



Figure S1. 2017 Photo looking northwest on Main Street showing buildings on the North 100 and 200 block.



Figure S2. 2017 Photo looking northeast on Main Street showing the north side of Main Street 200 block (100 block



in the distance)



Figure S3. 2017 Photo taken standing on Main Street looking east. Taken at the intersection of Burnett Avenue and Main Street.



Figure S4. 2017 Photo looking south taken at the intersection of Main and Burnett. Photo shows Tom Evans Park





Figure S5. 2017 Photo taken near the intersection of Main and Douglas. This photo shows 21st century pedestrian-friendly features, including sidewalk improvements (curb bump outs), benches, beautifying landscape work, and public art. Also evident in this photo are the extensive brickwork and foliage features which have made Main St. more walkable and person-oriented in recent years.



Figure S6. 2017 Photo looking at Cynthia Duff Plaza lot between 206 and 210 Main street. Cynthia Duff Plaza and Tom Evans Park Plaza are the two vacant lots in the Main Street Historic District which have been transformed into public areas. This photo also showcases one of Downtown Ames' Historical Plaques: one of 15 plaques Downtown Ames which outline the history of important figures or buildings in Ames' history.





Figure S7. 2018 Photo looking northwest across Kellogg from the rear of south main street buildings. This view shows how removal of the railroad tracks allowed for a vital public parking lot which sparked an increase of commercial activity and modest rear “facelift” remodels on this side.





Figure S8. 2018 Photo looking at the rear of building lining south Main St. This photo looks northeast and, again, showcases where the original rail lines were – now a heavily trafficked public parking lot.





Figure S9. 2018 Photograph looking northeast on the rear of south Main St. buildings. This picture captures the adaptations which businesses have made to accommodate the rear traffic to their businesses (including entranceways and signage). Essentially, the 1960s change to move the rail tracks opened a second storefront for the businesses along the south of Main St.



Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State


**RESOURCE CLASSIFICATION LIST**

Address	Resource Name (Historic Name)	Year Built	Description, History, & Comments	Status
101 Main St.	Boyd's Dairy Store; Skelly Gas Station	1947	<p>This is a one story, brick commercial building with an irregular footprint. The building originated in 1947 or before as a Skelly service station with a diagonal driveway to access it—hence the unusual footprint and siting of the building. Over the years, this building has been remodeled to house a variety of businesses. The building was remodeled in 1967 for Boyd's Dairy Store (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 10083, November 9, 1967). In 1984, Eldon Krug Buildings remodeled the east and south elevations of the building, including a canopy, for Boyd's Dairy Store (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 15826, Zoning Permit 11355, July 31, 1984).</p> <p>Jon Hunziker Construction built an addition for use as the Pizza Pit (Ibid., 08-128, June 3, 1986). In 2008, a contractor named D. Wright built additional office space to the back of the building for Richardson Worldwide LLC for use as State Farm Insurance (Ibid., 08-3784, December 4, 2008). That same year, the east and south sides of the building were refaced and the canopy was removed (Ibid.). Today, the building features a stone clad bulkhead and a cultured brick upper wall facing reflecting its 2008-2009 remodeling.</p>	NC



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<p>107 Main St.</p>	 <p>First Federal Savings Bank</p>	<p>1996</p>	<p>This is a one-story, brick commercial building constructed in 1996 by Martin Construction (City of Ames Inspection Department, Permit 96-00003364) and subsequently remodeled in 2008 for Ogden Bankshares, Inc. (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 08-00000329, February 22, 2008).</p> <p>Ames Community Bank presently occupies the building. Earlier tenants included the Roann Loan Company and First Federal Savings Bank in the 1990s. The building that firm occupied may form a core of the present building. Two drive-through teller lanes, covered with a hip roof, are attached to the west side of this building. The present building should be evaluated as a 2008 design.</p>	<p>NC</p>
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<p>111 Main St.</p>	 <p>Lou Roberson Building</p>	<p>c. 1920</p>	<p>This is a one story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade constructed ca 1921-1926, and remodeled in 1941 (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 6600, September 23, 1941). The building was originally constructed as a vulcanizing plant and garage. In 1941, the building's front facade was remodeled with brick and glass for the Ames Bowling Alley (Ibid., 2123, August 19, 1941). In the late 1940s, the building was used as an automobile garage (Ibid., 9266, December 20, 1947).</p> <p>The main entryway is slightly offset west of center. The entryway appears to preserve the building's original inset entry. During the 1990s, metal cladding, possibly from the 1970s, covered the entire facade of the building except for the entryway and east window. This has been stripped off to reveal mottled-colored brick in shades of brown. Cast concrete coping caps the facade with parapets situated symmetrically on each end. Parapets are also capped by cast concrete coping. The east wall of the building is hollow tile block.</p> <p>A building appears on this site on the 1926 Sanborn fire insurance map as "113" Main and with the appellation "Vulcanizing," a service for automobile tires and named in honor of the mythological Roman god of fire. Such a service became an important sector of a community's commercial life during the first quarter of the 20th century.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>113 Main St.</p>	 <p>Commercial Building</p>	<p>c. 1920</p>	<p>This is a one-story, commercial building with an exceptionally narrow one-room-wide facade probably dating from 1911 to 1920.</p> <p>Considerable alterations have since occurred, which have altered the front façade. Today, the south elevation conveys the sense of a Victorian commercial building, with a stylized pent roof with wood fish-scale shingles, and cornice with brackets. These alterations occurred in 1989 (Ames Inspections Permit, 89-304, August 21, 1989).</p>	<p>NC</p>	
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115-117 Main St. Commercial Block

1957

This is a one-story, brick commercial block with a two-room-wide facade. The original building's east room (115) was constructed in 1919, according to an article in one local newspaper (Ames Daily Tribune, July 7, 1919). The west room probably dated about the same time.

The building was destroyed in a 1957 fire and was rebuilt that same year. Thompson & Son undertook this work (City of Ames Inspection Department, Permit 5289).

The 1957 construction included the installation of Roman brick veneer in the area above the storefront and door cavities and the filling in of these cavities with new materials. Sometime later, the storefront was remodeled with horizontal siding. The east wall of this building remains intact from 1919 and features orange colored brick and a tile coping that caps the wall. In 2012, the existing storefront was removed and replaced with a more historically sympathetic design. At the same time, paint in an exotic motif was removed from the Roman brick at the top of the building.

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<p>119 Main St.</p>	<p>Commercial Building</p> 	<p>1891</p> <p>This is a one-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. The building was originally constructed prior to 1907 but was “face-lifted” circa 1955 to create the present facade. As such, the building should be evaluated as a mid-20th century building.</p> <p>The present facade features yellow-colored brick and clean and unadorned surfaces, which projects a direct simplicity relieved by an irregularly angled storefront of windows and door. The bulkhead is currently sheathed in metal cladding. The integrity of this building as a 1950s rehabilitation is high and preservation of the building in its present form is strongly encouraged.</p> <p>The yellow-colored brick was a proprietary product known as “Casto brick.” S. D. and D. I. Cota Plastering of Des Moines undertook this project with its “Casto brick,” which was a post-World War II product. Marketed by Des Moines Concrete, this process involved attaching wire mesh to a building’s exterior walls, applying concrete mix over it, and then embossing the wet mixture with a brick-patterning device.</p> <p>Color of the brick could vary and this color was mixed into the concrete before application (Hal Briley, oral informant). The mid-century “face-lift” on this building occurred at the same time that its neighbor to the west, 121 Main Street, received a similar treatment with Casto brick. By 2012, this brick had begun to separate from the structural elements of the 121 building. It was removed and the facade of that building was renovated in a different design (Iowa Site Inventory Form 85-00994.).</p>	<p>C</p>
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121-123 Main St.

Commercial Building, O'Brien Block

1893

This property began as a commercial block in the late 19th century. In 1955, each of this block's two commercial rooms were face-lifted: 123 with red-colored Casto brick, and 121 with yellow-colored Casto brick. Then, in 2012, both of these facades were stripped away and replaced with a new facade. As such, the property should be evaluated as an early 21st century resource. Interestingly, this recent renovation of the property has returned it to its original configuration as a commercial block. 121 Main Street. This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. The building was originally constructed as the O'Brien block by 1893 as a commercial block in conjunction with 123 Main Street. In 1955, the facade of this property was face-lifted with the installation of "Casto brick" veneer.

This proprietary product was installed by S. D. and D. I. Cota Plastering of Des Moines. This renovation was undertaken in conjunction with the renovation of its neighbor to the east, 119 Main Street. The east wall of 121 reveals its original red brick with a faint ghost sign painted on it. Structurally, 121 reads with 123 Main Street, its neighbor to the west. Both these rooms share, for example, a common entrance to their second floors, and in a 1907 photograph and an 1893 *Intelligencer* sketch they are shown as a commercial block comprising a two-room-wide facade. This structural connection was masked because 123 employed red brick, contrasting strongly with the yellow at 121.

The transom above the central entryway probably related to an earlier transom but has probably been lengthened. By the early 21st century, the Casto brick had begun to separate from the structural elements of the 121 property. In a 2012 renovation, the entire south facade of the building was removed and replaced with a new facade design sympathetic in character to the Commercial Style of architecture so prevalent in Ames during the first half of the 20th century. Because of the recent date of this building's facade, it—in conjunction with 123 Main Street—is evaluated as noncontributing to the historic district.

NC

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125-127 Main St.

Commercial Block

c.  
1892

This is a two-story, brick commercial block with a two-room-wide facade. Although built prior to 1907, this block received major facade rehabilitation circa 1941, which refaced the upper floor. The new facade design relates to its neighbor to the west at 129 Main Street, which was also contemporaneously received a facade redesign (See Iowa Site Inventory Form 85-01001.) .

The original 125-127 storefront has been altered several times. The most recent, in 2012 through a City of Ames Downtown Facade Grant Program, installed a new brick bulkhead and storefront windows generally sympathetic with the block's historic character. An inset entrance provides the main access to the building. There is presently a fixed metal canopy over the storefront. The redesigned upper story of this block features a variety of brick-worked patterns. They include single courses of Flemish bond running between seven courses of regularly laid stretchers, soldier row brick above the storefront and the second floor windows, and a modest entablature fabricated of projecting and diagonally laid brick. A tile coping caps the facade. Windows on the second floor feature 8/8 double-hung sash original to the "face-lift."


These windows make a big and very positive impact on the building's appearance, and their preservation is strongly encouraged. Several holes in the masonry at the center of the second floor suggest the location of a non-extant store sign.

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<p>129 Main St.</p>	 <p>Commercial Building</p>	<p>This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. Although built prior to 1896 according to fire insurance maps, this building has received at least one major rehabilitation. The building was remodeled in 1936 (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 937, January 21, 1936).</p> <p>In 1941 the south elevation of the building was refaced above its front canopy (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 2008). As such, the building should be evaluated as dating from 1941. It matches the 1941 architectural design of its neighbor to the east at 125-127 Main Street. At one time, 129 also featured a metal canopy (Ibid., 3641, June 7, 1950). This canopy, which is nonextant, was likely similar to the one attached to its neighbor to the east. The storefront at 129 Main features an inset entryway set off-centered to the west, likely a 1941 design.</p> <p>c. 1888 Other alterations have since taken place. The storefront windows have been partially blocked-in with natural wood set in diagonals on the storefront. The entry door to the second floor is at west side of first floor. The upper floor of the building was refaced in 1964 (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 8352, Zoning Permit 4010, April 13, 1964). The upper floor retains its 1964 appearance.</p> <p>Like its neighboring commercial block to the east at 125-127 Main Street, it features brick-worked patterns, including single courses of Flemish bond running between seven courses of regularly laid stretchers, soldier row brick above the second-floor windows, and a cornice fabricated of outset and diagonally laid brick. A tile coping caps the facade. Windows on the second floor feature 1/1 double-hung sash. Several pairs of holes in the masonry on the second floor suggest the location of a non-extant store sign. Two repointed portions of masonry directly above the storefront suggest the absence of another feature.</p>	<p>C</p>
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131 Main St.

Iowa Electric Light & Power Company Building

c.  
1891

C

This is a two-story, brick commercial building situated on a corner lot. A red brick building was first constructed on this site in 1878 according to Ames Historian, Gladys Hultz Mead. The present building was originally built in 1891, according to municipal records (City of Ames Inspection Department). The building features a double facade. The facade facing Main Street is one-room-wide.

This commercial block should be evaluated as a 1953 property because it reads today according to this -- its most recent "face-lift." Major facade renovation occurred in 1937, including "remodl (sic) display windows, remodel front of existing bldg. by moving entrance door out to sidewalk and lowering display windows." The alterations retained the window and door openings of the earlier building, as well as its cut corner and west side bay projection (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 1248, November 4, 1937).

Alterations occurred in 1953. These included "remodel bldg.—remove stucco & 4" brick—new face brick—new windows" (City of Ames Inspection Department, May 21, 1953). The new face brick was a Casto-type veneer to replace the stucco. Still later, a new canopy with an aluminum roof was installed in 1969 (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 10692, April 8, 1969).

The building features a creamy yellow-colored brick veneer. The first floor contains windows with transparent glass and with opaque glass block, probably original to the rehab. Brick on the first floor is laid in vertical columns of stretchers. Brick above the storefront is laid in American bond. Bands of outset brick run horizontally between the second-floor windows. Windows appear to be original to the rehab. They are 2/2 double-hung sash type, and the window screens on them are of a slightly louvered design popular in the 1950s to reduce the sun's heat.


The building housed Parley Sheldon's Story County Bank. A few years prior to 1920 both facades of the building were face-lifted, probably in 1917 when the bank received a charter as a state bank. The 1920 Sanborn fire insurance map indicates that this building was "Stuccoed over." An article in the Ames Daily Tribune of July 7, 1919, indicates that F. W. Aim and Son, "proprietors of the shoe shop which has been located in the basement at the corner of Douglas and Main, had to move out owing to the fact that the building would be remodeled."

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<p>201 Main St.</p>	 <p>Union National Bank</p>	<p>c. 1890</p>	<p>This is a two-story commercial building, constructed circa 1890 of brick and now clad with stucco.</p> <p>Although it is situated on a corner lot, 201 Main does not contain a double facade, as does its neighbor at 131 Main. The facade facing Main Street is one-room-wide. The east side of the building facing Douglas contains ten bays but this elevation of the building reads as a side wall rather than a facade. Though this building today visually relates to its neighbors 203-205-207 Main Street, it was originally built as a separate building and so should be evaluated as a separate resource.</p> <p>This building received a major facade redesign circa 1917. The alterations repeated the window and door openings and the recessed facade entryway and flight of steps of the earlier building, but almost all other architectural details were changed, including the outside basement entryways on the south and east sides.</p> <p>Most notable in the alterations was the juxtaposition of terra cotta and stucco. Terra cotta provides architectural detailing in the entryway pilasters, its cornice, and the stringcourse between first and second floors. Stucco provides the exterior cladding of the walls. Although, the façade of the building was renovated in 1964, the remodeling has kept the integrity of the building's original Classical Revival design.</p>	<p>C</p>
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203-205-207 Main St.

Tilden Brothers & Company Block

c.  
1870

This is a two-story, brick commercial block now covered with stucco. The property we see today at 203-205 Main Street began as two separate, one-room buildings, one at 203 Main Street and one at 205 Main Street. In 1883, the business at 203 expanded into 205 (see below) and, in 1917, both of these buildings were remodeled according to a unified design by the application of stucco and the installation of a terra cotta cornice. Therefore, 203 and 205 (which more recently divided to 205-207) should be considered as one building. Their neighbor to the east, Union National Bank at 201 Main, was also remodeled according to approximately the same design.

Between 1869 and 1973 a dry goods store operated at 203. Begun as Bigelow, Huntington & Tilden, the business expanded in 1883 to include the room at 205 Main Street. In 1883 George G. Tilden constructed a new store at 213-215 Main at the cost of \$18,000. Instead of taking the entire inventory down the street to the new building, Tilden bought from his partners Bigelow and Huntington all the merchandise at the 203-205 Main Street store in exchange for the new building. Bigelow and Huntington subsequently opened their own dry goods store at the new location. The Tilden store remained in operation at this location until 1971. Until at least 1915, the entrance to the grocery portion of this store was on Douglas behind the Union National Bank.

The Tildens had bought lots where the Old City Hall now stands and had options on other lots. Instead of building a new store on these lots, the firm decided to remodel its old storefronts. Because of the major alterations to the facade of this building, its period of significance dates from circa 1917, the date of these alterations. Stucco became a popular building material in Ames during the first quarter of the 20th century.

Recently, the Iowa State University College of Design moved into this building. The front façade was sympathetically renovated to its early 20th century appearance.




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<p>209 Main St.</p>	 <p>Commercial Building, Judisch Bros Drug Store</p>	<p>This is a two-story, brick commercial building which constitutes part of the 207-209 block. The building, as it appears now, relates to its neighbor to the west, 211 Main Street, but the history of 209's evolution is complex. Originally it stood as an exceptionally narrow one-room-wide building. Its neighbor to the east, 207 Main Street, was also a two-story building with a one-room-wide facade although this facade was wider than standard in Ames, the extra width of 205 evidently being made up from the lesser width of 209.</p> <p>Both 205 and 209 were built in compatible styles and shared architectural elements such as brick cornices, second floor window designs and hood molds. Sometime around 1937, 209 Main Street underwent major facade alteration, apparently about the same time as its neighbor to the west, 211 Main Street. These alterations were almost total, the only remaining traces of the earlier building at 209 being retention of the two-bay configuration on the second floor.</p> <p>1900-1922 The building as it presently appears features on the second floor multi-colored brick veneer, a band of darker colored brick above the windows, a plaque area above the windows demarked by the same darker colored brick, and a tile coping that caps the facade. The entrance is situated by the east wall. Although the storefront has been greatly altered, the building retains integrity on the second floor. It calls attention to the emphasis on brickwork design popular in Ames during the first half of the 20th century. The present windows are replacements. Their openings have been blocked down (likely to reduce them from tall, Victorian-sized openings) and filled with replacement windows, which feature double-hung 2/2 sash under a panel. The storefront has been greatly changed several times (See 1992 survey for its status in that year.). Today it features a low, brick bulkhead surmounted by a storefront of opaque glass block.</p> <p>Judisch's Drug Store was housed for many years in this building. "Young Judisch," as Lewis Judisch was known, died in 1990. He had practiced law from an office on the second floor of this building for a long time. The first floor already in 1907 housed Judisch Brothers Drug Store.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>211 Main St.</p>	<p>Commercial Building</p> 	<p>c. 1888</p>	<p>This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. Although the building, as it now appears, relates to its neighbor to the east, 209 Main Street, this building originally stood as an independent design. Probably between 1925-1941, 211 Main Street underwent major facade alteration apparently about the same time as its neighbor to the east, 209 Main Street. These alterations were almost total, the only remaining traces of the earlier building at 211 being retention of the four-bay configuration on the second floor.</p> <p>Today, the storefront at 211 features a wooden bulkhead, three storefront windows framed in wood and surmounted by transoms, and an entrance on the east wall.</p> <p>The building features on the second floor multi-colored brick veneer, a band of darker colored brick above the windows, a plaque area above the windows demarked by the same darker colored brick, and a tile coping that caps the facade. On the second floor, four-bays are blocked-up above the sill and blocked-down under the lintel. This may relate to the size of the bay opening from the earlier building and an attempt to harmonize these four bays with the two bays at 209 Main Street.</p> <p>In 1896 a business known as "The Fair" operated from this room, according to the Sanborn fire insurance map for that year. The Fair Store operated at a later time in expanded quarters at a different location on Main Street in Ames. For many years, this building housed the Adams Grocery. A grocery business was already in this building in 1911. The brothers Jay and James Adams ran the business.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>213 Main St.</p>	<p>Tilden Block</p> 	<p>1883</p>	<p>This is a 2-story, brick commercial building constructed in the late 19th century as a commercial block in conjunction with 215 Main Street but later subdivided into two commercial rooms when it received a major face-lift when the façade brickwork was replaced in 1931. As a result, the 213 property should now be evaluated as a separate and distinct building dating to 1931.</p> <p>This building was originally constructed in 1883 to house George G. Tilden's general mercantile business. It consisted of two commercial rooms forming the Tilden Block and bearing the address of 215-217 Main Street. But before Tilden moved into the building, an arrangement was transacted between him and his partners Bigelow and Huntington. Tilden exchanged his new block for the merchandise in their building at 203 Main.</p> <p>Windows on the second-floor feature 1/1 sash-type windows with brick lintels and sills. A tile coping caps the building. The brick at 213 is lighter in color than that at 215. The storefront was infilled with brick in 1969, with a slightly orange-colored brick. The storefront includes a rather small, multi-paned window with an inset entrance on the east wall. A metal canopy, dating to 1956, was fixed to the front façade above the storefront but has now been removed.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>215 Main St.</p>	 <p>Tilden Block</p>	<p>c. 1883</p> <p>This is a 2-story, brick commercial building constructed in the late 19th century as a commercial block in conjunction with 213 Main Street but later subdivided into two commercial rooms. In 1928, the building's front was replaced, and again in 1931 when it received a major face-lift. As a result, the 215 property should now be evaluated as a separate and distinct building dating to 1931. This building was originally constructed in 1883 to house George G. Tilden's general mercantile business. It consisted of two commercial rooms forming the Tilden Block and bearing the address of 215-217 Main Street. But before Tilden moved into the building, an arrangement was transacted between him and his partners Bigelow and Huntington. Tilden exchanged his new block for the merchandise in their building at 203 Main.</p> <p>This block received a major facade rehabilitation in 1931 with separate face-lift designs for 213, 215 and 217. As a result, each of these properties should be evaluated as separate buildings. Although the facade redesign at 215 repeated the second-floor window cavities and the central entryway to the second floor of the original commercial block, almost every other architectural feature of the 1883 building was replaced, including new brick veneer on the facade.</p> <p>This veneer features polychrome brick of brown, tawny yellow, and tan. Windows on the second-floor feature 1/1 sash-type windows with brick lintels and sills. A tile coping caps the building. The brick at 215 is darker in color than that at 213. A large brickworked plaque is situated above the second story windows. It features brick laid in rectangular patterns and with white-colored brick, as well as the other polychrome colors. The storefront dates to 1956, when improvements were made to the building. The storefront features a large, inset entrance flanked by storefront windows.</p> <p>A metal canopy, added in the 1950s, used to be situated above the storefront and surmounted a large sign that covered up the transom area. The canopy was removed in 2013.</p>	<p>C</p>
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<p>217-219 Main St.</p>	 <p>Commercial Block, Joseph Lowry Building</p>	<p>c. 1884</p>	<p>This is a two-story brick commercial block, albeit unusually narrow. This block was already in place in 1907 and likely dates to the late 19th century. In 1931, the front facade of this building was face-lifted by Ben Cole &amp; Son, an Ames building contractor, for Mrs. Joe Lowry (City of Ames Inspection Department).</p> <p>Because of this substantial alteration to the building, it should be evaluated from this time. The original building had featured a five-bay configuration of the second floor. The facade of this building is shown in a 1907 photograph of Ames reproduced by the Octagon Center for the Arts as one of its "Faces of Our Founders" graphics. Although the facade redesign respected the five-bay configuration of the second floor, almost everything else was altered.</p> <p>The second floor now features a plaque area defined by courses of outset brick and a plaque field made up of a checkerboard design formed from soldier and sailor courses. The plaque is now picked out in white paint. Lintels and sills of the windows are brick and also painted white. Although the 2/2 double-hung windows appear to be replacements, the fenestration treatment respects the cavities of the 1930s face-lift. A tile coping caps the building.</p> <p>The first floor has been altered since the "face-lift." Remodeling projects occurred in 1948. In 2012, this building was repointed and improvements made to the storefront. Also at this time, a metal canopy was removed above the storefront.</p>	<p>C</p>
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221 Main St.

Commercial Building

1950

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. Although constructed prior to 1896, according to Sanborn fire insurance maps, this building received a total face-lift about 1950. As a result, the building should be evaluated from this period.

The alterations included the installation of reddish-orange colored brick on the upper story. The brick is laid in American bond. Two windows are situated on the upper floor. They feature 1;1 double-hung sash. The first floor storefront appears to have been altered again at a later time. The original structural I-beam with its decorative rosettes that supports the second floor remains visible on the facade

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<p>223 Main St.</p>	 <p>Commercial Building, Puritan Café</p>	<p>c. 1890</p>	<p>This is a one-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. Although the core building was constructed in the late 19th century, the facade was altered in 1918, following a fire, and again in the 1940s. As a result, this building should be evaluated with a period of significance from the mid-20th century.</p> <p>The 1938 project included, on the second floor, a reconfiguration of the windows, which now convey a horizontal feeling in marked contrast to the standard verticality in the Ames central business district. The irregularity of the upper story brick reveals the building's 19th century construction. In the 1940s, the 19th century brick was removed and replaced with new brick in brownish, orange-ish, and beige colors.</p> <p>A few brick-worked conceits, such as the soldier laid lintels and the protruding headers as sills laid beveled, harken back to earlier details in the vocabulary of Ames commercial architecture. Today, the first-floor storefront features an inset entrance on the east side. Its bulkhead is presently clad with vertical cover-up materials. Earlier materials, dating to the 1940s, might remain beneath them. An aluminum canopy is situated between the storefront and the upper story. The two paired windows on the upper story might date to the 1940s when the building's facade was altered. More recently, shutters were installed on the windows.</p>	<p>C</p>
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Story, IA

County and State

<p>225 - 227 Main St.</p>	 <p>International Order of the Odd Fellows Temple</p>	<p>c. 1902</p>	<p>Originally built around 1902, this building was the home of the Ames Lodge Number 309 of the I.O.O.F. and the Ames Rebekahs Lodge Number 108.</p> <p>A serious fire on December 10, 1917, destroyed much of this building. The fire took hold late on a bitterly cold winter night. Many business people rushed to their businesses to protect their property should the fire spread. Although water pressure was low, the Ames volunteer fire department was able to prevent the flames from spreading and extinguished the fire (Gladys Mead, Between the Skunk and Squaw Creek, page 166). The building was subsequently rebuilt in 1918.</p> <p>Its period of significance dates to that year because its facade was totally rebuilt. As a result of this rehabilitation, the building today appears as a three-story, brick building containing five bays and influenced in design by the Commercial Style of architecture. Notable in this regard is the basket weave brickwork decorating the parapet of the building, the three lozenges worked in brick below, and the stringcourses worked in soldier brick, which run the length of the facade and visually serve as lintels for the windows on the second and third floors.</p> <p>The second and third floor windows appear to retain their original configurations. Fenestration is complex. The central bay features paired 2/2 double-hung sash, the windows on the third floor contain lights (now blocked) above the sash giving them the feeling of Chicago style window design. The building contains a name plaque of cast concrete between the second and third floor in the central bay. Brick pilasters protrude from each side of the building. They also flank the central bay, although here they only run from the first to the second floors. The first-floor storefront has been greatly altered.</p> <p>Despite the changes, the overall integrity of the building is high. It is one of the few three-story buildings in the central business district of Ames and the only one on Main Street. It is, in addition, unusually wide with a facade of some 80 feet. A standard commercial block in Ames contains 56 feet (231-233 Main Street, for example).</p>	<p>C</p>
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Ames Main Street Historic District

Story, IA

Name of Property

County and State



229 Main St.

Red Ball Store

c.  
1901

Built between 1900 and 1911 and likely in 1901, this two-story brick building features a brick-worked entablature. The architrave consists of two stringcourses of protruding brick, surmounted by a planar frieze, surmounted in turn by a nicely worked cornice enriched by a multitude of small dentils. A tile coping caps the parapet.

The first floor of this building has been substantially altered, but the storefront features large windows from the 1957 remodel, which reflect a similar original design. An exterior entrance leading to the second floor is offset on the east side of the first floor. Today, a fixed canvas awning, surmounted by a nonintrusive sign, stand between the storefront and the upper story.

C




Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State

<p>231 Main St.</p>	 <p>Commercial Building, Joseph L. Budd Building</p>	<p>1891</p> <p>Originally dating to the late 19th century, this building's façade was redesigned in 1957, when James Thompson &amp; Son remodeled the building for Dick Rogers. (City of Ames Inspection Department)</p> <p>This work substantially altered its front facade. For that reason, the building should be evaluated as dating from that later period. It should also not bear the name of Judge Stevens (see 233 Main Street), who originally had it built for the same reason. Constructed by Judge J. L. Stevens (this is the most usual spelling of his name) in 1891-1892 with a half interest owned by Professor Joseph L. Budd, this is presently a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. This building was originally associated with 233 Main Street and formed the east room of a two-room commercial block. Number 233 formed the corner room. During the first quarter of the 20th century, the brick on the south and west sides of this building was stuccoed over.</p> <p>In 1957, the facade at 231 was altered by application of new brick veneer. Because of these treatments, this commercial block now reads as two separate buildings. Today, this building reflects its 1957 redesign. The storefront features an inset entrance on the east end, a masonry bulkhead, and storefront windows set in metal frames.</p> <p>The upper facade features three symmetrically placed, 1/1 double-hung sash and is clad in rosy red-colored brick set in running bond. The upper floor is higher than other commercial buildings to its east because it originated as a social hall (or opera house) and required a higher ceiling than typical for commercial buildings.</p> <p>The second floor of both 231 and 233 was given over to an opera house and was used for this purpose until 1905 when the Ames Armory was built.</p>	<p>C</p>
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Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



233 Main St.

Judge John L. Stevens Building

1891

The Judge John L. Stevens Building is more generally known, historically, as the Grove Brothers Dry Goods and Grocery Block. Taken together, 231-233 Main have also been known as the Stevens' Block. Constructed and first occupied in 1892, this is presently a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade.

Stucco, applied circa 1917, now covers the brick wall cladding. This building was originally associated with 231 Main Street and formed the west room of a two-room commercial block. J. L. Stevens constructed this building in association with J. L. Budd, professor at Iowa State. Although 233 is situated on a corner lot, it has a single facade, which faces south. During the first quarter of the 20th century, the brick on the south and west sides of this building was stuccoed over.

During the third quarter of the 20th century, the facade at 231 was altered by application of new brick veneer. Because of this, this commercial block now reads as two separate buildings and should be evaluated as such. Stevens had both the commercial rooms built. Budd's ownership in this property was described in the deed (dated December 11, 1891) as including his half interest in the building then under construction.

Although the deed did not stipulate dimensions, it is assumed that Budd's ownership constituted the east room. Later Budd sold his interest back to Stevens, prior to Stevens selling his half interest to Mr. Davis, the hardware dealer. This was the deed that separated the two commercial rooms by linear dimensions instead of by fractional interests.

The second floor of both 231 and 233 was given over to an opera house and was used for this purpose until 1905 when the Ames Armory was built (See 59.296.1-2 in the Brown Photographic Archive at the Ames Public Library.). In 1991 the exterior of this building was remodeled. It was remodeled again in the early 21st century.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



301-311 Main St.

Sheldon-Munn Hotel

1916

This is a four-story brick commercial building located at the corner of Main Street and Kellogg Avenue. The building features a double facade, one facing each of the corner streets. The architectural significance of the Sheldon-Munn Hotel lies in its richly textured and colored brick surface, its simple rectilinear shape, and its restraint of architectural detail, all of which provided a reference point for later contractor-builders in Ames.

The south facade currently comprises nine bays, six in the original hotel building at 301-307 Main and three in an addition, opened in 1927 and constructed at 309-311 Main, just west of the original building. Originally a marquee extended over the two centrally located bays in the 301-307 Main building, giving this facade a strong feeling of symmetry. This marquee has been replaced by a marquee over the third bay from the east. The windows of the second, third, and fourth stories of the building are modern replacement windows with a 1/1 sash. Most of the commercial storefronts on the east and south façades have had their display window openings made smaller or filled in entirely with T-111, but the infill has respected the original window openings, leaving their outlines intact.

The lots at 309-311 Main Street were purchased in 1926 and a fifty-room addition was built on them and it opened to the public in February 1927. Ben Cole, building contractor of Ames was the general contractor for the Sheldon-Munn addition. Although erected ten years after the original hotel building, this addition conforms in all but a few details to the overall design of the earlier building. The brick used varied slightly in color, however, and the new addition also did not replicate the brick-worked quoins that decorate the original section of the hotel at 301-307.

The addition expanded the scale of the hotel, giving it an impressive image. The addition calls attention to respect for uniformity and continuity of architectural design and demonstrates how a skilled local builder/contractor, Ben Cole, executed the Proudfoot and Bird design that achieved the effect. Cole's brickwork is also evident in Main Street buildings at 213, 215, 217, 313, 315, and 327. The addition to the hotel was evaluated as a separate contributing resource in the 1992 survey. Today, the two sections should be evaluated as part of a single complex because both the 1916 and 1926-1927 sections of the hotel have been owned as a single building by the same individuals and subjected to the same sort of renovations throughout the twentieth century.

C




Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State

<p>313 Main St.</p>	 <p>C.J. Lynch Building</p>	<p>This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. The front portion of the building was constructed in 1923 and the rear portion constructed in the summer of 1925. C. J. Lynch was owner of this building. This building reads with its neighbors to the west, 317 and 319 Main Street. These buildings are non-identical triplets constructed contemporaneously, albeit not simultaneously. They were all constructed prior to 1926.</p> <p>The buildings at 313 and 317 are the most similar, while that at 319 has several additional architectural features. In 1937, 315-317 (now 313-315) had cornice removed and brickwork done by Ben Cole – evidence of there once being a parapet (like at 319) shows on 315-317. 317 has a somewhat wider facade than its mates to the east and west, and this is reflected in the fact that 317 has three sets of paired windows on the second floor rather than two sets.</p> <p>c. 1923 The room at 313 features, on the second floor, 1/1 double-hung windows, which appear to be aluminum and are replacements. A course of cast concrete serves as sill for these windows and also extends the entire width of the facade. Another concrete band is situated above the windows and also stretches the width of the building.</p> <p>A plaque area, worked in brick, stands on the top capped by a cast concrete coping. Parapets stand at either side of this coping. Brick on the facade is polychrome. The first floor is altered from its original storefront design. An awning is affixed above the storefront. It was installed in 1961 (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 7063, January 4, 1961).</p> <p>The storefront now has aluminum window and door frames. A cast concrete lintel runs above the storefront and separates it from the second floor.</p>	<p>C</p>
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Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



315-317 Main St.

Lynch-Ash Building

c.  
1921

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with an extra-long, one-room-wide facade constructed in 1921. This building reads with its neighbors 313 to the east and 319-321 to the west. These buildings are non-identical triplets constructed contemporaneously, albeit not simultaneously. They were all constructed 1920-1926.

The buildings at 313 and 315-317 are the most similar in design, while that at 319-321 has several additional architectural features. Number 315-317 has a somewhat wider facade than its mates to the east and west, and this is reflected in the fact that 315-317 has three sets of paired windows on the second floor rather than two sets. Until 2013, the second floor of 315-317 had the three sets of paired windows with a 6/1 double-hung sash; 313 and 319-321 likely featured similar configurations. Aluminum-clad replacement windows now fill the window openings. A course of cast concrete at 315-317 serves as sill for these windows and also extends the entire width of the facade.

Another concrete band is situated above the windows and also stretches the width of the building. A plaque area, worked in brick, stands on the top capped by a cast concrete coping. Parapets stand at either side of this coping. Brick on the facade is polychrome in shades of orange, yellow, and brown.

The first floor is altered from its original storefront design. It now has aluminum window and door frames. There is a metal canopy fixed on the first floor. The bulkhead area is now covered in gray glass or ceramic type block material. The upper portion of the storefront windows is now blocked down. Original glass material may remain intact behind the cover. This glass may be of the Luxfer type because some of this material remains visible in the transom of the door at the east, which serves the apartments on the second floor.


A cast concrete lintel runs above the storefront and separates it from the second floor. In 1937, Ben Cole & Son removed an existing cornice at the top of the building and bricked it up. (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit, January 4, 1937). The original cornice resembled the one next door at 319-321 Main Street. The remodeled design featured a simple plaque with brick laid in a soldier course. In 1957, James Thompson & Son installed a "new brick front at a cost of \$400.00 (Ibid., Permit 795, August 20, 1957). Recent repointing of this area employed a light-colored mortar.

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State

<p>319-321 Main St.</p>	 <p>R.M. Wilcox Building</p>	<p>This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade constructed in 1921. This building reads with its neighbors 313 and 315-317 Main Street. These buildings are non-identical triplets constructed contemporaneously albeit not simultaneously. The rooms at 313 and 315-317 are the most similar, while that at 319-321 has several additional architectural features. Number 315-317 has a somewhat wider facade than its mates to the east and west, and this is reflected in the fact that 315-317 has three sets of paired windows on the second floor rather than two sets. The room at 319-321 features, on the second floor, two sets of paired windows. These windows have 1/1 double-hung sash and are replacements. A course of cast concrete serves as sill for these windows and also extends the entire width of the facade.</p> <p>Another concrete band is situated above the windows and also stretches the width of the building. Instead of a plaque area above this, 319-321 features a hip roof of tile with brackets capped by a cast concrete coping. Parapets stand at either side of this coping. Brick on the facade is polychrome in shades of orange-brown and yellow-brown and the mortar joints are deeply raked. Although the first-floor storefront has been altered, it retains its original cavity and central entrance design.</p> <p>c. 1921</p> <p>The building likely had, as at 313 and 315-317 Main, a cast concrete lintel above the storefront, but the remodeling of the storefront has removed this and the storefront's original transom. The brick above this area and below the second-floor window sills appears to have been replaced during this remodeling, because its color is lighter than the rest of the facade. In 1928, building contractor Phil Coy constructed an addition to this building—a one-story pressroom, 16 x 12-foot, of brick and tile (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 128, October 25, 1928). In 1986, Jon Hunziker Construction remodeled the storefront for Fred Swank for Swank's Jewelry (Ibid., Building Permit 86-013, January 28, 1986).</p> <p>Although the first-floor storefront has been altered, its design retains the building's original cavity, central entrance and, likely offset entrance to the upper floor at the west. The building almost certainly had, like numbers 313 and 315-317, a cast concrete lintel above the storefront, but this is non-extant. The brick above this area and below the second-floor window sills appears to have been replaced. This is a fine commercial building exhibiting a restrained design made interesting through emphasis on texture. Texture is provided by the variegated brick color, cast concrete material, brickwork details, and the tile roof. The building would be made more interesting if the second-floor windows were returned to their 6/1 configuration, almost certainly their original design.</p> <p>C</p>
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Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



323 Main St.

T.L. Rice Building

c.  
1924

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a two-room-wide facade. Constructed in 1924 as a real estate investment for T. L. Rice, this building features richly developed surface textures. The building reads as a commercial block: a commercial building comprising two or more room-sized units constructed as a unified design. The second floor features four sets of paired windows.

The present windows are replacements. They feature solid panes of paired glass set in metal frames. Canvas awnings are now fixed to the second-floor windows, which were not traditional features in downtown Ames, but they serve to call attention to the building. There are cast concrete sills and a course of cast concrete above the windows. Simple, stylized brackets are situated under this stringcourse at the sides of the windows.

Above this course are three plaque areas, two that are narrow and flank a wider one centrally placed. These plaques are demarked by brickwork, and cast concrete blocks are placed in each corner. Brick stacked bond headers form the interior of these plaques. Brick pilasters flank each side of the building and terminate at the top of the facade in parapets capped with cast concrete.

There is also a cast concrete coping on top of the facade and a parapet placed above this flanked by decorative cast concrete heraldic motifs. The centrally placed parapet, plaques, and the course above the windows visually tie the building together.

During a 1994 remodeling of the building, a name plaque, reading "M. I. Whitham," was inserted in the center plaque. Brick used in this building is multi-colored dark red and dark orange. Mortar joints are deeply raked. Although the storefront windows are somewhat blocked down, this cover material respects the original window cavity of the building. Original glass may remain intact behind this material.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



327 Main St.

Max Dutch Building

Designed by Clinton H. Cowgill, this is a two-story, brick commercial building constructed in 1928-1929 by Ben Cole for Max Dutch (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 121, September 26, 1928).

Located on two lots, the facade is physically no wider than its neighbor to the east, 323-325 Main Street, but appears to be wider because of its design. This design features a three-bay facade, non-conforming to standard bay configurations in Ames, where the norm is two- or four-bays. The feeling of non-conformity in 327 is further accentuated by a strongly vertical feeling introduced by architectural details on the second floor. The second floor contains fairly rich Art Deco elements. These include parapets on either side of the building and two placed so as to define the building as having three bays. These parapets are constructed of brick and terminate in cast concrete caps and base supports. The base supports tie into cast concrete window sills. The windows themselves consist of 3/3 fixed panes.

c.  
1928

The areas above the windows feature geometric designs worked in cast concrete, brick, and red glazed tile. The storefront has been altered several times. Today, it features metal windows and door frames. Each side of the storefront is now faced with deep red-colored marble slabs flanking red brick bulkheads. The upper portion of the storefront windows is blocked down, and a fixed metal canopy is placed above them.

This canopy features a pent roof centered by a steeply pitched, open-ended front gable roof. The design of the canopy intends to compliment the geometric patterns at the top of the building, but it becomes, instead, visually distracting because of its overwhelming size.

This building is somewhat taller than most two-story buildings in Ames. The feeling of height is further accented by the strongly vertical treatment of the parapets. The architectural elements on the second floor divide the facade into three bays. This design breaks with the one-room or two-room facade treatments standard in Ames until this time. In breaking these architectural rules, this building follows a national trend in Art Deco architecture.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



329 Main St.

Lee Building

c.  
1919

Originally constructed in 1919 as a two-story building, this property received a substantial remodeling in 1964. As such, the building should be evaluated within this mid-century context. Today, this is a one-story, brick commercial building. The building features a light beige-colored brick and a double facade.

The east elevation faces Main Street and features three bays with a canted entrance inset in the western most bay. The west elevation features a series of storefront windows albeit asymmetrically placed and smaller in size.

A cast concrete belt course runs along the south elevation and a portion of the west elevation above the windows and doors. A cast concrete coping caps the building on both elevations. In 1964, the second story of the building was removed and the first floor remodeled for Mrs. Norma Spencer. Barney J. Slater prepared the design for this remodeling, and the Thompson Construction Company implemented it (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 8295, Zoning Permit 3954, March 3, 1964).

Slater's design included a metal canopy wrapping around the south and west elevations of the building. Although this is nonextant, the cast concrete belt course, which stands in its place, replicates the horizontal line of this feature.

C



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



405 Main St.

Union Story Trust and Savings Bank

1961

This is a one-story, concrete and brick commercial building. Located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main Street and Burnett Avenue, this building is non-conforming to the typical room organization of most buildings on Main Street. Ames building contractor James Thompson & Son of Ames constructed it in 1961 at a cost of \$178,000 (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 7214, Zoning Permit 2925, June 19, 1961).

Union Story Trust & Savings Bank was later owned by United Bank and Trust, still later by Firststar Bank of Minnesota, and today by U.S. Bank. The building is a tour de force of pre-stressed concrete. Eight round arches run from the front façade to the rear of the building and serve as its roof. They cover eight bays on the front façade of the building. Seven of these bays feature storefront windows with the front entrance situated in the third bay from the east.

A solid wall of light orange-colored brick occupies the bay at the far west end of the façade. Glass fills the spaces within the arches above the south elevation and north elevation and creates clear views within the interior between them. These arches and the open interior spaces they create call attention to America's fascination with space exploration in the 1960s.

The design of this building was intended to work in rhythm with similar architectural detailing of its next-door neighbor to the west, the Collegian Theatre. In an ironic twist, that building's façade was altered several years later, removing the reason for architectural computability. (See 411 Main Street.)

A drive-up teller, built in 1975, is situated at the rear of the 405 building (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 12930, Zoning Permit 8463, May 12, 1975). This building relates to no other architectural design in the central business district. Germanson & Foss of Sioux City is noted as the architectural firm that designed the building. (Ames Daily Tribune, 27 Apr. 1962, pg. 7)

The Union Trust & Savings Bank building continued Ames' interest in concrete as a building material established much earlier by the F. J. Olson & Son building across the street at 400-402 Main Street. The Union Story Trust Company building provides an example of a mid-20th century use.

Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



1937

Collegian Theatre was one of the finest buildings of its type in Central Iowa. An historic photograph of the building in the collection of the Munn Lumber Company has this information on reverse: "Both sides and rear end, including basement of 17" Farrenwall construction, using twin brick size manufactured by Centerville Clay Products Co., Centerville, Iowa."

This theater was an important meeting place for the community, and many well remember the building's elaborate architecture. Owned by Joseph V. Gerbracht, president of the Ames Theatre Company, this theater featured, on the interior, rich Art Deco details, such as a winding stairway to the lounge and balcony, tête-à-tête lounge chairs, velvet drapes, and mirrors that refracted light. This was a combination theater serving both motion pictures and stage events. One could exit the theater into what is now the bank parking lot.

Joseph V. and Mildred M. Gerbracht lived at 1900 Grand Avenue (now known as 619 18th Street) on an estate built in the late 1940s. Mr. Gerbracht was a colorful and successful Ames entrepreneur and movie theater owner.

The Des Moines architectural firm of Wetherell & Harrison designed the Collegian Theatre, according to Larry Ericsson, AIA, of the successor firm Wetherell-Ericsson Architects. Wetherell & Harrison designed many movie theater buildings. The plans for the Collegian Theatre are dated January 25, 1937.

Today the facade stands as a testament to wanton disregard of the community's heritage.

NC

411 Main St.

Collegian Theatre

Ames Main Street Historic District  
 Name of Property

Story, IA  
 County and State



This is a two-story, concrete block commercial building with face brick veneer and cast concrete walls on the 1st floor. It was built in 1963 for Kenneth Thompson by James Thompson and Sons (City of Ames Inspection Department, Building Permit 01200, February 13, 1963).

The Architects of the project was the firm of Brooks-Borg. The building features three bays on the first floor. Full-length storefront windows and doors, set in aluminum frames, fill these bays. The masonry support columns are faced with rosy-red Roman brick with mortar joints laid in a way to create unusual zigzag vertical lines, particularly noticeable on the east wall of the front facade.

1962 The most remarkable architectural feature of the building is the second floor's virtual repetition of the full-length window design as on the first floor. This design floods the second floor with natural light. This design relates to the Union Trust & Savings Bank building at 405 Main Street, where windows are situated beneath its arched roof. Both buildings date from the 1960s and show Americans' fascination with space exploration and light and airy architecture. The design of this building is different from the one- and two-room facade configuration that characterizes most of the historic commercial buildings in the Ames central business district. This is particularly evident in the design of the second-floor windows. The nontraditional storefront width is typical of commercial buildings constructed in downtown Ames in the late 20th century.

415 Main St.

Kenneth Thompson Building



Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



1967

This is a one-story, masonry commercial building located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Main Street and Clark Avenue. It is different from the standard one- and two-room commercial design historically employed in Ames.

The building is offset on its site to create an urban plaza to its west, and the main entrance to the building faces this plaza. A clock tower is situated on the plaza. Today, Members 1st Community Credit Union occupies the building.

This building was originally constructed as a Maid-Rite sandwich shop. The building was erected in 1967 and constructed of concrete block with brick veneer and stucco or synthetic stucco (EIFS). Prior to this, the site was home to an all-metal garage which served as a filling station from 1927 to 1967.

This building is noncontributing to the historic district. More recent additions in 1974 and 1994 damage the structure's original integrity.

NC

423 Main St.

Thomas R. Oates Building

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



108-110-116-120-122 Main St. Skyscraper Block

c.1900

C

Constructed in the early 20th century and face-lifted in 1951 and 1960, this is a one-story, brick commercial block with five, one-room-wide facades.

Because of the mid-century remodeling, the block should be evaluated from this time period. The façade widths of 108-110-116-120-122 Main are narrower than most facades on Ames' Main St. The common design of each of these rooms is particularly evident in the upper area of the storefronts, all now clad with stucco and painted white.

Some variation exists among the storefronts. The room at 116 Main, for example, features a simple storefront with the windows and door placed slightly oblique to the facade. Number 110, which received a new front in 1960 (City of Ames Inspection Department, Permit 6983) has a somewhat wider facade than the others; the rooms at 118 and 120 Main feature a simple storefront with the windows and door placed slightly oblique to the facade.


The room at 122 Main features a simple storefront with the windows and door placed slightly oblique to the facade. Tongue-in-cheek, this building once was known in Ames as the "Skyscraper" Block—not because of its height but because, if stood on-end, it would be taller than most commercial buildings in Downtown Ames. This block's neighbor to the west—124 Main Street—is related to it in architectural design (See Iowa Inventory Site Form 85-00997.).

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State

<p>124 Main St.</p>	 <p>Commercial Building</p>	<p>c. 1905</p>	<p>Constructed in the early 20th century and face-lifted in 1961, this is a one-story, one-room-wide façade was architecturally similar to the neighboring, connecting Skyscraper block.</p> <p>Because of the mid-century remodeling, the block should be evaluated from 1961. This is a one-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. The width of the facade is narrower than most one-room facades in Ames but similar in size with 108-122 Main Street, its commercial neighbor to the east.</p> <p>Brick employed in this facade is dark red and dark beige in color. The building has a cast concrete coping. Storefront window openings, partially infilled in the 1990s, have been returned to the original size of their cavities. The entryway is inset into the facade on the east with a transom over the door.</p>	<p>C</p>
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Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



126-128 Main St. Marianos Nifaratos Building

1947-  
1953

An earlier building on the site of 126 was demolished between 1952 and 1953 after a fire to make way for the Marianos Nifaratos Building, constructed in 1953. The building at 128 was constructed in 1947 for a sporting goods store.

In the 1990s, the two buildings were purchased by a single owner. Since then, 126-128 has consisted of two, 2-story brick commercial buildings, one at 126 Main Street and one at 128 Main Street. In 2000, changes to both these facades visually integrated the appearance of the two buildings into one.

These alterations included the application of EIFS on the first and second floors, blocking the windows on the second floor of 128 Main, replacement storefront windows, and replacement front doors. As a result, this resource should be evaluated as a commercial block dating from 2000. It is combined with Iowa Site Inventory Number 85-01000 at 128 Main Street.


NC

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State

<p>130 Main St.</p>	<p>Commercial Building</p> 	<p>c. 1899</p>	<p>Built in 1899, this is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. The building features dark-orange-colored brick. There is a double plaque above the second story windows, which is an unusual design in Ames.</p> <p>This is an early appearance of plaques as an architectural detail on commercial properties in Ames. These plaques are defined by dark red brick, which outlines them. The second story has three windows with segmental arches worked in brick. Windows have cast concrete sills.</p> <p>The windows themselves are new installations with one pane of glass, instead of having multiple lights. They replace another set of replacement windows extant in the 1990s. The first-floor storefront has been altered with vertical wood siding and new aluminum windows and doors.</p> <p>An earlier facade on this building is shown in a 1907 photograph of downtown Ames. This facade featured four bays on the second floor, windows with hood molds, and a cornice worked in brick. This building was face-lifted circa 1920. Although the alterations, were profound, the only major alterations to the new design included the four bays on the second floor changing to three. Yet the building retained its height, higher than its neighbor to the east and lower than its neighbor to the west. (Farwell T. Brown Photo Archives 17.82.5)</p> <p>Due to all this, the building should be evaluated as a 1920 design. Although the first floor storefront has been altered with a new bulkhead, door, and windows, the original cavities remain intact, including the transom area. Original glass, perhaps of the Luxfer type, may remain behind the paneled-over transom area.</p>	<p>C</p>
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Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



132-134 Main St.

Commercial Block

c.  
1884

This is a two-story, brick commercial block with a two-room-wide facade. A building was on this site already in 1900 (possibly dating to circa 1884) but was face-lifted because of damage in 1916 along with 136 and 138 to create the present facade.

This commercial block relates to 136 Main, its neighbor to the west. It features, in this regard, a plaque and window sills and lintels extended across the entire facade as stringcourses. The building also has a rudimentary cornice worked in brick.

The entire 132-134 facade has been painted.

Although the storefront area of this building has been altered and infilled, these alterations have respected the original space of the building and appear to be reversible. Other rehabilitations of this block occurred in 1964 and in 2011, when the front facade was stabilized.

The 2011 rehabilitation respected the essential design features of the building. The 1/1 double-hung sash type windows at 134 are new as of 2011 but respect the original 1916 design and correspond to those at 136. The windows at 132 had been infilled sometime in the past. Today, vertically-mounted, neon signage is centrally mounted on the front facade.



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



136 Main St.

Commercial Building

c.  
1885

This is a two-story, brick commercial building, constructed circa 1885, with a one-room-wide facade. The entire facade was face-lifted in 1916 and possibly in 1927. It now features beige and light brown textured brick for the body of the facade and maroon-colored brick for trim work.

Trim comprises a plaque and window sills and lintels on the second floor, which are extended as stringcourses across the entire facade of the building. These windows are 1/1 double-hung sash type. The building also features a rudimentary, brick-worked cornice.

A new storefront for this building ("new display windows & interior repairs—new front to be constructed of structural glass & plate glass") was installed in 1937 (City of Ames Inspection Department). It features black Carrera-type glass windows trimmed with greenish-cream colored glass bands. The west end of this window originally was curved, which added a streamlined feeling to the storefront.

Recently, this window was replaced with an angled rather than a curved window.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District

Story, IA

Name of Property

County and State



c.  
1988

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. The building was face-lifted in 1960.

It features red brick and orange brick. The simplicity of the facade is unrelieved by architectural detail except for the cast concrete coping at the top of the building, which ties into that of 202.

The transoms over the storefront windows now are covered over, but their cavities likely remain intact. Second floor windows are double-hung 1/1 sash.

C

200 Main St.


Commercial Building

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State

<p>202 Main St.</p>	 <p>P. Frangos Building</p>	<p>1872-1883</p>	<p>This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. The building was originally constructed between 1872 and 1883, but it was face-lifted in 1950 with a new front and windows (City of Ames Inspection Department). The building features a name plaque of cast concrete impressed with "P. Frangos Bldg".</p> <p>The building also has cast concrete corner decorations and parapet cap. It features red and yellow brick. The steel crank-out windows on the second floor are Commercial Style with metal construction and have cast concrete sills.</p> <p>Although the storefront of this building has been altered with vertical wood siding, it respects the space of the building's original storefront cavity.</p>	<p>C</p>
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Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State

<p>208 Main St.</p>	<p>Commercial Building</p> 	<p>c. 1898</p> <p>This is a 2-story, brick commercial room associated with 210 Main Street. These two properties were designed as one commercial block with a central doorway on the street accessing the second floor. The Ames City Assessor dates its construction to 1898. Both buildings are pictured in a 1907 photograph. Circa 1937-1940, this commercial block was face-lifted. The commercial room at 208, like its neighbor at 210 Main, is veneered in polychrome brick in colors of red, purplish red, and tawny yellow. Today, however, the façade of 208 Main appears markedly different from its neighbor at 210 Main because the brick on 208 was laid in mortar of a lighter, grayish color, which substantially changes its look when compared with its neighbor's dark-colored mortar. That this difference in mortar is original to the first façade alteration, seems unlikely.</p> <p>Owner C.C. (or C.E.) Major applied for a City of Ames Building Permit (#1131, March 8, 1937) to put on a new storefront at 210 Main, including steel and glass. Major then received a second permit in June of 1940 to put a new front of brick and tile construction on the neighboring store, 208 Main. It is unclear whether the second permit covered work on both 208 and 210, part of the same commercial block, but this seems likely. The two façades appear as one, with no difference in the color of mortar, in a 1949 Ames Daily Tribune photo.</p> <p>The second-floor facade of 208 Main features a variety of brickwork. Several courses of soldier brick surmount the storefront windows. Another course of soldier brick surmounts the two windows on the second floor. This course appears to serve as the lintel for the windows, although the lintels themselves are of iron or steel. A rudimentary plaque area is situated several courses above this soldier course.</p> <p>Brick is laid in a basket weave pattern above this plaque and near the tile coping that caps the parapet. The 1/1 double-hung windows are modern, vinyl replacements with a 6/6 appearance. The first-floor storefront is a recent remodeling. It features large storefront windows with arched-shaped transoms fixed in a wooden frame. The original exterior entrance to the second floor remains intact. Although its door has been replaced, its original 6-pane transom remains intact. The second-floor wall above it reflects the different brick treatments of the 208 and 210 properties. Today, the first floor functions as a commercial operation and the second floor as a residential rental.</p> <p>C</p>
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Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



210 Main St..

Commercial Building

This is a 2-story, brick commercial room associated with 208 Main Street. These two properties were designed as one commercial block with a central doorway on the street accessing the second floor. The Ames City Assessor dates its construction to 1898, which is credible. Both buildings are pictured in a 1907 photograph.

Circa 1937-1940, this commercial block was face-lifted. The commercial room at 210, like its neighbor at 208 Main, is veneered in polychrome—red, purplish red, and tawny yellow—brick set in a light rose-colored mortar, though the mortar at 210 Main looks much darker because a sealant was applied at some point in the building's past. Today, the façade of 210 Main appears markedly different from its neighbor at 208 Main. The shiny quality of the brick and mortar at 210 Main, as well as the saturated color of the brick, suggests the façade received an application of a color-enhancing sealant. This sealant is not original to the 1937-1940 facade alteration.

The two façades appear as one, with no difference in the tone of mortar or brick, in a black and white 1954 Ames Daily Tribune photo. See 208 Main's description of building permit for more information on this façade renovation.

c.  
1898

The second-floor facade features a variety of brickwork. Several courses of soldier brick surmount the storefront windows. Another course of soldier brick surmounts the two windows on the second floor. This course appears to serve as the lintel for the windows, although the lintels themselves are of iron or steel. A rudimentary plaque area is situated several courses above this soldier course. Finally, brick is laid in a basket weave pattern above this plaque and near the tile coping that caps the parapet. The 1/1 double-hung windows on the second floor appear to be modern vinyl replacements.

The first-floor storefront is a recent remodeling. The 1954 Ames Daily Tribune photo shows a newly remodeled Frangos Restaurant in the store at 210 with a Carrera glass and glass-block front the removal of which in recent years, no doubt, accounts for the T-111 infill on the current storefront at 210 Main, which features large storefront windows, surrounded by siding, centered on the front entrance.

A canvas awning, fixed in a metal frame, extends across the storefront. The original exterior entrance to the second floor remains intact. Although its door has been replaced, its original 6-pane transom remains intact. The second floor wall above it reflects the different brick treatments of the 210 and 208 properties. Today, the first floor functions as a commercial operation and the second floor as a residential rental.

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



212 Main St.

Commercial Building

c.  
1876

This is a 2-story, brick commercial room. Constructed circa 1876, this is one of the few surviving late nineteenth century commercial buildings in the Downtown Ames Historic District. Originally this commercial building included a twin to the west at 214 Main Street, which, together, formed a commercial block. A 1907 streetscape photograph pictures this block.

The 214 property has since been face-lifted. The 212 property retains much of its original design. The first floor includes storefront windows with transoms (now clad with cover-up materials) centered on the main entrance.

The second floor possesses fine integrity. Its design features three symmetrical placed windows with 2/2 double-hung sash, stone (or perhaps cast stone) sills, and segmental hood molds. The wall in which these windows are placed is slightly setback from the facade of the building. A brick pilaster on the east side of this facade and three sets of paired arches above the windows define the plane of this facade.

(The 214 property had a similar brick pilaster on its west side when originally built. It completed the symmetry of that commercial block's design. Its remodeling explains the current asymmetry as exhibited at 212.)

The 1907 photograph pictures a tall, metal cornice surmounting the 214 property's front facade. Undoubtedly, the 212 property also featured such a cornice originally. By the end of 1907, however, it had been removed.



Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



214 Main St. Commercial Building

c.  
1880

Originally constructed circa 1880, this is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. The building underwent an alteration of the storefront in 1937 and the second floor in 1958. It features brick in a brown and yellow mixed color and brick in a red color. Near the parapet, a subtle plaque is worked in red brick with the butt ends laid to define this rectangular space.

The second floor features double-hung sash with 6/6 window pane configuration. These windows have sills constructed of brick laid butt end. The storefront dates to the 1930s and features art-deco aesthetic with black opaque glass above the store window and door area where a transom would normally be located.

Although modern signage is situated over this glass, the glass itself does not appear to be seriously damaged. A door to the second floor is situated on the west side of this building.

Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



216 Main St.

Commercial Building

c.  
1884

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. The building features creamy yellow brick and creamy orange brick on the facade. A cast concrete coping caps the building.

This building relates to that at 214 Main. This is most noticeable in the window sills and lintels, although the windows at 216 have been fore-shortened from the bottom up. The windows on the second floor may, when face-lifted, have had a configuration other than the present 1/1.

This building was originally built in 1884, but it received a new front in 1951. Because of this, the building should be evaluated as a mid-20th century property that showcases the Art Moderne styling of this period.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



218 Main St. Commercial Building

c.  
1884

This is a one-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. It dates, according to the Ames City Assessor, to 1884. In 1974, the second story of this building was removed.

This facade is narrower than most in Downtown Ames. In 1911 this building was associated with 220 Main Street. In the 1990s, the brick on this building was painted dark brown. This paint has been removed in a recent renovation, the brick bulkhead and parapet pointed, the vertical siding material above the doors and window (pre-dating 1992) removed, and a simple canvass awning installed.

A simple concrete coping tops the front facade. When it reaches 50-years of age (to include the second floor removal as part of its integrity), this property should be re-evaluated as a potentially contributing resource to the historic district, under National Register Criterion C, because it would then call attention to the revitalization of Main Street at the turn of the 21st century using historic preservation as a tool.

NC



Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



220-224 Main St.

Ames Silversmithing Block

1911

This is a one-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. In 1911 this site housed two commercial buildings of narrower than standard width for Ames. The present facade was constructed in 1990. Although it contains a Victorian Revival storefront design, the wood brackets and cornice design suggest an early period of significance.

The introduction of polychrome brick in the new facade is particularly appropriate for commercial design in downtown Ames. In 2004, the building at 224 Main Street, which had been occupied by Smith Jewelry in 1927, was demolished. A new building, whose facade matched that at 220, was erected in its place.

NC

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



226 Main St.

Moorman Clothiers

c.  
1894

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. This building appears to have been designed prior to 1907 in association with that at 228 Main Street, although the facade of 226 is somewhat wider. A 1907 photograph of the central business district shows, for example, these buildings sharing a common cornice design. Number 226 was face-lifted in 1952. It is this facade that obtains significance today.

The building features tapestry brick of red, dark red and tawny-yellow-colored brick. There is a high parapet above the second floor windows. This area is decorated with a brick-worked plaque consisting of brick laid in a basket weave design. Tile coping caps the building. Windows on the second floor feature 1/1 double-hung sash type windows. They appear to be alterations from the 1950s design that, perhaps, resembled those at 228.

Sills consist of brick laid obliquely and butting out. Other brick details provide architectural interest to the facade. These details include a band of soldier laid brick separated by other courses of brick above the second floor windows. This band ties into a similar one at 228. The first floor storefront had been totally altered with rough, vertical wood siding in a gable end design to unite 228 and 226 Main Street in the early 1960s.

In 2012, the wood siding was taken down and the first floor façade was altered to appear sympathetic to the building's 1952 design. The second floor retains much of its integrity from the 1950s. Also in 2012, the building was repointed and other repairs were made.

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



228 Main St.

Moorman Clothiers

c.  
1890

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. This building appears to have been designed prior to 1907 in association with that at 226 Main Street, although that store front is somewhat wider than 228. A 1907 photograph of the central business district shows, for example, these buildings sharing a common cornice design. Number 228 was face-lifted, in this case in 1938 (City of Ames Inspection Department).

It is this facade that obtains significance today. The building features red-colored brick. There is a simple, brick-worked cornice. Tile coping caps the building. Windows on the second floor feature 6/6 and 8/8 double-hung sash type windows. They appear original to 1938. Sills consist of brick laid obliquely and butting out. Other brick details provide architectural interest to the facade. These details include a band of soldier laid brick separated by other brick courses laid above the second-floor windows.

Prior to 1992, most likely in the early 1960s, the first floor storefront had been totally altered with rough, vertical wood siding in a gable end design to unite it visually with 228 and 226 Main Street. In 2012, this storefront was removed and replaced with more appropriate materials. The second floor retains almost pristine integrity from 1938.



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



230 Main St.

Joseph L. Budd Building

c.  
1896

This is a two-story, brick commercial block with a one-room-wide façade (left). This building stands in place in a 1911 fire insurance map of Ames. It was built between 1896 and 1900 by John Cole, an Ames building contractor, for Prof. Joseph L. Budd. The building is associated with 232-234 Main Street because they share a common architectural design.

The first floor was given over to The Fair Store, which featured dry goods and groceries. The Fair Store extended into 232-234 Main Street. This building features brick in a yellow color. The second floor contains a brick-worked cornice with stylized brackets and parapets. A tile coping caps the facade. These architectural features are repeated on 232-234 Main Street.

The second-floor features four bays filled with 1/1 double-hung sash type windows. Brick segmental arches are above the windows and cast concrete sills below. Although the first floor features an entirely new storefront, it respects the original storefront cavity and retains the I-beam lintel and cast iron columns that structurally support the second floor. Three canvas awning are fixed to the top of the storefront.

This commercial building and its association with the commercial block at 232-234 Main Street constitute one of the finest commercial designs in the district. These buildings are significant for their continuity of design for multiple properties and the influence of Classical Revival styling on them.

For these reasons, this building contributes to the Downtown Ames Historic District, under Criterion C. J. Jacobs started the Fair Store in Ames. He later went into business association with E. W. Valentine. The Fair Store was one of the lynch pins of Downtown Ames commerce. Other communities, like Albia, also had a Fair Store. This may have been an early Iowa chain store like the Graham Stores, based in Ottumwa, the Golden Eagle, based in Oskaloosa, or Spurgeon's, which had stores in Fairfield, Grinnell, and elsewhere. The Octagon Center for the Arts published an historic photograph of this building in postcard format in 1989. It shows the building before the alterations of the second floor windows at 232-234 Main.

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



232-234 Main St.

Joseph L. Budd Block

c.  
1896

This is a two-story, brick commercial block with a two-room-wide façade (right). This building was built, according to a fire insurance map of Ames, between 1896 and 1900. The building is associated with 230 Main Street because they share a common, but independent, architectural design.

This building features brick in a yellow color. The second floor contains a brick-work cornice with stylized brackets and small turrets. A tile coping caps the facade. These architectural features are repeated on 230 Main Street.

Although the first floor features an entirely new storefront, it respects the original storefront cavity and retains the I-beam lintel and cast iron columns that structurally support the second floor, although now boxed in. The second floor originally featured a series of seven 1/1 double-hung sash. Before 1940, these were replaced by three bays filled with Chicago style commercial windows. Over the succeeding years, these windows were infilled somewhat.

In 2011, these windows were replaced with new windows, which reflect the Chicago style. These windows are unusual because of their large size. The windows break with the vertical feeling of standard upper level fenestration in Ames commercial design and are significant because of their rarity of use in Ames, rather than as representative of the city's commercial design. An historic photograph, reproduced in post card format by the Octagon Center for the Arts, pictures this building prior to installation of the new windows.

Broadly conceived in its scope, this commercial block and its association with the building at 230 Main Street, constitute one of the finest commercial designs in the central business district. This block employs a rare window design in Ames. This building was built between 1896 and 1900 for Professor Joseph L. Budd by John Cole, an Ames building contractor. Budd, being a member of the Lodge, had this building constructed as an investment.

His biography in the 1911 History of Story County, Iowa (Volume 2, page 261) says:

"He built and owned the home of Arcadia Lodge, No. 249, A. F. & A. M. in Ames. He took great delight in building operations and found extreme pleasure in erecting some large building, and thus contributing to the welfare and improvement of the city in which it was located."

Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



236 Main St. Baker Building

1896-1897

Built in 1896-1897, this is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. A jewelry store has been on this site since at least 1911, but the current building appears, from a 1907 photograph of the Ames downtown, to date somewhat earlier than that.

This building features maroon-colored brick. On the second floor, the building has a brick-worked entablature, with a course of projecting brick for the architrave, planar-laid brick for the frieze, and deep dentils surmounted by several planar courses of brick for the cornice. The coping is now flashed with sheet metal. The second-floor windows feature segmental brick arches and cast concrete sills.

The second floor has three bays. These are filled with replacement windows in a paired configuration of single panes within what appears to be a metal frame. Space between the frame and the segmental arches is infilled. Although the first floor features an entirely new storefront, it respects the original storefront cavity. There are two front entrances. The one on the east gives access to the store. The one on the west gives access to the upper floor. The glass design of the first floor, however, should be evaluated as a 1968 “face-lift” design as it showcases the changing nature of Ames’ commercial district in the 1960s.

The Spandrel glass updates on the face of 236 modernized the building and coincide with other 1960s Downtown Ames developments – especially those in the expanding west-end of the Main street.



Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



238-240 Main St.

Ames Trust & Savings Bank

c.  
1951

This is a one-story, brick commercial block. It was originally constructed as a two-story building in 1913, from designs by Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen, architects of Des Moines, to house the Ames Trust & Savings Bank (originally the Ames Savings Bank), established in 1903, by A. J. Graves and Milo Manning.

On November 22, 1987 a fire caused extensive damage to this building. It was subsequently necessary to remove the second floor from this building. Additional alterations were also undertaken to return it to service. Because of great changes in appearance, this building is evaluated as noncontributing.

NC

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



300 Main St.

Adams Grocery--Commercial Savings Bank

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. Constructed in 1908, this building may have been built at the same time and in conjunction with 302 Main. Both commercial rooms share, for example, hollow tile load-bearing walls. 300 retains a high level of architectural integrity.

Brick is a mottled maroon and brown color. The building features an entablature with two courses of projecting brick for an architrave, planar frieze, and deep cornice with recessed panels worked in brick. As noted below, later improvements to the building were undertaken to convert it into a bank. These improvements included installing cast concrete elements on the storefront and replacing the building's canted corner with a right-angled design. The use of cast concrete in the remodeling of 1920 resembles a similar use on Liebke, Nourse, and Rasmussen's Masonic Temple at the corner of 5th and Douglas.

A tiny wing is attached to the southeast corner of this building. It bears the street address 301 Kellogg Avenue. Its architectural design is similar to that of the main building, although the building functions independently.

C. 1908 Prior to remodeling in 1920, this building served as Adams Bros. Grocery Store. In 1920 E. J. Engeldinger and M. A. Manning, bank officers of the Commercial Savings Bank, purchased this building and proceeded to remodel it into a new home for the bank. Although leaving the second story virtually intact, the alterations substantially improved the building. These improvements included the introduction of cast concrete decorative trim.

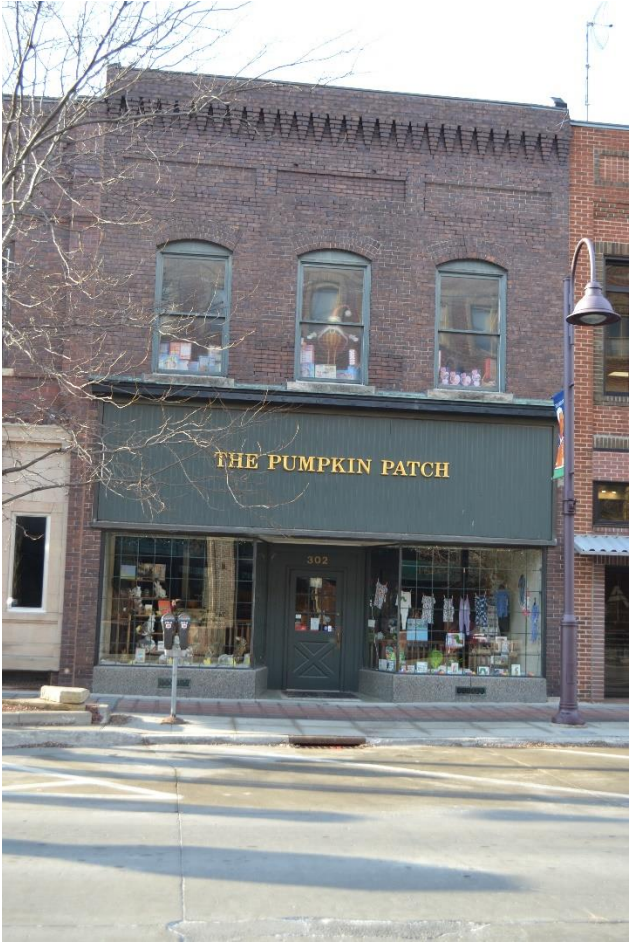
In a 1921 feature story, the Ames Daily Tribune reported: "An unusual feature of the interior bank arrangement is the room for the bookkeeping department. The vault accommodations are commodious and designed to allow the maximum of efficiency."

**301 Kellogg Avenue**

Attached at the southeast corner of 300 Main Street, this is a one-story addition to the 300 Main Street building. The addition possesses an exceptionally narrow facade. Its integrity is high and includes what appears to be an original bulkhead below the window, an inset brick-worked area above the door, and a brick cornice. The brick is now painted red. There is not enough evidence to suggest that this addition stands as its own contributing resource. Its significance lies in connection to 300 Main Street.

Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



302 Main St. Commercial Building

c.  
1908

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. Constructed circa 1908, the building features brick of a dark brown color, a brick-worked entablature (somewhat similar to 230 and 232-234 Main), three brick-worked plaques, and segmental arches above the second-story windows.

These windows are 1/1 double-hung sash type. Although they may not be the original windows, the present configuration is similar to the original one. The sills of these windows are cast concrete with rough-faced stone texture. The sills connect with a horizontal inset band of similar material.

Although the first-floor storefront has been altered, it appears to respect the original cavity area. The transom is covered with cover-up material that might extend above the original cavity, but original fabric may remain behind this covering.

For many years this building housed Eschbach's Music House, which featured phonograph records (with listening booths), pianos, radios, string and band instruments, sheet music, and other music-related merchandise. Music lessons were also given from this store.



Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



304-306 Main St. Hamilton Building

Constructed in 1925, this is a two-story, brick commercial block with a two-room-wide facade. It features red brick with trim in a red and tawny brown color. A plaque area near the building's parapet defines each of the commercial rooms, and a third plaque is situated at the central portion of the building. These plaques are defined by brick inset from the face of the facade and laid brick stacked bond headers. Below this there is a band of three courses in Flemish bond, with the butt-ended brick in a brown color and the stretcher brick in a red color.

c. 1925 Each commercial room has, on the second floor, a pair of Chicago-style windows. These relate in feeling to those that were installed at 232-234 Main Street. A newer metal coping now caps the building. Although the first-floor storefronts are totally altered now, it respects the original cavity of the building. The storefront at 304 was altered in 2006 with brick infill in lieu of the typical plate glass one would expect in a storefront of the early twentieth century.

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



308 Main St.

P. Frangos Building

1911-  
1920

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. It originated as a commercial block, bearing the street address 308-310 Main Street, and built between 1911 and 1920, but it was transformed in the 1960 by the “face-lift” project at 308 into two separate and distinct facades. The facade at 310 remained unchanged. For this reason, each property should be evaluated separately. The firm of Charles Reichardt undertook the face-lift renovation at 308 (City of Ames Inspection Department). The commercial block configuration remains evident in the front entrance situated between the two properties and the facade at 310. This leads as a common entrance to the second floor.

308 features brick of a tawny yellow and reddish color. The second floor has an exceptionally large plaque area beneath the parapet. It is brick-worked in a checkerboard pattern and features the two colors of brick already mentioned.

A cast concrete name plaque, reading “P. Frangos/Bldg” is centered in it. The second floor also has 1/1 double-hung sash type windows. The sills of these windows break with the common horizontal layout which all second-floor window sills shared from 300 to 306 Main.

Although the storefront area is altered, it respects the original cavity of the building. The metal grillwork above the storefront dates from the 1950s or later, but it does not impair the integrity of the building.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



310 Main St.

Commercial Building

1911-  
1920

This building (and its associated building at 308) is historically significant because its construction between 1911 and 1920 calls attention to the building up of the 300 block of Main Street. During the first decade of the 20th century, the south side of this block was largely vacant, and the buildings that stood here were mixed—a dwelling and a vacant lumber yard, both described on the 1900 fire insurance map as “not in use.” This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room-wide facade.

It is associated with the commercial room at 308, and both buildings appear to have been built at the same time, between 1911 and 1920 (Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.).

The building at 310 features brick in a deep maroon color. There is a brick-worked cornice with stylized dentils. The building also contains a brick-worked plaque. The second-floor windows are 1/1 double-hung sash type. The sills of these windows are rough-faced cast concrete similar to those employed at 302.

Although the storefront has been altered, it respects the original cavity of the opening. It features an inset front entrance centered on the facade.

C



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



312-314 Main St.

Commercial Block

c.  
1880

This is a two-story, brick commercial block with a two-room-wide facade.

The evolution of this site is complex. Already prior to 1900, a two-room commercial building stood on this site. The configuration of this building remained constant through the 1920s.

The present appearance of this block, according to municipal records, dates to 1939, when it was known as the Roberson Building. The cost of work to face-lift its present facade totaled \$12,000 (City of Ames Inspection Department). The 1930s date for the design of the facade is commensurate with its physical appearance.

The edifice features two brick-worked bands below the parapet area and lintels for the second-floor windows, which extend across its entire facade as stringcourses. The area directly above the storefront also has a stringcourse across the facade. The second-floor windows are replacements. This commercial block originally might have had small paned window configuration on the second floor. (See the commercial block at 125-127 Main, which has retained its original second floor windows and greatly resembles 312-314.)

This site housed a lodge hall on the second floor between at least 1911 and 1920.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



c.  
1942

This is a one-story, brick commercial block with a multiple room-wide facade. The property was constructed in 1940 or 1942. In 2004, its front facade totally was reconstructed.

The facade now features reddish and purplish face brick, two front entrances, and three storefront windows. It now houses a brew pub and restaurant.

NC

316-318-320 Main St.

Olde Main Brewing Company

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



326-330 Main St.

Morris Livery Stable

1909-  
1912

C

This is a complex of several buildings, constructed at various times, which in 1957 become integrally fused into one edifice. The complex consists of the Morris Livery Stable at 340 Main Street and a commercial building at 326 Main Street. It should be evaluated as one resource with a period of significance dating from 1909, when the livery stable was constructed, to 1957.

**Commercial Building:** This is a 2-story, commercial block with hollow tile for load-bearing walls, originally constructed in 1912 as a garage. In 1930, it was converted into a J. C. Penney's store under a design by that firm's architect. U. S. Griffith & Son of Ames served as the building contractor for the renovation. In 1957, James Thompson & Sons, a building contractor of Ames, renovated the building, again from a design by the J. C. Penney's firm, to integrate the 328 property with the Morris Livery Stable at 340. From then on, these two units have functioned as one commercial complex.

**Morris Livery Stable:** This is a 3-story masonry and frame building. Originally constructed in 1909, it features a prominent front gable roof, which provides a large interior space for a hay mow. The front facade of the building was remodeled in 1957. The preservation of the mow in the livery stable is a rare survivor in an Iowa downtown, and this interior space substantially increases the property's significance.

**Complex:** In the 1980s, the front facade was remodeled with the application of cream-colored cover-up panels across its first two floors. The storefront at 328 has since been infilled and remodeled several times. Its upper floor now features four windows. The storefront at 340 retains the look of a department store, including a wide and deep inset main entrance. Its upper floor features six window openings now clad with cover-up siding. Decorative, horizontal bands, run across the front facade above the second floor, along with a sign that reads "Town Center."

The building retains its original front gable roof, redolent of a livery stable, while in the interior, on the top floor, it retains its original configuration as a hay mow. The first and second floor of the exterior presents the image of a retail-commercial establishment. Hence, the building imparts a visual sense of its evolution as a design.



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



400-402 Main St.

F. J. Olsan & Sons Block

c.  
1912

This is a 2-story commercial block with a 2-room wide front facade. Built between 1911 and 1912, the building features a poured-concrete foundation, walls and a flat roof. F. J. Olsan's sons, George, Milo, and Charles, helped construct the building. As originally constructed, the poured concrete exterior of the block was scored to resemble limestone block. Before 1915, parts of the exterior walls were painted. Today, the block is clad with stucco and has been re-painted to match the 1915 appearance. This has many windows, an important architectural element for a floriculture business. The east elevation was built with paired windows on both the first and second floors. The windows on the first floor had been filled in and covered with a stucco to match the surrounding walls, but this was removed in 2014 to restore the original window layout.

The central two bays of the east façade had also featured a painted mural of historical subjects significant to the City of Ames, funded as a public art project by the city, which has been removed with the recent remodel. All windows on the second story east and north façades, as well as the storefront windows on the north elevation are replacement windows with reflective glass.

The upper story windows look like paired, 1/1 sash windows, but each is made up of a fixed, metal frame dividing the square opening into four sections, each of which is filled with a stationary pane of glass. The southeastern bay on the first floor houses an oriel window. The next bay to the north now holds a door for rear entrance into the store at 402 Main. The storefront opening of 402 Main has also been made smaller with the addition of filler: rough-cut wood siding, laid on the bias for visual interest.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



1911-  
1915

This is a two-story, brick commercial block with an exceptionally wide facade. The block features multi-colored brick and cast concrete for window sills, and the brick pilasters on each side and flanking the two center bays.

The block also features a modified cornice with corbels. Although the storefront area of this building has been rebuilt, this is not unexpected in commercial buildings and blocks.

C

404-410 Main St.

J.H. Dahl Block

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



1925

This is a two-story, brick commercial block with a two-room-wide facade constructed in 1925. The building is a fine example of a store influenced by the Commercial Style of architecture. Features of this influence include the second floor window sills and lintels which are fabricated of a brick darker than the facade and which extend, as stringcourses, the entire width of the facade. The lintel over the storefront cavities is also worked in darker colored brick and extends the width of the facade.

Surface textures of the building are further enriched by the dark colored brick forming plaques above the second-floor stringcourse, dark colored brick framing the second-floor windows, and a simple cornice. This building is contributing to the historic district. This building appears, from fire insurance maps, to have been constructed between 1920 and 1926. This building and its neighbors were built at approximately the same time, and their storefront widths break with the standard in Ames.

C

412-415 Main St.

Commercial Block



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



1994

The Wells Fargo Bank is a two-story brick building constructed in 1994. The building features cast concrete trim and is situated on an irregularly-shaped footprint on its site. The Brenton Bank at 424 Main Street was demolished in 1994 to make way for the construction of the Wells Fargo Bank.

The Brenton Bank, formerly occupied by the Dragoun Moving firm at 420 Main Street, was also demolished at that time. The commercial building at what was then 414-146 Main Street was incorporated into the Wells Fargo Bank. The new edifice now bears the address 424 Main Street. At an earlier time, the Ames bus station occupied this site.

NC

424 Main

Wells Fargo Bank

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



411 Kellogg Ave.

Bicycle Surplus Block

2007

This is a one-story commercial building with a two-room wide facade. Constructed after 1926, this building was face-lifted in the 1950s with a total redesign. The facade featured large, square panels with those above the storefront light in color, and those on either side of the windows are dark in color. The north end of the facade had an opening in an amorphous shape, which served as an architectural detail. There was also a fixed metal canopy situated above the storefront. This canopy may have dated after this face-lift.

In 1992, an architectural survey of this building noted:  
The structural blocks used on the facade convey a feeling of the 1950s as do their strong color contrasts. The preservation of this facade in its current design is strongly encouraged. The post World War II period was significant for Ames as a community and the design of this building calls attention to it (Page 1992).

Circa 2007, this "retro" storefront face-lift, which had acquired architectural significance for the reasons stated above, was stripped off the building and another face-lift job performed. The new facade features a brownish-purple colored brick veneer and a projecting metal canopy over the pedestrian walk. Large storefront windows occupy most of the building's front facade.

NC

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



413 Kellogg Ave.

Stafford Bank

1941

This is a one-story, brick commercial building with a two-room wide facade. The building features a creamy yellow brick and architectural details which show the influence of streamlined architecture.

The facade is conceived with a vaulted entryway. Trimmed in stone, this vault extends upward above the rest of the building's parapet. This vault design adds dignity to the building, emphasizes the main entryway, and lends a feeling of strength, massiveness, and security to it. All these qualities project an image appropriate for a financial institution.

The integrity of this building remains generally high. At some point, however, the original windows were replaced and new, single-expanse glass. The original window configuration most probably contributed to the massive appearance of this building, and the present windows expose the interior of the building to passers-by view.

Moorman and Company of Minneapolis designed the building. A foreman from the firm came to Ames and supervised construction. Begun in 1941, the building was first occupied by the Stafford Bank in 1942.

C



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



420 Kellogg Ave.

Ames Municipal Building

1916

This is a 2-story, masonry building with an attached 1-story fire station. The building originally housed municipal government and services.

In 1996, it underwent an adaptive reuse and presently serves as the headquarters for a social services agency with a focus on youth. The property was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1997 and is filed as Item Number 97000391 in the National Register Information System and Record Number 425882.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District  
Name of Property

Story, IA  
County and State



409 Duff Ave.

Bates Baking Company

1915

This is a one-story, brick commercial building with a one-room wide facade. The building features multi-colored brick in beige and light brown hues. There is a brick-worked cornice consisting of brick brackets surmounted by two outset horizontal courses under a parapet, which is capped with two more outset horizontal courses.

Although the door and windows were replaced in 1992, they respect the original cavities of the storefront. The architectural appeal of this building derives from its simplicity of form and color of bricks. The cornice is somewhat unusual on this building because this architectural element disappeared from the commercial district following World War I. This building is significant architecturally because it calls attention to the influence of the Commercial Style of architecture in Ames.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



417 Duff Ave.

A.H. Munn Garage

c.  
1929

C

This is a one-story, brick commercial building with a two-room wide facade on N. Duff Avenue and a second facade on 5th Street designed by local architects Allan H. Kimball and Robert Mills Bailie and constructed by Ames contractor Ben Cole for A. H. Munn, owner of the Munn Lumberyard.

The building features multi-colored brick in red and dark orange hues, colors also seen on brick facades on Main Street. This brick façade was remodeled in 1946, but it unclear exactly what sort of brick work was done at the time (City of Ames Building Permit #2771, Jul 30, 1946).

A metal, mansard-style cornice graces the east and north sides of the building. Beneath this cover-up cornice may lie a brick-worked cornice consisting of brick brackets supporting a cast concrete band surmounted by a brick parapet and cast concrete cap, visible in historic photos and still present in 1992 when the building was last surveyed. If the original cornice were intact beneath the cover-up, that cornice would be somewhat unusual on a building as late as this one because this architectural element mostly disappeared from the commercial district following World War I.

Vehicular entrances with overhead doors on both the N. Duff Avenue and 5th Street elevations attest to the building's original use as a service station/garage. A band of vertically laid brick surrounding the two facades above the door and window openings may still be present, though its existence is currently obscured by the cover-up cornice. Although the storefront windows have been infilled (probably during the 1981 remodeling that turned the garage into a carpet store), these alterations have respected the original cavities of these elements. The A. H. Munn Garage at 417 Duff contributes to the Downtown Ames Historic District, because it exemplifies the upbuilding of North Duff Avenue during the first two decades of the twentieth century as an extension of the Ames central business district. The garage shows how local architects and builders influenced the face of downtown Ames. The building also calls attention to the Commercial Style of architecture on its design.



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



407-409 Douglas Ave.

Tilden Grocery Building

c.  
1902

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with a one-room wide facade. Originally built sometime between 1900 and 1911, it was face-lifted in 1916. Its new facade features a cream-colored brick, storefront with offset entrance and windows surmounted by transom windows with prism glass.

A masonry cornice wraps around the east and south elevations of the building. Because of this substantial "face-lift," the new facade design should be considered its character-defining feature. In 1907, the second floor featured three windows. The current two sets of paired windows were most likely a result of the 1916 update. Replacement windows now occupy these window openings; and, although the replacement windows have reduced the size of the original openings, their 1/1 double-hung sash configuration are compatible with the 1916 update. (F.T. Brown Photo Archive 231.1332.1-3)

The original windows had arched openings (F.T. Brown Photo Archive 25.126.3). A common architectural vision has shaped the design of both this building and its neighbor to the north at 413-417-427 Douglas Avenue. The influence of restrained Classical Revival styling and the employment of similarly-colored brick and cast concrete detailing unify the designs.

However, 409 Douglas employs a slightly more mottled-colored brick than its northern neighbor. The masonry join between these two buildings are more irregular than if both had been constructed as one building.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



410-412 Douglas Ave.

Ames Pantorium Building

1925-  
1926

This is a two-story, brick commercial building with an unusually wide facade. Constructed in 1925-26, this building replaced a small, one-story brick commercial building dating, perhaps, from the 1880s. Prior to this time, the Pantorium was located on Duff Avenue, and before that at 208 Main and in the basement of the Story County Bank Building at 131 Main.

The name of the business, Pantorium, is a contrived word taken from "orium," the Latin language's second declension genitive plural meaning "of the," and the English word "pant." "Pantorium" seems to have been a term in common use around the country since the nineteenth century as a name for tailors and cleaners (Milwaukee Journal, January 29, 1897). This curious name is made visually more memorable in the case of the Ames Pantorium by overhead neon signage on the building's façade, which, if not original to the building, is very old. The building features glazed brick of a creamy color trimmed with glazed brick in contrasting color. The use of glazed brick is rare in the Ames central business district.

The building also features a terra cotta cornice with dentil-work surmounted with a cast concrete ledge and a parapet, which is capped with a cast concrete coping. There are three panels located between the second floor windows and the first floor storefront. These panels are defined by brick in the contrasting color. The façade is also enframed by the contrasting brick. The brick within the upper member of this frame is laid vertically to call attention to it.

The Pantorium retains an exceptional level of architectural integrity. Though the original 1/1 double hung sash type windows on the second floor were recently replaced by modern, 8/8 replacement windows, the windows respect the original openings, as does the infill in the storefront area, which, until at least 1955, featured large, display windows like the large replacement windows now filling the opening (Ames Daily Tribune photo, August 16, 1955, page 12). The display windows, c. 1955, reached to just below the contrasting brick course beneath the transom windows that span the west façade.

This is an outstanding building in terms of architectural design and integrity remains high.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



413-429 Douglas Ave.

Masonic Temple (AM & AF Hall)

1916

This is a three-story, brick commercial and fraternal building with a three-room wide facade. Constructed by the Cole Brothers in 1916 from designs by Liebbe, Nourse and Rasmussen architectural firm of Des Moines, this building originally provided the Ames Masons with a meeting hall on the third floor, workrooms for the Tilden Manufacturing Company on the second floor, and commercial stores on the first floor. One first floor space was created for *The Times* newspaper formerly housed at 409 Douglas (Ames Evening Times, 6 April, 1916 p.1).

The building features multi-colored brick in tones of orange and brown and cast concrete trim. The design of the building shows the influence of Classical Revival styling rendered in a severe yet appealing fashion.

The rooms at 413 (and neighboring 409) retain their original Luxfer type glass above the main window and doorway cavities. Entrance to the fraternal hall on the third floor is situated somewhat north of center on the east facade. The room at 427, which housed *The Times* contains more exterior architectural detailing than the other two. These details include cast concrete pilasters flanking the entryway and windows having a Classical Revival feeling. Windows on the second and third floors are original to the building. Cornerstone at the northeast reads "Greeley/1916" and "AF&AM 249."

This building is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

C



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



1992

This is a two-story masonry block constructed in 1992. It features a hip roof of metal fabrication.

NC

416 Douglas Ave.

Commercial Block

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



1920-  
1926

This is a 2-story, brick commercial building constructed between 1920 and 1926. It features hollow tile block load-bearing walls and architectural details worked in brick. These include a simple cornice achieved through three pairs of brackets topped by cast concrete coping with three crenellations above the brackets. A series of cast concrete, rectilinear panels surrounded the second-floor windows.

The facade has been repointed in areas with mortar lighter in color than the balance of the building. The storefront retains its original cavity although the storefront itself has been altered. The second floor has two sets of paired windows. These are 1/1 double-hung sash and appear to be original to the building.

C

108 5th St.

Commercial Building

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



114-116 5th St.

Commercial Block

1948

This is a two-story, brick commercial block with a two-room-wide facade. It was constructed in 1948 by James Thompson for \$45,000 as a retail grocery business (City of Ames Inspection Department, Permit 3107). James Thompson was also the owner of the National Food Store.

This commercial block features polychrome brick. Some of this brick is orange, other brick is either red or dark red. The overall effect is one of rich texture. The main entrance is centered on the facade with another entrance offset on the east end to gain access to the second floor. The original storefront windows have been covered up with vertical wood siding. Contemporary signage has been placed over a large brick plaque situated above the storefront. This is an unusual location for the plaque in Ames. Although this signage masks this architectural detail, it is reversible. Name plaques in Ames usually occur directly below the building's parapet. As such, the plaque in this instance takes the place of the transom area, which would usually appear above the storefront windows and door on buildings constructed slightly earlier in Ames.

Other original features of the building are the front door, the second-floor window frames, which appear to be metal, and the cast concrete sills on the second-floor windows. A rudimentary, brick-worked cornice on the facade is now covered with metal siding. Although the storefront of this building has been infilled, these alterations have respected the original cavity of the building and could be reversed.

C



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



208-210 5th St.

Collegiate Manufacturing Company Block

1927

This is a three-story commercial block, also known as the Tilden Manufacturing Company building. It was built in 1927 from a design by Kimball, Bailie & Cowgill, an Ames architectural firm. The storefront features orangish-brown-colored brick. The upper floors are clad with light brown-colored brick. The storefront possesses five bays with the two outside bays serving as access to the building and the three middle bays serving as storefront windows. These windows had been infilled with opaque glass block and cover-up materials. In 2012 the building's first floor store front received a renovation with a more modern glass infill.

The upper floors feature eight pairs of 1/1 double-hung sash windows. These windows on the third-floor feature transoms above them with a single pane of glass.

A cast concrete belt course between the first and second floor serves as the lintels for the storefront windows and entrances. This belt course also serves as an architrave for a simplified entablature. The frieze continues the orangish-brown-colored brick of the storefront. A cast concrete cornice supported by brackets surmounts the storefront. The third floor is capped by a similar cornice, with a series of nine clusters of cast concrete decorative squares about the piers between that floor's windows.

C

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



1939

Constructed in 1939, this is a one-story commercial building with a one-room-wide facade. In the 1950s, the facade of this building was covered with a PermaStone-type material. More recently, this material was stripped off the building and replaced with cream-colored brick veneer below the windows and red-colored brick above the windows.

Both of these "face-lifts" preserved the facade's original configuration of centered front door flanked by windows, as well as the size of their original cavities. Today, the building presents a simple yet appealing design, which fits nicely within the historic district.

NC

326 5th St.

Commercial Building

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



328-330 5th St

H.L. Minert Garage

c.  
1926

C

This is a one-story, brick garage with an atypical width facade. This property contains two resources, the building on 5th Street, and an addition to the south, which also is known as 412 and 416 Burnett Avenue. This addition is included with the 328-330 5th Street property because they are physically attached.

**Main Building**

The building features a beveled corner area covered by a roof to provide convenience for servicing automobiles. Although gas pumps are no longer in place and the windows and the two-garage door (on north elevation) cavities have been altered, the integrity of this building remains fair, considering that the door and window cavities remain recognizable, as well as the building's origin function. With its restrained simplicity and blocky massing, the building shows the influence of the Commercial Style of architecture on its design. The design also shows an innate conservatism in its insistence on maintaining a rectilinear footprint on this corner site. Other gas stations at this time often featured a diagonal footprint on corner sites. Instead, the design of this building preserves the sense of a right-angled corner site while introducing at the same time a clever solution to provide for a canopy. This corner lot was acquired in 1926 by H. L. Minert for the purposing of erecting a modern building (Ames Daily Tribune, February 8, 1926, page 1). The present building must have been erected in that year, as well because it is shown in the 1926 Sanborn map.

**Addition**

This is a one-story, brick garage with a one-room-wide facade. Constructed circa 1929, this building contains basic influences of the Commercial Style of architecture like the metal window frames on the south elevation and the overall concept of the design. A vehicular entrance to the building on its west elevation calls attention to its original purpose.

Alterations to the original facade include a wood shake pent roof, replacement foreshortened windows, partial cladding of the front facade with louvered shutters, and new front doors (Ames Building Permit 8377, April 23, 1964). Original fabric of the building probably remains behind the pent roof and wood shutters. The brick cladding is now painted green.



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



1963

This is a one-story commercial building, which introduces a new architectural concept. Phil Coy & Sons constructed this building in 1963 for Triplett Real Estate (Ames Building Permit 7923, April 4, 1963).

The building was designed by Ames architect Barney J. Slater who also designed the remodeling of the building at 329 Main. This brick and concrete building features a modified A-frame design. Reddish-orange colored brick forms the bulkhead of the building, surmounted by extensive plate glass windows set in metal frames whose tops conform to the angled configuration of the roof.

The main entrance is offset on the east end of the facade and inset under the roof. Heavy gray-colored masonry quoins embellish the red brick. The building is covered with an asymmetrical front gable roof.

Although the architectural design of this building conforms in no way to traditional commercial design in the Ames central business district, the building is sited without a setback from the public right-of-way. This siting serves to blend the building into its commercial surroundings.

C

410 5th St.

Triplett Real Estate Building

Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State



428-432 5th St.

Moore Brothers' Dairy Building

c.  
1937

This is a two-story mixed-use block with a three-commercial-room-wide facade. Designed by the Des Moines architectural firm of Tinsley, McBroom, and Higgins, this block was constructed by James Thompson and Sons in 1937 for dairy manufacturing and apartments at an estimated cost of \$38,600 (City of Ames Inspections Department, Permit, March 16, 1937).

The block features extensive brick detailing. This includes polychrome bands which extend the window lintels of the second story across the entire facade of the block as stringcourses. This conceit relates to stringcourses used in similar ways on the building at 131 Main Street. Three bands worked in brick on the northwest corner wrap around the block and give it something of a streamlined feeling.

The block originally featured metal windows on the second floor – these were replaced in 2011. Those on the corner also wrap around the block. A brick pilaster stands outset from the facade approximately one-third distant from the east side of the block and helps define its two separate commercial rooms.

C



Figure 1. An 1882 photo showing the north side of Onondaga (Main) Street from the corner of Onondaga and Douglas Avenue. This photo shows Ames Drug Store on the corner was operated by S. O. Osborn. The next store to left, built in 1867 by D. and S. L. Lucas, was purchased in 1868 by D. A. Bigelow and H. C. Huntington. These men joined in partnership with George G. Tilden in 1869. Tilden became sole owner of that mercantile business in 1883. The next brick building to the left was built by Bigelow, Huntington, and Tilden in 1873 as they expanded their clothing business. (Farwell T. Brown Photo Archive 5.23A.4)



NORTH SIDE ONONDAGA STREET, AMES, IOWA.



Figure 2. Showing the north side of Onondaga Street sometime before 1910. The Odd Fellows Building is the tall building on the very left. The Tilden Block buildings in right-center were built in 1883. (Farwell T. Brown Photographic Library 10.42.1-2)



Figure 3. One of the earliest photographs of Ames' Main Street (Onondaga) taken in 1875 (Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive 91A.492.1-2)



Figure 4. An 1897 photograph showing the typical wood-frame buildings which were present at the east end of Onondaga Street. Soon after, this style of building was replaced with the brick standard that remains prominent throughout the district. (Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive #8.33.4)



Ames Main Street Historic District

Name of Property

Story, IA

County and State

period is not surprising. The earliest stores were roughly made, usually constructed of wood and were (even at the time) considered to be temporary. Brick buildings were considered to be permanent. The few brick facades that survive from the period (like the building at 212 Main Street) are exceptions to the widespread “face-lifting” of façades which began as a trend in Ames during the first half of the 20th century.

## THE PROGRESSIVE ERA IN AMES (1891-1918)

After the 1890 enactment of the McKinley Tariff, both the nation's and Iowa's agricultural economies stabilized in the 1900-1914 era. The 1897-1914 period is generally remembered as the "Golden Age of Agriculture" (as in Willard W. Cochrane's *The Development of American Agriculture*, 1979, p. 100). These years are frequently cited as benchmarks to measure farm products' wholesale prices. Such an index is also used here, by extension, to indicate the farm family's economic health, its potential to be a good retail customer, and its likelihood to send children to college. All three of these helped to further development of downtown Ames.

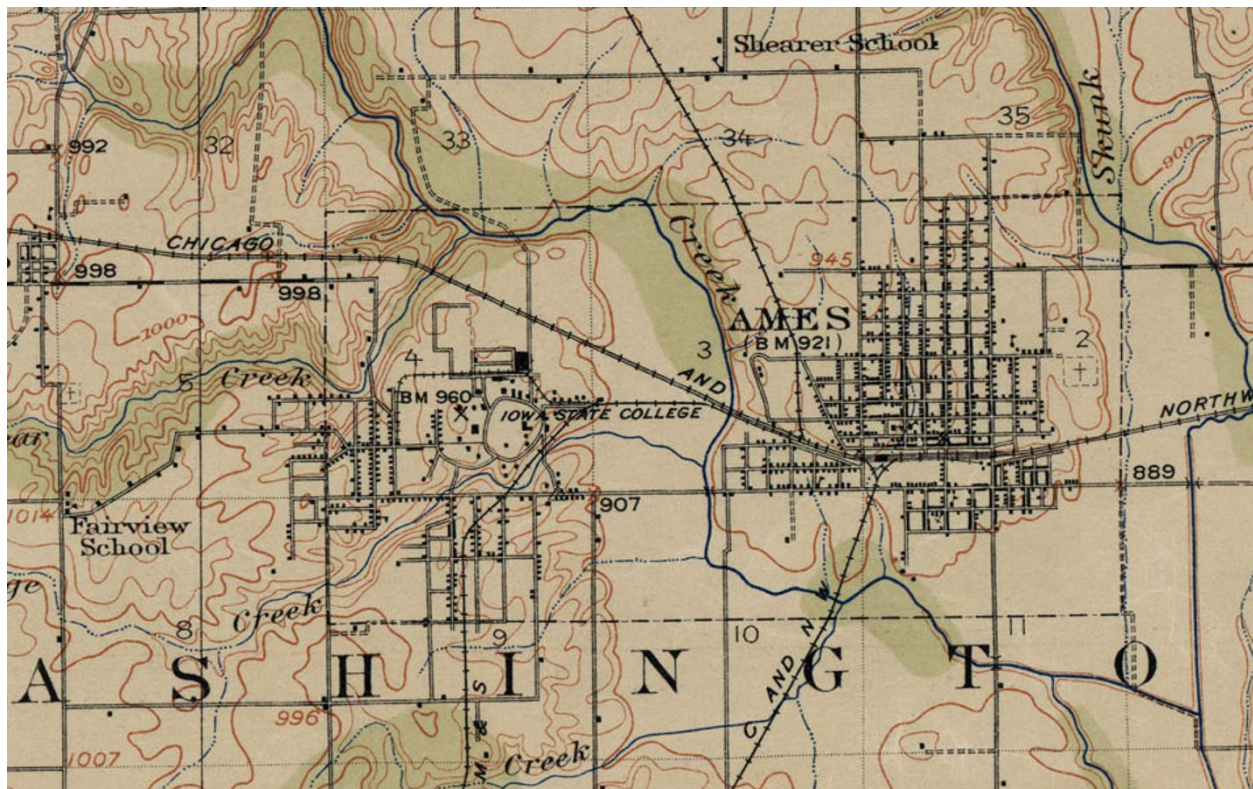


Figure 5. Section Taken from the USGS State of Iowa's topographic “1912 Ames Quadrangle Geological Survey Map” (<https://archive.org/details/1912AmesQuadrangleTopographicalMap>)

During the 1890s in Story County, farmlands rose in price and areas hitherto held by speculators formally found buyers who settled the lands and began to farm (Payne, p. 435). Beginning in the 1890s, faculty and administration at Iowa State began actively to participate in the commercial life of the community. Joseph L. Budd, professor of horticulture at the college and a founder of the Iowa State Horticultural Society, financed, around 1891, a half-interest in the construction of



Figure 6. This 1900 photo shows the northeast corner of Onondaga Street (now Main) and Kellogg Avenue. The corner (far left) building was built in 1891 by Professor J. L. Budd and Judge John L. Stevens. The Opera House occupied the entire second floor of this building with a capacity for 600. Grove and Zenor Grocery Store (afterwards, Grove Bros., then J.J. Grove) occupied the west half of the first floor until 1916. J. B. Elliott's furniture store first occupied the east half. The building was divided in 1903 when sold to J. E. Davis and A. L. Potter. A firewall was then built through the second floor making this into two buildings. The A. L. Potter Hardware Store can be seen in this photo, occupying the east half of the building. (Farwell T. Brown Photo Archive 10.41.1)



Figure 7. A panoramic view of the intersection of Main Street and Douglas Avenue (Library of Congress 2007660925 <https://www.loc.gov/item/2007660925/>)





Figure 8. Circa 1900 photo of the Dinky at the downtown terminal. (Farwell T. Brown Photo Archive 29.145A.2)



Figure 9. A 1939 Photo of Main Street looking east. The Sheldon-Munn Hotel is on the left at northwest corner of Main and Kellogg; the Rainbow Coffee Shop is at the northeast corner. On the southeast corner is the Ames Trust and Savings Bank. The streetcar tracks had been bricked over sometime after 1929 as seen in this picture. (Farwell T. Brown Photo Archive, 128.703.2-6)



Ames Tribune Photo

Figure 10: Ames Main Street in 1958 looking east from the intersection of Kellogg and Main. Shows facades of Main Street buildings on the south side. (*Ames Tribune Photo Archive*)





Figure 11. Postcard picture of the Sheldon Munn taken between 1917 and 1919, from Farwell Brown's "Postcards of Ames, Iowa, and Environs" collection (Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive 79.413.3-5)

Municipal Bldg., Ames, Iowa.



Figure 12. Postcard photo of the Municipal Building taken shortly after its completion (Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive 63.319.1-2)

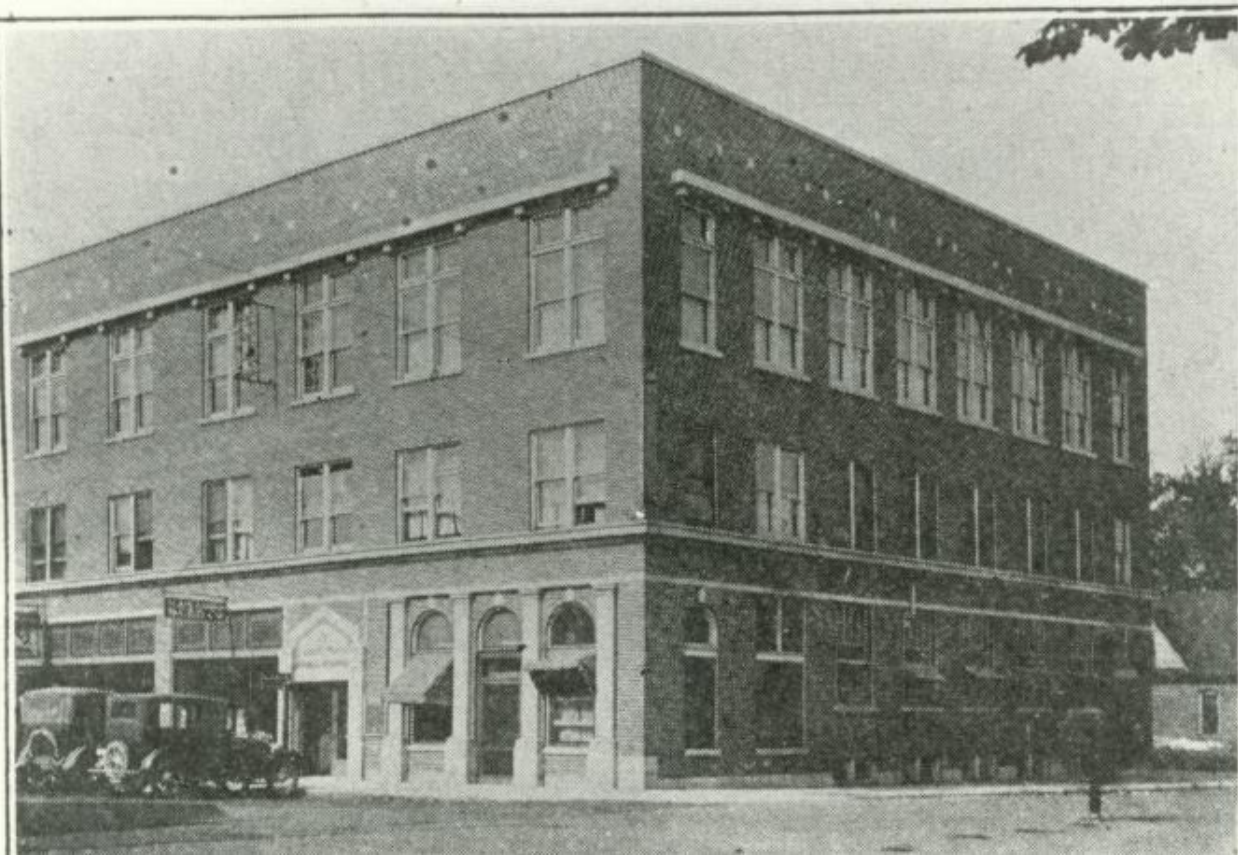


Figure 13. Photograph of the Masonic Building taken c.1919 (Farewell T. Brown Photographic Archive 96.521.1-3)