glass window, which faces the square and sits in the slightly recessed front façade east of three small modern type windows. The ground floor also features 2 original, decorative cast iron columns. Above the cast iron columns, there is a sign that once read bowling alley. The top façade is painted brick with a decorative corbelled cornice that continues to the adjoining buildings at 514 and 508 Center Streets.

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18. **514 Center Street, Contributing, c.1900, Velten's Appliance (Figure 13,14)**

Property type: One-part commercial block (Photo 9, 10)

This one-story commercial brick building shares common walls with 516 and 512 Center Street. It was built c.1900. The main entrance faces the square. The balance of the ground floor façade, slightly recessed, has been heavily modified with metal siding, replacing the transom and 2 storefront plate glass windows with a steel and glass entry door between the 2 large windows. The ground floor also features 2 original, decorative cast iron columns. The top façade is painted brick with a decorative corbelled cornice that continues to the adjoining buildings at 512 and 508 Center Street.

19. **516 Center Street, Contributing, 1910-1911, Dawson Law Office (Figure 13)**

Property type: One-part commercial block (Photo 9, 10)

This one story commercial brick building, built in 1910-1911, shares common walls with 518 and 514 Center Street. A group of 5 buildings were constructed after fire destroyed the frame buildings on the south side in 1904. Addresses 516 and 518 Center sit lower than the adjoining building to the east. The ground floor façade, slightly recessed, has been heavily modified with stucco and a large bay window containing 24 small, paned glass windows with cedar shingles above the window. The steel entry door, facing the square, sets to the east of the bay window and has a French style window with 6 panes on the upper half and two inset design panels on the lower half of the door. The top of the façade is painted brick with a decorative corbelled cornice that continues to the adjoining buildings at 518 and 520 Center Street. The cornice of this and adjoining buildings difference compared to the east.

20. **518 Center Street, Contributing, 1910-1911, Kutz Accounting (Figure 13,14)**

Property type: One-part commercial block, Accounting (Photo 9)

This one-story commercial brick building constructed in 1910-1911, shares common walls with 520 and 516 Center Street and faces the square. The ground floor façade features plate glass frontage with the main doorway being recessed. The ground level and upper façade are divided by a wood and shingle awning that runs the width of the building. The top of the façade is painted brick with a decorative corbelled cornice that continues to the adjoining buildings at 520 and 516 Center Streets.

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21. 520 Center Street, Corner 6<sup>th</sup> and Center, Contributing, 1910-1911  
(Figure 13)

Property type: One-part commercial block, Vacant **(Photo 9)**

This one-story commercial brick building, built in 1910-1911, stands on the southwest corner of the square at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and Center Streets and shares a common wall with 518 Center Street. The building has a canted main entrance facing the intersection. A Doric round, tapered column resting on a square concrete base sits at the building's corner. The north and west walls of this building feature red brick with decorative stone details. The building also has a brick corbelling cornice that continues to the building at 516 and 518 Center Street. Arched stone lintels are above the original front windows facing the square, the canted entrance and the two windows on the west side. The remaining west side has three narrow doors and seven 1/1 windows and 1 small window with stone lintels and stone sills. The original doors with transoms remain.

22. 501 Cross Street, Contributing, c.1894, Taylor Museum (Figure 7, 13)

Property type: Two-part commercial block, Gene Taylor Library & Museum INC., Non-profit **(Photo 11)**

This two-story commercial brick building sits on the northeast corner of the square at the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> and Cross Streets. It shares a common wall with 507 Cross Street. Built in c.1894, the main entrance faces the square. The front façade features painted decorative, original cast iron columns (4) and pilasters at the front end of the building (2). A glass entry door provides access to the museum. Thirty-two small plate glass windows extend across the front of the first floor with a central glass entry door which provides access to the museum. Windows along the sidewalk level have been filled or coated, making them opaque. Exposed red brick with five original recessed 1/1 wood windows extend across the front of the second floor. These windows have brick arch lintels and limestone sills. Five recessed rectangular brick details span the cornice.<sup>10</sup>

23. 507 Cross Street, Contributing, c.1894, Residence (Figure 13)

Property type: Two-part commercial block **(Photo 11)**

This two-story commercial brick building shares common walls with buildings at 501 and 509 Cross Street. This building, which faces the square, mirrors 501 Cross Street and was probably built around the same time period. Built in c.1894, the building has a ground floor

<sup>10</sup> The building was professionally cleaned, tuck-pointed and mortar repaired, giving the appearance of different colored bricks.

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entrance (wood and glass door with plywood infill transom) and a secondary entrance (vinyl door with 9 light window) to the second floor of the building. The ground floor features the original cast iron pilasters on the corners and two central columns. A wood and shingle awning above the ground floor façade has been removed exposing 3 original, 6-light windows above the two non-historic storefront windows resting on plywood infill. Three recessed 1/1 wood windows, located on the second floor, have brick arch lintels and limestone sills. The windows are not original and include wood infill. The second floor features exposed, red brick with a cornice composed of recessed rectangle-shaped details. It has recently been acquired by a local businessman/craftsman who removed the awning and is attempting to restore the front façade to its original appearance.

**24. 509 Cross Street, Contributing, c.1890, city currently owns**

Property type: Two-part commercial block, city owns **(Photo 11)**

This two-story, Italianate style, commercial brick building shares common walls with buildings at 507 and 511 Cross Street. Built in c.1890, the main entrance faces the square. The ground floor front façade has an entrance, plate glass windows and cedar siding with a cedar shingle awning spanning the length of the facade. The upper front façade features elaborate masonry and tin features including ornate Corinthian columns and a heavily decorated cornice. The second floor window wells are filled with wood and siding and are not original. According to a Sanborn map from 1894, John Lewis, owner and proprietor of Deering-Harvester, had the building built. Because of the elaborate architectural embellishments, the Lewis building was considered one of the finest buildings on the square at that time. Caryl Lewis, widow of the grandson of the builder, claims the building was the first brick building to be built on the north side of the square.<sup>11</sup> The John Lewis name plate rested on the roof of the building for many years, only to be removed by Dr. Margaret Haugen, dentist, in 1985 when she modernized the building to its current appearance.

**25. 511 Cross Street, Contributing, c.1900-1910, Beauty Shop (Photo 11)**

Property type: One-part commercial block, beauty shop

This one-story commercial brick building shares common walls with buildings at 509 and 513 Cross Street. It was built sometime between c.1900-1910. The main entrance faces the square. The front façade blends several features to give it a unique appearance. The bottom two-thirds of the façade features cottage style paint and exposed brick with a wood and shingle awning with decorative details. A

<sup>11</sup> Caryl Lewis, interview, March 5, 2013.

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storefront window rests on a brick wall with a steel door featuring stained glass on the upper half and raised panels on the lower half. The top third of the building is painted brick with recessed details and projecting spandrels painted with accent colors. The brick detailing continues to adjacent 513 Cross Street.

**26. 513 Cross Street, Contributing, c.1900-1910, J&J Farms-Agricultural Consultants**

Property type: One-part commercial block, residence, J&J Farms **(Photo 11)**

This one-story commercial brick building shares common walls with buildings at 511 and 517 Cross Street. It was built c.1900-1910. The front of the building includes vinyl clad siding and two narrow one light windows. The steel entry door has a 9 light window on the upper half and raised cross-buck pattern on the lower half. The front façade is divided by a wood framed and shingled awning that runs the width of the building. Above the awning is exposed brick with recessed brick with projecting brick spandrels.

**27. 517 Cross Street, Contributing, c.1900-1910, J&J Farms-Agricultural Consultant (Photo 11)**

Property type: One-part commercial block, residence, J&J Farms **(Photo 11)**

This one-story commercial brick building shares common walls with buildings at 513 and 519 Cross Street. It was built c.1900-1910. The front façade is divided by a wood framed and shingled awning that runs the width of the building. Above the awning is exposed brick with recessed brick details with projecting brick spandrels along the cornice. Beneath the awning, the original façade has been replaced with brick and three storefront plate glass windows and includes brick flower beds on two of the three sections. Entry doors are 1/1 plate glass.

**28. 519 Cross Street, Contributing, c.1900-1910, Sarcoxie Senior Center**

Property type: One-part commercial block, Sarcoxie Senior Center, Non-profit **(Photo 11)**

This one-story commercial brick building sits on the northwest corner of the square at the intersection of 6<sup>th</sup> and Cross Streets. It shares a common wall with 517 Cross Street. Built in c.1900-1910, the main entrance faces the square. The front façade is painted brick with three recessed brick and corbelled cornice. Four storefront plate glass windows extend across the front and rest on cement/limestone base. Vinyl fillers rest above the plate glass windows and doors.

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The entry doors are glass with glass side panels. It is currently the Sarcoxie Senior Center.

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The downtown Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion A for the area of COMMERCE. The historic district includes 28 contributing resources and 3 non-contributing resources built between c.1889-c.1923, during the period of significance, c.1890-1965 (Figure 18). The historic district has been the town's commercial district since c.1840 when entrepreneurs William Tingle and Benjamin Massey platted Sarcoxie. The district conveys the local history of Sarcoxie and its changing economic history from largely a local agricultural-based market to a more diverse international market with plant nurseries, mining, and other commercial ventures assisted by the development of the railroad, advancement in road construction, and the automobile. The historic district includes S.5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, Center, and Cross Streets (Figures 17, 18). The period of significance ending date circa 1965 is the date when Sarcoxie's commercial district began to feel the effects caused by the completion of Interstate 44 which allowed citizens better access to commercial markets outside Sarcoxie.

**ELABORATION**

Sarcoxie's history began in 1803 when Edmund Jennings, from Tennessee, came to the "Country of the Six Boils", the earliest name given to this region.<sup>12</sup> By 1831, a convergence of resilient pioneers seeking new horizons and new land to settle emerged in the area.<sup>13</sup> The area provided rich land for farming, an abundance of water for the mills, trade opportunities, and wooded areas allowing for hunting and trapping. In 1831, Thacker Vivion settled on what was believed to be the campground site previously inhabited by Sarcoxie, chief of the Shawnee tribe. The site was called Sarcoxie Spring. In 1834, Vivion built the first commercial mill in Jasper County, Vivion's Mill. Initially, Vivion called the location Centerville, but the name changed to Sarcoxie, in honor of the Chief due to another town in Missouri having the same name.<sup>14</sup>

In August 1840, Tingle and Massey, developed the first plat of the "oldest town in Jasper County."<sup>15</sup> Due to a controversy of the plat, it took an act of the Missouri General Assembly to authorize the legal recording of the plat in February 1849. The incorporation of the

<sup>12</sup>History of Jasper County, Missouri, Mills and Company, Des Moines, Iowa, 1883, 152-153.

<sup>13</sup> Ward L. Schrantz, *Jasper County, Missouri in the Civil War*, the Carthage, Missouri Kiwanis Club, Carthage, Missouri, 1923, 1988, 1992. Preface XII-XIV.

<sup>14</sup> VanGilder, 20, 53.

<sup>15</sup> Mcregor, Malcolm G., *The Biographical Record of Jasper County Missouri*, Lewis Publishing, Chicago, 1901. 54.

<https://archive.org/details/biographicalreco00mcgr>, Accessed April 26, 2013.



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town, through an act of county court, bears the date of August 29, 1868. Due to unknown reasons, the city government was dropped and not reinstated until 1881.<sup>16</sup>

Settlers traveled long distances and waited days to grind their wheat at Vivion's mill, or "corncracker" in Sarcoxie. It was the only mill within a 30 mile radius and was used until Victor Mill was built in 1872.<sup>17</sup> Over the years, the mill changed and various owners operated the mill (Figure 1).<sup>18</sup> With the mill and the settlers entering the area, Sarcoxie's commercial district grew and entrepreneurs envisioned lucrative financial opportunities.

The c.1876 plat map of Sarcoxie showed a small town adjacent to the Memphis Carthage & Missouri Western Railroad (M.W.R.R), which became the Frisco Line. The c.1876 plat map indicated 68 lots situated around a center square and a plat area called East Sarcoxie contained 23 lots (Figure 15). However, the c.1895 plat map showed the town had grown greatly, as was evidenced by the multiple platted areas (Figure 16).<sup>19</sup> From a population of 400 in 1861, the town grew to 1,311 by 1910.<sup>20</sup> At one time, it was believed that Sarcoxie might become the county seat due to the town's prosperity and population growth. However, that was not to be, and Carthage remained the county seat.

Sarcoxie's commerce and population stagnated prior to and following the Civil War. This may have resulted from the guerrilla warfare, bushwhackers, and skirmishes in a politically divided area. The advancement and camping of soldiers may have been a factor as well.<sup>21</sup>

Sarcoxie experienced a positive growth in commerce and population after the war with the arrival of the first rail service, which was constructed along the stage road from Sarcoxie to Carthage.<sup>22</sup> In 1872, a real push for rail service began. Various small lines met and eventually the Missouri and Western Railway Company was purchased in 1879 by the St. Louis and San Francisco (Frisco) Railway. Frisco operated in Sarcoxie for more than a century.<sup>23</sup> Budding entrepreneurs took advantage of this rail service. Train service became an important means of transporting both passengers and the agricultural

<sup>16</sup> *History of Jasper County*, 662.

<sup>17</sup> Joel Livingston, *History of Jasper County, Missouri, and Its People*, Volume 1, Jasper County, Missouri, Lewis Publishing Company, 1912, 8.

<sup>18</sup> Kessinger, Harold J., Dr., *Sarcoxie, The Oldest town in Jasper County Missouri*, Sarcoxie Chamber of Commerce, Sarcoxie, MO. 27.

<sup>19</sup> Plat Book of Jasper County, Missouri, Northwest Publishing Co., 1895, pp. 38-39 and 42-43. Figure 1. Site review. February 10, 2012.

<sup>20</sup> Kessinger, 30.

<sup>21</sup> Schrantz, XVII-XX.

<sup>22</sup> VanGilder, 140.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, 122.

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products that became so important to the area's commercial growth (Figure 2).

As the 19<sup>th</sup> century ended, the entrepreneurial spirit continued to move forward in order to handle the commercial needs of the residents. By 1883 Sarcoxie's business district had:

five dry goods stores, three clothing stores, five groceries, two furniture, two hardware, three drug stores, two meat markets, two good hotels (Hammar House on N. Main Street and Farmer House on the corner of Main and Center Street), one livery stable, four boot and shoe shops, two saloons, one barber shop, one packing establishment, one elevator, one lumber yard, three carpenter shops, four blacksmith shops, flouring mills, one newspaper, three of the leading secret fraternities, (Masons Lodge, Odd Fellows) two school buildings, three churches, seven doctors, four millinery stores, two harness shops, brick-yard, lime kiln and the most extensive and best arranged nursery (Wild) in the state of Missouri.<sup>24</sup>

As Sarcoxie's population and commercial markets increased, the need for financial institutions became apparent. A.A and C.J. Case executed the first official bank statement for the Bank of Sarcoxie on August 25, 1883. John Harlan moved the Bank of Sarcoxie to the west side of the square in 1892. J. P Boyd purchased a half interest in the bank and in 1900 it was chartered as the First National Bank of Sarcoxie (northeast corner) (Figure 3).<sup>25</sup> The State Bank of Sarcoxie was organized by J. W. Perry in 1900 and was located at 520 Center Street for many years. In June 1905, the local newspaper reported that the statements of Sarcoxie's two banks had nearly a quarter of a million dollars deposited, "which for a town of Sarcoxie's size, this is an extremely good showing, proving that our people are thrifty to an unusual degree".<sup>26</sup>

By 1901, Sarcoxie had three additional schools operating (a public high school and two grammar schools), five churches (Baptist, Methodist, Methodist South, Cumberland Presbyterian and Lutheran), two newspapers (*Siftings-Democratic*, *Tribune-Republican*), and Bernard Finn published the first *Sarcoxie Record*. An additional lodge (United Workmen) and a bank were in operation. There wasn't a vacant business building in town by 1906.<sup>27</sup> In 1910, the paper reported that there was a "building boom in Sarcoxie". At a cost of \$17,000-18,000, there were five buildings being constructed on the southwest corner of the

<sup>24</sup> *History of Jasper County*, 664-665.

<sup>25</sup> H.H. Boyd, "A Brief Review of the Banking Business from Its Beginnings in the Early Eighties", *Sarcoxie Record*, August 6, 1931.

<sup>26</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, "Yesteryear", June 15, 2005.

<sup>27</sup> Jasper County Records, Business News, 13.

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square.<sup>28</sup> The strawberry production and the Sarcoxie Nursery were thriving and Sarcoxie had become an important exporting area.<sup>29</sup>

As the 19<sup>th</sup> Century closed and the early 1900s began, fires and flooding frequented the Sarcoxie commercial district. Fires took a toll on the buildings. In 1889, the wooden buildings on the west side of the square were "wiped out".<sup>30</sup> The *Carthage Press* reported in April 1902 that the fire on the southeast side consumed many of the buildings on the south side.

The most destructive fire in the history of Sarcoxie occurred last night beginning about 9:15 o'clock and lasting until midnight. With no fire department and only primitive resources, many of the frame structures were consumed by fires. Since there was no fire department or waterworks firefighting was performed with two force pumps with hose sections attached and a bucket brigade.<sup>31</sup>

On March 3, 1904, a serious fire destroyed one bricked block and four frame buildings on the north side.<sup>32</sup> In 1906, the Burrell Merchandise located on the west side was fire damaged.<sup>33</sup> In 1938 Sarcoxie's century old landmark flouring mill was burned to the foundation.<sup>34</sup> After the devastating fires, the wooden buildings were replaced with the current brick ones. By 1910 the north, south, and west sides were mainly brick buildings. By 1918 the north and south sides were all brick and the Ford Garage on the east had been built (Figure 10).<sup>35</sup> With few exceptions, these buildings continue to house local businesses in the Sarcoxie historic commercial district.

The historic district also suffered frequent flood damage to the commercial district until 1981. Swift Creek, the dry wash adjacent to the business district, overflowed its banks with every hard rain, flooding the square in 1904, 1905, 1927, 1932 and 1933. In July 1904, Sarcoxie suffered severe flooding as the water damaged the roads and caused sink holes (Figure 4). The frame buildings on 6<sup>th</sup> Street were demolished and older residents said the flood was the highest seen.<sup>36</sup> The rains in 1927 reached the highest level seen in 50 years on Center Creek causing the flood waters to reach eight inches over the floors

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 14.

<sup>29</sup> Conard, 486.

<sup>30</sup> Lee O. Wormington; *Sarcoxie Record*, December 16, 1937; "Yesteryear", *Sarcoxie Record*, January 2, 2008.

<sup>31</sup> "Sarcoxie Was Fire Swept Last Night", April 4, 1902.

<sup>32</sup> State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, Access date: January 14, 2014.

<sup>33</sup> Yesteryear, September 25, 2003, August 29, 1913.

<sup>34</sup> Dale Fullerton, Interview, May 25, 2013.

<sup>35</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1910, 1918.

<sup>36</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, Yesteryear, July 15, 2004, July 20, 2005, June 27, 2002, May 22, 2003.

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at Benson Mill, located at the end of Cross Street. The Frisco tracks spanning the Center Creek, north of town, were washed out. Serious flooding ravaged dwellings and businesses on the square in 1943 and again in 1945. The flooding continued to affect the square until work was done to eliminate the risk in 1981.<sup>37</sup>

Sarcoxie has maintained an active newspaper since 1877. The first newspaper, *The Sarcoxie Democrat*, was established in late 1877. In 1901, Bernard Finn began publication of the *Sarcoxie Record*, the only remaining publication in Sarcoxie. The newspaper was published from several different locations, including the old Pile and Sabert furniture store (Figure 5).<sup>38</sup> In 1901, Bernard Finn reported that he published his paper in the old frame building sitting on the southwest corner.<sup>39</sup> In 1910, the newspaper published in the north end of the First National Bank on the northeast side of the square.<sup>40</sup> Later, Finn purchased the building located at 517 Cross Street, where the paper continued to be published until moving to 101 N.6<sup>th</sup> Street in January 1978 where the *Sarcoxie Record* currently resides. The *Record* boasts a circulation of 1,200 and reaches subscribers from Sarcoxie to California and many states in between.<sup>41</sup>

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, lead found below the ground west of town provided a boon for the region and Sarcoxie's commerce prospered. The largest producer in the area was the Optimo Mine.<sup>42</sup> The output in pounds and amount paid for lead and zinc ore by mining camps in Sarcoxie totaled 4,838,870 pounds with a value of \$105,471.<sup>43</sup> Numerous other mines operated in the area including the McCowan Mine, Plymouth Rock Mine, the C.Z. Camp,<sup>44</sup> the Sagamo Mine and the Cameron Mine (Figure 6).<sup>45</sup>

Production of agriculture goods was the most important financial impetus driving Sarcoxie's growth and commercial prosperity during the period of significance, 1890-1962. The factors drawing early settlers to the region had been the fertile land and the abundance of water. For that same reason, Hermann Wild from Saxony, Germany, migrated to America, coming to Jasper County in 1868. In 1875, with his sons, James B., Henry N., and Frank H. Wild, Sarcoxie Nurseries was established on the southwest edge of Sarcoxie. That endeavor became the beginning of a first class nursery, still in operation 130 years

<sup>37</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, Yesteryear, August 29, 2007, May 22, 2003.

<sup>38</sup> Wormington; Yesteryear, January 2, 2008.

<sup>39</sup> Bernard Finn, *Sarcoxie Record*, August 6, 1931.

<sup>40</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1894, 1910.

<sup>41</sup> Paul Donley, *Sarcoxie Record* editor, Interview, February 9, 2014.

<sup>42</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, January 28, 2008.

<sup>43</sup> *The Mining World*, January 22, 1910, 187.

<sup>44</sup> Missouri Digital Heritage, April 16, 2013.

<sup>45</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, April 3, 1914. 1.

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later.<sup>46</sup> By 1906 Gilbert Wild, the largest peony grower in Missouri, was shipping flowers to all parts of the country. Soon a large foreign trade market had opened in California, Texas, and other states and territories.<sup>47</sup> In 1910, over 1,000 cases of peonies were shipped from Sarcoxie on the Frisco rails. By 1949, 50,000 dozen peonies were shipped.<sup>48</sup>

In time the business split, and a grandson, Gilbert Wild, started the daylilies, iris and peonies branch called Gilbert H. Wild and Son. Over the years, the company shipped stock to 48 states and seven foreign countries. Throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, visitors flocked to Sarcoxie, the "Peony Capital of the World" to view and purchase the beautiful, blooming array of flowers during the month of May. Peony weekend drew as many as 50,000 visitors at one time.<sup>49</sup> In February 2000, current owner Greg Jones boasted, "We're the world's largest grower of daylilies, iris and peonies".<sup>50</sup> According to Jim Wild, peonies grown from Wild's are planted in Russia's Red Square.<sup>51</sup>

Also stimulating Sarcoxie's commercial prosperity was strawberry production. The strawberry success story had its beginning in a small strawberry patch garden in c.1887 when John Carnahan and J.B. Wild planted the berry that became like gold to Sarcoxie. In the early days, the growers marketed their berries locally and in nearby towns. Soon, more and more locals began to plant berries and the local market became flooded. Thus, in 1890 the formation of the Horticultural Association, whose goal was to find additional marketing sources, was initiated. Berries were shipped by carload lots in refrigerated cars and eventually by trucks (Figure 11).<sup>52</sup> Carload after carload of strawberries was shipped out of town on the Frisco Railroad from the 1920s toward the end of the period of significance.<sup>53</sup> In May of 1946, the berries were transported for the first time by plane from Sarcoxie to Chicago. The Sarcoxie Horticultural Association was still shipping berries in 1956.<sup>54</sup>

During the strawberry picking season, pickers arrived in droves. In 1929, Erwin McLean, a writer for a Kansas City publication, said, "A traveler on the highway leading to Sarcoxie would think he was in the midst of a homestead rush or an oil boom."<sup>55</sup>

<sup>46</sup> *History of Jasper County*, 667.

<sup>47</sup> *Ibid*, 669.

<sup>48</sup> *Yesteryear*, May 10, 2006 and June 3, 2009.

<sup>49</sup> Dale Freeman, *Springfield News and Leader*, Sunday Morning, Section D-3, May 28, 1950.

<sup>50</sup> *Yesteryear*, February 10, 2010.

<sup>51</sup> Jim Wild, Gilbert Wild's son. Interview, December 21, 2013.

<sup>52</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, "Yesteryear", July 8, 2009.

<sup>53</sup> Oran "Bump" Stotts, Field of Dreams, Taylor Museum exhibit.

<sup>54</sup> Jasper County Records, Sarcoxie Strawberries, File #17. 56-57.

<sup>55</sup> *Yesteryear*, July 8, 2009.

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Pickers camped in the small park off the northwest corner of the Sarcoxie commercial district (Figure 10). Pickers were paid with "strawberry coins". The coins were the same as cash. The stores in the historic commercial district allowed purchases with these coins. During the period of significance, strawberries made Sarcoxie the "Strawberry Capital of the Ozarks" and the flowers brought Sarcoxie the title of "Peony Capital".<sup>56</sup>

Another major impetus for Sarcoxie's commercial success was the Juvenile Shoe Corporation. The operation employed local citizens, purchased local building supplies and any needed items for operational repairs.<sup>57</sup> The operation provided jobs and boosted the local economy from 1948-1984.

Two social organizations influenced the commercial development of Sarcoxie and conducted business in the historic commercial district. The Sarcoxie Masonic Lodge #293 was instituted in Sarcoxie in 1861. The members held meetings in various locations (Hammars and Hubbard Hall, Schooling and Boyd Hall and the IOOF Building). They constructed the brick building at the corner of Center and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets in 1904. Their emblem and the building date are still visible on the parapet of the building (Photo 7). The Sarcoxie Lodge I.O.O.F No. 248 received their charter on July 10, 1871. They built the I.O.O.F. building on the corner of Main (5<sup>th</sup>) and Center Streets in 1889 (Figure 7). Due to neglect, this beautiful building, which was one of the more elaborate structures on the square, partially collapsed and was later demolished.<sup>58</sup>

Community social celebrations have a long history in Sarcoxie. The Sarcoxie commercial district not only supplied daily necessities, it offered the citizens a place to gather, eat, and be entertained as they socialized with friends and family (Figures 7, 9). Band members, led by J.J. Sprague, regularly performed concerts in the square (Figure 8). Entertainers performed at the Star Opera House located at 507 Cross Street and movie goers enjoyed movies at the Avalon Theatre at 115 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. The pool hall was available for the men while the ladies bought their goods in the local shops.<sup>59</sup>

With a smile, older citizens interviewed never failed to mention "Exchange Day" and "Sale Day." Every Saturday, locals literally flocked to the historic district to participate in Exchange Day, which began c.1905-06. The news reported that about 5,000 people were present on the April 5, 1906 event.<sup>60</sup> Locals brought their eggs,

<sup>56</sup> Yesteryear, July 8, 2009.

<sup>57</sup> Cole Cummins, Interview, April 5, 2014. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

<sup>58</sup> *History of Jasper County, Missouri*, 666.

<sup>59</sup> Interviews. Not one of the older citizens I interviewed failed to mention what a wonderful day this was.

<sup>60</sup> *Ibid*, April 12, 2006. May 6, 2009.

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cheese and other items to be sold at Keener Brown's Grocery or P. V. Martin's business. Cars parked three and four deep around the commercial district (Figure 7).

**INDIVIDUAL BUILDING HISTORIES**<sup>61</sup>

**Square and Gazebo, bounded by 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, Center and Cross Streets, 1 Contributing site c.1840, 1 Contributing structure 1904, and 1 Non-contributing object 1904 (Figure 10)**

The public square, a contributing site, was part of the original plat (Figure 15).<sup>62</sup> The Sarcoxie Square is unique, in that, it contains a park with a gazebo in the center. City squares of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century often contained courthouses situated in the center of the square instead of a gazebo. Sarcoxie's square is easily navigated as residents walk to the businesses located around the historic commercial district. Diagonal parking is available on all sides of the square.

Over the period of significance, various attempts to improve the appearance and usefulness of the square have been initiated. Four concrete hitching posts, now removed, were constructed in 1908, replacing the wooden posts.<sup>63</sup> In March 1910, proposals to grade and gravel the streets on the square were begun. By August 1938, the commercial district's streets were completely blacktopped (Figure 13). Over the years, replacement trees and additional shade trees were provided by Wild Nursery. In December 1944, A.O. Wild with Sarcoxie Nurseries, planted sugar maples in memory of the community's war dead.<sup>64</sup>

The gazebo, a contributing structure, rests in the center of the square where it was originally erected in c.1904. The *Sarcoxie Leader* reported on February 11, 1904 that J.J. Sprague, citizen, historical photographer and band leader drew up the plans for the bandstand.<sup>65</sup> The original construction featured two levels with an entry opening at the lower level for a ladies restroom (Figure 8).

<sup>61</sup> Section 8 data for dating of buildings acquired from Sanborn Maps of 1884, 1900, 1910, 1918, (maps taken from Sarcoxie, Jasper County, Missouri, Site Survey report, State Historic Preservation Office, February 10, 2012) Beacon Site Mapping & Data Site, Jasper County, Missouri, *Sarcoxie Record*, "Yesteryears," Jasper County Records archives for Sarcoxie, photos from Taylor Museum Collections.

<sup>62</sup> Original plat of Sarcoxie, Taylor Museum Collection, 1876 (This figure was in site visit report, February 10, 2012.)

<sup>63</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, "Yesteryear", August 6, 2008.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid, August 6, March 19, and December 15, 2004.

<sup>65</sup> Ibid, February 19, 2014. *Sarcoxie Leader*, February 11, 1904.

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The Sarcoxie sign, a non-contributing object, sits at the northeast corner of the square at the intersection of Fifth and Cross Streets. The large modern sign includes two concrete posts, an upper sign noting "Sarcoxie: A Great Place to Live," and an outdoor changeable letter sign.

For over 175 years, Sarcoxie's square has been and continues to be the hub for the city's commercial needs and social activities. The square has been the arena for many parades, official speeches, Automobile Days' Event, Exchange Day, Sales Day, musical concerts, Spring Fling, Christmas Events and Chief Sarcoxie Days (Figures 7, 9, 14). During the Christmas festivities, when the decorative storefronts are lit up, the parade goes by, and the musical light display starts, the square comes alive, no matter how cold it is.

**EAST SIDE OF SQUARE-ORIGINALLY MAIN STREET (Figure 10)**

**111 South 5<sup>th</sup> Street, 1902, Contributing (Photo 3)**

This building was constructed in 1902 for E.H. Wormington. His name and construction date are engraved in cement near the top of the building. At this location, H.A. Borden operated the only automobile garage in Sarcoxie in 1913.<sup>66</sup> In 1917, E.H. Wormington, owner, remodeled and enlarged the building, extending the rear walls, planning to use it as a garage. The attached building to the north was added c.1940 as the painting area. In 1918, Roy Wormington sold the Ozark Garage, as it was called under his ownership, to Clyde Brown. Joe Weaver later bought the garage in 1935.<sup>67</sup> Resident Larry Myers reported that the building was used as a parking garage and wall hooks for parking tags still remain.<sup>68</sup> According to residents Delmar and Anne Edwards, pull type golf carts were manufactured by the LePage Company c.1940s.<sup>69</sup> Harry Files purchased the garage in 1955. Melvin Aleshire purchased the garage in 1969.<sup>70</sup>

**WEST SIDE OF SQUARE-6<sup>th</sup> STREET-ORIGINALLY JEFFERSON STREET  
(Photos 4, 5, 6) (Figure 12)**

The towns' original platting by Tingle and Massey and the 1894 Sanborn map depicts Lots 53, 54, 55, and 56 on the west side of the square.<sup>71</sup> In 1889, Dr. Amos H. Caffee, an entrepreneur from Carthage, MO, was instrumental in the construction of the building currently located on the southwest corner (101, 103, 105 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street). It was a single

<sup>66</sup> Yesteryear, September 25, 2003.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid, October, 31, 2007, September 18, 2013, and January 12, 2012.

<sup>68</sup> Myers Interview, May 3, 2014. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

<sup>69</sup> Edwards Interview. November 29, 2012. Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham.

<sup>70</sup> Ibid, June 29, 2005 and November 11, 2009.

<sup>71</sup> Original plat of Sarcoxie, Taylor Museum Collection, 1876(This figure was in site visit report, February 10, 2012.)



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story, brick dwelling with 3 storefronts.<sup>72</sup> Seven brick buildings were situated on the west side by 1910, having been completely rebuilt, except for Lot 53. Sanborn Maps from 1894 and 1900 show the original street name was Jefferson. By 1910, the street had been renamed 6<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>73</sup> Concrete sidewalks were completed by 1924.<sup>74</sup>

**101 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 1889, Contributing, Sarcoxie Record (Photo 4) (Figure 12)**

George Pelsue operated a drug store in the frame building located on this property in 1882.<sup>75</sup> In 1889, Dr. Amos H. Caffee authorized the construction of the brick building currently located at this location. The Caffee building was one structure, consisting of 3 storefronts (3 rooms), each 20 feet wide. Upon construction, the Caffee building sat 12 feet north of where the frame buildings had been located. From c.1884 to 1918, several drug stores operated within the building. John Luna became the attending pharmacist after Pelsue relocated to the north side of the square in 1892.<sup>76</sup> By 1918, the drug store partnered with a grocery store. In January 1933, Glen Cale and Charles H. Green launched the Sarcoxie Funeral Home. From 1939-1955, various owners once again provided pharmacy services to the commercial square.<sup>77</sup> Bill House opened a variety store at the address between 1956 and 1958.<sup>78</sup> Dorothy Velten took ownership from Ruth McKensey in 1966.<sup>79</sup>

**103 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 1889, Contributing (Photo 4) (Figure 12)**

Numerous barber shops are referenced at this property from photographs, Sanborn maps, and the *Sarcoxie Record's* "Yesteryear" column. In 1892, Lee O. Wormington recalled that he received his first shave from a barber on this side of the square.<sup>80</sup> Several barber establishments remained at this location until 1929.<sup>81</sup> For a few years afterward, other businesses operated in the building. However, in 1945, the building returned as a barber shop and remained so into the 1960s.<sup>82</sup>

<sup>72</sup> "Yesteryear," May 20, 2009.

<sup>73</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Msap 1894, 1900, 1910

<sup>74</sup> Yesteryear, August 24, 2004.

<sup>75</sup> Pile, Bascom, Letter, *Sarcoxie Record*, August 26, 1926.

<sup>76</sup> Wormington, Lee O., Letter, *Sarcoxie Record*, December 16, 1937

<sup>77</sup> Jasper County Records, Carthage, Missouri Business News File, June 1, 1944, 34. May 23, 1946, 36. February 24, 1955, 40.

<sup>78</sup> Sarcoxie Yearbook Ads, 1956-71;1958-78. Taylor Museum, Sarcoxie, Missouri, Sarcoxie Yearbook Collection.

<sup>79</sup> "Yesteryear," November 22, 2006. Larry Velten, Interview, April 8, 2014

<sup>80</sup> Wormington, December 16, 1937

<sup>81</sup> "Yesteryear," December 8, 2004

<sup>82</sup> Mitchell Fritchey, Interview, e-mail, August 16, 2013.

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**105 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 1889, Contributing (Photo 4) (Figure 12)**

This building was built in 1889. In a letter written for the newspaper, Bernard Finn, publisher at the *Sarcoxie Record*, reported that Steven's and Anglin's Grocery may have resided in this building c.1900.<sup>83</sup> From 1905 to 1910, Rice's Millinery carried a line of hats and various other items.<sup>84</sup> After the fire in 1902, Downer's Restaurant relocated from the southwest corner of the square to this property and remained until c.1930. Mrs. W.W. Willis, milliner and George Anderson, radio expert, operated Anderson's Radio & Electric in 1932.<sup>85</sup> Bouser Variety operated a 5 and 10 store from 1945-1953.<sup>86</sup>

**107 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, c.1900, Non-Contributing (Photo 4) (Figure 12)**

This building was built c.1900 and was a grocery/bakery with various owners until March 1933.<sup>87</sup> From 1933 to 1938, the building was vacant until Charles Piatt opened another bakery.<sup>88</sup> In the 1940s, the building became a confectionary until the 1950s. The Sarcoxie Confectionary was a popular hang-out for local teens during lunch and after school. Many interviewed residents shared the stories and events that occurred in this favorite spot.<sup>89</sup> This is a non-contributing building due to the non-historical change to the exterior causing loss of historical integrity.

**109 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, c.1900, Contributing (Photo 5) (Figure 12)**

Twentieth century local historian Bascom Pile contended that a saloon operated on this lot in 1892.<sup>90</sup> By 1900, the current two-story brick building had been constructed. Finn claimed Clem Steele had a general store at this location in 1901.<sup>91</sup> Sanborn Maps from 1910 through 1918 indicated a hardware store was situated on this site. West Side Furniture operated a storefront from c.1920-c.1933 (Figure 12). Pete Barnes and Elmer Sageser purchased West Side Recreation in January

<sup>83</sup> Finn, Bernard, *Sarcoxie Record*, August 6, 1931. (*Sarcoxie Record*, editor, who chronicled early Sarcoxie history.)

<sup>84</sup> Jasper County Records, Business News, 12-13. *Sarcoxie Record*, Yesteryear, April 13, 2005. March 17, 2010.

<sup>85</sup> Jasper County Records, Business News, 28.

<sup>86</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, Yesteryear, June 7, 1945. Fritchey, M. August 16, 2013.

<sup>87</sup> Jasper County Records, 30. Yesteryear, February 6, 2013. Sanborn 1900, 1910, 1918.

<sup>88</sup> "Yesteryear," February 20, 2008.

<sup>89</sup> Sam Feather Jr. interview, August 23, 2013.

<sup>90</sup> Pile, August 26, 1929. (Bascom Pile was an early resident who wrote letters chronicling early Sarcoxie history.)

<sup>91</sup> Finn, August 6, 1931.

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1946.<sup>92</sup> The building remained a pool hall until the 1950s. Harold White operated the recreation room under the name of "Whitie's."<sup>93</sup>

**111 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, c.1900-1908, Contributing (Photo 5) (Figure 12)**

This brick building was built c.1900-1908. The 1900 Sanborn Map showed the lot to be vacant. By the American Central Insurance Co. Map of 1908, a brick building was on the property.<sup>94</sup> Finn claimed S.P. Burress operated a mercantile at this address. When the State Bank first formed (c.1900), it may have occupied the building.<sup>95</sup> In December 1925, Paul Carnahan and Chester Edmonston operated the West Side Café in this building.<sup>96</sup> Ownership passed from Carr, to Arlo Dodson, to Jesse Edmonston and Bob Cassity in May 1928.<sup>97</sup> In June of 1929, the city offices moved from Jack Sanders' Barber shop on the north side of the square to this location along with the fire department. In 1963, the fire truck was housed in the adjoining building, 113 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>98</sup> The two buildings still share city ownership. They are connected by an opening, allowing business traffic to freely move between the offices, police station/city council meeting room. City Hall currently maintains property, which include the license bureau, public works and the mayor's office.

**113 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, c.1900, Non-Contributing (Photo 5, 6) (Figure 12)**

This brick building was built c.1900. Finn noted that George Wood operated a hardware business at this address in 1901.<sup>99</sup> The Sarcoxie Variety Store, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Sturgis, operated from c.1926 to 1939; at which time, his son, Ralph Sturgis bought half interest.<sup>100</sup> Between 1942 and 1955, Bert and Columbus Bolin operated a Western Auto Store.<sup>101</sup> Bob Fagg bought the building in 1960 with plans to operate a bowling alley, but was short lived. In 1963, the city purchased the building and had double doors installed on the front of the building with plans to house the city fire truck.<sup>102</sup> The building is considered non-contributing due to the non-historical change in 1963 to the exterior causing loss of historical integrity.

<sup>92</sup> Jasper County Records, Business News, 36.

<sup>93</sup> Delmar Edwards, November 29, 2012. Sam Feather, August 23, 2013. Mitchell Fritchey, August 16, 2013. Clyde Reeves, November 17, 2012, Interviews

<sup>94</sup> 1908 Map, The American Central Insurance Co, St. Louis, Missouri, Taylor Museum Sarcoxie Collection, Sarcoxie, Missouri.

<sup>95</sup> "Yesteryear," August 6, 1931. Yesteryear February 6, 2014.

<sup>96</sup> Jasper County Records, Business News, 25.

<sup>97</sup> "Yesteryear," May 7, 2008.

<sup>98</sup> Adabelle Coates, "Yesteryear", July 17, 2003.

<sup>99</sup> Finn, August 6, 1931.

<sup>100</sup> "Yesteryear," February 4, 2009.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid, May 4, 2005.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid, May 22, 2013, May 4, 2005, September 22, 2010.

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**115 North 6<sup>th</sup> Street, c.1890, Contributing (Photo 6) (Figure 12)**

The brick building was built c.1890 and by c.1900, Sanborn maps showed a general store on the property.<sup>103</sup> Finn mentioned J. C. Reynolds operated a general store at that time.<sup>104</sup> Various storefronts operated in the building, including a dry goods/grocery and a buggy-wagon-harness business during the early 1900s. A Kroger Grocery Store operated from 1928 to 1931 (Figure 12).<sup>105</sup> In July 1936, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Travis leased the building and opened the Avalon movie theater which operated until July 1962.<sup>106</sup> Freedom Christian Fellowship, Inc. currently maintains a community outreach store in the building.<sup>107</sup>

**117 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, c.1923, Contributing (Photo 6) (Figure 12)**

In January 1923, the paper reported that bricklaying had started for the new garage being built on the NW corner of the Sarcoxie Square. Virgil Sheldon partnered with L.O. DePriest in that endeavor.<sup>108</sup> Virgil Sheldon became the sole owner in July, buying out DePriest.<sup>109</sup> In 1927, Virgil Sheldon re-plastered the front of the building.<sup>110</sup> "Slim" Coates, a roustabout for Sheldon and DePriest, became owner in 1936.<sup>111</sup> Slim owned the business until his death in the mid-1960s.

**101 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 1904, Contributing (Photo 7) (Figure 14)**

Official minutes for the Masonic meeting of July 21, 1903, indicated that a new building was to be constructed. The building was built and opened on September 20, 1904.<sup>112</sup> The insignia of the Masons and construction date are located on a limestone plaque on the lintel above the window on the corner point of the building. Masons and Eastern Stars held their meetings and ceremonial activities on the second floor and leased the first floor to various businesses. Sarcoxie Furniture and Undertaker was the first occupant on the first floor. The furniture store was in the main building with the undertaking business in the annex. J.D. Roper opened his drug store in August of 1916.<sup>113</sup> In February 1933, J.D. Roper turned the business over to J.C. Boyd and it became known as the Roper-Boyd Drug Company. Nellie Cash purchased the Roper Drug in the fall of 1945 and renamed

<sup>103</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1894, 1900.

<sup>104</sup> Finn, August 6, 1931.

<sup>105</sup> "Yesteryear," July 13, 2011.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid, October 18, 2006. July 4, 2002

<sup>107</sup> Lorraine Peckham, interview, October 22, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

<sup>108</sup> "Yesteryear," January 6, 2003. January 20, 2003.

<sup>109</sup> Ibid, July 6, 2005.

<sup>110</sup> Ibid, June 27, 2007.

<sup>111</sup> Ibid, July 5, 2006, July 22, 2009.

<sup>112</sup> Taylor Museum, Ned Barkley, Official Minutes, History of Masonary in Sarcoxie, 1-2.

<sup>113</sup> "Yesteryear," August 23, 2006.

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the business Cash's Drug.<sup>114</sup> Until c.1961, Ruth and Arthur Baker operated Sarcoxie Mercantile.<sup>115</sup> Jess Deckard operated a used furniture business after Baker moved to 109 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>116</sup>

**106 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, 1910-1911, Contributing, (Photo 8)**

Jasper County's Beacon Mapping site shows the construction date as c.1900 but the Sanborn Map of 1900 shows no building. The Sanborn Map of 1910 indicates a building in the planning stage. This group of buildings may have been constructed in 1911 by contractor Tipsword for financier Gilbert H. Wild.<sup>117</sup> Wild had the brick garage building erected in 1910-1911 and an addition was added in 1917. Prior to 1920, Sarcoxie Furniture Company was located in this building. Remnant of the writing is inscribed near the roof line. A billing book indicated Wyatt Chevrolet operated in the garage in the 1920s. An ad in the 1947 Sarcoxie High School yearbook mentioned Hammar's Garage. This building has remained a garage from c.1947 to 2014 and is known as Parmley Garage owned by Ronnie Parmley.

**SOUTH SIDE OF THE SQUARE-CENTER STREET  
(Photos 9, 10) (Figures 13, 14)**

The city's original platting by Tingle and Massey indicates the south side consisted of lots 33, 34, 35, and 36.<sup>118</sup> The *Carthage Press* newspaper reported a devastating fire struck the south side of Sarcoxie in April 1902. The fire originated in a feed store owned by J. R. Snodgrass on the southeast corner of the square. The wind was so strong that the flames were carried to the west side. The frame buildings were ruined and damage occurred to the brick building housing the Red Front. Sarcoxie citizens were fortunate to save as many buildings as they did. At that time, there were no community water works or fire department.<sup>119</sup> As the south side was rebuilt, brick replaced the flammable wood building material. The 1894 Sanborn Map indicated that there were 8 wooden structures and 2 brick buildings housing various businesses. The 1900 Sanborn Map showed 5 frame buildings, 1 special and 2 brick buildings standing on the south side. By the 1910 Sanborn Map, 6 brick buildings are in place with the plans for 3 buildings that were in the planning stage on the southwest corner.<sup>120</sup> The buildings currently located on the south side of the

<sup>114</sup> "Yesteryear," July 16, 2008.

<sup>115</sup> Ibid, June 29, 2011. Many of those interviewed placed the business at this location.

<sup>116</sup> Motes, November 11, 2013. Parmley, November 3, 2012, Velten, November 3, 2012. Interviews.

<sup>117</sup> "Yesteryear," December 15, 2010, February 9, 2011

<sup>118</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1894.

<sup>119</sup> *Carthage Press*, "Sarcoxie Was Fire Swept Last Night", April 4, 1902, Jasper County Records Office, Carthage, Missouri, Sarcoxie File #44.

<sup>120</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps 1900, 1910.

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square are original sites from c.1894-c.1911. Changes have occurred to the exteriors and interiors over the years but original fire walls have been maintained.

**502 Center Street, c.1902-1903, Contributing (Photo 10) (Figures 13,14)**

The Sanborn Maps of 1894 and 1900 showed a two story, wood frame grocery store located at this address. The brick building was constructed c.1902-c.1903. From c.1894 to c.1955, various grocery stores occupied the building. The Sanborn Maps of 1910 and 1918 showed a grocery and meat business located at this location. Hagar and Grieb sold fresh meats in c.1906.<sup>121</sup> Emory "Doobie" Snow briefly operated Snow's Grocery and in January 1935 he sold it to Roy Deem (Deem Store, c.1935-1937) but repurchased the store in Dec. 1937.<sup>122</sup> H.B. Boyd maintained a loan office on the second floor above Snow's Grocery along with tenant Mrs. Dickson and others.<sup>123</sup> Snow would continue to maintain his grocery until Nelson Brown bought the business in September 1943 and opened a "help yourself" grocery.<sup>124</sup> Dr. Harry Werbin, osteopathic medicine, had an office on the second floor in 1943.<sup>125</sup> In October 1945, Brown sold the store to Sam Feather Sr. and Floyd Fullerton.<sup>126</sup> In May 1951, Roy Holland and wife purchased the business from Feather and renamed it Holland Grocery. By 1954, Nelson Brown resumed ownership and named it Brown's Cashaway Market. According to resident Mitchell Fritchey, Bertha and Ed Whaley operated Southside Recreation Center at this site during the 1960s.<sup>127</sup>

**504 Center Street, c.1902-1903, Contributing (Photo 10) (Figure 13,14)**

This building was built in c.1902-1903. The *Carthage Press* reported that N. T. Crowl Jewelry, located on this site, was badly damaged by a fire in 1902.<sup>128</sup> The brick building may have been built as a result of the fire. The Sanborn 1910 map showed a brick building with jewelry and drug store operations (Figure 14). By 1918, Crowl's Jewelry was out of business and the building was vacant.<sup>129</sup> Purl Gulick was referenced as having a meat market located at the first door past the post office in 1921 (the Post Office was located in storefront of 504 Center Street). C. E. Fry, a local entrepreneur, purchased this property from N. G. Crowl for \$3,000 in 1925.<sup>130</sup> In August 1944, Nelson Brown put in a frozen food locker adjacent to 502 Center Street where

<sup>121</sup> "Yesteryear," April 12, 2006.

<sup>122</sup> Ibid, January 3, 2007.

<sup>123</sup> Ibid, July 23, 2008 and May 15, 2003

<sup>124</sup> Ibid, September 25, 2013.

<sup>125</sup> Ibid, February 13, 2003.

<sup>126</sup> Ibid, October 5, 2005, January 4, 2005.

<sup>127</sup> Mitchell Fritchey, interview, August 16, 2013.

<sup>128</sup> Jasper County Records, Carthage, Missouri, Sarcoxie Folder, item #44.

<sup>129</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1900, 1918.

<sup>130</sup> "Yesteryear," September 7, 2005.

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he operated a grocery store.<sup>131</sup> In the 1950s and 60s, Virginia Boyd Adams maintained a Title and Loans office on the first floor and had apartments upstairs.<sup>132</sup>

**506 Center Street, c.1902-1903, Contributing (Photo 10) (Figures 13,14)**

This brick building was constructed c.1902-1903. Sarcoxie's post office was located in this building from c.1910 to 1939.<sup>133</sup> In January 1939, the post office moved to the State Bank building (520 Center Street).<sup>134</sup> B. Jones, an attorney, had an office on the second floor. Dr. York bought the Jones Building in 1924 and maintained his office on the second floor through c.1940.<sup>135</sup> Dr. York's x-ray equipment was still in the building when current owner, Greg Seedorf, purchased the building in 1996.<sup>136</sup> In March 1944, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Massey bought the café fixtures on the first floor from the previous owner.<sup>137</sup> In May 1945, the Masseys sold the café to her brother-in-law, Buzz Massey.<sup>138</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Smith bought Massey's Café in July 1945.<sup>139</sup> Opal Stotts operated the restaurant in the 1950s and later sold it to Jimmy and Nettie Walradt in 1954.<sup>140</sup> Jimmy and Nettie Walradt operated the restaurant on this property through c.1956.

**508 Center Street, c.1900, Contributing (Photo 9,10) (Figures 13,14)**

This brick building constructed c.1900 has a long history as a mercantile. Goodner and Sabert started the Red Front next to Pile & Sabert when it was a frame building (Figure 5). In July 1919, William DeLaRue and son, Percy, bought the dry goods part of the building from Henry Sabert and operated the mercantile until October 1932.<sup>141</sup> The Red Front closed operations for a brief period when DeLaRue abruptly moved.<sup>142</sup> By 1933, the Red Front was in operation again.<sup>143</sup> The Red Front was considered one of the best trade centers in southwest Missouri.<sup>144</sup> Those interviewed recalled the wire cable that carried a basket containing payment to the office on the second level. The

<sup>131</sup> Jasper County Records, Business News, 34.

<sup>132</sup> Fritchey interview, August 16, 2013. Velten, April 8, 2014.

<sup>133</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance Map 1910.

<sup>134</sup> "Yesteryear," January 21, 2009.

<sup>135</sup> Jeannine Wormington, January 27, 2014. "Yesteryear," April 16, 2014. Wormington said she was born in his office in 1940.

<sup>136</sup> Seedorf, Greg, interview, January 26, 2013. Interviewed by M. Gautz.

<sup>137</sup> Jasper County Records, Business News, 34.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid, 35.

<sup>139</sup> "Yesteryear," July 27, 2005.

<sup>140</sup> Edwards, November 29, 2012. Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham. Mrs. Stotts was Edwards' mother in law.

"Yesteryear," May 20, 2004.

<sup>141</sup> Ibid, July 29, 2009, October 17, 2012

<sup>142</sup> Ibid, October 17, 2012.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid, February 20, 2013.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid, September 25, 2003.

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clerk put the payment in a basket; a bell rang and off the basket went. In 1961, Jim Moore closed their doors after 28 years of operation by the Moore family.<sup>145</sup>

**512 Center Street, c.1900, Contributing (Photo 9, 10) (Figures 13,14)**

This property was originally part of the Red Front with a room where Sabert's Grocery Store operated. A large opening provided access to both establishments. The grocery store appears on the Sanborn Maps of 1910 and 1918. After 47 years as one of Sarcoxie's esteemed citizens, Sabert retired in August 1932, selling the store to W.L. Elmore.<sup>146</sup> In March 1934, Elmore sold the property to Guy F. Reese.<sup>147</sup> Reese operated the Farmers Exchange until he sold his stock and fixtures in May 1950.<sup>148</sup> In 1960, the building was remodeled for use as a bowling alley.<sup>149</sup>

**514 Center Street, c.1900, Contributing (Photo 9, 10) (Figures 13,14)**

Built c.1900, this building has provided a location for several hardware establishments. Wilson Haggard and his son, Jesse, operated a hardware establishment c.1901. W.S. Hail and Son soon followed.<sup>150</sup> On the Sanborn Map of 1910, a section of Lot 34 and Lot 35 indicated a grocery store and a hardware store in a brick building. The grocery store was owned by Sabert and the hardware store owner was W.S. Hail and Son.<sup>151</sup> The Cormicle & Earnest Hardware store is mentioned in October 1913.<sup>152</sup> In June 1926, the property was called the Carter Hardware Store until it was sold and became Southside Hardware when Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Osborn purchased it from Floyd Fullerton in February 1937. Osborn's continued to operate the business until c.1960, at which time Mr. and Mrs. Loren Brooks bought the stock and fixtures.<sup>153</sup>

**516 Center Street, c.1910-11, Contributing (Photo 9, 10) (Figures 13,14)**

In 1894 and 1900, the corner lots of the southwest side of the square consisted of frame buildings. The Sanborn Map of 1894 showed a billiards room on this property and by 1900, a jewelry business. The Dreibelbis account of 1906 reported Mrs. Downer had the only

<sup>145</sup> Jasper County Records, Business News, 42.

<sup>146</sup> "Yesteryear," August 8, 2002.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid, March 4, 2004.

<sup>148</sup> Jasper County Records, Business News, 37.

<sup>149</sup> "Yesteryear," October 20, 2010.

<sup>150</sup> Finn, *Sarcoxie Record*, August 6, 1931.

<sup>151</sup> I have dated this time period because the building on the corner of Center and 6<sup>th</sup> was built in 1904 and the frame buildings were built at the end of 1910-1912.

<sup>152</sup> "Yesteryear," October 9, 2003.

<sup>153</sup> Ibid, June 14, 2006 and September 22, 2010.



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restaurant in the city located in the frame building.<sup>154</sup> The frame buildings on the southwest corner were destroyed by the 1902 fire. The current brick buildings on this corner were built at the end of 1910 and the beginning of 1911 by Tipsword, with financing from Edward Wild. This building and the two neighboring buildings to the west comprised of expenditures totaling \$17,000-18,000.<sup>155</sup> The abstract provided by current owner, GayLynn Dawson, showed that E.L. Maxwell occupied the building from c.1913-c.1915, operating a grocery store.<sup>156</sup> The Pure Food Market is referenced on the south side of the square from c.1916 to 1941 so this may have been his location. The name remained but several new owners were mentioned: Brown Brothers c.1916, Floyd Rogers c.1923 and George Jennings c.1937 to 1941.<sup>157</sup> Mr. Stotts operated a Western Auto from c.1941 to 1946.<sup>158</sup> From 1946 to 1954, Sarcoxie Appliance and Electric Store were operated by Dean T. Henry and Ned Barkley.<sup>159</sup> However, Barkley became the sole owner in March 1950 when Henry sold his share of the business.<sup>160</sup> Jack Scott ran the Otasco Store in c.1954 to 1956.<sup>161</sup> Mr. and Mrs. Dukart opened a children's shop called Ruffles and Beaus in December 1960 and were still at the location in 1976.<sup>162</sup>

**518 Center Street, c.1910-11, Contributing (Photo 9) (Figure 13,14)**

In 1905, Lon McCracken operated a clothing business in the frame building situated on the property. The brick building was constructed in 1910-1911. McCracken moved into the building in March 1911.<sup>163</sup> Various businesses were located in the building until May 1925, when Gilbert H. Wild sold the building to Sheridan Scheldrup of Pierce City, Missouri. He opened a drug store in September 1937 but later sold it to Glenn C. Ricketts.<sup>164</sup> In 1938, Wooten's Drug is pictured at this address and by September 1939, George H. Bragdon purchased the Wooten Drug Store (Figure 13). Dr. Bragdon moved to 101 6<sup>th</sup> Street, where he operated a drug store until he was called into the service in

<sup>154</sup> Dreibelbis, "Yesteryear," November 24, 2005. Mrs. A.F. Dreibelbis was born east of Sarcoxie in 1899. She lived on the corner of Ninth and Franklin Streets. She tells her memories of Sarcoxie in 1906. Although she would move to Bastrop, Texas, her ancestors still reside in Sarcoxie.

<sup>155</sup> "Yesteryear," December 15, 2010. February 9, 2011.

<sup>156</sup> Ibid, November 3, 2010. Original abstract provided by the current owner, GayLynn Dawson, August 18, 2013, Entry 43.

<sup>157</sup> "Yesteryear," February 8, 2006, May 29, 2003, September 19, 2007

<sup>158</sup> Parmley, November 3, 2012, Velten, November 3, 2012.

<sup>159</sup> Benita (Barkley) Shields, daughter of Ned Barkley. Interview, April 25, 2013. Shields gave me a photocopy of store front but would not provide negative or actual picture.

<sup>160</sup> "Yesteryear," March 31, 2010.

<sup>161</sup> Fritchey, Interview, August 16, 2013.

<sup>162</sup> "Yesteryear," December 8, 2010. Taylor Museum, Yearbook ad, Spirit of 76 Sarcoxian.

<sup>163</sup> "Yesteryear," March 2, 2011.

<sup>164</sup> Ibid, May 11, 2005, September 5, 2007.

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June 1944. Within months, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Sturgis bought the building.<sup>165</sup> Resident Mitchell Fritchey believes the Sturgis' operated their variety store there until c.1950.<sup>166</sup> In November 1955, George Bragdon announced his plan to open Bragdon's Drug Store at this location.<sup>167</sup>

**520 Center Street, c.1910-1911, Contributing (Photo 9) (Figures 13,14)**

In 1892, Wormington indicated that the Hoffman Brothers provided a clothing establishment for the residents in a frame building.<sup>168</sup> The Sanborn Map of 1900 showed a grocery store with a cobblers business in the rear of the building. In 1901, Bernard Finn indicated that he had published *The Record* from this property when it was a frame building.<sup>169</sup> The current building is one of the brick buildings constructed post-fire 1910-1911.<sup>170</sup> The State Bank operated at the north end of this building from c.1911 to c.1938. The post office moved from 506 Center Street to this property in January 1939.<sup>171</sup> The Boyd and Bort Insurance Agency operated from c.1953-c.1960; at which time, it became Bort Insurance Agency.<sup>172</sup> There are two entry doors on the southwest side of the building. Ben Woolridge ran a barber shop in one of the offices in 1914.<sup>173</sup> In August, 1916, D. F.G. Collins, a dentist, was located in one of the offices.<sup>174</sup> In February 1929, Baum's barbershop offered haircuts, shaves, and bobs for the ladies.<sup>175</sup> In December 1930, Q.O. Hudson, a dentist, specialized in "saving natural teeth."<sup>176</sup> J.J. Sprague, a photographer that chronicled Sarcoxie's pictorial history, had a studio in one of the offices in 1940.<sup>177</sup> Resident Rose Hagan claimed Edmond Palmer and Ned Barkley had a Fix It Shop in the first office behind the State Bank in early c.1950.<sup>178</sup>

**NORTH SIDE OF THE SQUARE-CROSS  
(Photo 11) (Figures 3, 13)**

The towns' original platting by Tingle and Massey indicate that the north side of the square consisted of Lots 29, 30, 31 and 32. The Sanborn Map of 1894 indicated 6 brick buildings, 2 frames, 1 special

<sup>165</sup> Jasper County Records, Business News, 32.

<sup>166</sup> Fritchey, August 16, 2013.

<sup>167</sup> "Yesteryear," November 16, 2005.

<sup>168</sup> Wormington, Yesteryear, January 2, 2008.

<sup>169</sup> Finn, *Sarcoxie Record*, August 6, 1931.

<sup>170</sup> "Yesteryear," October 27, 2010. February 9, 2011.

<sup>171</sup> Ibid, January 21, 2009.

<sup>172</sup> Ibid, April 21, 2010.

<sup>173</sup> Ibid, February 12, 2014.

<sup>174</sup> Ibid, August 9, 2006.

<sup>175</sup> Ibid, February 25, 2009.

<sup>176</sup> Ibid, December 29, 2010.

<sup>177</sup> Ibid, March 23, 2004.

<sup>178</sup> Rose Hagan, April 17, 2013. Delmar Edwards, November 29, 2012.

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and an alley where the building at 511 Cross Street now stands. In February 1904, fire damage led to the loss of five businesses on the north side.<sup>179</sup> In January 1910, fire caused damage to the Goodner, Hines and Boyd buildings and Pelsue Drug (Figure 3).<sup>180</sup> The Sanborn Map of 1910 showed brick buildings on lots 30, 31, 32 and by 1918 a large, brick building located on Lot 29(519 Cross Street).

**501 Cross Street, c.1894, Contributing (Photo 11) (Figure 3, 13)**

This brick building and its merchandise had fire damage in 1904 and 1910. The Sanborn Map of 1894 indicated that two store fronts operated in this building, a general store and drug establishment with publishing activities on the second floor. In 1901, Julius Bowers ran a general store and to the west, G. W. Pelsue operated a drug store business. Porter Burden operated a cigar factory on the second floor (Figure 3).<sup>181</sup> The Sanborn Map of 1918 showed a furniture store located in this building. This may have been the same furniture establishment, operated by N.C. Spencer, mentioned by Dreibelbis as being present in 1906.<sup>182</sup> In c.1930-1938, interviewed citizens noted Engelage Furniture and Undertaking was operating.<sup>183</sup> Rebecca Engelage and son, Roland, sold the undertaking business located on the second floor in 1946.<sup>184</sup> Engelage owned and operated the furniture endeavor until the business was sold to Jerry Chrisenberry in 1973.<sup>185</sup> Currently, the Taylor Museum is located in this building.

**507 Cross Street, c.1894, Contributing (Photo 11) (Figure 13)**

The Sanborn Map of 1894 shows Morrison dry goods store located on the first floor and an Opera Hall on the second. Dr. York sold the building in 1911 to John Haggard to be used as a moving picture theater.<sup>186</sup> With the exception of a brief period when it was used as an Armory, this building operated as the Star Theater with several owners from 1911 to c.1940 (Figure 13).<sup>187</sup> In 1948, the Saulsbury Feed store operated at the address and Albert Bachtold later purchased it in

<sup>179</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, March 3, 1904, 1.

<sup>180</sup> "Yesteryear," January 6, 2010.

<sup>181</sup> *Sarcoxie Record*, March 3, 1904, 1.

<sup>182</sup> Dreibelbis letter, "Yesteryear," November 24, 2010.

<sup>183</sup> Delmar Edwards, November 28, 2012. Sam Feather, Jr, August 23, 2013.

Interviewed Lorraine Peckham.

<sup>184</sup> "Yesteryear," April 26, 2006.

<sup>185</sup> Ibid, October 3, 2003.

<sup>186</sup> Ibid, April 6, 2011.

<sup>187</sup> Ibid, January 26, 2010.

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1956.<sup>188</sup> In 1959, Loren M. Brooks began operating a feed store which lasted into 1960s.<sup>189</sup> The second floor was used for apartments.<sup>190</sup>

**509 Cross Street, c.1890, Contributing (Photo 11) (Figure 13)**

This building was built around c.1890. It is one of the more elaborate buildings and considered one of the older buildings on the square. This building does appear on the Sanborn Map of 1894. The building, owned by John Lewis at that time, operated a Deering McCormick John Deer Implement business. Caryl Lewis, widow of the original owners' grandson, reported that it was the first brick building built on the north side.<sup>191</sup> However, this statement could not be verified. In 1930, the lower floor was leased to G.F. Reese, who planned to open a grocery store in this building and a feed store at 507 Cross Street.<sup>192</sup> Reese remained at this location until 1934, at which time he moved to 512 Center Street.<sup>193</sup> In December 1945, Loren Brooks bought the building from W.E. Lewis and planned to open the AG grocery store. He operated the business until 1951 when Bill Kleeman purchased the store.<sup>194</sup> Kleeman later moved to 519 Cross Street in 1959.<sup>195</sup>

**511 Cross Street, c.1900-1908, Contributing, (Photo 11) (Figure 13)**

The 1908 American Central Insurance Co. map of St. Louis, MO showed a brick building on this property.<sup>196</sup> Information regarding this property is limited so most of the history collected came from Sanborn maps. In 1910, a millinery was located on the property and by 1918 an office. Resident Jim Wild said Leo Hale operated a cleaning establishment on the north side in 1925.<sup>197</sup> Delmar Lewis operated a cleaning business from 1948-1950, at which time Roy Gollhofer took ownership.<sup>198</sup> Roy's Cleaner was still operating in 1960.<sup>199</sup>

<sup>188</sup> "Yesteryear," June 7, 2006.

Ibid, September 24, 2008. Current owner said he found leftover feed on floor when he purchased the property.

<sup>189</sup> Ibid, March 18, 2009. Those interviewed indicated Brooks ran a feed store and current owner said feed dust was found when he bought the building.

<sup>190</sup> GayLynn Dawson, August 18, 2013. Interviewed Michelle Gautz. 1960s GayLynn Dawson said she and her husband maintained an apartment on the second level.

<sup>191</sup> Caryl Lewis, March 5, 2013. Interview by Michelle Gautz.

<sup>192</sup> "Yesteryear," October 27, 2010.

<sup>193</sup> Ibid, March 4, 2004.

<sup>194</sup> Ibid, December 7, 2005. October 13, 2004.

<sup>195</sup> Ibid, March 18, 2009.

<sup>196</sup> American Central Insurance Co. map 1908. St. Louis, Missouri. Taylor Museum, Sarcoxie, Missouri. Sarcoxie Collection.

<sup>197</sup> "Yesteryear," July 6, 2005. Wild interview, January 29, 2014, Peckam interview.

<sup>198</sup> Ibid, March 17, 2010.

<sup>199</sup> Ibid, March 24, 2010.

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**513 Cross Street, c.1900-1908, Contributing (Photo 11) (Figure 13)**

According to the 1910 and 1918 Sanborn maps a brick building consisting of two (rooms) store fronts existed at this address. The 1908 American Central Insurance Co. map of St. Louis, MO showed a brick building on the property.<sup>200</sup> The 1910 Sanborn Map placed a barber shop in the northeast room and a restaurant in the northwest room. By 1918, both storefronts were utilized as office space. The Dixon Café/Wagon Café operated in the northeast room from 1945 to 1950.<sup>201</sup> Jack Sanders operated Jack's Barber Shop in the northeast section from 1950 to 1964.<sup>202</sup> In 1959, Webster and Dunn established a law office in the northeast room where Empire Electric had previously had their office.<sup>203</sup>

**517 Cross Street, c.1900-1908, Contributing, (Photo 11) (Figure 13)**

The 1910 Sanborn Map indicated that a furniture store was operating in the brick building currently at this location. The Sanborn of 1918 map showed a printing business at this site. Bernard Finn published the *Sarcoxie Record* at this location as early as 1924 and various owners/editors operated the newspaper following Finn. The paper continued to be printed at this location until 1978, moving to its current site, 101 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.<sup>204</sup>

**519 Cross Street, c.1912-1918, Contributing, (Photo 11) (Figure 13)**

The 1918 Sanborn Map indicated that a hardware and harness shop in a brick building sat on this site.<sup>205</sup> The Sarcoxie Supply Company opened operations in this building c.1912 and operated until c.1959. The first sale referenced at Sarcoxie Supply Company was November 1912.<sup>206</sup> It was considered to be one of the oldest firms in Sarcoxie.<sup>207</sup> However, owners and name changes occurred over the years. Businesses mentioned were Sarcoxie Hardware in 1937, Sarcoxie Supply, and Brooks'

<sup>200</sup> American Central Insurance Co. map 1908. St. Louis, Missouri. Taylor Museum, Sarcoxie, Missouri. Sarcoxie Collection.

<sup>201</sup> "Yesteryear," September 22, 2010. February 2, 2005.

<sup>202</sup> Ibid, July 15, 2004.

<sup>203</sup> Ibid, September 23, 2009.

<sup>204</sup> Ibid, July 29, 2004.

<sup>205</sup> Ibid, October 31, 2005, 2007. March 27, 2003. September 28, 2005.

References were made concerning Sarcoxie Supply Store from 1912-1917. A garage being added to the Finn Building in 1917 was referenced. Therefore, I am unsure if part of the building was constructed before 1918 Sanborn Map citing or if the entire building was built at one time.

<sup>206</sup> "Yesteryear," October 31, 2012.

<sup>207</sup> Ibid, August 8, 2002.

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Supply Company.<sup>208</sup> Bill Kleeman moved to the building in March 1959 and operated Kleeman Grocery until 1966.<sup>209</sup>

**CONCLUSION**

The square has been the main location providing the town's commercial needs during the period of significance, c.1890-1962. Sarcoxie has been an ever changing commercial district with businesses occupying the storefronts surrounding the square. Originally constructed of frame buildings, the district was largely rebuilt after fires in the early twentieth century and continued to provide commercial services to its residents. The district underwent great booms of prosperity with mining and strawberry production in the late nineteenth century to the peony production in the early to mid-twentieth century.

However, Sarcoxie, like many small communities, was greatly affected by the completion of I-44 in October 1965<sup>210</sup> and the resulting local strip malls developing in nearby cities. With the new interstate and nearby malls, shoppers were enticed to shop at other locations.

Sarcoxie has had a fluctuating population caused by various factors. The mines closing and moving to areas where mining was more abundant slowed the economy and caused population shifts c.1915. Strawberry operations drastically decreased by 1956. The lack of returning pickers, drought conditions in 1952-53, dwindling beds decreasing production, and residents seeking out of town employment, were all extenuating factors.<sup>211</sup> When Juvenile Shoe closed in 1984, a large source of revenue left the area.<sup>212</sup> The 2010 census indicated the population of Sarcoxie to be 1,341.<sup>213</sup>

Sarcoxie residents continue to support local businesses in Sarcoxie's historic commercial district. When businesses have ceased operation other businesses have opened. Events are offered throughout the year to bring those from out of the area to downtown. The current city council and Chamber of Commerce actively pursue entrepreneurs that see Sarcoxie's potential.

Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for local significance under Criterion A, COMMERCE. It is a good example of a small town commercial district

<sup>208</sup> "Yesteryear," December 12, 2007. October 17, 2012. January 3, 2007. April 11, 2007.

<sup>209</sup> Ibid, March 18, 2009. May 20, 2009.

<sup>210</sup> Ibid, October 26, 2005.

<sup>211</sup> Jasper County Records, Sarcoxie Strawberry File. 57.

<sup>212</sup> "Yesteryear," October 6, 2004.

<sup>213</sup> Sarcoxie, Missouri, Wikipedia,

[http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sarcoxie,\\_missouri](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Sarcoxie,_missouri), Accessed April 19, 2014.

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from the early to mid-twentieth century in Missouri. The district retains its original layout from 1840 with buildings surrounding a public square and the brick building fabric from the early twentieth century. These buildings continue to house the town's commercial businesses.

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Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District
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Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Sarcoxie, 1918, on file at the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, from Site Survey by Tiffany Patterson and Michelle Diedriech on February 10, 2012.

**MAP PROVIDED BY THE TAYLOR MUSEUM COLLECTION, April 1, 2014.**

The American Central Insurance Company, December 11, 1908, St. Louis, Missouri, from the Taylor Museum Sarcoxie Collection, April 1, 2014.

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**Oral Interviews with local citizens**

Aleshire, Melvin and Nell(84 years old), Life Long Resident, January 15, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Cadwell, Robert and Bonnie(70s), October 27, 2012. Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham.

Carr, Don & Phylis(82 years old), March 4, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Cummins, Cole (67 years old, previous owner of property Lots 14,15,16), April 5, 2014. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Dawson, GayLynn(60s), August 18, 2013. Interview and received original abstract for 516 Center Street property by Michelle Gautz.

Donley, Paul, *Sarcoxie Record* editor, February 9, 2014. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Duff, Rogers & Lorraine, (80s), February 5, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Edwards, Delmar & Anne, (80s) Life-long residents, November 29, 2012. Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham.

Feather, Sam Jr.(86 years old), Resident since 1938, August 23, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Feiker, Barbara(83) Life-long resident, October 13, 2012, April 10, 2014. Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham, Michelle Gautz.

Foster, J.O,(80s) Resident since 1956, April 8, 2014. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Fritchey, Mitchell(70s), phone & e-mail, August 16,2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Fullerton, Dale(81), Life-long resident, May 25, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Gurley, George and Ruth(75), Came when 17 years old, October 17, 2012. Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham.

Hagan, Rose(72), April 17, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Hood, Wayne(70s), January 28, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

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Kimbrel, Linda(70s), April 12, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Lewis, Caryl (91), Came in 1940s. March 5, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Motes, Aleta, owner of 101 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street. November 11, 2013.  
Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Myers, Larry(60), May 3, 2014. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Neal, Kenny(70s), November 22, 2012. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Neumeyer, Duane and Carol(65), May 5, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Parmley, Ronnie(Late 40s), Life-long resident, November 3, 2012.

Peckham, Larry and Mary(70s), Came in early '60s. Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham.

Peckham, Lorraine(74), October 22, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Reeves, Clyde and Carma(80s), November 17, 2012. Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham.

Rushing, June(79), Life-long resident, September 15, 2012.  
Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham.

Sageser, Lou(77), September 29, 2012, October 29, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz and Lorraine Peckham.

Seedorf, Greg(60s), January 26, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Shields, Benita Ruth(72), April 25, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Sooter, Gene, September 15, 2012. Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham.

Taylor, Dorothy(88), Came in 1935, February 11, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

Velten, Larry(65), Life-long resident, November 3, 2012, April 8, 2014. Interviewed by Lorraine Peckham, Michelle Gautz.

Waterall, Reba(Late 70s), (Phone Call), April 29, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

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Whitehead, Fred and Terri(60s), May 5, 2013. Interviewed by Michelle  
Gautz.

Wild, James H.(80s), Lifelong resident, September 29, 2012, January  
29, 2014.

Woolridge, Kenneth and Ida Mae(84), March 2, 2013. Interviewed by  
Michelle Gautz.

Wormington, Jeannine(67), Lifelong resident, January 27, 2014.  
Interviewed by Michelle Gautz.

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<b>Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District</b>
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**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary of the Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying map prepared by the MO SHPO (Figures 17-19). The northern boundary includes the 500 block of Cross Street, runs south along 5<sup>th</sup> Street, and cuts across the back of the 500 block of Center Street, northward along 6<sup>th</sup> Street to encompass 101 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 117 N. 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

The latitude and longitude coordinates are as follows:

37.068271, -94.117018; 37.068808, -94.117411; 37.069993, -94.116869;  
37.069980, -94.116000; 37.068222, -94.116091

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries of the district encompass an intact grouping of historic resources located in an area surrounding the public square of the community of Sarcoxie in Jasper County, Missouri. The neighboring properties were excluded due to numerous modern intrusions, alterations, parking lots, and the lack of connection to the public square.

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Figure 1. J.P. Boyd Mill on Center Creek, c.1878-1900, was located in the area where the Vivion Mill was originally located. Photo is taken from the Taylor Museum Collection, Sarcoxie, MO. Original photo was taken by J.J. Sprague and given to Taylor Museum by Ned Barkley.

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Jasper, Missouri

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Figure 2: The Frisco Depot located west of the Sarcoxie Historic District on S. 7<sup>th</sup> Street was torn down in c.1970. In October of 1960 the Frisco railroad abandoned its two last passenger trains between Monett and the Kansas-Missouri line. The railroad first began running its trains into Sarcoxie around c.1872. At one time the railroad operated four passenger trains through Sarcoxie each day. The depot was still serving Sarcoxie in 1968. Photo provided by Larry Myers, Sarcoxie resident. May 19, 2014.



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Figure 3: First National Bank of Sarcoxie, c. 1901, located on the northeast corner of Sarcoxie until building had to be demolished in December 1976. Taylor Museum is now located in the building that housed the mercantile and Pelsue Drug. J.J. Sprague's Photo Gallery can be seen north of the First National Bank. Photo is from the Taylor Museum collection, taken by J.J. Sprague. February 21, 2013.



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Figure 4: Sarcoxie was flooded on S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street, July 9, 1904. The Sarcoxie Train Depot can be seen in the background. Photo is from the Taylor Museum Collection taken by J.J. Sprague. February 21, 2013.

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Figure 5: The Pile and Sabert Furniture & Coffin on the South side of Sarcoxie's business district, c.1890. Pile and Sabert were entrepreneurs that were instrumental in the Sarcoxie's early growth. Photo is from the Taylor Museum Collection. The Red Front is located to the west of Pile & Sabert Furniture and Coffins. April 18, 2014.



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Figure 6: Cameron Mine west of Sarcoxie, MO., c.1912. Photo is from the Taylor Museum Collection. February 21, 2013.

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Figure 7: Sale Day, January 27, 1932, showing the east side of Sarcoxie's commercial district. Sale Day was a weekly event that brought local citizens to the business district to sell and buy their goods. Photo is from the Taylor Museum collection. February 25, 2014.



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Figure 8: Sarcoxie Concert Band in front of the Sarcoxie Gazebo in c. 1904. J.J. Sprague is seated to the right forefront. He was bands organizer and drew up the plans for the bandstand. Photo is from the Taylor Museum collection. February 25, 2014.

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Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District

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Figure 9: Merchant's Prize Day, March 12, 1930, Sarcoxie Square. Photo is taken from the Taylor Museum Collection. February 21, 2013.



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Figure 10: View of Sarcoxie Square taken from water tower, November 20, 1923. The photo shows the park used by the berry pickers just off the northwest corner. The east side of the square shows the Ford Garage. Photo taken from Taylor Museum collection. February 21, 2013.

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Figure 11: Large quantities of strawberries were shipped to Texas, California and other parts of the U.S. from Sarcoxie in train cars packed with ice. Photo taken from Taylor Museum collection. February 5, 2013.



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Figure 12: Photo shows the west side of the Sarcoxie Historic Business District in c.1920-1933. Photo from the Taylor Museum collection. February 25, 2014. (Photo was scanned in 3 sections and placed back into single unit)

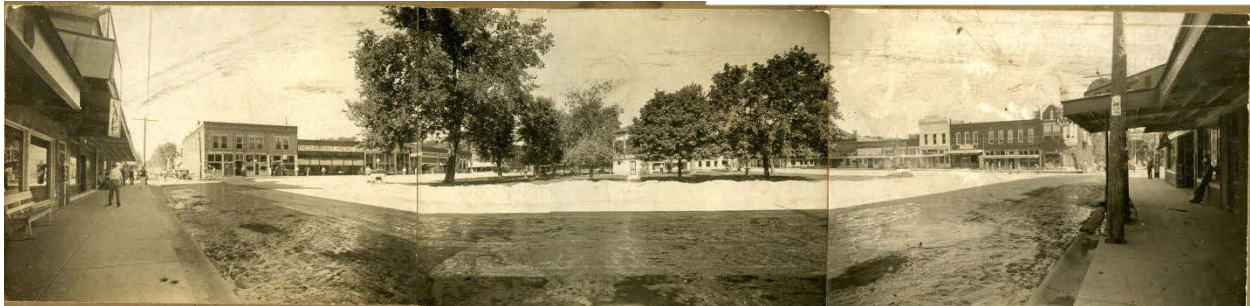


Figure 13: View of the Sarcoxie Business District taken from the northeast corner looking across the square, c.1938. Photo taken from a panoramic view Taylor Museum collection. February 25, 2014.

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Figure 14: The south side of the Sarcoxie Historic Business district, c. 1904-1911. Photo taken from the Taylor Museum collection. February 21, 2013.



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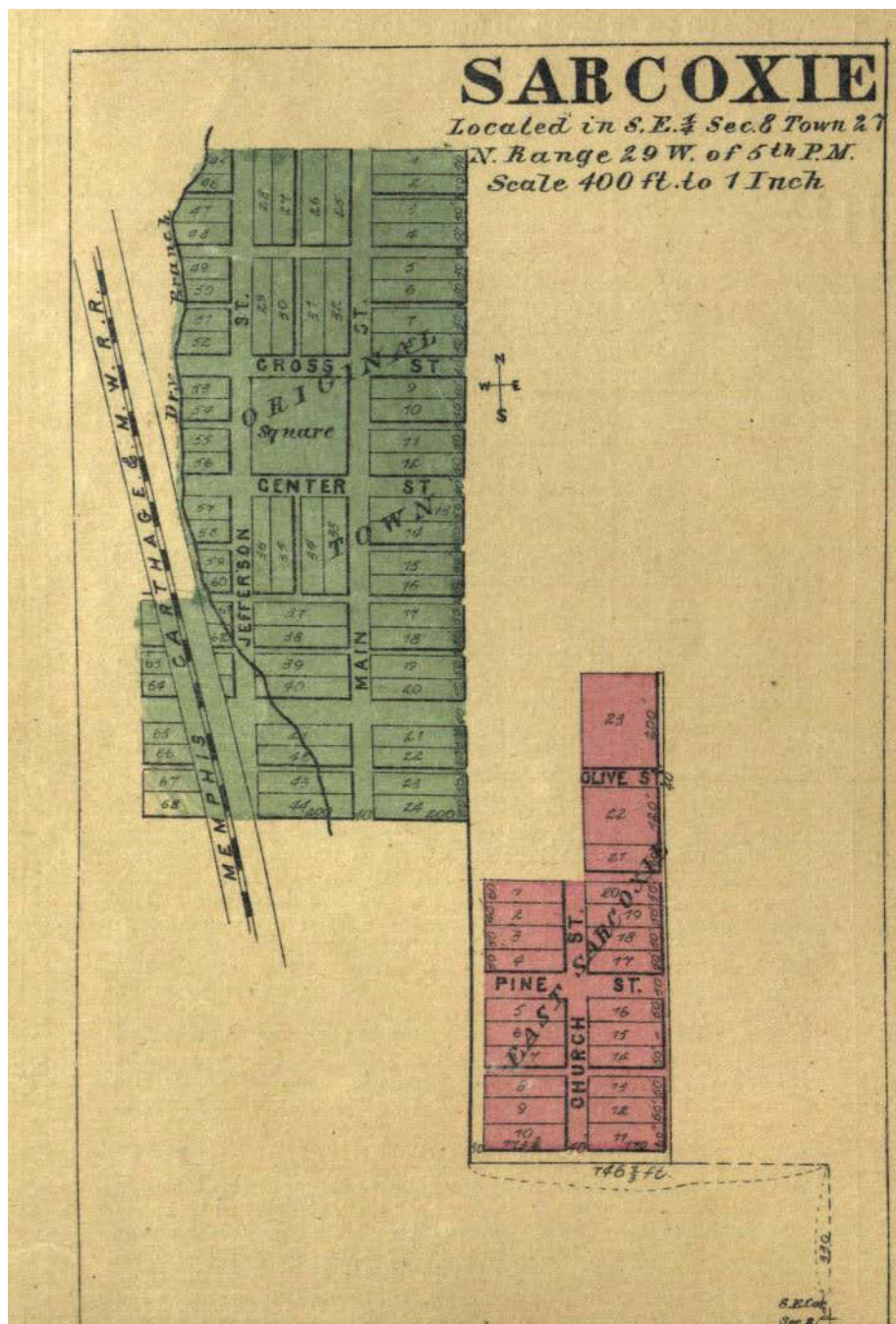


Figure 15: Plat of Sarcoxie from *An Illustrated Historical Atlas of Jasper County, MO*. Brink, McDonough & Co. 1876. Taken from Site Survey, State Historic Preservation Office, February 10, 2012.

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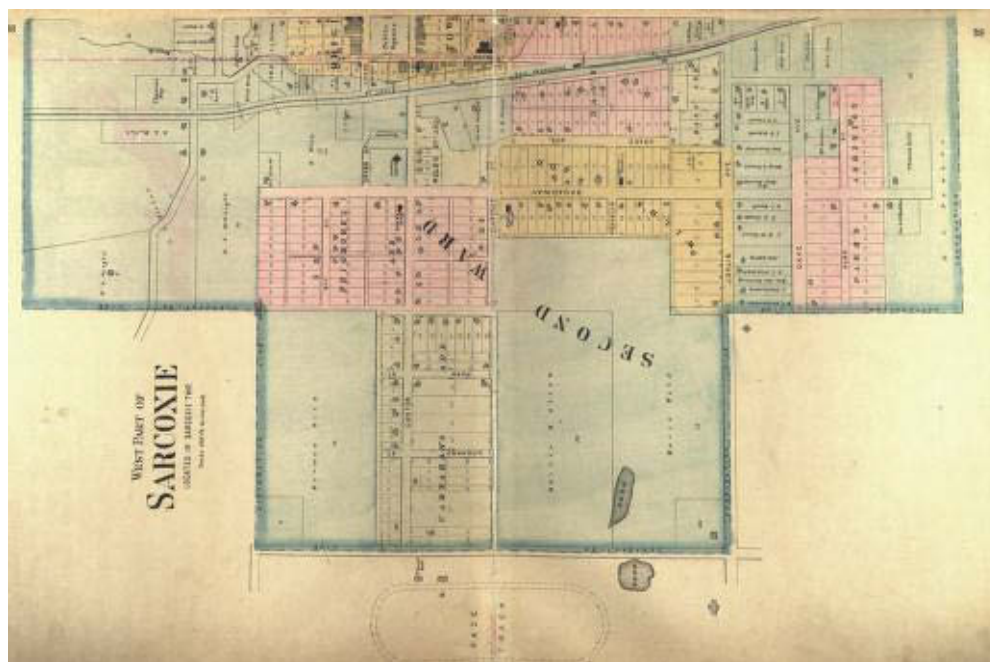
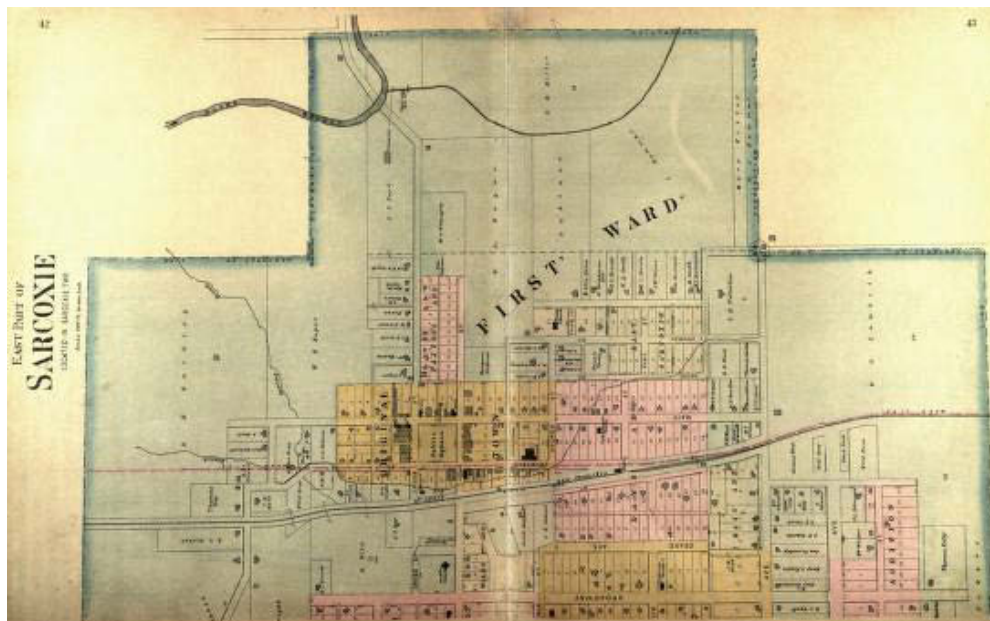


Figure 16: From Plat Book of Jasper County, Missouri, Northwest Publishing Co., 1895, pp. 38-39 and 42-43. Taken from Site Survey, State Historic Preservation Office, February 10, 2012.



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Figure 17: Contextual Map of the Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District showing the district boundary and coordinates. Google Earth, accessed July 20, 2014.

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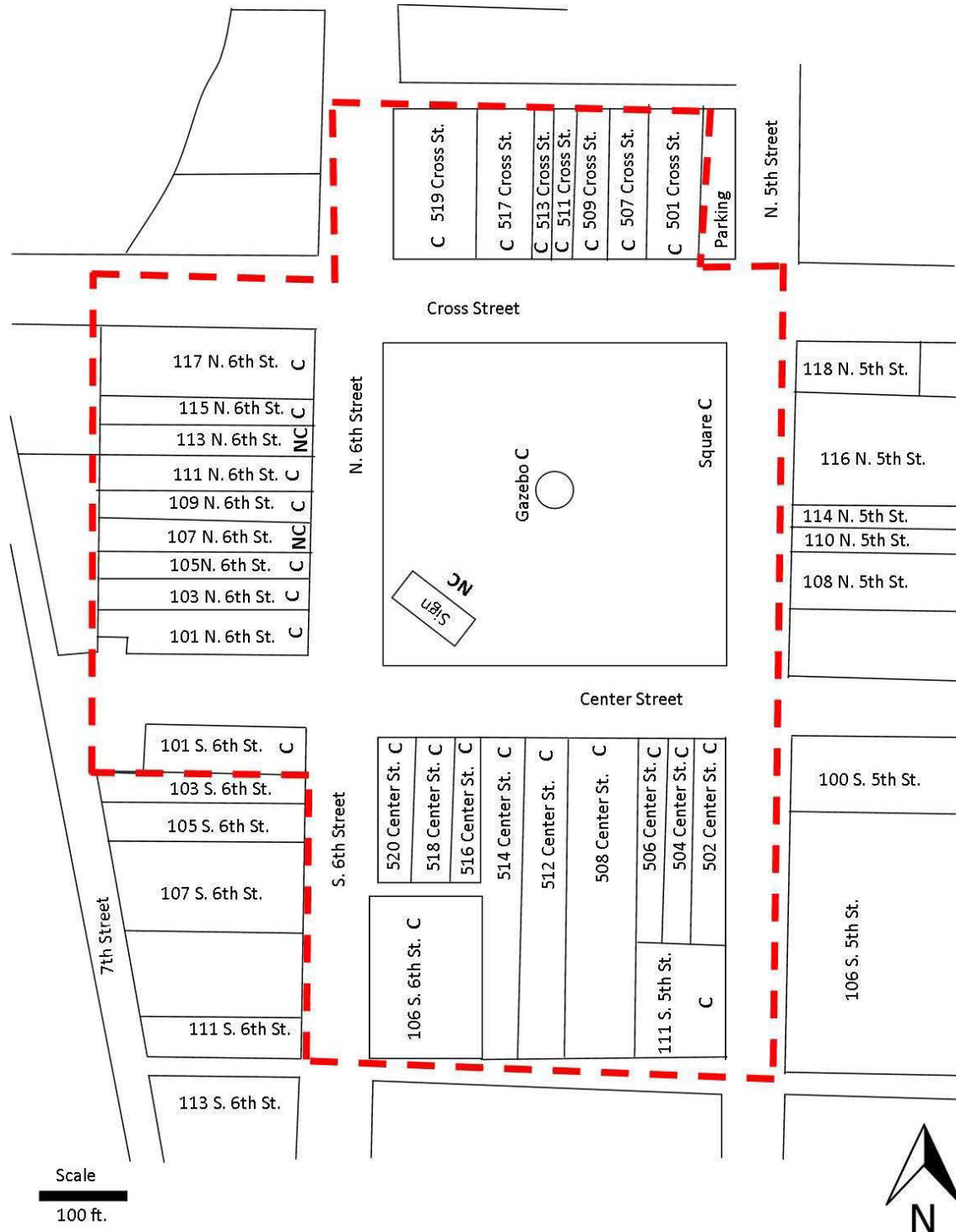


Figure 18: Contributing/Non-contributing Property Map for the Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District showing the historic district boundary. Compiled by Michelle Gautz and Kristi Chase, August 6, 2014.

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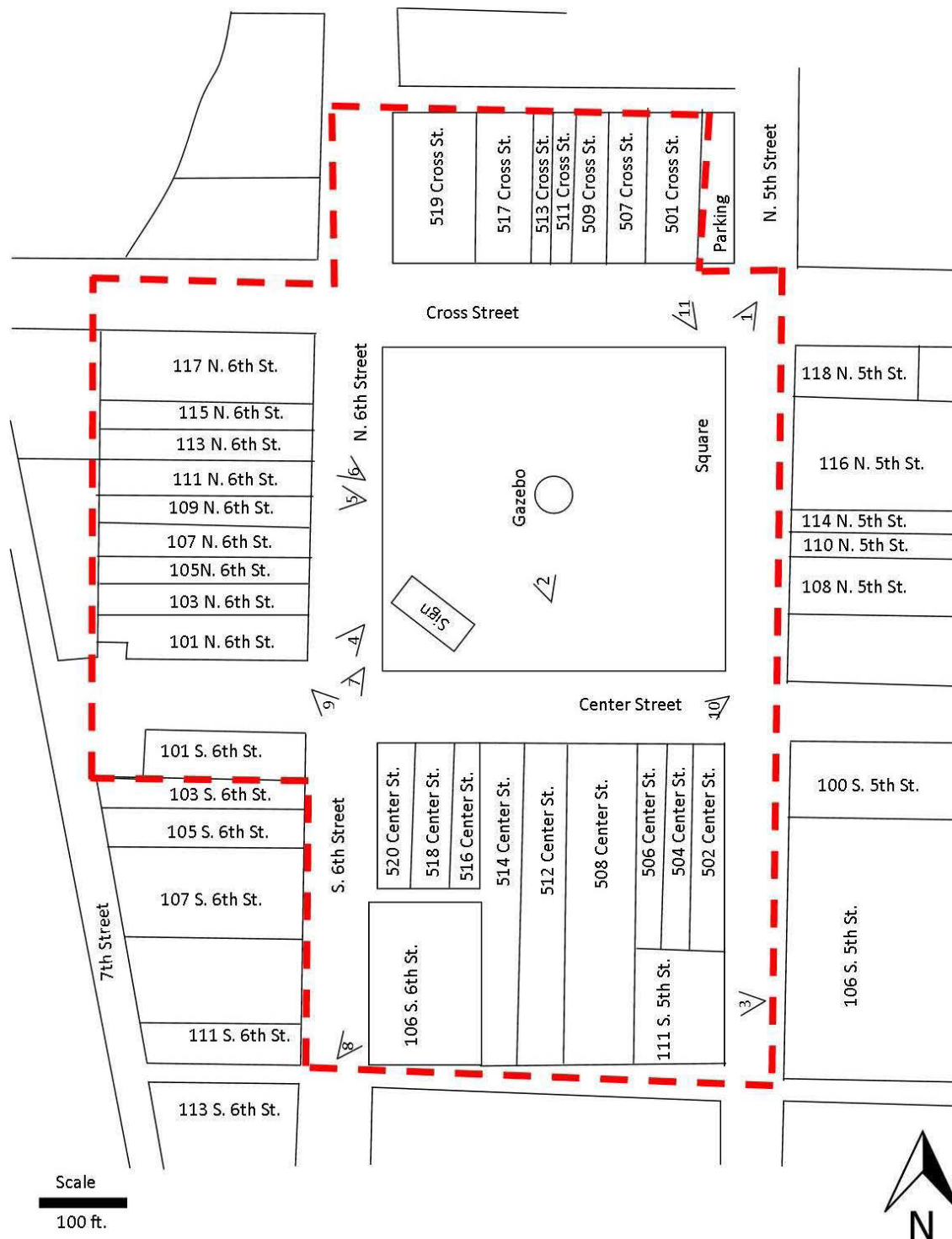


Figure 19: Photo Map of Sarcoxie Public Square Historic District. Compiled by Michelle Gautz and Kristi Chase, August 6, 2014.





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1912

Garage door with a grid of 12 windows (2 rows of 6).

White door with a small arched window above it.









SARCOUX  
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DEPT.

SARCOUX  
CITY HALL  
SARCOUX  
LICENSE OFFICE

111

POLICE  
PARKING  
ONLY

113

POLICE  
DEPARTMENT

TURN BAN  
NOT IN  
EFFECT

FREEDOM  
CHRISTIAN  
FELLOWSHIP





SARCOXIE  
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DEPT.

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CHRISTIAN  
FELLOWSHIP

COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH

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ONE WAY

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