

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 North Main Street Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 400 Block of North Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Poplar Bluff N/A vicinity

state MO code MO county Butler code 023 zip code 63901

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

Mark A. Miles MAY 25, 2011
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

North Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Butler County, 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	
19	9	buildings
0	0	district
0	0	site
1	1	structure
0	0	object
20	10	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic and Architectural Resources of Poplar Bluff, MO

One

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Single dwelling

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling

Multiple dwelling

RELIGION/religious facility

Religious facility

EDUCATION/school

School

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne
Shingle

foundation: Stone
Brick
Concrete

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:
Neo-Classical Revival

walls: Brick
Wood

Colonial Revival

roof: Asphalt
Tile

Late Gothic Revival

other: Stone

Late 19th and 20th Century American Movements:
Craftsman

Asbestos
Stucco

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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.

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.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Engineering

Period of Significance

ca. 1880 – ca. 1954

Significant Dates

1912 - 1913

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: McKowan Brothers

Contractor: Williams, Roy L

Engineer: Rohwer, Henry

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): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 7.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>0732693</u>	<u>4071350</u>	3	<u>15</u>	<u>0732492</u>	<u>4071613</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>15</u>	<u>0732727</u>	<u>4071384</u>	4	<u>15</u>	<u>0732508</u>	<u>4071512</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Terri L. Foley – Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Private Contractor date November 15, 2010

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city or town Wilmington state NC zip code 28412

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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.**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner:

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

name Various (see attached)

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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North Main Street Historic District
Historic and Architectural Resources
of Poplar Bluff, MO
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Architectural classification continued:

Late Victorian: Stick
Modern Movement
Other: Front Gable
 Front Gable and Wing

Summary:

The North Main Street Historic District in Poplar Bluff, Missouri encompasses approximately 7.5 acres in the 400 block of North Main Street and is comprised of primarily residential properties, three institutional buildings and a brick street. Properties front North Main Street, in the 400 block. The district is one block from the business district, located to the south. The district is locally significant and meets the registration requirements for residential properties as described in "The Historic and Architectural Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri." The North Main Street Historic District was established as a residential neighborhood in the mid-19th century and continued to develop through the mid-20th century. The overall streetscape, building forms and masses are cohesive. Mature trees, retaining walls, sidewalks, alleyways and the brick paved street enhance the historic character of the district. Within the district's boundaries are 20 residential buildings, two churches, one school, two structures (a segment of the original brick paved street and a paved parking lot). Resources within the district consist of 19 contributing buildings, one contributing structure (the brick street), five non-contributing buildings, four non-contributing outbuildings and one non-contributing paved parking lot. One building, the Moore-Dalton House (NR 12/01/1994), is individually listed. The building stock in the North Main Street Historic District embodies late 19th century and early 20th to mid- 20th century residential and non-residential architecture. Contributing resources within the district were constructed between ca. 1880 and 1954, which is the period of significance. The district, which includes a historic brick street (North Main Street), looks and functions much as it did during the period of significance.

The buildings in the district date from 1880 to 1982. Houses within the district represent a variety of styles prevalent in the late 19th to mid-20th centuries including high styles such as Neo-Classical Revival, Queen Anne, Shingle, Colonial Revival and bungalow, as well as front gable, front gable and wing forms. The majority of houses within the district are frame construction, the rest are brick. Houses were originally built as single family dwellings with the exception of 427 and 444- 445 North Main Street, and most continue to serve as single family dwellings. There are two churches within the district boundaries: Holy Cross Episcopal Church and Zion Lutheran Church.

Elaboration

The North Main Street Historic District spans the 400 block of North Main Street, beginning at the intersection of Lester Street on the southwest and College Street on

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the southeast. The district is bounded on the north by an alleyway on the northwest and Fifth Street on the northeast. All of the lots in the district face North Main Street. The elevations of the property lots vary; some feature retaining walls that provide decorative delineation of property lines while other lots are street level. The district features concrete sidewalks and curbing with a brick paved street. Additional distinctive characteristics include comparatively consistent street setbacks planted with a variety of trees, perennial shrubs and turf. Street signs are square post with a pyramidal top, painted white with black letters and are four feet and six inches in height. The dwellings along with setbacks, landscaping, retaining walls, and the brick street establish continuity throughout the district and emphasize the neighborhood's character.

Summary of Typical Alterations

The North Main Street Historic District is a distinct, cohesive collection of domestic, institutional and infrastructural resources that interconnect to express a history of development trends and architectural preferences spanning the district's period of significance, ca. 1880 – 1954. Only two resources in the district (parking lot and modern apartment complex) were built after this period. The district is comprised of 20 contributing resources, one National Register listed property, and 10 non-contributing resources.

Historic resources contributing to the North Main Street Historic District are at least 50 years old and retain character defining features from the period of significance. The contributing resources retain the original construction details and materials, or those from a later, cohesive, historic-era remodeling. Contributing single family, multi-family and institutional resources that have exterior modifications retain sufficient architectural elements, including their historic form, to demonstrate the feeling and association of the period of significance. They also retain the majority of the aspects of integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association).

Artificially sided properties located within the North Main Street Historic District are considered contributing resources if they meet all of the following conditions: 1) the siding does not conceal architectural details that are characteristic of a particular architectural style; 2) the siding does not alter the massing, scale, and proportions of the resource; 3) the property contributes to the significance of the historic plan or streetscape of the neighborhood, which may convey greater importance than the design of the individual house. In addition, replacement siding must duplicate the form and dimensions of the historic siding, including original corner and window trim, entrance trim, etc. There must be no loss, structurally or visually, of the significant form and features of the original structure.

Structural resources that contribute to the district are at least 50 years old and are identifiable to the period of significance. Contributing structures retain original construction methods and materials or those from a later, cohesive, historic-era upgrading. There are two structural resources within the district boundaries: a segment

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of the brick paved street and an asphalt paved parking lot. The segment of brick paved street within the district boundaries is contributing as it retains original construction methods and materials. The asphalt paved parking lot is a non-contributing resource since it was constructed after the period of significance. Additionally, the lot it was constructed upon contained a dwelling during the period of significance.

Typical alterations to domestic and institutional resources in the district include the installation of Masonite, asbestos, metal or vinyl siding over original wood siding, installation of storm windows over early or original windows, compatible and incompatible installation of vinyl windows within original window openings, compatible and incompatible alterations to porches, replacement doors, painting of exterior brick wall surfaces, and construction of compatible additions at the rear or sides of a building.

Non-Contributing Resources

Non-contributing resources located in the North Main Street Historic District are a combination of resources. The non-contributing resources (constructed during the period of significance) have been incompatibly altered by means of removal or significant alteration of character defining architectural elements. Non-contributing resources also include those erected after the district's period of significance.

Summary of Physical Condition and Integrity

The North Main Street Historic District is a concentration of late 19th-to mid-20th century domestic resources and three institutional resources reflecting architectural development patterns in Poplar Bluff during a period of sustained growth. Of the 30 resources in the district, 20 retain their integrity and are contributing resources to the district under Criterion C. The district is comprised of one city block and five subdivisions or additions to the city plat. The North Main Street Historic District is fully developed with the exception of one asphalt paved parking lot which serves as the parking area for an apartment complex within the district. Residential dwellings comprise 70 percent and domestic auxiliary resources represent 13 percent of district resources for a total of 83 percent within the domestic category. A limited number of institutional buildings and a contributing brick paved street are also within the district boundaries. District dwellings are a blend of one-, two- and two and one-half story clapboard, brick, asbestos, Masonite, vinyl, or metal siding clad building. They represent a variety of architectural types and styles including: vernacular, Late Victorian (Queen Anne, Stick, and Shingle), popular revivals (Neo-Classical, and Colonial Revival), Craftsman style (bungalow), and Modern Movement. Associated garages and sheds are vinyl sided or metal sided with gabled roofs with metal doors. The exterior character-defining elements of the district's buildings—form, massing, exterior wall materials, window materials, fenestration patterns, porch and entry features—are maintained in fair to excellent condition, and are well preserved in location, materials, design, workmanship, feeling and association within the period of significance.

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Individual Property Descriptions

Historic names are based upon the first known owner or occupant. Dates at the end of the heading represent construction dates or approximate construction dates; established by city directories, real estate tax records, interviews with property owners, and Sanborn maps. Historically associated addresses are listed below the current address. Outbuildings are described at the end of property narrative.

[c] = contributing; [nc] = non-contributing

Primary resource contributing status is listed on the first line of each entry; status of outbuildings is listed at the end of the narrative.

1. 400 Block of North Main Street – 1912 – 1913; Photos 1, 3, 5, and 6. [c]

A brick street laid in Egyptian brick with concrete curbing, North Main Street is oriented with intercardinal (intermediater) directions instead of typical cardinal directions. The 400 block of North Main Street curves to the northwest then runs more northerly. Laying of the brick pavers, which originally covered nine streets in Poplar Bluff, started in 1912 and was concluded in 1913 with a total distance of three and half miles. Included within the paver boundaries were the following streets: Second, Main, Fourth, Vine, Poplar, Cedar, Maple, Cherry and Ash. Main Street has the most blocks with uncovered brick pavers; other streets and blocks have been covered with asphalt. The street was laid in a running bond pattern and is 55' in width. At the intersections of North Main/Fifth Street and North Main/Lester Street, the bricks merge into N. Main with a triangulation pattern. At the other intersections within the district the bricks are laid perpendicular to N. Main Street. The bricks used on the street are marked with "Egyptian" in the center and four dashes at the top and bottom. Bricks are also stamped with the name of the manufacturer, Murphysboro Paving Brick Company. The 400 block of North Main Street is one of the few streets in Poplar Bluff to retain its historic paving. The brick pavers measure 2" by 9", and weigh ten (10) pounds each.

**2. 405 N. Main Street, Knecht, Carl and Mary House; ca. 1880. [c]
(Historically known as 816 N. Main Street)**

A one and one-half story house with a side gable roof, Masonite siding, full-width porch and irregular footprint, the footprint is depicted on the 1895 Sanborn map. The footprint and rear addition indicates a construction date prior to 1895. The dwelling originally was a hall and parlor form and remodeled to its current form by 1895. The façade is symmetrical with a centered entrance flanked by 2/2 early or original windows. The roofline includes small gabled roofs over the second level 1/1 early or original windows; centered over the first level windows. Originally, the house had a centered partial-width porch as indicated by Sanborn maps; it is unknown when the porch was expanded and columns added.

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**3. 406 N. Main Street, Williamson, Charles and Hattie House; ca. 1906. [c]
(Historically known as 706 N. Main Street); Photo 2**

A two-story Queen Anne style with a gable on hip, asphalt shingle roof, early or original 1/1 windows and asbestos siding. The façade features a wood planked partial-width wrap-around porch that extends along the south elevation. Ionic columns support the porch's shed roof. At the northwest corner, the porch has been partially infilled to create an entrance foyer; date of remodel is unknown. Located above the entrance is a glassed-in porch with four early 1/1 windows flanked by short decorative Ionic columns. A rear addition has been added to the southwest corner of the house but does not detract from the historic layout.

Located in the rear of the property is a carport and metal outbuilding. [nc]

**4. 411 N. Main Street, Brandon, James A. and Minnie House; ca. 1888. [nc]
(Historically known as 815 N. Main Street)**

A two-story Stick Style, with a gable-on-hip roofline, vinyl siding and replacement full-width porch with modern round columns. The façade features three bays on the first level with two replacement 6/6 windows with fanlights. The second level features two 6/6 replacement windows located directly above the first level windows. This is one of the oldest houses in the district, but is too altered to be contributing. While the form is intact, the original wood shingles and half-timbered details on the second level wall surface have been replaced. The modern vinyl siding that covers all of the exterior trim and other alterations have impacted overall integrity.

**5. 412 N. Main Street, Allison, George and Myrtle House; ca. 1907. [nc]
(Historically known as 707 N. Main Street)**

A two and one-half story with a complex roofline with asphalt shingles, vinyl siding and full-width porch with round columns. The façade features a centered entrance flanked by windows. An enclosed porch is located on the second level at the southwest corner and runs half the width with five small windows. A window is located to the left of the enclosed porch. Modern vinyl siding that covers all of the exterior trim, modern porch columns, enclosed sunroom on second level with added decorative trim and other alterations have impacted overall integrity.

**6. 415 N. Main Street, Liles, Robert P. and Maria House; ca. 1883. [nc]
(Historically known as 814 N. Main Street)**

A two-story front gable with asphalt shingles, vinyl siding and early or original windows. Located on the south elevation is a large shed dormer that extends over the porch and is supported by iron porch columns. Within the gable end of the first level is a bay window, and the second level features a 1/1 window. Storm windows have been installed over early or original 1/1 windows. Replacement siding that covers the exterior wall surface and trim has impacted the overall integrity.

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**7. 420 N. Main Street, Holy Cross Episcopal Church; ca. 1902. [c]
(Historically known as 708 N. Main Street); Photo 2**

A one-story side steeple church designed in the Late Gothic Revival style with a rusticated hollow core stone textured concrete block exterior over wood frame, steep front facing gable roof, tower, wall buttresses and Gothic arched stained windows. Entrance is located in the tower with paired red doors and a Gothic arched stained glass transom. In the gable end is a round stained glass window. The stone textured concrete block wall surface and tower wing was added to the original structure prior to 1917. A large rusticated concrete block addition is attached to the south elevation (ca. 2001) and to the east (rear) elevation, but does not detract from the historic character of the building.

**8. 421 N. Main Street, Moore-Dalton House; ca. 1883. NR 12/01/1994
(Historically known as 813 N. Main Street)**

A two-story framed Neo-Classical Revival house built in 1883 and remodeled to its current form in 1896. Dwelling features a side gable roof with asphalt shingles, interior brick chimney, weatherboard siding and sits on a brick and stone foundation. Characteristics of the Neo-Classical Revival style can be seen in the full height porch with fluted Ionic columns with a milled balustrade on the second level.

**9. 422 N. Main Street, N/A; ca. 1894. [c]
(Historically known as 805 N. Main Street)**

A one and one-half story Shingle style with side gable roof with pyramidal dormer, and shed dormer. Dwelling has a brick foundation, Masonite siding and a half-width porch with decorative dentil detailing above the porch. While the siding is not original, it seems to be several decades old. The house features early period or original windows and a replacement door. It retains its early or original footprint as depicted by the 1895 Sanborn map, as well as the majority of early or original architectural elements.

**10. 426 N. Main Street, Delvin, Mary House; ca. 1894. [c]
(Historically known as 804 N. Main Street); Photo 9**

A two-story front gable style with an intersecting side gable. Dwelling features asbestos siding and early or original 1/1 windows. Queen Anne influence can be seen in the side gable end of the south elevation with a projecting square bay supported by brackets; pediment porch on the south corner of the facade with an early or original entry door and later period storm door. Storm windows have been installed over the early or original windows. The dwelling retains its early or original footprint as depicted in an 1895 Sanborn map. It has experienced some alterations but those alterations are from a later, cohesive, historic-era remodeling.

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**11. 427 N. Main Street, N/A; ca. 1950. [nc]
(Historically known as 811 N. Main Street); Photo 6**

A two-story Colonial Revival style apartment building with an asphalt shingle hipped roof, and vinyl siding; replacement door with original sidelights and replacement windows. Façade is three bays with a centered pediment entry flanked by three paired windows. Second level features a centered window over entry flanked by double windows. The modern vinyl siding that covers all of the exterior trim, replacement windows, as well as other alterations have impacted overall integrity.

**12. 432 N. Main Street Fisher, Clarence O. and Flora House; ca. 1910. [c]
(Historically known as 803 N. Main Street)**

A one and one-half story Craftsman style bungalow with a side gable roof, brick walls and rusticated stone block foundation. A large shed-roofed dormer is centered on the front slope of the roof. The gable ends and shed dormer all have stucco clad wall surfaces. Gable ends have exposed triangular knee brace brackets. The façade features full-width porch with roof supported by rusticated stone block square columns with stone railing. The 6/1, 5/1 and 4/1 Craftsman windows are early or original, as is the wood multi-light entrance door and the concrete front porch trimmed in tile.

**13. 433 N. Main Street, Horton-Brown House; ca. 1912. [c]
(No previous address; undeveloped lot prior to current building); Photos 6, and 7**

A two and one-half story Craftsman style bungalow with side gable roof and brick walls. The front slope of the roof features a shed dormer with knee brackets. The façade has a full-width porch with a hipped roof centered gable with exposed rafter tails under the eaves. The porch is supported by brick and stucco tapered columns. The 6/1 and 3/1 Craftsman style windows are original, as is the multi-light entrance door with sidelights. An addition has been added at the rear (west) elevation but it does not detract from the dwelling's character defining features. The interior has retained its original wood trim, doors, staircase, hardwood floors and beamed/coffered ceilings. A decorative black iron fence sits atop a brick retaining wall and delineates the property boundaries. An iron gate leads to the entrance of the well-maintained yard with a sidewalk leading to the entrance of the dwelling.

**14. 437 N. Main Street, Leuer, Henry E. and Florence House; ca. 1884. [c]
(Historically known as 810 N. Main Street); Photos 6 and 8**

A two and one-half story Shingle style with cross gable roof, and one-story partial-width porch with spindle columns and decorative brackets. A small shed dormer clad in fish scale wood shingles is located on the front facing roof slope. First level is clad in original clapboard siding with bracketed cornice; second level projects and is clad in original fish scale wood shingles. A square bay window with carved panels is centered in the first level of the front gable with multi-light glazing. Another square bay clad in clapboard is located on the first level of the south elevation. Windows are original as well as the front

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entry door. The dwelling retains all of its original exterior fabric except for one section of porch railing that has been removed to install a handicap ramp on the north (side) elevation. The removed porch railing has been stored for future re-installation. Interior remains intact and has retained its early or original wood floors, wood trim, staircase, doors, and plaster walls.

There is a one story modern detached garage to the north and rear of property. [nc]

15. 443 N. Main Street, N/A; ca. 1957 [nc]

Photo 4

An asphalt paved parking lot with approximately ten (10) parking spaces delineated by painted lines. Entrance to the parking lot is directly from N. Main Street and centered. Parking spaces are located on the north and south sides of the lot and extend east-west. The lot is utilized by the residents of 445-447 N. Main Street but owned by a different property owner. Originally, the lot held a two-story residential dwelling that was razed ca. 1957. The parking lot is non-contributing as it was constructed after the period of significance.

16. 444 N. Main Street, Wilson, Howard C., Apartments; ca. 1981. [nc]

A modern multi-story apartment complex that is non-contributing. It has a side gable roof. Exterior walls are clad in brick and vinyl siding. Windows are modern two paired and three paired.

17. 445 - 447 N. Main Street, Brandon, Walter Lee, Apartments; ca. 1914. [c]

Photo 4

A two and one-half story brick Colonial Revival style apartment building with a side gable roof, and a centered front facing inset gable dormer with a multi-light Palladian window. The building contains a fourplex of townhouse type apartments each with its own entrance located under two gable roofed porticos in the second and fifth bay. The porticos are supported by knee brackets and the entrances bays are flanked by 35/1 early or original windows. Above the peak of the portico are paired multi-light casement windows, also flanked by 30/1 double hung window.

18. 450 N. Main Street; ca. 1947. [c]

Architect: McGowan Brothers

Zion Lutheran Church Building; Photo 5

A one and one-half story Tudor Revival style church with side gable and intersecting gable wing constructed of rusticated stone block. The roof is clad in tile shingles with stucco and faux half-timbering in the gable ends. Façade features a front gable entry with paired red doors. A pediment roof above the entry is supported by large decorated brackets. Centered in the gable front entry is a stepped parapet wall with a bell at the top. Windows are original multi-pane glazing casement and stained glass. Centered in the rear (east) elevation gable end is a stone chimney with a clay pot. A concrete

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sidewalk leads from the rear of the church to the Zion Lutheran School Building and to the Zion Lutheran House.

18 A. Zion Lutheran Parsonage House; ca. 1949 [c]

Photo 5

A one and one-half story Colonial Revival influenced dwelling with a side wing, side gable roof, asbestos siding and a concrete foundation. Centered within the main roofline are two gable dormers clad in siding. Dormers hold original 6/6 windows. The façade features an off-centered pediment porch supported by two square posts and original wood and glass panel door. Located to the left of the entry are original 8/8 windows; one small and one large. The wing is located west of the main block and features an original 8/8 window and a sunken garage on the lower level. Other elevations feature original 8/8 or 6/6 windows. Steep concrete steps lead to the concrete porch landing. The dwelling fronts Relief Street and is addressed as 529 Relief Street, but has always been associated with the Zion Lutheran Church and is located on the same parcel as the church. It is located to the east (rear) of the church building.

18 B. Zion Lutheran School Building; ca. 1954 [c]

Photo 5

A one story Modern movement influenced brick school with a low pitched gable-on-hipped roof and projecting eaves. Building is located on the same parcel and to the rear (east) of the Zion Lutheran Church. The building is clad in Roman style brick and has a concrete foundation. Façade features a recessed entrance with paired metal doors, a hipped roof and grouped ribbon windows. Another set of grouped ribbon windows is located on the west elevation.

19. 451 N. Main Street, Lowry, Lew C. and Lizzie House; ca.1910. [c]

Photo 4

A two and one-half story Queen Anne style dwelling with a cross gable roof, wrap around porch and vinyl siding. Footprint is irregular; the south and north elevations have projecting three-sided bays. Windows are original 1/1 on the first and second level with Palladian multi-pane glazed windows in the gable ends. The second level features an original round window in the northeast corner. Entrance door is original wood and glass panel. While the dwelling underwent some exterior alterations in 2006, the changes were not permanent. The replacement vinyl siding imitates the period clapboard. The replacement columns also imitate the period columns. A balustrade has been added to the porch roof but again, this is not a permanent alteration. The building with its original footprint, cross gable roofline, projecting bays, early or original windows and doors retains the feel and association of the Queen Anne style. Interior is intact and retains the original wood trim, wood doors, staircase, transoms, and plaster walls.

There is a one story metal garage to the north and rear of the property. **[nc]**

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20. 455 N. Main Street, Williamson, Hattie House; ca. 1923. [c]

Photo 1

A one and one-half story brick Craftsman style bungalow with a side gable roof. A large shed dormer with Craftsman style 2/1 group casement windows is clad in siding and centered on the roofline of the façade. Gable ends are clad in hexagon shingles with triangular knee brace brackets. The façade features full-width porch with roof supported by tapered wood columns on brick piers with enclosed brick railing. A large shed dormer with exposed brackets is featured on the rear sloping roof. The 5/1 or 3/1 Craftsman style windows are original as are the small square stained glass windows and entrance sidelights.

21. 460 N. Main Street, Abel-Baumgart House; ca. 1940. [c]

A one-story front gable form with Tudor Revival characteristics and Masonite siding. Tudor Revival influence can be seen in the early or original tall narrow paired casement windows with multi-pane glazing and in the double arched entry porch with a recessed entrance. A small oval window with multi-pane glazing is located within the wall surface of the entry porch. Located on the south elevation is a large chimney flanked by small square windows.

22. 462 N. Main Street, Marsh-Cannon House; ca. 1939. [c]

Photo 11

A one and one-half story Modern style influence with cross-gabled roofline and an ell; remodeled to its current form in the 1950s. The cross-gabled roof is clad in asphalt shingles. House has a partial-width porch with roof supported by decorative iron trellis post with a projecting awning. Façade is clad in Roman brick and other elevations clad in white metal siding over original clapboard siding. Centered on the front sloping roof is an eyebrow dormer with a fan light. Located on the first level of the gable front is a grouping of four 6/6 windows and a 6/6 window in the gable end. Windows are similar or same for the other elevations. Located on the sloping roof of the ell are two pediment dormers clad in clapboard siding. The ell was added in the early 1950s as were the replacement porch columns and metal awnings. The metal siding was added at a later date.

23. 464 N. Main Street, Saracini, Michael House; ca. 1925. [c]

Photo 3 and 10

A one and one-half story brick Craftsman style bungalow with a side gable roof. The side gable ends are clad in stucco, with triangular knee brace brackets. A large front gable dormer is centered on the front slope of the roof. Dormer walls are clad in stucco with triangular knee brace brackets in the gable end and exposed rafter tail brackets on the side eaves. A pediment with triangular knee brace brackets is centered below the gable dormer and the edge of the roofline. The porch is full-width with brick column bases and tapered stuccoed columns. The 5/1 and 4/2 Craftsman windows are early or

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original as is the concrete porch. A garage is located on the southeast corner of the lower level. Interior has original wood floors, wood trim, and fireplace mantel.

24. 468 N. Main Street, Weber, Charles House; ca. 1900 [c]

Photo 10

A two-story gable and wing form with asphalt shingles, replacement siding, and a wrap around porch with early or original Doric columns. The façade is symmetrical. Windows are early or original 1/1 with storm windows installed over. Windows are flanked by shutters. Two windows on the second level are enclosed by matching shutters. Entrance door is early or original wood with glass panel. The front and side gables have early or original decorative vergeboard with decorative brackets. A white picket fence delineates the property boundaries from the street, and a concrete sidewalk leads to the entrance of the dwelling.

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Summary:

The North Main Street Historic District includes 30 resources in the 400 block of North Main Street in Poplar Bluff, Butler County, MO. The district is locally significant under Criterion C: Architecture. Additionally, the brick street is significant under Criterion C: Engineering, representing the transformation of the town from rural outpost to modern city. A survey of more than 400 architectural and historic resources of Poplar Bluff identified the district as the most intact grouping of residential buildings in the community, and recommended it as the only eligible residential district based on survey data.¹ Though small, the district contains a rich collection of late 19th and early 20th century residential and religious buildings representing the town's boom period of commercial and residential growth sparked by the coming of the railroad and development of lumber-related industries between c. 1880 and c. 1920. As such, the district is associated with the "Late 19th and early 20th Century Residential Buildings" context outlined in the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri" MPDF. Late Victorian and Craftsman style buildings dominate the streetscape. The district also includes significant examples of residences representing the town's post-World War II recovery and development. The period of significance is c. 1880 to c. 1954, the period in which the district's significant buildings were constructed.

Elaboration

Historic Background

Poplar Bluff, named for the large poplar trees in the area, was first surveyed and platted in 1850; the first lots sold in May with a second sell of lots in August of the same year. A post office was established on February 27, 1850; Jesse A. Gilley served as the first postmaster. Slowly, people moved to the Poplar Bluff Township. In 1859, James S. Ferguson constructed the first frame house and by 1860, 12 more houses had been erected with approximately ten families residing in the township. Poplar Bluff experienced no growth during the years of the Civil War but experienced an abandonment of residents, and did not experience an increase in population until after the Civil War.² In 1869, Poplar Bluff experienced a slight rise in population, and the first newspaper, *Black River News*, was instituted (which soon became known as *Poplin's Black River News*). The newspaper business would undergo many changes until the

¹ Thomason and Associates. "Poplar Bluff, Missouri Architectural and Historical Inventory Survey Report." July 1990. Report on file at the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, Jefferson City, Missouri. Subsequent to the report a small district of consisting of three residences (all recommended as individually eligible) was listed in the National Register. However, the nominated district is larger and represents a wider variety of significant local building types and styles.

² Floyd Calvin Shoemaker, LL.D. *Missouri and Missourians: Land of Contrasts and People of Achievements*, Vol. II, Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1943, 865-867.

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establishment of *The Republican* (1888).³ On February 9, 1870, the Butler County court incorporated the township of Poplar Bluff.⁴ The town continued a slow growth pattern until the arrival of the St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad. The completion of the railroad line to Poplar Bluff in May 1872, as well as the line to Cairo, IL around 1874, provided a resource for the town to establish shipping and manufacturing industries. In addition to the railroad, the Black River enhanced the shipping and manufacturing commerce leading to a slow but steady population growth.⁵

By 1880, Poplar Bluff's population had grown to 791 and increased to 2,187 in 1890. During this ten year span, J.N. Roberts & Co. founded a veneering factory in 1880 and employed several workers to manufacture fruit baskets and veneer. It was followed by the establishment of the Keystone Lumber and Land Company (1882) and Poplar Bluff Lumber and Manufacturing Co. (1883). The largest employer in Poplar Bluff was the F.G. Oxley Stave Company with over \$100,000 in expenses per year. Other businesses established in the 1880s in Poplar Bluff included three mills, seven mercantile businesses, four drug stores, three hardware stores (which included furniture and a wagon maker), a tailor, a cobbler, and four grocery stores.⁶

Poplar Bluff continued to grow and by 1890 had a population of 2,187. The catalyst for development of the town evolved. On August 2, 1892, a special election was held and it was determined that Poplar Bluff would become a city. In September 1892, Poplar Bluff was formally classified as a city with M. C. Horton serving as the first Mayor. As the city continued to grow, it was determined a new water system was needed as the residents relied upon water from the river, wells and cisterns. On March 4, 1895 the new water station was completed. More improvements were implemented with the erection of a building to serve as city hall in 1902 and street improvements were made. Main Street was macadamized in 1902, and a resolution was passed on December 9, 1902 to macadamize the curbs and gutters on Cedar Street to Main Street to Eighth.⁷ With a population of 4,321 in 1902, the city of Poplar Bluff owned its water system, parks, playgrounds and a cemetery; the city had an assessed value of \$1,142,210.⁸

Poplar Bluff continued its brisk growth with a population of 6,916 by 1910.⁹ The town expanded out from the town square in all directions, with residential districts developing

³Goodspeed's, 479.

⁴David Bruce Deem. *History of Butler County Missouri: A Narrative Account of Its Historical Progress, Its People and Its Principal Interests*, Poplar Bluff, MO: Poplar Bluff Printing Company, 1940., 64.

⁵Shoemaker. 867.

⁶Goodspeed's 478-479.

⁷*Municipal Engineering*. Vol. XXIII, July – December 1902, New York: Municipal Engineering Co., 1903 141 and *Municipal Engineering*. Vol. XXIV January – June 1903, New York: Municipal Engineering Co., 1903, 70.

⁸*The Municipal Year Book 1902*. New York: The Engineering News Publishing Co., 1902, 274.

⁹United States Census Bureau. *Census of Population and Housing*. 1900-1910, Available online at:

<http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/decennial/>. Access date: 6 October 2010

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around the edge of the business district, along Main Street, Fifth Street, Vine Street and other nearby areas.¹⁰ Along with the increase in residential housing, by 1912 the city had 75 mercantile businesses. In 1913, the city experienced an increase in construction activity with total of 150 buildings erected for residential, commercial, school and church use. In addition, a new post office was built. As the town grew, more improvements were accomplished. During 1912 – 1913 the city paved 40 blocks of its downtown streets, including North Main Street, which was covered with brick pavers.¹¹ In 1914, a contract was let to erect an electric plant; prior to that, electricity had been provided by a private company. By 1917, the city had installed 285 street lights in the residential area and additional lighting in the business sector.¹²

Poplar Bluff continued to advance in the business and industry sector throughout the years. Population also continued to grow with the only downturn being between the years of 1920 (8,042) and 1930 (7,551).¹³ A decline in the population may have been due to a decrease in the timber industry and the result of a tornado in 1927, which resulted in the death of 82 residents.¹⁴ The years 1930 to 1960 marked a growth of population (15,853), as more industry developed in the area.¹⁵ Poplar Bluff has continued to grow and prosper since 1960.

History of North Main Street Historic District

Developed between c. 1880 and the 1950s, the North Main Street Historic District is one of several late 19th and early 20th century neighborhoods in Poplar Bluff. The neighborhood is one of the city's most intact, in terms of contiguous neighborhood development, based on architectural and historic survey data compiled in 1990. According to the 1990 survey report prepared by Thomason and Associates, other residential neighborhoods were excluded from National Register consideration due to unfortunate zoning which allowed for multi-family dwellings to be constructed in the midst of existing historic buildings. While the North Main Street Historic District is the most intact late 19th and early 20th century neighborhood, it is possible there are other small residential neighborhoods eligible for National Register consideration, as the survey data is more than 20 years old and only included buildings constructed prior to 1940. Since the 1990 survey, the historic preservation field has a better understanding

¹⁰ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Poplar Bluff, Butler County, MO. New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1901, 1917.

¹¹ John T. Fitzpatrick, Commissioner. *Missouri, 1912-13-14: Resources, Advantages, Opportunities of a Great, Thriving Commonwealth*. Missouri Booster Pamphlet, Part 1, 1913 Red Book, Prelude to the Thirty-Fifth Annual Report, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Self-Published, 1914.

¹² "Growth Under Municipal Ownership: The Story of the Water and Light Plant in Poplar Bluff, MO." *The American City*, Vol. XVII, July – December 1917, New York: The Civic Press., 469.

¹³ United States Census Bureau. 1920-1930.

¹⁴ Robert H. Forister. *Complete History of Butler County, Missouri*, Marble Hill, MO: Steard Publishing & Printing Co., 1999, 243 and Shoemaker. 867.

¹⁵ United States Census Bureau. 1930-1960.

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of the significant impact post-war construction had on communities. Other neighborhoods should be re-evaluated, as the outcome could be different if post-war buildings are taken into account. This can be seen in the North Main Street district as the boundaries suggested by the 1990 survey excluded properties on the east side of Main from 450 to 468 North Main Street, a section of block developed after WWII. More recent evaluation of the neighborhood determined that the post-war buildings played a significant role in the history and development of the district and represent important local property types and styles.

The North Main Street Historic District was originally part of undeveloped land at the northern edge of the town square, and this area grew slowly after the settlement and incorporation of Poplar Bluff.

The district buildings represent two periods of development. The majority were constructed c. 1880 – 1930 – an important growth period in the city. There are also significant buildings dating from c. 1940 – 1954 representing the city's post-war recovery and growth. Development of the district came to a standstill during the Great Depression with only one dwelling erected in 1939. This period was followed by a limited number of new buildings constructed in the 1940s and 1950s. Period of construction encompassed 74 years – resulting in a large variety of architectural types and styles. The district is comprised of five subdivision or additions. The subdivisions/additions were platted at different times; two in the 1880s, two in the early 1900s and one in 1921.¹⁶

The first area of the district to be platted was known as Jones Addition; developed by J. M. Jones and recorded on April 29, 1885 with no restrictions.¹⁷ The Jones Addition is comprised of properties located to north of Lester Street and on the west side of N. Main Street. There are only three residential dwellings located within Jones' Addition, and all were built in the 1880s. Among these is 405 N. Main Street, which is the oldest known house in the district (ca. 1880) and a contributing resource. According to federal census records and city directories, it was owned by Carl Knecht, a local druggist, who rented to boarders. It is not known if he originally built the dwelling. The other two houses in Jones' Addition are 411 (ca. 1888) and 415 (ca. 1883) N. Main Street. James Brandon, a conductor with the local railroad, resided with his family and live-in servants at 411 N. Main; Robert and Maria Liles resided at 415 N. Main. Liles was owner of Liles & Williams Shoes and Men's Furnishings in nearby downtown.¹⁸

¹⁶ Sanborn. 1895, 1901, 1917, 1924, 1928, 1950.

¹⁷ Deed of Records, Book 2, Page 11. Recorder of Deeds, Butler County Courthouse, Poplar Bluff, MO.

¹⁸ United States Census Bureau. 1900-1920.

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Johnson's Addition was the next to be platted and recorded on April 5, 1887, developed by Harvey E. Johnson with no restrictions.¹⁹ The addition is located on the east side of the street, beginning at 422 N. Main Street and extending north to 464 N. Main Street. Johnson's Addition was developed over a long time span from around 1894 to 1954. It is comprised of five houses including a parsonage, one church and a school associated with the Zion Lutheran Church. At one time, Johnson's Addition had three more houses located at the current location of the Howard C. Wilson Apartments (1982), 444 N. Main Street. While Johnson's Addition contains some of the oldest houses in the district (422 and 426 N. Main) it also has houses built in the 1920s – 1940s, including 464 N. Main Street (ca. 1925) built by Michael Saracini, a local businessman who owned a confectionary at 514 N. Main Street. Saracini, who came to the United States from Italy, built the Craftsman style bungalow and resided on the first level with his family, renting out the upstairs. Located south of the Saracini House, J. S. Marsh constructed a one-and one-half story Modern Movement influenced dwelling clad in Roman brick with a cross gable roofline (462 N. Main, ca. 1939) but only resided in the house a few years before Edward Cannon purchased it; Cannon lived there for several decades. A one story front gable house with Tudor Revival influence was constructed at 460 N. Main Street around 1940, and Louis Abel resided in the house a few years before Leo Baumgart purchased it. Baumgart worked in the family business, Baumgart Motor Co., located nearby on Pine Street and resided in the house for many years.²⁰ In 1947, the Zion Lutheran Church constructed a Tudor Revival church at the corner of N. Main Street and Relief Streets, and then erected a parsonage house in 1949 directly behind the church with a street address of 529 Relief Street. Zion Lutheran in 1954 constructed a one-story Modern Movement influenced school building located directly behind the church and the parsonage.²¹ The school building is the most recently constructed contributing building within the district.

Duncan's Subdivision is shown on the 1895 Sanborn map. However, it is unknown when the subdivision originated as there is no known written record on file. Duncan's Subdivision is located on the west side of N. Main Street and commences at 433 N. Main Street and ends at 455 N. Main Street. The subdivision developed over several years from around 1884 to 1923. It is comprised of one Queen Anne Style house, one Shingle style house, two Craftsman style bungalows and a Colonial Revival style apartment dwelling. The oldest dwelling is the Henry and Florence Leuer House (ca. 1884) at 437 N. Main Street, which is an intact Victorian Shingle style dwelling with original materials; exterior and interior. Leuer managed a veneer mill in town and continued to reside in the home until 1928, when his wife passed away. After her death,

¹⁹ Deed of Record, Book 6, Page 49.

²⁰ United States Census Bureau. 1900-1950 and

Hoffman. 1945 and *Polk's Poplar Bluff (Butler County, MO.) City Directory*. Kansas City, MO: R.L. Polk & Co., Publishers, 1947, 1952, 1957, 1960.

²¹ Sanborn. 1950.

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he moved to Cape Girardeau to live with his daughter until his death in September 1929.²² The Queen Anne style dwelling, the Lew and Lizzie Lowry House (ca. 1910) at 451 N. Main Street is a two and one-half story house that retains its original windows and form. Lowry managed a local lumber company; it is unknown if he had the dwelling built.²³ It currently houses an attorney's office. One of the largest houses in the district, 433 N. Main Street, is a two-story Craftsman style bungalow built in 1913 for M. C. Horton, president of the Bank of Poplar Bluff. In 1915, Horton's wife held a meeting at their residence (250 people in attendance) which laid the foundation for the first public library in Poplar Bluff.²⁴ Later the home was purchased by Dwight H. Brown, who served as a Missouri Senator (one term), Missouri Parole Commissioner (one term), and Secretary of State in Missouri (three terms). Brown ran for governor during his last term in office as Secretary of State but withdrew on March 7, 1944 due to health problems which led to his death on May 8, 1944.²⁵ The Morton-Brown House retains its original materials on the exterior and interior. It currently serves as an attorney's office. To accommodate the needs of the firm, an addition was added to the rear of the building. The addition does not distract from the building's historic character or that of the district. The second Craftsman style bungalow (455 N. Main) is near the northwest boundary of the district. The house was built for Hattie Williamson, who previously resided at 406 N. Main Street.²⁶ The dwelling is an excellent representation of the Craftsman style and retains the majority of its original materials. Duncan's Subdivision also includes a two and one-half story brick Colonial Revival apartment building (445-447 N. Main). The property still functions as it was originally intended, multi-family housing, when constructed ca. 1914.²⁷ The property fits the characteristics of the district and adds to the historic character of the neighborhood.

Harviell's Addition was developed by Charles P. Harviell with no restrictions and recorded on October 22, 1901.²⁸ It is a small addition with only two houses and a church. The Holy Cross Episcopal Church was the first building to be constructed after the addition was platted. The church was constructed in 1902 at 420 N. Main Street.²⁹ At the time of the development of Harviell's Addition, two houses dating back to at least 1895, according to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, were located at 406 and 412 N. Main Street. These were replaced around 1906 and 1907. Charles and Hattie Williamson

²² "Leuer Funeral is Held Here." *Southeast Missourian*, 4 Sept. 1929, Cape Girardeau, MO.

²³ United States Census Bureau. 1910.

²⁴ Phil Thomason. National Register nomination, "Poplar Bluff Public Library, Poplar Bluff, Butler County, MO. 1994.

²⁵ "Dwight Brown Dies; Long in State Service." *Moberly Monitor-Index and Moberly Evening Democrat*, 8 May 1944, 1-2.

²⁶ United States Census Bureau. 1920-1930 and Hoffman. 1926.

²⁷ Sanborn. 1901, 1917 and Hoffman., 1914.

²⁸ Deed of Record Book 3, Page 17.

²⁹ Thomason and Association. *Historic and Architectural Resources of Poplar Bluff, MO*, 2006, 59 and Sanborn. 1901 and 1917.

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constructed a two-story Queen Anne dwelling at 406 N. Main, ca. 1906. Williamson was a local physician and his wife a school teacher. They resided in the house until Williamson's death when Hattie erected a small Craftsman style bungalow at 455 N. Main Street (noted above) and resided there for many years.³⁰ Located next to the Williamson's (to the north) was the George and Myrtle Allison House, a two and one-half story dwelling, built around 1907. The family established the Allison Mercantile Company in 1906, located downtown at Vine and Fourth Streets.³¹ Residing in the residence with them were Myrtle's parents.³²

Weber Subdivision was platted and recorded on September 6, 1921 by developer and local druggist, Charles H. Weber.³³ There is only one building in the 400 block of N. Main Street located within this subdivision, 468 N. Main Street the Charles Weber House, ca. 1900. The two and one-half story house is a front gable and wing form with a wrap around porch. It is depicted on a 1901 Sanborn map. Prior to 1924 it underwent porch alterations, changing it from a partial-width to the current wrap around. Also, an addition was constructed on the rear of the property as depicted on Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Weber and his wife, Hallie Baker, resided in the dwelling for several years.³⁴ The Weber House is located near the northeast boundary of the district at the corner of N. Main and Fifth Streets.

There are two houses within the district boundaries that are not part of any subdivisions or additions, 421 and 427 N. Main Street. The Moore-Dalton House (420 N. Main) is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places (12/01/1994). It currently functions as a museum. To the south of the property line is an alleyway that has been vacated. The other dwelling not part of a subdivision or addition is located directly north of 420 N. Main Street; a two-story Colonial Revival style apartment building (427 N. Main) built ca. 1950.³⁵

The North Main Street Historic District grew over a long period of time and thus incorporates subdivisions and additions of varying sizes upon which are built an eclectic mix of house types, styles and sizes, and historic institutional buildings. While the district may be comprised of different subdivisions and additions, there are no defining characteristics that differentiate them. Instead, the subdivisions and additions create a cohesive district. The history of how each one was established is limited and little written documentation on the history of the subdivisions/additions exists. While there is

³⁰United States Census Bureau. 1900-1920 and Tax Records. Poplar Bluff Tax Assessment, Butler County Courthouse, Poplar Bluff, MO. and Sanborn. 1924, 1928 and "Deaths." *Journal of American Medical Association*, 28 June 1924, Available at: <http://www.jama.com>. Accessed on 7 October 2010.

³¹ Forister. 182.

³² United States Census Bureau. 1910.

³³ Deed of Record, Book 9, Page 92.

³⁴ United States Census Bureau. 1910-1930.

³⁵ Tax Records.

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little documentation on how the district was platted, documentation does exist on the residents and their lifestyle.

The North Main Street Historic District looks much as it did when the buildings were constructed by and for local business professionals and residents. The blending of house styles along with the institutional buildings and brick street serves a visual foundation of the historic value of the neighborhood. The houses range in sizes from large to more modest; documenting the trends of residential living in Poplar Bluff and exhibiting architectural styles that were popular across the country and prevalent in Poplar Bluff. While some of the buildings have experienced a change in exterior material or additions during the period of significance, this pattern was common throughout the United States and in Poplar Bluff. These changes were made as demands and lifestyles changed over an extended period of time and are reflected in the 1990 survey report that compiled data on 413 buildings in the city.³⁶ However, like houses everywhere, the residential dwellings were redesigned by the transforming cultural flow, modifying use, and introduction of new building materials.³⁷ While some of the buildings in the district may have experienced changes, overall, those changes do not significantly impact the form and identifying architectural features of these building types. Despite changes, these are still significant local examples of important architectural types and forms and as a whole is the best and most intact historic residential district in the community.

During the 20th century, houses underwent changes to the exterior as well as the interior as homeowners tried to keep the house current in design while also making it functional for the family's changing needs. In addition to the changes that occurred with the main dwelling, people added detached garages to their property to accommodate changes in transportation. Originally, these garages were small then increasingly became larger to accommodate larger automobiles (or more than one automobile). This trend is seen in the district at 406 and 437 N. Main Street.³⁸ Both of which have modern (post 1954) detached garages.

Interior changes to dwellings accommodated the needs of the family. Additions were often constructed to provide viable living space in the form of bedrooms, family rooms or kitchens; as in the dwellings located at 405 and 462 N. Main Street. Sometimes a back porch would be enclosed to enlarge the kitchen, as with the home at 437 N. Main Street. Other interior changes occurred when Poplar Bluff added electrical, water and sewer systems. Home owners remodeled the interior to accommodate a bathroom, or add on a room.³⁹ In addition, homes were remodeled to become more efficient,

³⁶ Thomason.

³⁷ Stewart Brand. *How Buildings Learn: What Happens After They're Built*, New York: Penguin Books, 1994, 2.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

³⁹ Brand. 19.

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especially in the kitchen and laundry area.⁴⁰ Modernization of dwellings was part of the life changes a house experienced to adapt to the cultural trends and demands.

Exterior changes were done for a variety of reasons including changing trends, new technology and maintenance issues. Additionally, building codes required additional egresses from upstairs apartments in multi-family housing units. The house at 468 N. Main Street is a great example of a dwelling that adapted due to building code standards through installation of an exterior staircase as a form of egress.⁴¹ Exterior modifications to houses not prompted by building codes often included replacement siding over original clapboard siding, replacement windows, and roofing shingles either for maintenance or for conformity with modern-day styles that replaced the ornate embellishments of earlier architectural styles and allowed for easier maintenance.⁴²

Every residential dwelling in the North Main Street Historic District and two of the institutional buildings feature roofs clad in asphalt shingles; exception being the Zion Lutheran Church which is clad in clay tile. While it is unknown what the original roof material was on the historic homes built prior to invention of asphalt shingles, these houses probably had wood shingles. Asphalt roofing first appeared in the 1840s but was not frequently used until the 1880s. By the 1920s, asphalt shingles were endorsed by the National Board of Fire Underwriter's as a safer alternative than wood shingles. Property owners sought out asphalt shingles not only as a way to modernize their houses but also as an inexpensive choice that offered a variety of colors, patterns and shapes.⁴³

Asphalt shingles were not the only new innovative materials being manufactured in the early 1900s for buildings, new forms of exterior siding material was introduced. Portland cement combined with asbestos fibers was produced to form a fire-resistant and resilient building material. Among those products were asbestos shingles and asbestos siding.⁴⁴ While none of the buildings in the district feature asbestos shingles for roofing materials, there are three dwellings clad in asbestos siding: 406 and 426 N. Main Street, and the Zion Lutheran Parsonage House at 529 Relief Street. The asbestos siding on the dwellings at 406 and 426 N. Main Street is replaced the original clapboard siding. The parsonage house was built with asbestos as its original wall covering. Asbestos siding is considered to be a significant building material and was used on many residential dwellings in the community. It was produced in the 20th century and played a

⁴⁰ Clark. 208

⁴¹ Ibid., 5, 10 and 74.

⁴² Clifford Edward Clark, Jr. *The American Family Home 1800-1960*, Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1986, 130-131.

⁴³ Richa Wilson and Kathleen Snodgrass. "Early 20th-Century Building Materials: Siding and Roofing," United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Technology and Development Program, February 2008, 2.

⁴⁴ Amy Lamb Woods. "Keeping a Lid on It: Asbestos-Cement Building Materials," National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, August 2000, 1.

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role in the modernization of existing buildings, as well as in new construction. It was first introduced in the United States in 1905 as a coating, but in 1907 Austrian Ludwig Hatschek introduced asbestos-cement sheets. Asbestos-cement siding was introduced in the 1920s as an alternate to clapboard siding. Asbestos-cement siding appealed to homeowners and builders for its ease of installation with pre-drilled nail holes and could be easily installed over existing wall surface material. It was marketed as the perfect building material: fireproof, rot resistant, termite impermeable, and endorsed by the National Board of Fire Underwriters.⁴⁵ Its popularity continued to grow until 1973 when the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) executed a ban on asbestos products.⁴⁶

Another popular siding produced in the 20th century was Masonite siding - a form of hardboard siding. Masonite siding is a dense smooth surface wood fiber composition board compiled of extremely dense fibers. Masonite siding was a popular replacement wall surface material used on houses in the North Main Street Historic District and throughout the community. The houses at 405, 422, and 460 N. Main Street all feature Masonite siding as exterior wall surface material. The Masonite Corporation (originally the Mason Fiber Company) produced Masonite boards in the 1920s, marketing their product to the building industry and homeowners as resistant to water. By the 1950s, it was an important building material for new construction and renovation of existing buildings due to its ease of use, light weight and moderate price.⁴⁷

In addition to asbestos and Masonite siding popular in the 20th century, metal and vinyl siding were widely used in the district. There is one dwelling (462 N. Main) with metal siding on its exterior elevation wall surfaces and brick on the façade. Vinyl siding was more widely utilized in the district and throughout the community. There are six houses in the district featuring the siding (411, 412, 415, 427, 451 and 468 N. Main Street). Metal/steel siding was the first to be introduced into the building industry in 1903, but it was resisted because it was prone to water saturation and rust. In 1939, metal siding experienced a rebirth when Frank Hoess, an Indiana machinist, crafted interlocking lips on the top and bottom of the panels. However, metal siding manufacturing stalled when World War II diverted the steel industry. After the war, due to the housing boom, metal siding was again in high demand. Aluminum siding was introduced in 1946, and both steel and aluminum remained prevalent until the 1970s when vinyl siding overtook the siding market. Vinyl siding was introduced into the building industry in 1963 and experienced a slow growth in popularity until the 1970s. Metal, aluminum and vinyl siding were all popular exterior wall surface materials, due to their inexpensive costs,

⁴⁵ Wilson. 4-6.

⁴⁶ Woods. 4

⁴⁷ Thomas C. Jester. *Twentieth-Century Building Materials*, New York, New York: McGraw-Hill Companies, 1995, 123-125.

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and low-maintenance.⁴⁸ Data provided in the 1990 survey indicates metal, aluminum and vinyl siding were a popular choice among home owners in the community.

Numerous historic buildings were modernized with the installation of asbestos-cement, Masonite, metal, aluminum and vinyl siding over the original clapboard siding or wood shingles. This form of modernization and maintenance occurred locally throughout many residential neighborhoods in the community, as well as in the buildings in the North Main Street Historic District. In addition to resurfacing walls with materials that were different from the original, windows were replaced due to modernization and maintenance issues. Alterations of the buildings utilizing various siding materials was common in the district, with some alterations occurring during the period of significance. These changes reflect common maintenance practices. Though these alterations introduce new material on historic buildings, for the most part they do not significantly impact the historic character of the district nor the significant architectural features of the buildings that indicate style and period of construction. Even with these changes, the North Main Street district is the best and most intact historic residential district in the community.

History of Brick Roadways in the United States and Missouri

The development of the brick paver industry occurred during Poplar Bluff's boom period of c. 1880 to c. 1920. Brick street pavers were introduced in the 1870s in Charleston, WV, but hard-burn brick used there did not stand up to long term usage. The introduction of vitrified pavers produced from glacial clay in 1883 made brick pavers a long-term and feasible paving material.⁴⁹ Brick pavers had a clear advantage over other paving materials available in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Brick was economical, durable, easily repaired, and had a smooth surface.⁵⁰ Vitrified brick paving, when compared to other forms of street materials, was best overall for traffic (pedestrians, horses, wagons, and automobiles). Brick pavers allowed an easy and inexpensive method for the installation of water and sewer lines.⁵¹

Brick pavers were especially popular in the central and western states where raw materials used to produce the product were readily available. Though Missouri was a significant producer of brick pavers, producing over \$500,000 in pavers in 1907, Poplar Bluff awarded its contract for pavers to Roy Williams and Murphysboro Brick Paving Company in 1912.⁵² Poplar Bluff began paving streets with macadam in 1902 but chose to improve some of its principal streets with brick due to increased traffic and

⁴⁸ Wilson. 6-7.

⁴⁹ Heinrich Ries, Ph.D. and Henry Leighton, A.B. *History of Clay-Working in the United States*, John Wiley & Sons: New York, 1909, 36. 36 – 37.

⁵⁰ *Brick Roadways*, Press of Allen, Lane & Scott: Philadelphia, 1894, 44, 78 and 80.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, 57-59, 85.

⁵² "Contract Let; Paving is Sure: Cairo contractor Wins Award on \$86,645.24 Bid."

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property owners request on the main business streets and intersecting residential streets. Poplar Bluff in 1912 passed an ordinance to lay brick pavers on eight streets for a total of 40 blocks.⁵³ Those brick pavers are still in use today, 98 years later, and are in excellent condition.

Poplar Bluff Brick Street History

The brick paved street of the 400 block of North Main Street is locally significant under Criterion C, in the area of ENGINEERING, as an excellent example of road-related construction utilizing brick pavers in 1912-1913 and represents the transformation of the town from rural outpost to modern city. It embodies a local and national trend that developed through many cities and towns in the same time period and presents a representative sampling of early 20th century road-related construction in the community.

North Main Street had undergone street improvement prior to installation of brick pavers in 1912 -1913. In 1902, Mayor Abington made plans to improve Main Street with macadam (compressed layers of small broken stones bound together with tar or asphalt).⁵⁴ The street remained macadamized until 1912 -1913. The concept to pave some of the streets in brick pavers in Poplar Bluff evolved in November of 1909 when city officials and property owners felt there was a need for a more durable road surface with increased traffic on the main business thoroughfare (Main Street) and intersecting residential streets. However, costs for the project were more than anticipated, and the project was suspended for two years.⁵⁵ In 1912, the city moved forward with plans to pave several streets and contacted a well-known civil engineer, Henry Rohwer, to assist with the paving project. Rohwer consulted with Edward C. Thomas, city engineer, on May 25, 1912, to compose a plan for paving. Rohwer returned to Poplar Bluff at a later date to finalize the plan. An ordinance was passed by the city council on July 17, 1912 to consent to the plan drawn up by Rohwer and Thomas. The plan identified the heaviest traveled streets for business and the intersecting residential to be paved: Main, Ash, Cedar, Cherry, Fourth, Maple, Poplar, Second and Vine.⁵⁶ The total paving project costs, which included engineering fees, were estimated as \$97,481.16. City council opened the bids for the project during a council meeting on August 22, 1912.⁵⁷

The City of Poplar Bluff awarded Portland Cement Company of Cape Girardeau with the concrete bid for the use of Eagle Brand concrete. Murphysboro Paving Brick Company of Murphysboro, IL was awarded the bid to supply the brick pavers with Egyptian Brick,

⁵³ Fitzpatrick . 220.

⁵⁴ *Municipal Engineering*. Indiana; Municipal Engineering Co., Vol. XXIII, June 1902, 141.

⁵⁵ Blanche Wolpers. *Bricks and Martyrs*. Poplar Bluff Historic Preservation Commission, 1999.

⁵⁶ "Famed Engineer Studied Streets," *The Daily Republican*, 25 May 1912.

⁵⁷ "Contract Let; Paving is Sure: Cairo contractor Wins Award on \$86,645.24 Bid," *The Daily Republican*, 23 August 1912.

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a brand of brick established in 1909, to be used. Paving contractor, Roy Williams of Cairo, IL, was awarded the paving contract based on his bid of \$86,645.24. Estimated total costs for the paving work were calculated as \$88,710.15; Williams' bid came in \$2,064.91 under the projected paving cost estimate. Contract terms specified the paving be completed within 90 days but allowed an extension if there were weather delays. Williams stated during the city council meeting that the paving project would commence at several sites, and at the height of the project there could be up to 200 hundred workers on the project.⁵⁸ By August of 1913, Williams had completed 20 blocks of brick pavers and another 20 blocks completed by the end of 1913.⁵⁹

Murphysboro Brick Paving Company and Egyptian Brick

Murphysboro Brick Paving Company of Murphysboro, IL was incorporated (1909) with \$100,000 in capital and manufactured an innovative brick paver identified as "Egyptian." Officers of the company were W. H. Hill, President; Henry Jenkins, Secretary-Treasurer; and D. H. Downery, Superintendent.⁶⁰

The company reported (June 1909) that it employed 65 workers and expected to increase to 200 employees when the construction of the plant was completed. Capacity of the plant was 50,000 bricks per day with future production set at 200,000 per day. Located on 60 acres of clay terrain, the Murphysboro Brick Paving Company had several buildings for operations: engine room, machinery room, boiler room, clay warehouse, office and grinding room. The factory was located along the lines of the Missouri Pacific, Mobile & Ohio and Illinois Central Railroads which allowed for direct contact with the market place.⁶¹

Brick pavers produced at the plant, used in the construction of North Main Street, were prepared from a combination of shale and clay extracted from the ground by powerful steam shovels. The surface clay was removed with smaller power shovels.⁶² Clay and shale were dumped in cars of 1 ½ yards capacity by a hoisting engine and a cable-way which delivered shale and clay to the cart.⁶³ The blend of shale and clay consisted of two-thirds shale and one-third clay. The mixture was placed in a huge vat with specialized machinery, pulverized and puddled with water, similar to the blending of bread dough. Once blended, it was pushed out under high pressure and the green brick was wire cut at the velocity of several thousand bricks per hour then placed in an oven.

⁵⁸ "Contract Let; Paving is Sure: Cairo contractor Wins Award on \$86,645.24 Bid"

⁵⁹ Fitzpatrick, 220

⁶⁰ "Now Turning Out Pavers At Murphysboro," *Brick: A Monthly Record of the World's Progress in Clayworking* Vol. XXX, June 1909, 281 and "Home of Egyptian Block," *Brick: A Monthly Record of the World's Progress in Clayworking* Vol. XXXI, Dec. 1909, 232.

⁶¹ "Home of Egyptian Block," 232.

⁶² *Murphysboro Daily Independent*, 16 October 1923.

⁶³ "Home of Egyptian Block," p. 232.

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All the moisture from the green brick was absorbed and placed in kilns to bake for six days and dried for 24 hours. The entire process from start to finish took 17 days.⁶⁴

The Egyptian brick pavers, like those supplied to Poplar Bluff, were furnished to several towns, cities and communities throughout the United States. The bricks and pavers produced from Murphysboro Paving Brick Company were shipped to every state in the county and to Canada.⁶⁵ Bricks manufactured at the plant were also used in the construction of the Panama Canal. Murphysboro Brick Paving Company was awarded the contract to supply bricks for the Panama Canal at the unit cost of \$38.84 per thousand. Upon completion, the plant supplied 1,381,000 bricks.⁶⁶ Murphysboro Brick Paving Company continued to produce bricks and pavers until it ceased operation in 1931.⁶⁷

Roy L. Williams

The City of Poplar Bluff commissioned Roy L. Williams, a well known paving contractor, to lay vitrified brick pavers on Main, Ash, Cedar, Cherry, Fourth, Maple, Poplar, Second and Vine Streets.⁶⁸ Born near or in Connersville, Fayette County, IN, around 1871, Williams resided in Connersville and worked in the street paving business until about 1908 when he relocated with his wife, Effie Prosser, to Cairo, IL.⁶⁹ He was awarded the Poplar Bluff job in 1912. Prior to securing the Poplar Bluff contract, he carried out more paving contracts, as related to financial value, than any other paving service provider in the country.⁷⁰ By 1917, Williams had moved to Mississippi County, MO, where he managed his paving business from his "Woodsdale Farm" near or in Charleston.⁷¹ Williams was awarded several paving contracts, some of which included: Kalamazoo, MI (1906), Cairo and Normal, IL (1908), Charleston, MO (1920 and 1923), Cape Girardeau to Charleston, MO (1930), Dudley to Dexter, MO (1930), McClure and Ware, IL (1930).⁷² Williams continued to reside in Charleston, MO until his death on December 7, 1931. He was buried in Connersville, IN.⁷³

⁶⁴ *Murphysboro Daily Independent*, 16 October 1923.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶⁶ *Annual Report of the Governor of Panama Canal for Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1917*, Washington: Government Printing Office, 1917, 115.

⁶⁷ Donella Odum, Library Director, Sallie Logan Public Library, email correspondence, 12 September 2010.

⁶⁸ "Contract Let; Paving is Sure: Cairo Contractor Wins Award on \$86,645.24 Bid."

⁶⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, 1900 and 1910.

⁷⁰ "Contract Let; Paving is Sure: Cairo Contractor Wins Award on \$86,645.24 Bid."

⁷¹ Frederic Irving Barrows. *History of Fayette County Indiana: Her People, Industries and Institutions*, Indianapolis, IN: F.F. Bower & Company, Inc., 1917, 1156-1157.

⁷² *Annual Reports of the City of Kalamazoo: For the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 1906*. Kalamazoo, MI: Kalamazoo Publishing Co., 1906, 60 and *Municipal Engineering Index*. Vol. XXXVIII, Jan – June, 1910, Indianapolis, IN: Municipal Engineering Co., 1910, 372 and *Public Works*. Vol. XLIX, July – Dec. 1920, New York: Municipal Journal and Engineer, Inc., 501 and "Illinois Road Project Goes to Charleston Man." *Southeast Missourian*, 11 Sept. 1930; "Take Bids on Road to Cape." *Southeast Missourian*, 5 June 1930.

⁷³ "Roy Williams Obituary" *Connersville (IND.) News-Examiner*, 7 Dec. 1931.

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Henry Rohwer

The City of Poplar Bluff commissioned civil engineer Henry Rohwer to design plans for street improvements utilizing brick pavers for several streets in the downtown area. Rohwer was well known throughout the United States. Born on October 17, 1847 (in the vicinity of Rensburg, Holstein, Germany) to Henry and Margaret Rohwer, Henry was educated in provincial schools and Dr. Jessen's Polytechnic Institute, Hamburg (1865). He graduated Royal Polytechnic School (Hanover) with a civil engineering degree (1869).

Rohwer traveled to the United States (1869) where he acquired employment with the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad (1869 to 1874) and lived in Omaha, NE, where he held many positions: topographer, engineer in charge of location and construction, resident engineer of road and acting chief engineer (1872) of the Omaha and Southwestern Railroad. He was City Engineer of Omaha (1876-1881) where he established street grades, prepared a topographical map of Omaha, surveyed a vast area of the city, designed a sewage and water system and initiated construction of the sewage system. In 1881, he constructed the Oregon Short Line, the Portneuf River Canyon railway line, and a railway through the Bannock and Shoebone Indian Reservations. Rohwer was appointed Resident Engineer of the Hodges Pass Tunnel (1883 -1884) and in 1884 invented and patented a kiln. He built several kilns throughout the United States. Rohwer worked for Missouri Pacific Railroad (1885), and later constructed the Omaha Belt Railway and the Missouri Pacific Extension to Lincoln, NE. He was promoted to Chief Engineer (1901) of the Missouri Pacific Railway and the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway, Leased and Operated Lines. Rohwer was in charge of the construction of the Eldorado-Bastrop Railway, Memphis; Helena and Louisiana Railway, and White River Railway. Rohwer established his own company (ca. 1906) in St. Louis.

Rohwer became an activist early on in his career for better roads and lectured to the first Good Roads Convention of the State of Missouri in 1893, where he was known as "The Father of Good Roads." In 1908, he was elected to the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Architecture

The North Main Street Historic District is significant under Criterion C, in the area of ARCHITECTURE as an exceptional intact late-19th and early 20th-century neighborhood in Poplar Bluff. The district reflects popular local and national architectural styles. According to the 1990 survey data, the North Main Historic District is the most intact grouping of locally significant architectural styles in the city. Like many residential developments throughout the community, the residential dwellings, two churches and one school located within the boundaries of the North Main Street Historic

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District illustrate late-19 and early to mid-20th-century residential and institutional architecture; as well as local and national trends of modernization and renovation of pre-existing buildings when new building materials emerged in the building industry.

Late Victorian Nationwide: ca. 1860-1910; 400 Block of North Main Street ca. 1884 - 1910

The term *Late Victorian* is applied here to illustrate late 19th and early 20th century dwellings that demonstrate general characteristics of Victorian-era architecture, such as complex rooflines, irregular massing, and multi-faceted wall surfaces. The term is derived from England's Queen Victoria, who reigned from 1837-1901. Unlike England's Victorian architectural period (1837—1901), the United States era was much shorter, ca. 1860 – 1910.

Poplar Bluff experienced a residential and commercial boom between c. 1880 and 1910, not long after the St. Louis & Iron Mountain Railroad built lines through town. This development coincided with the popularity of Late Victorian styles nationally. Availability of prefabricated building materials and growing wealth allowed a significant portion of the city's population to adopt these popular styles. The district historically contains several fine examples of Late Victorian architecture including Stick, Shingle, Queen Anne and Folk Victorian houses. The one Stick Style example (411 N. Main) has been extensively altered and is non-contributing to the district. However, there are two examples of Shingle Style (422 and 437 N. Main). The Leuer House at 437 N. Main is of particular note. The building's exterior is essentially unaltered since its date of construction and retains the original clapboard siding, fish scale wood shingles, and decorative wood trim surround on the projecting bay and windows that characterize the style.

More common in the district and city as a whole are Queen Anne style houses. Though home buyers and builders favored the large houses with complex rooflines and wrap around porches, according to the survey "exuberant Queen Anne designs with large towers and turrets are rare [locally] and most examples are more modest structures."⁷⁴ This is certainly true of Queen Anne style buildings in the district. Examples of the style in the district include 406, 412 and 451 N. Main. None of these includes towers or turrets. Instead, the buildings reflect the style in massing, complex rooflines with projecting gables, and use of full-width or wrap around porches. The relative plainness of these buildings may reflect the growing popularity of Colonial and Classical Revival architecture nationally and locally. The architectural survey of Poplar Bluff notes, for example that local transitional residential buildings "often have the asymmetrical massing of the Queen Anne style but have classical columns and eave details such as

⁷⁴ Thomason, 6.

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dentils as decorative details.” The house at 451 N. Main Street, a contributing building in the district, is called out by the survey as an example of this transitional style.⁷⁵

Gable Front; Gable Front and Wing Nationwide ca. 1870-1910; 400 Block of North Main Street: ca. 1894 – 1900

Gable-Front and Wing form houses were one of five types that became popular in the 1870s and continued to be prevalent until around 1910. According to the 1990 survey data the popularity of this architectural type was prevalent in Poplar Bluff, “the most common historic house in Poplar Bluff is the balloon-frame gable front and wing, or T-plan.”⁷⁶ Popularity of the Gable-Front and Wing form dwellings and its widespread use can be attributed to the railroads and mass-production of building materials. In addition, the form lent itself to easily adapt to the Victorian era decorative details. The availability of mass-produced and rail-distributed wood materials and architectural elements like porch posts or columns, spindlework, and brackets being reduced the cost of building Gable-Front and Wing types. Craftsman, and Colonial Revival style replaced the Gable-Front and Wing form in popularity around the turn of the century. Gable-Front and Wing is characterized by an asymmetrical façade, brackets, and porches with spindlework detailing.⁷⁷

There are two Gable Front and one Gable Front and Wing form dwellings in the district. The Delvin House (426 N. Main) is a Front Gable form. The second Front Gable form (415 N. Main) retains its original form but alterations have compromised the integrity of the dwelling. The Charles Weber House (468 N. Main) is an excellent representation of a Gable Front and Wing form and features a vergeboard in the gable end.

Neo-Classical Revival Nationwide: ca. 1895-1950; 400 Block of North Main Street: ca. 1896

The World’s Columbian Exposition of 1893 held in Chicago, Illinois, popularized the Neoclassical and Classical Revival styles. The Classical styles emphasized symmetrical design and formal architecture. With the Exposition so broadly attended, the reintroduction of the Classical style was heavily photographed and written about, which led to the style’s popularity.⁷⁸

Neoclassical and Classical Revival styles were prevalent in public and government buildings and gained a foothold in residential building design during the first part of the

⁷⁵ Ibid.,7.

⁷⁶ Ibid, 6.

⁷⁷ McAlester. 263, 309 -310.

⁷⁸ Ibid., 344.

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20th century and again from 1925 to the 1950s.⁷⁹ Only one residential dwelling in the district (421 N. Main, now a museum) is of the Neo-Classical Revival style. The Moore-Dalton House was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994. The house was built in 1883 and remodeled to its current style in 1896.

Colonial Revival Nationwide: ca. 1880-1955; 400 Block of North Main Street: ca. 1900-1950

The Colonial Revival style was a nationalistic movement in architecture and interior design that began in the 1870s and achieved significant momentum after the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial celebration. It sparked a new kinship with America's colonial-era heritage.⁸⁰ In 1877, the year following the Centennial, the noted architects Charles Follen McKim, William Mead and Stanford White joined together with William Bigelow, and embarked on a tour of the New England's coastal historic towns and sketched Colonial houses.⁸¹ By the early 1880s, these colonial-associated styles were beginning to gain recognition.⁸² Even though a few of the earliest Colonial Revival style houses employed the type of asymmetrical forms popular with Victorian-era architects, symmetrical facades and uncomplicated boxy shapes were typical by the turn of the 20th century.⁸³

Since its origin in the late 19th century, Colonial Revival has remained an important style in the United States, utilizing the forms, design, and symbols characteristic of the country's early history.⁸⁴ Rejecting the complex facades and decorations of the Queen Anne and Late Victorian styles, builders embraced the unfussy lines Colonial Revival offered. Colonial Revival has developed into one of the most fashionable and long standing styles.⁸⁵ It is a style that can be found in almost every town in the United States, including Poplar Bluff.⁸⁶

Colonial Revival dwellings in the district consist of two multi-family style buildings. Only one, 445-447 N. Main Street, retains its original architectural elements and is a contributing resource. Constructed ca. 1914, it features a symmetrical brick façade, multi-glazing windows, double entrance and a palladium window. According to the 1990 survey data, Colonial Revival was one of the more popular styles in Poplar Bluff and usually the dwellings were modest in design.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Gelernter, 180.

⁸¹ Wilson, 37.

⁸² Ibid., 41.

⁸³ Ibid., 182-184.

⁸⁴ Mark Gelernter. *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Contest* Hanover and London: University Press of New England, 1999, 180.

⁸⁵ Massey and Maxwell, 177-181.

⁸⁶ Richard Guy Wilson. *The Colonial Revival House*, New York: Abrams, 2004, 6.

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Late Gothic Revival: Nationwide ca.1830 - 1930; 400 Block of North Main Street ca. 1902

The Gothic Revival style replicates a variety of medieval Gothic architectural styles that date to the early 19th century. During the 1830s, American builders began to use the Gothic Revival style, primarily for classically designed buildings. Afterward, the style became prevalent, heavily used in churches, colleges, and residential properties.⁸⁷ Gothic Revival style was often the preferred style among Episcopalian church members as it symbolized the “true Christian style in its forms and origins.”⁸⁸ The characteristics of the Gothic style include steeply pitched roofs with cross gables, gable dormers, symmetrical facades, pointed-arch windows, dominant lines, finials and towers.⁸⁹ Although the style’s popularity faded after the turn of the 20th-century, it was not uncommon in school and church designs throughout the early 20th-century.

The Late Gothic Revival style is represented in the North Main Street Historic District by the Holy Cross Episcopal Church at 420 N. Main Street. The original structure was built in 1902. The rusticated hollow core, stone textured, concrete block bell tower was added prior to 1917 according to Sanborn maps.

Tudor Revival: Nationwide ca. 1890 - 1940; 400 Block of North Main Street ca. 1947

The Tudor Revival style is freely based on late Medieval styles of the early 16th century – it is a reinterpretation of popular English house styles from the 16th and early 17th centuries.⁹⁰ In the United States, the earliest Tudor Revival buildings date to the late 19th century.⁹¹ Residential dwellings were substantial in size and appealed to the upper class of American society.⁹² Following World War I, America experienced an eruption of suburban building. Builders at that time sought a style that offered something unique to 20th-century residential housing. In this capacity, the Tudor Revival style appealed to many home owners.⁹³ Locally, the Tudor Revival style was a prevalent style for residential or institutional buildings, though some examples exist that date from the 1910s and 1920s.

⁸⁷ Ward Bucher, A.I.A. *Dictionary of Building Preservation*, New York: Preservation Press; John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 1996, 213 and Marcus Whiffen and Frederick Koeper, *American Architecture, Volume 2: 1860-1976*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1995, 180.

⁸⁸ Mary M. Stirtz. “Missouri Gothic,” *The Society of Architectural Historian Newsletter*, Missouri Valley Chapter, Volume XVI, Number 4B Winter 2010, 5.

⁸⁹ Bucher, 213 and Robin Langley Sommer. *The Old Church Book*, New York: Barnes & Noble Books, 1999, 119.

⁹⁰ McAlester, 358 and Foster, 320.

⁹¹ McAlester, 358.

⁹² Foster, 320.

⁹³ Massey and Maxwell, 219.

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Tudor Revival residential dwellings and churches in Poplar Bluff are characterized by false (ornamental) half-timbering, a medieval English building tradition, often with stucco or masonry veneered walls, steeply pitched roofs, cross-gabled plans, tall narrow windows with multi-pane glazing, casement windows, patterned brick masonry, and large chimneys.

One church located within the district boundaries is designed in the Tudor Revival style. The Zion Lutheran Church (1947) at 450 N. Main Street features half-timbering with stucco walls in the gable ends, tall narrow windows with multi-pane glazing, and chimney pots. Also located within the district is a residential dwelling with some Tudor Revival influence, 460 N. Main Street. It features casement windows with multi-pane glazing, a large chimney and double arched entry porch.

Craftsman: Nationwide ca. 1905-1930; 400 Block of North Main Street ca. 1910–1925

The Craftsman style can be credited to Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene, brothers who worked together in architecture in Pasadena, California from 1893 to 1904. It is a direct development from the Arts and Crafts movement. Greene and Greene began to design Craftsman bungalows starting approximately in 1903. They continued their work with bungalows and by 1909 had built several. Craftsman style houses designed by Greene and Greene were considered the greatest of sophisticated craftsmanship and some of the most elaborate designs. Their designs appeared in magazines such as *The Architect*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Ladies' Home Journal*, *County Life in America*, and several others. With the increased popularity of the Craftsman style, pattern books offered Craftsman residences of all sizes. With the endurance of the Craftsman style house, catalog home companies like Sears and Aladdin offered pre-cut houses that could be shipped ready to be self-assembled. House kits were the absolute building package complete with instructions, doors, trim, and plumbing.⁹⁴

The Craftsman style house was the prevalent style of housing seen in the United States from 1905 to 1930.⁹⁵ According to the 1990 survey data, the predominant house styles after 1910 in Poplar Bluff were bungalows and Craftsman styles.

Characteristics of the Craftsman style in the community are low-pitched gabled roofs, wide overhanging eaves with exposed roof rafters, decorative brackets, full-or-partial width porches, and square or tapered support porch columns.⁹⁶

⁹⁴ McAlester. 454 and John Milnes Baker. *American House Styles; A Concise Guide*. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1994, 114.

⁹⁵ McAlester, 454.

⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, 453.

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The Craftsman bungalow style is one of the more frequent house types represented in the North Main Street Historic District. There are four houses designed in the style, and all are contributing resources within the district, making up approximately 14 percent of the district. The largest of the dwellings is located at 433 N. Main Street. It features a very ornate entrance with a multi-pane and wood door with side lights, a full width-porch and exposed brackets under the eaves. The interior of the house is intact and retains its original wood trim, doors, staircases, hardwood floors and beamed/coffered ceilings. The other three Craftsman style bungalows feature full-width porches, Craftsman style windows, and exposed brackets.

Integrity

The North Main Street Historic District is locally significant and is the most historically intact grouping of residential buildings in the community. The district represents well the transformation of the town from rural outpost to modern city. The North Main Street Historic District has experienced some new construction, but no significant alterations since the end of the period of significance. A new apartment complex was constructed in 1982, and an asphalt paved parking lot was constructed (ca. 1957) on a vacant lot that once held a dwelling. Despite these non-historic resources, the overall character of the district is intact. The district is comprised of buildings common in massing, materials, scale, proportion, and common qualities of construction. The properties are all bonded by the brick street and landscape. The various styles in the district further define the historic value of the neighborhood by demonstrating the many architectural styles designed over the period of significance, expressing the architectural culture of the late 19th and mid- 20th centuries. Taken as a whole, the North Main Street Historic District retains a well-defined sense of its time and place. The atmosphere is established by the intact collections of resources, as well as a setting that still looks and feels much as it did during the period of significance.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The North Main Street Historic District is roughly bounded by Lester Street on the southwest, College Avenue on the southeast, Fifth Street on the northeast and an alleyway on the northwest located directly north of 455 N. Main Street. The boundaries include the brick street in the 400 block of North Main Street and all buildings that front the 400 block of North Main Street. The boundaries are also drawn to include two buildings located on the same parcel as 450 North Main Street including a parsonage (459 Relief Street) and a small parochial school directly behind 459 Relief Street. The boundaries are indicated by a heavy black line on the enclosed map (to scale).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries have been draw to encompass the intact historic residential dwellings and institutional buildings in the 400 block of North Main Street, as well as the section of the original brick paved street. While other historic resources exist north of the chosen boundaries, these historic resources are a severed connection from the district by vacant lots and non-historic resources. Boundaries were drawn and do not include the area directly south of the district as the resources within the 300 block of North Main are comprised of commercial resources and are not related to the area of significance of the district.

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Photograph Log

The following information is the same for all photographs:
North Main Street Historic District – 400 block of North Main St.
Poplar Bluff, Butler County, MO
Photographer, Terri L Foley, Sept. 15, 2010

List of Photographs

1. Looking south at the end of the 400 block; house on right is 455 N. Main St.
2. Looking northeast at beginning of the 400 block (Main and College); house on right is 406 N. Main St.
3. Looking southeast at end of 400 block (Main and Fifth); first house on left is 468 N. Main, second house is 464 N. Main St.
4. Looking northwest in center of block; first building is 445-447 N. Main, second is 451 N. Main.
5. Looking northeast in center of block (Main and Relief); first building is 450 N. Main with 529 Relief St. directly behind and Zion Lutheran School seen in back of 529 Relief St.
6. Looking northwest in center of block; first house on right (427), second (433), third (437), fourth (445-447) and fifth (451).
7. Looking west; 433 N. Main St.
8. Looking northwest; 437 N. Main St.
9. Looking east; 426 N. Main St.
10. Looking southeast; first house on right is 468 N. Main St., second house is 464 N. Main St.
11. Looking east; 462 N. Main Street with side elevation view of 460 N. Main St.

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Figures

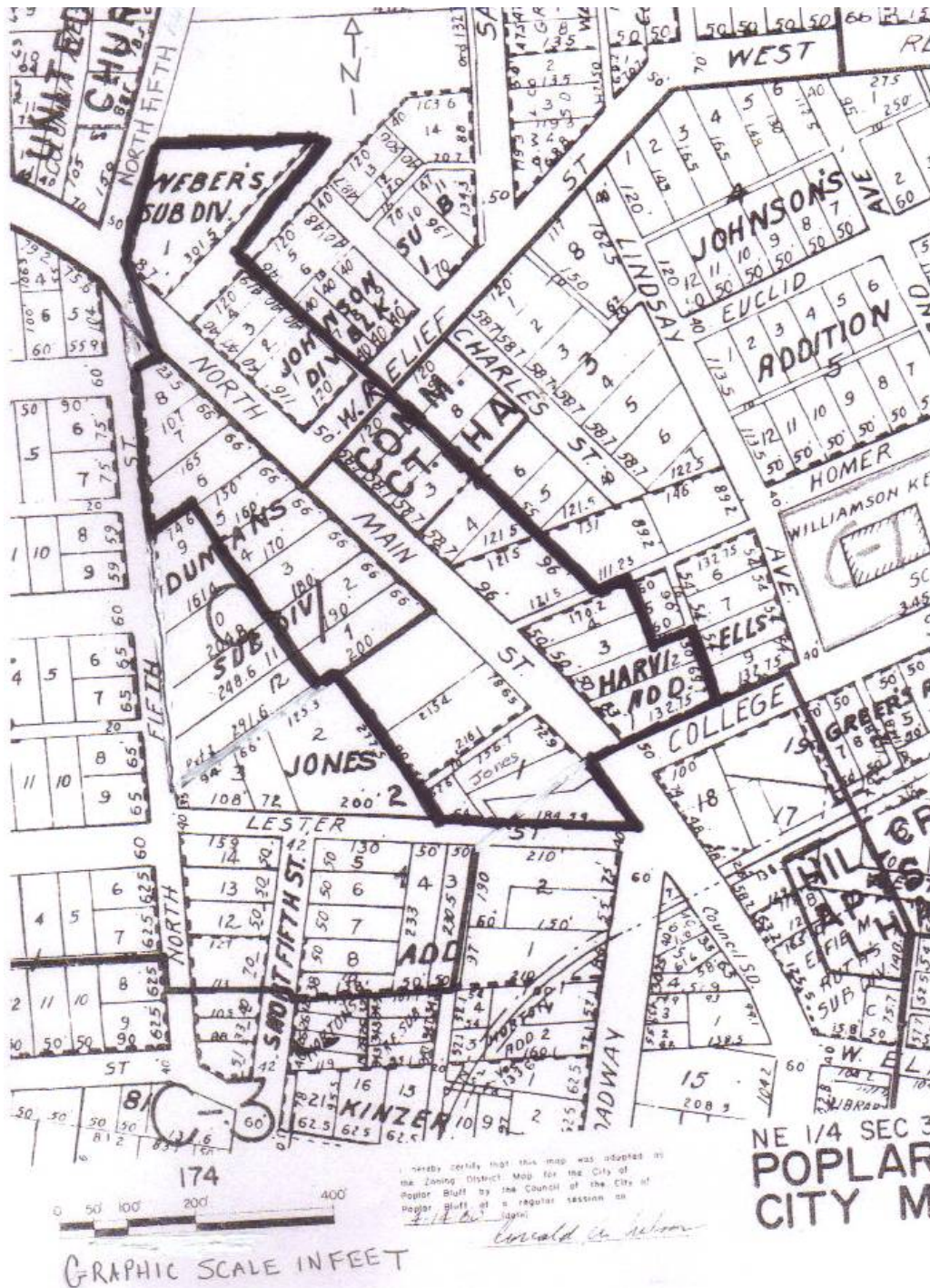
1. District boundary map and Subdivision map (1984)
2. Site map with contributing [c] and non-contributing [nc] key, and district boundaries
3. Photo key with contributing [c] and non-contributing [nc] key, and district boundaries

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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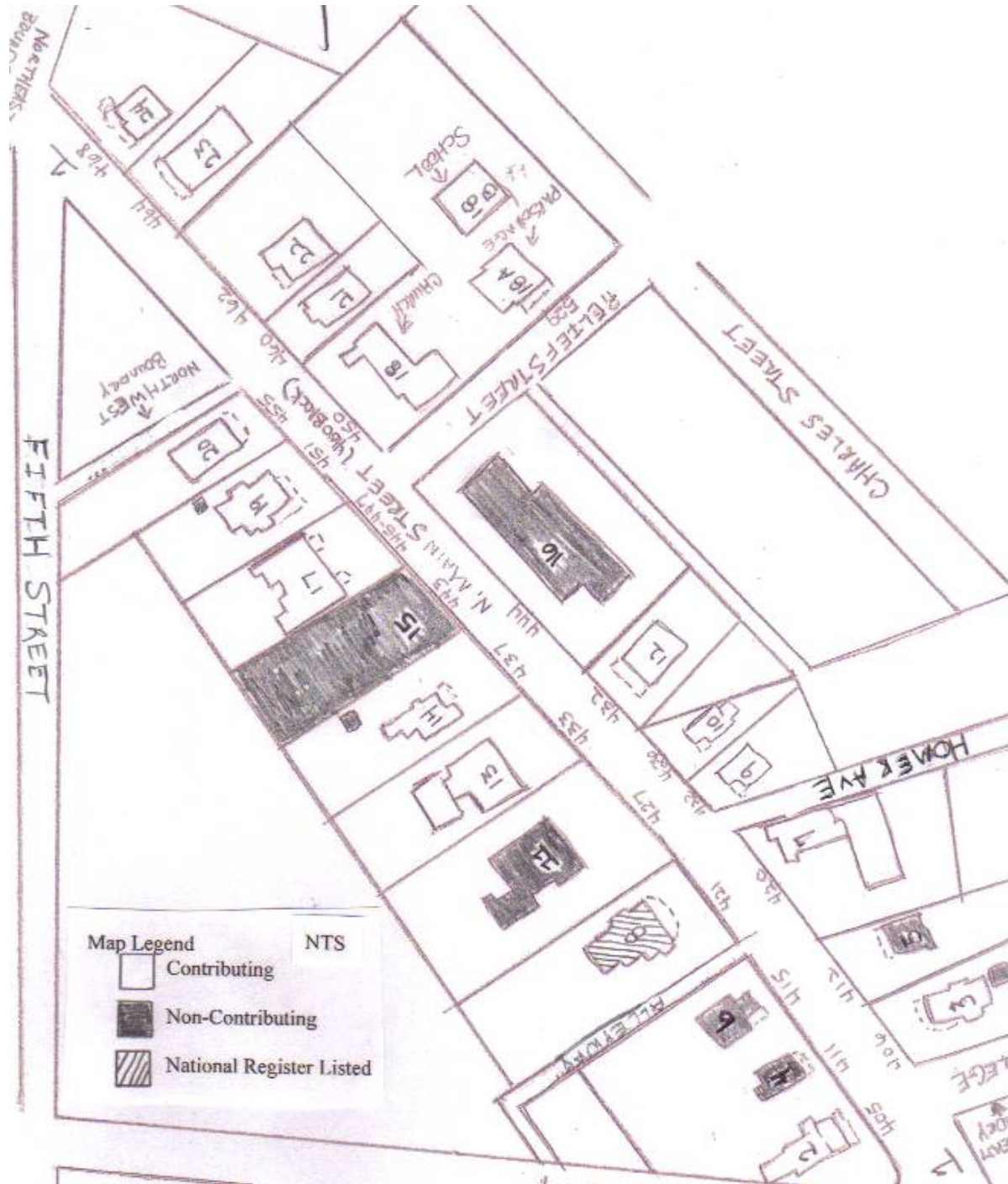
North Main Street Historic District – Boundary Map and 1984 Subdivision Map
Boundary Lines Marked by _____
Source: City of Poplar Bluff, Planning Division

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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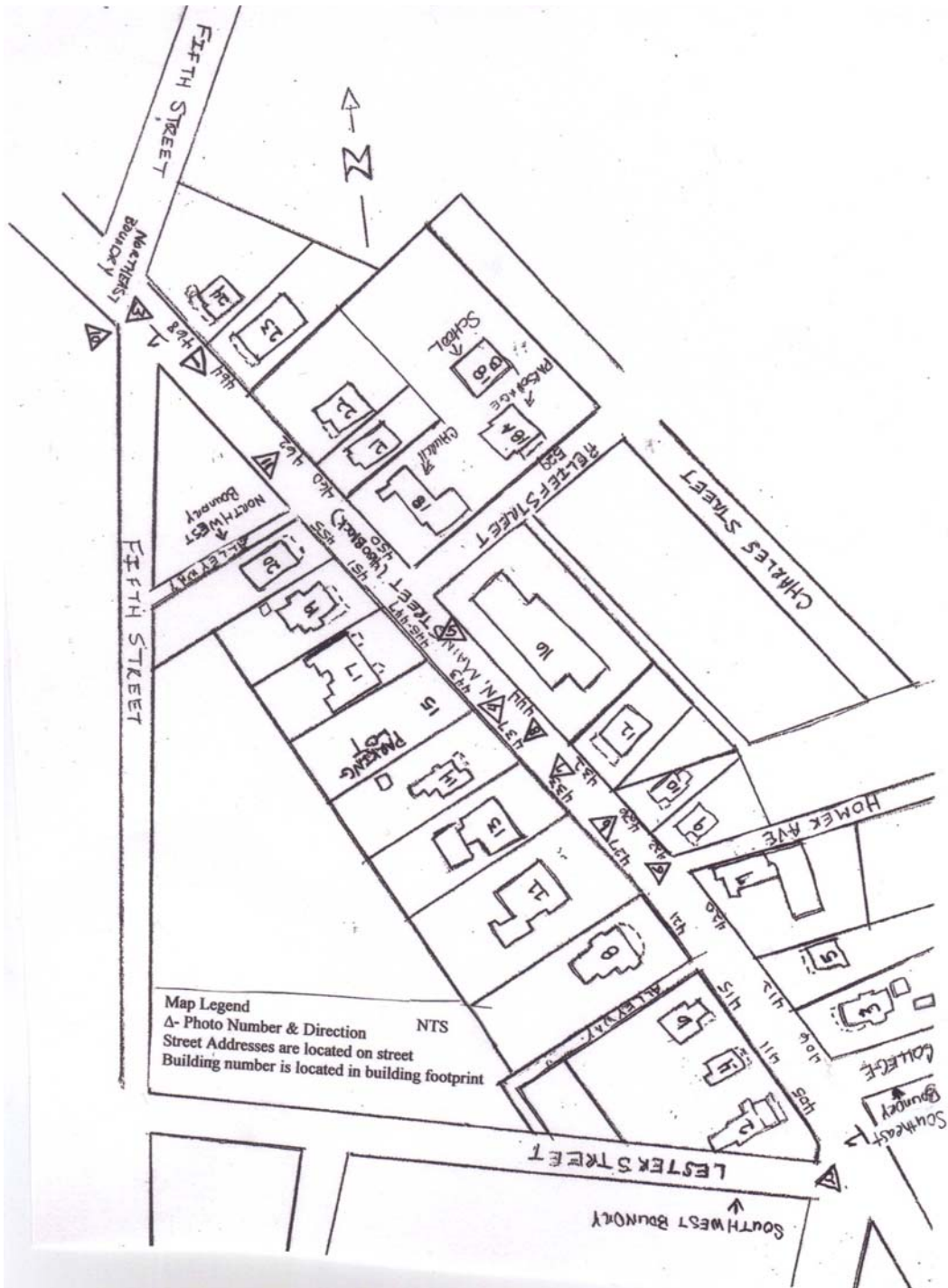
North Main Street Historic District Site Map – Showing Contributing, Non-Contributing and NR listed
Not to Scale

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

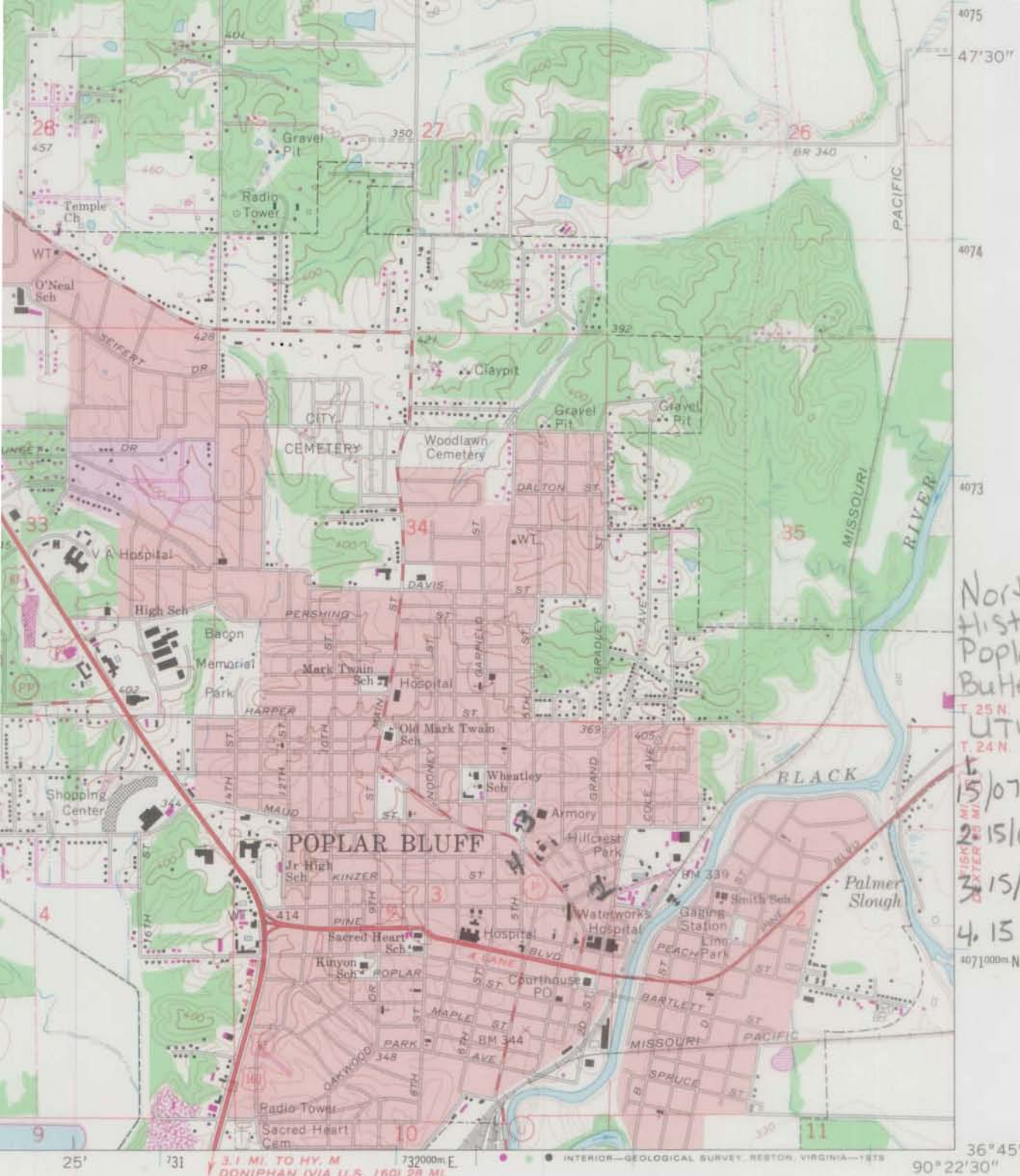
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North Main Street Historic District – Site Map and Photo Key
See Map Legend for Key



North Main Street
 Historic District
 Poplar Bluff,
 Butler Co, MO
 UTM Reference:
 T. 25 N
 T. 24 N
 15/0732693/4671350
 2. 15/0732207/4671384
 3. 15/0732492/4671615
 4. 15 0732508/4671512
 4071000m N.

3.1 MI. TO HY. M
 DONIPHAN VIA U.S. 160 28 MI.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
 - Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
 - Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
 - Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
- Interstate Route
 U. S. Route
 State Route



POPLAR BLUFF, MO.
 SW/4 POPLAR BLUFF 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3645—W9022.5/7.5

1966
 PHOTOREVISED 1979
 AMS 7957 IV SW—SERIES V879

(HANLEYVILLE)
7957 III NE

1 MILE















433

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