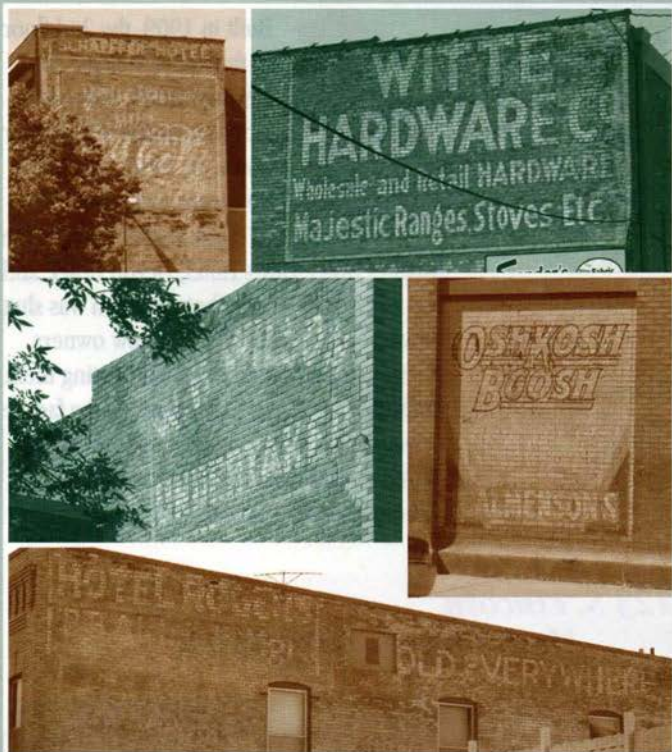


CAN YOU SPOT THE FADING SIGNS IN THE DOWNTOWN?



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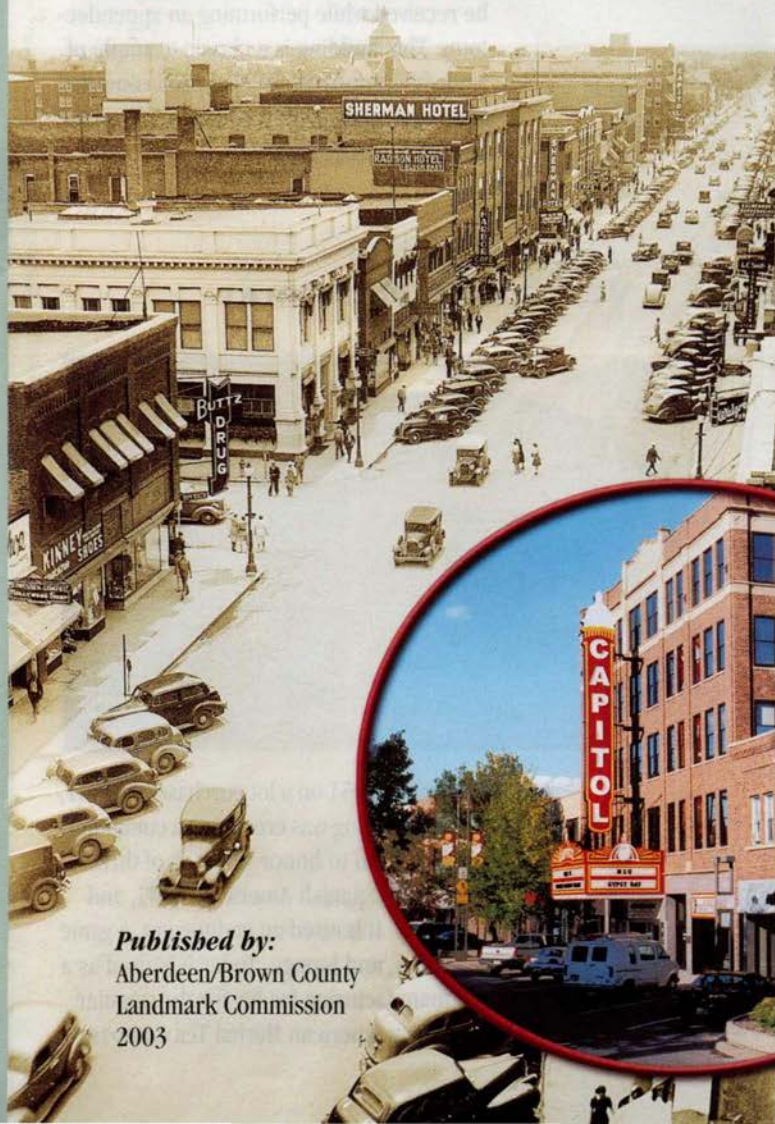
Research, photography, writing and design provided by McQuillen Design Associates with the assistance of Dr. Art Buntin and Don Artz. Historic photos were provided by the Dacotah Prairie Museum.

This brochure was compiled in July 2003. At time of publishing, Aberdeen's downtown was undergoing major changes once again. Limited space prevented the inclusion of every building in the downtown. Preference was given to structures more than 50 years old or those which had unique significance to the downtown.

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DOWNTOWN ABERDEEN HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

A LOOK AT SURVIVING STRUCTURES OF
ABERDEEN'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT



Published by:
Aberdeen/Brown County
Landmark Commission
2003

423 S. Lincoln **MURDY CLINIC APARTMENTS**



Dr. Robert Lincoln Murdy built this structure in 1920 with classic adornments as the Murdy Clinic. He was a surgeon/obstetrician who, together with a group of other medical professionals, wanted a

place that was more modern than the current St. Luke's Hospital. In 1929, Murdy died from an infection from a puncture wound he received while performing an appendectomy. This building is a classic example of a rehabilitation/reuse as it has been converted to several apartments while maintaining the beautiful, ornate facade.

415 S. Lincoln **VETERAN'S MEMORIAL**



Built in 1951 on a lot purchased in 1941, this building was erected as a community memorial to honor veterans of three wars – Spanish American, WWI, and WWII. It housed an auditorium, a game room, and lounge. Today it is used as a manufacturing facility for the popular Native American Herbal Tea company.

110-120 S. Lincoln **GELLHAUS / DSS**



Built in 1909, the 2nd floor of this block housed the Herman Hotel, advertising a cafe and buffet in the lower levels. In 1910, one of the 50 rooms went for \$.75 to \$1 a day. It later became the

Rogers Hotel, Davis Hotel, Devon Hotel, and the Lincoln Hotel. The hotel portion was shut down in the 1960s. In 2003 new owners reopened the upper floors converting them into apartments. The brickwork on the facade is very crisp, with a somewhat federal flair and pilasters break up the front sectioning off commercial spaces.

123 S. Lincoln **MUNICIPAL BUILDING**



Having leased space in Brown County Court House of 1904 for eight years, need for new and more space dictated a new building.

In 1913, architect George Fossum was commissioned to build this structure. The Chicago School (best known for pioneering the prairie style) of architectural style was modeled here, integrating a flat roof, strong vertical lines emphasizing height balanced by horizontal course belts and windows, along with a bold cornice, entryway ornamentation, and interweaving decorative motifs.

502 S. Lincoln
FIRST UNITED METHODIST



This church was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. It is one of three in the downtown area on the register.

Due to a rapidly increasing congregation, this much larger Methodist Church was constructed in 1908. The committee in charge of the construction figured the cost to be around \$40,000. When all was said and done, the church cost more than \$70,000, plus additional costs for a memorial Bushnell pipe organ and memorial windows. At the dedication service, more than \$18,000 was donated, paying off the debt of construction. The architecture is an eclectic revival adaptation of the Byzantine style. The building is a definite icon of Aberdeen. Let your eye wander at all the intricate detailing.



420 S. Lincoln
YMCA



The Young Men's Christian Association was built by the Rotary Club, Aberdeen's oldest service club, and dedicated in 1926. Until it was renovated in 1978, it provided rooms for young men. The First Church of the Nazarene held its first meetings there. It houses a swimming pool, gymnasium, game room, and meeting places for numerous youth organizations. The building boasts classical detailing all around. The white concrete details and base against the dark brown brick make this a particularly striking building. Columns frame the entrances atop granite steps. Pay particular attention to the different entrances for men and boys. Since 1958, glass blocks have denoted the windows in the pool area. In 2002 the YMCA allowed a private enterprise healthclub, Northeastern Regional Health Fitness, to merge with this facility. Due to increased maintenance and limited use, a new building north of St. Luke's Hospital is planned to replace this one and house both entities. The fate of this classic structure has not yet been determined.



512 S. Main
DON'S HARDWARE



Originally the Martin C. Fiene Grocery Store, this one-story mottled brown brick building embellished with a decorative stone band with rosettes was built in 1929. It became the new location of Gold Bond Stamp Redemption Center in 1959, and received new light fixtures and a new front. Don's Building and Hardware is located here today.

510 S. Main
ANCHORS OF FAITH



Constructed in 1929, this tan brick, stepped parapet building with diamond shapes flanking its rectangular outline was originally a grocery store. Today it is Anchors of Faith Christian book store.

511 S. Main
AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER



Built for Brownell Supply Company, 1923, this building has quartered the Red Owl Grocery in the 1930's and later the National Apartments. Its structure is 2-story tan brick with coping and corbelling. For most of its existence it housed the popular Aberdeen Crockery, a seller of fine china and gifts. The Crockery moved out in 1998. An Affair To Remember is located here today, offering bridal and formal wear and tuxedo rental.

517 S. Main
FORMER ELK'S BUILDING



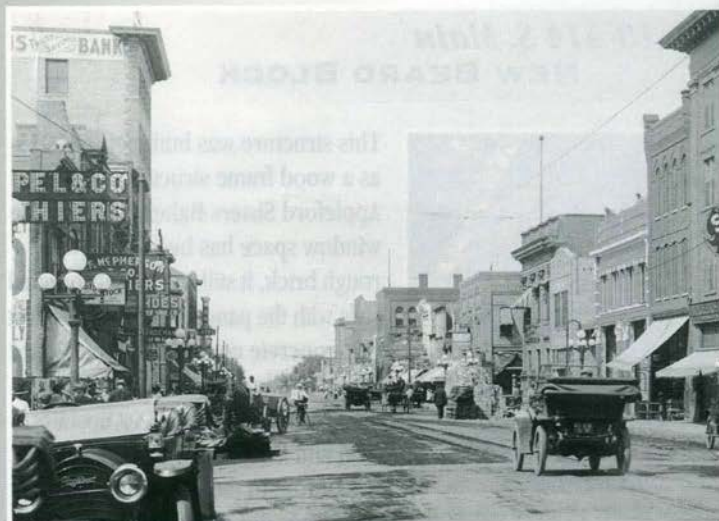
The Dakota Farmer, a regional journal, built this structure in 1904 and used it until 1911, when the Elks moved in. They added on to the rear in 1912, and remained there until 1930. When the Elks built new facilities in 1973, it became the new home of the Eagle's Club, which had moved locations 7 times since 1904. The key characteristic is its limestone facade with simple parapet and cornice. The classical detail with pilasters separate 3 large round-arched openings. Today it is used for storage for Taylor's Music.

502-508 S. Main MALCHOW'S



This was the site of Aberdeen's nearly forgotten Grain Palace, built in 1893. Shortly after an election visit from Teddy Roosevelt in 1902, the Grain Palace burned down. Fifteen years later in 1917, Clarence Boyd and Bob Roman erected the current, dark-brown brick structure for use as an automobile dealership. Next door, at 508 S. Main, a funeral parlor was located here from 1910 until 1924. Following a stint as a Red Owl grocery store, it was sold to Malchow's in 1945. The grand opening of an expanded and remodeled Malchows was held in 1948, boasting furniture, appliances, radio, and a hardware department that was connected with Hall Hardware of Minneapolis. Wilson Undertaking was next door in 508, which is also now owned by Malchow's. The undertaking sign is still visible to the south. This structure has the only remaining oriel or "bay window" in the downtown.

Formerly Wilson Undertaking, this is the only building in the downtown with an original bay window, or oriel, in tact.



1912

503 S. Main MASONIC TEMPLE



Already having been meeting for five years, the Masons built this first temple west of the Mississippi in 1897 upon a cornerstone procured from the King Solomon quarries at Jerusalem. Aberdeen's new Grain Palace eliminated the

need for a community hall, so the temple was built strictly for Masonic use. A \$2,000 pipe organ was brought in for use in the temple. The 1897 night of the official opening was a grand event, with around 700 attending, a patriotic reception, and dancing through the night. Sam Jumper, the first junior warden of the Lodge wasn't there for the reception, as he was spending that winter in the south. The building was remodeled in 1916 drawing heavily on Mediterranean, Moorish and Romanesque Revival influences and remains virtually unchanged today.

410-414 S. Main NEW BEARD BLOCK



This structure was built before 1915 as a wood frame structure for the Appleford Sisters Bakery. Though the window space has been filled with rough brick, it still suggests its original style with the panelled, corbelled effect and concrete coping. The New Beard Block was built and known as the "Beard Hotel" with offices upstairs. Don and Betty Artz opened Mother's Restaurant in the 418 section during the 1980s. They did extensive restoration work and added a courtyard patio in the rear. The Design Depot, which now occupies this space has kept the historic charm complete with rustic brick walls and tin ceiling.

421-423 S. Main THE BOSTON FERN



Built in 1917, this building held various commercial uses, including a furrier and furniture store, with apartments above. The two retail spaces were converted into one large space for the Red Owl Grocery Store in 1934.

After that, Coast To Coast moved in and built the garage on the back. Once Coast to Coast moved out, Jorgensen's Mens Wear filled the space. It was during this time the corbels collapsed, destroying most of the front facade which was then covered with the rough cedar planking. In the mid 90's, two efficiency apartments were turned into 2-story loft apartments; visible from opposite street corners. The south retail space has been occupied by the Boston Fern for many years. The arrow motifs in the bricks and the stone sills suggest prairie styling. Directly north, 419 has these same arrows, but it is uncertain as to which building came first.



422-424 S. Main COLONIAL ROSE/PRINT ON IT



This building went up in 1910 to accommodate the growth of the Red Front grocery store until it closed in 1957. Since then, it has been occupied by Bittner Pharmacy, Mr. D's Style Shoppe, a public library, Courtney's Books, and the Kitchen Connection. From 1915-1930, the Eagles Hall could be found on the second floor, which today contains a number of apartments. The "Red Man" club, a fraternity of gentlemen who would dress as Indians, would meet here as well. The bottom level is now home to the Colonial Rose, a floral and gift shop, and next door is Print On It, a screen printing company. Interesting brick patterns and graceful corbelling make this a very attractive building, however, much of the facade has been covered up.



1928

102 S.E. 4th Ave.

POST OFFICE / COURT HOUSE



Built in 1937, this structure remains an excellent example of streamline moderne architectural design. To accommodate space needs, in 1936, \$400,000 was authorized for a new Aberdeen post office. Four other structures had to be demolished at the site on which it was to be built. Not only are there four floors, but also a complete basement and a “penthouse” jury room at the top with elevator access. The post office opened in 1938, and that block of SE 4th Avenue was made into a one-way to accommodate postal traffic. The building, owned and operated by the GSA, presently houses the offices of a U.S. district judge, FBI, U.S. Marshall and Post Office. The ultra streamline moderne lights were restored in 2001.

413 S. Main

CAPITOL BUILDING

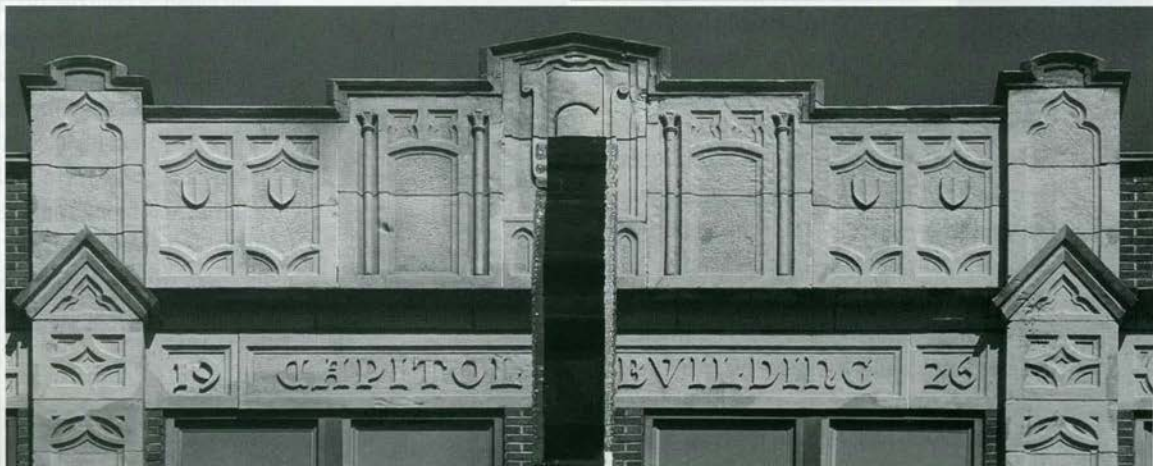


The Capitol was built in the height of the movie craze in 1926 by Narregang Holding company for Harry Walker, the man who brought the first motion picture to South Dakota. The era’s popular Art Deco trends including geometric details and Moorish and Celtic motifs influenced this theater’s architecture. The theater opened in January of 1927 to the showing of a stage production,

The Green Hat. The last movie to be shown in the theater was in 1989, before the conversion to theatre. The building was also

home to the quickly bankrupted Brown Brothers State Bank, the last pre-depression bank failure in town. Today, patrons can enjoy live performances of community plays from either the floor seats or up high in the balcony. Professional services

occupy the upper floors. The grand marquee was fully restored in the late 1990s by the Questers. Look high up at the intricate carvings in the tan colored stone.



314 S. Main DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER



This building was designed and built for the Montgomery Ward Company in 1938 by John Firey and has since contained Coast to Coast. The St. Nicholas Hotel in the 1887 Excelsior Building had to be torn down to accommodate this site. Today it houses the Aberdeen Public Schools District Service Center. This is one of the best preserved buildings downtown today. Note the MW logo in the terrazzo directly in front of the

door. Look up to see Georgian revival details defining the windows and dormers.

315-317 S. Main WEBB SHOES



This Neoclassical building with brown brick facade was built in 1907 and was home to the second McDiarmid and Slater Red Front Grocery and C.A. McArthur Hardware. The Elks, American Legion, Odd Fellows and Alexander Mitchell Library all cycled through the second floor. In 1919, the Webb-Carter Shoe Company replaced the hardware store as the street-front tenant.

Carter had bought his stake from C.R. Robertson, a founding partner, and gave up interest in 1940. The south half was used by Feinstein Brothers Golden Rule and Olwin-Angell's over the years. The Feinstein fire of 1952 partially destroyed the structure. Formed copper dentilling and pediment adorn the facade. Ionic capitals on brick pilasters gracefully frame arched windows. Today it is owned and operated by Webb's, offering shoes, luggage, and sporting goods.

321-323 S. Main FORMERLY THE MAIN



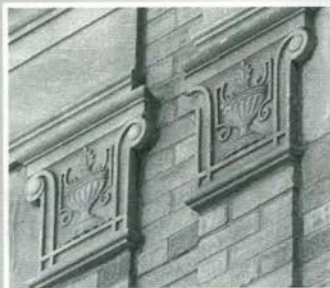
Anthony Olwin, after briefly owning the Red Front Grocery and Olwin Dry Goods Company, incorporated with Robert Angell in 1903 to form the Olwin-Angell Store. They built this building as a two story granite structure in conjunction with the similar Jewett wholesale warehouse after having negotiated a "quantity discount." Business thrived and in 1914, they added a similarly styled third floor. Olwin's was Aberdeen's most popular retailer for many years and boasted many amenities of a modern metropolitan shopping center with decorated windows, extravagant restrooms and complete oak fixtures. Olwin Angell sold out to Herberger's of St. Cloud, MN, in 1969. Purchased in 1984 by the Frank family, it only recently has been retired as a quality mens clothing store. Plans were made in the late 60s to modernize the exterior by incorporating the building directly north (319) by completely stuccoing the two buildings to make them look like one. Modern glass block replaced historic multipaneled windows. 319 was completely stuccoed, while 323 received only a small amount of stucco at the very top, concealing the corbelling.

302-308 S. Main DACOTAH BANK



Originally this 302 corner site held a two story wood-framed structure built by Byron C. Lamont in 1902. Lamont replaced it with the current building in 1927 to accommodate the S.S.Kresge Company who was looking

for space to open a store in town. Kresge occupied the building for the entirety of their 50 year lease until making way for Maurice's, a Duluth-based women's clothing retailer, in 1977. The style is reminiscent of the Classic Revival movement of its time complete with Bedford stone detail,



pilasters with urn shaped capitals and molded cornice and lintels.

The building at 306, built in 1907 (also by B.C. Lamont), was eventually demolished by Dacotah Bank. This location was home to Strauss Clothing, Hoilien & Bachman Hardware, Wolter Shoe Store and lastly, Trade Home Shoes. Many remember the large white concrete "silo-like" facade which once adorned the front of 308. Dacotah Bank removed it in the late 1990s to make way for this more appealing look. A new neohistoric facade now spans both 306 and 308 making the one seamless facade we see today.

305-307 S. Main HEAD START



In 1927, John Combs constructed this building to open a restaurant that was to replace his 22 year old confectionery. The restaurant's unique atmosphere quickly caused it to become Aberdeen's late-night teen hang-out. It shared the ground floor with Kirkpatrick's Jewelry and Optometry and upstairs was located the Trianon, a large ballroom with a 20 foot arched ceiling. In 1953, the original restaurant closed and Feinstein's moved in to that space. The upstairs has since been used as a bowling alley and tennis court. The building's stately Italian look created by the red brick with concrete parapet and window detailing has since been partially covered during remodeling. Step out from under the awning to notice the interesting brick pattern above. This awning was added in the 60's when the merchants of this entire block pooled their money to add this "mall-like" attribute to their building fronts. From an architectural point of view, the awning completely separates the store level from the upper level, destroying the integrity of the facades.

313 S. Main FORMER MARIE O. SIMMONS



In 1909, this structure was built to house Griffis Drug Company and Goodale's Pharmacy. Its tan brick is accentuated by rough granite trim and an attractive corbelled band. In 1952, the currently residing Marie O. Simmons Shop was partially destroyed in the Feinstein fire. Simmons moved out in 2000. Original leaded glass transoms can still be seen in the original upper floor windows.

The ground floor was "modernized" at some point with the enameled metal and granite bulkheads.

224 S. Main

PLAY IT AGAIN SPORTS



This building has been a clothing store since 1904, housing both Bates Men's Clothing and Mister's Men's Wear until 1992. The Frank family, who owned Mister's Men's Wear, closed it in order to focus on their

other store, The Main. It is now Play It Again Sports, a place to buy and sell used sporting equipment. Brick pilasters are capped with molded concrete ornament on the south side. Latent images of advertising posters can also be seen on the south side.



A popular clothing brand of days gone by.

14-20 S.E. 3rd Ave.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS



Just off of Main Street, around the corner, going east, sits this row of impressive brick structures. They were built on the Aberdeen Livery Service facilities, which was demolished in 1909. Built around 1915, the Circus Bar building (14) was built for Krogh's Grocery Store. At 22 SE 3rd Ave., (now gone) Henry Lockington built a new retail meat market. The *Daily News* called it the "Finest Meat Market in the West." The brickwork on

the Circus Bar building is especially unique with the incorporating of cut stones which appear to be rose granite. Many of the upper floors of these buildings are being utilized as apartments. The photo of J.C. Penney's (immediate right) shows an oriel protruding from what must be 16 S.E. 3rd Ave.



14-20 S.W. 3rd Ave.

RETAIL COMPLEX



Historic pictures of this 75 foot retail complex shows classical detailing and wood-framed windows. As you can see now, stucco has been added on top of the brown brick, concealing the characteristic details. It was built in 1905 by B.C. Lamont. Portions of it were used for a plumbing store, another for tents and awnings, and another for furs. It survives today as a popular bar, a donut shop and hair salon.

301-303 S. Main

NEW TRENDS



New Trends was an early J.C. Penney store in 1925 – one of the first chain stores in Aberdeen.

There is a small one story building directly south of this building, its shape hidden by the false wood facade. This is where the

Virginia Cafe used to be. Both structures currently house a school and office supply store. You can still barely make out the vertical "J.C. Penney Co." sign in yellow on the south side of the building. Many remember this location as Feinstein's clothing store.



212 S. Main

SAMMY'S RESTAURANT



From 1889 to 1910, this structure was the Wolter Shoe Company, and later the Plymouth Clothing Store. It is a 2-story red brick building with a stone foundation. It has stone coping with tiny dentils, a corbelled cornice, and brick patterns around the now removed bay window location. An arched entry way with leaded glass is reportedly still in tact above the now "modernized" store front (see photo below). The owners of Sammy's incorporated the raised display windows as extra seating for their restaurant.

214 S. Main

DAKOTA UNLIMITED



This is the original site of the first bank in Aberdeen; Aberdeen National Bank. The original structure, built in 1885, was probably destroyed sometime before 1930. The bank moved a few doors down to 220 S. Main in 1912. Woodward White Drug was probably the first tenant in this present building dating from 1930. Today it is the Dakota

Unlimited Pawn Shop. Recently the original upper floor windows, the last of this building's defining characteristics, were removed and replaced with a poor substitute. The continuous stone sill remains, however.



216 S. Main

PAUER SOUND & MUSIC



Rebuilt in 1927 after a fire, this building replaced the original 1915 Lyric Theater. This 365-seat movie house operated to the mid 1950's. It is a 2-story light tan brick, with

concrete coping. Detailed rope patterns are visible above the modern wood panels which now adorn both the Pauer Sound and former Pleinis Jewelry stores. There was once a triangular marquee (removed; see photo on left) and three rounded arch windows (presumably still under the wood). In the days of "modernizing" the wood was added – spanning two facades – to create the appearance of one, large store.

220-222 S. Main

ABERDEEN NATIONAL BANK



Built in 1912 as the Aberdeen National Bank, this 2-story building is decorated with a neoclassical glazed terra cotta facade (now covered with metal panels) complete with arcaded cornice. The metal, which was added to "modernize" the



structure is hiding some beautiful ionic columns, pediments and large windows. The bottom third of the decorative detailing has been removed to make way for a more "modern" storefront.

206 S. Main STUDIO 9



This interesting building boasts an unusual commercial interpretation of an Italian Villa, utilizing Moorish arches and Corinthian capitals. It was built in 1891 as the home of the Building and Loan Association. From 1903 to 1930, the First State Savings Bank occupied the space. R.E. Huffman purchased the building in 1935 and used it for his office supply business. The salon, Studio 9, occupies this address today. Small gargoyles adorn the ends of the beams below the hip-roof line. The third

floor balcony is supported by ornate carved brackets. The ground floor was completely altered with the addition of the wood and the expanded opening. A huge stained glass transom adorned the original street-level window. It is assumed that the

original ornate entrance is still behind the bump-out on the right side of the facade.



The Building and Loan Association as built in 1891

207 S. Main JAN'S CERAMICS & DOLLS



Adolph Olander and Duncan McPherson opened up a men's clothing store, and in 1912 built this building. The Olander family lived in the upstairs apartment, and Artz Studio was also located above from 1915-1928. The Olander store operated from 1912 until 1958. Today it is home to Jan's Ceramics. This building's unique attributes are its white glazed terra cotta bricks and green inset tiles at the top.

209-211 S. Main ENGEL MUSIC



Following a fire that consumed the previous structures on these lots, pharmacist J.H. Firey constructed this building in 1912 to house the Woodward Pharmacy. While it had more than a dozen

tenants over the years, it is remembered as Woolworth's Five and Dime, which occupied it from 1926 until 1952. Never having been located in such a small town, the success of this Woolworth's gave the company confidence to open countless stores in similar markets. Engel Music moved in when Woolworth's moved to 403 S. Main and continues a successful business to this day. Original wood doors leading to the upstairs can still be seen. This building has very attractive concrete detailing (Prairie styling perhaps) and was built with a dark red brick. The entire upstairs is vacant.



121-125 S. Main NATURAL ABUNDANCE



The "Wells Block" was built to house the Aberdeen Hardware Company around 1898. The brick has been painted red at some point as it is faded and peeled from the corbelling up top. Arched brickwork shape the multitude of windows on both street sides. From 1919 to 1922, Harms Piano occupied this space. The Natural Abundance Store is a place for shoppers to find organic and natural foods. The upper floors are all utilized as business offices.

201-203 S. Main FORMER 1ST NATIONAL BANK



In Sam Jumper's first year and a half in Aberdeen, he organized the Farmers and Merchants Bank. In 1883, he changed the name to First National Bank of Aberdeen. Bankers Gannon and Suttle purchased the bank in 1889, and later built this present structure in 1906. The name can still be seen in the carved granite above the front windows and doors. The Stewarts Hair School operated here since the 60's until it became a health club, which merged and moved into the YMCA in 2001. Neoclassical in design, this two-story structure was made from Minnesota soft sandstone. Look up at the classical detailing and the ornate capitals atop the pilasters. The Main Street facade was painted with a multicolored palette in 2000.



202-204 S. Main CITIZEN'S BUILDING



Built in 1910, the Citizens Bank Building was the first steel and concrete building in the area, and largest in the state except for the Capitol. The original bank entrance, centered on the Main Street side, no longer exists. The building boasted two elevators in wrought iron cages, glass mail chutes, and a roof garden restaurant and entertainment complex. The bank operated until 1929. Today, the upper floors are home to many professional service businesses.



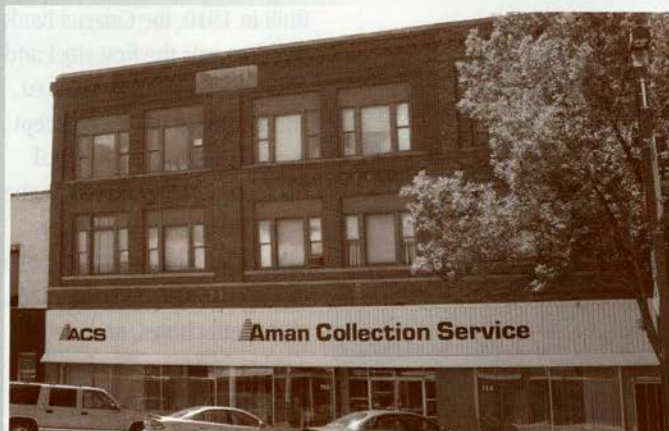
Many original windows are still in place, but many others have been replaced with shorter, newer ones. You can get a glimpse of how the original Main Street entrance looked by viewing the north entrance around the corner. The concrete classical entrance is still in tact. While this huge building is a contributing survivor, it lacks most of its original characterizing details.

205 S. Main TREASURE I-LAN



Built in 1912 by George Fossum, this building was the home of The Band Box, a millinery store. In 1936, it housed the Marie O. Simmons ladies ready-to-wear, and later, the Dottie Dunn hat shop moved in. P&H Bootery bought the building in 1950, and occupied it until 1974. Shoe stores and Feinstein's Up The Street have occupied it since, and today it is home to Treasure I-Lan, a computer lounge catering to gamers and internet users. The upper floor serves as apartments. Notice the unusual brick pattern and curved parapet on top.

112-116 S. Main VAN SLYKE BLOCK



The 112 portion (not shown) was built as Strauss Clothing store in 1916. The brickwork above the door was added simply to add height to this one story building. The 114 portion was added to the Van Slyke Block in 1929 as the expanded home of A.W. Voedsch Jewelry. This section uses a slightly different color of brick. The 116 section (original 1916 structure) housed a department store and was the office of the first woman attorney in Aberdeen, Dorothy Rehfeld. It has also been Sears Roebuck, True Value, and Microage Computers. Aman Collection Service occupied this building until they moved to a new, larger location on the first block of S. Main. Notice the concrete name plate at top.



Union Bank Building in 1909

117 S. Main A TO Z SINGER



Built in 1926, the main floor was designed for the Burg Company, a St. Paul based variety store chain. They claimed that none of their inventory was "priced over \$1." In the late 30's, the Fashion Shoppe was located here, then the Aberdeen Furniture Studio in 1945, and Brown's Painting and Flooring in 1964. At one time it also housed KABR radio station. Formally Kirby Sew & Vac, it is today A to Z Singer, still maintaining similar services. Note the glazed terra cotta detailings, as well as the "false" granite bulkheads. (The stone base below the bricks.)

126 S. Main CLOSET TO CLOSET



The Union Bank Company built this narrow, 3-story building in 1889. Due to unknown circumstances, the bank was no longer operating a year after it was built. From 1905 to 1918, it

was known as the Dakota Central Building, housing the Dakota Central Telephone company. Prior to the stucco and Sullivanesque cornice, the building was entirely exposed brick with a two-story bay (oriel) on the 2nd Avenue side, above what appears to be the main entrance (see photo left). This and two other adjoining buildings were "tied" together in 1940 for Newberry's, a chain "dime store." They used this building, the space next door, and the combined basements for sales, making it one of the larger stores in Aberdeen. In 2002 extensive restoration work began inside and out, making use of the upper floors.

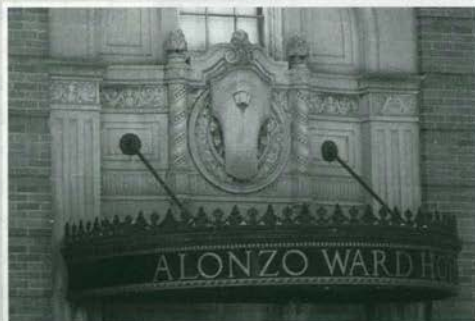
104 S. Main

ALONZO WARD HOTEL



Alonzo LaRue Ward came to Aberdeen in 1883 with 5¢ in his pocket when he was 21 years old. Starting with a modest lunchroom, in 1894 he enlarged it to a hotel and added the lobby to the lunchroom. A.L. Ward's restaurant was the first to have a commercial ice cream freezer. A fire destroyed the building

in 1926, and Ward soon started planning a \$500,000 fireproof replacement. In May of 1928, this new Alonzo Ward Hotel opened on the same site. Alonzo died in 1929, less than a year after the new hotel had opened. The Ward family sold the hotel in 1964. In 2002, Blackstone Development acquired the hotel committing to fully restore the structure. A portion of it still operates as a hotel, however, luxury condos have been added. This building is loaded with subtle architecture detailing of molded concrete on both street sides. Intricate brick work also adds unique character to the building. Be sure and notice the stately bronze awnings on the front and north sides as well as the ornate arched windows above each. Feel free to step inside.



108 S. Main

OFFICE EQUIPMENT



This building was built in 1937 as the S & L Department Store. Today it is home to Office Equipment, Inc., selling copiers and office supplies. Despite its apparent simplicity, there are some

interesting design elements such as the triple row of horizontal bands of brick above the large opening. Original awning bar remains.

111-113 S. Main

SANDER'S SEW & VAC



This nearly concealed two story building was built in 1898 as Witte Hardware. August Witte began the hardware business upon his arrival in Aberdeen in 1881 at the age of 24. Witte died in 1947, but others carried on the name and continued Witte Hardware until 1967. It was one of the most ornately decorated buildings downtown, featuring a classic Victorian facade. The stucco you see here was probably applied over the original brick and all the detailing was stripped away years ago. Sander's has expanded to the space directly south (113) with the addition of quilting supplies and classes.



21-23 S. Main DACOTAH PRAIRIE MUSEUM



Originally built as the Northwestern National Bank Building in 1889, this massive building has housed hundreds of fledgling Aberdeen businesses. Of particular architectural interest is the color of the brick – a deep red – which beautifully accents the Lake Superior sandstone used to support the arched entrances and the foundation; the dividing pilasters which section off the multitude of arched bricked windows; and the extremely large window and door openings on the street level. The building was given to Brown County in 1970 to house the Dakota Prairie Museum at which time most all of the street level windows were covered in tin panels. In 2002 the museum began a \$500,000 restoration to reopen/replace the windows and doors.

New windows and doors were replaced in the museum in 2003.



S.E. 1st Ave BROWN COUNTY COURT HOUSE



This Court House was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. It is one of three in the downtown area on the register.

Aberdeen won the county seat in 1890, and this Renaissance Revival Style building was built in 1904 at a cost of \$140,000. Two giant Corinthian columns, complete with a pediment, adorn the entrance. A dome sits atop Roman Doric columns, sporting a clock on each side. A copper statue of Justice stands on the peak of the dome. Extensive remodeling work was done in the past which included the removal of the grand sandstone steps leading to the first floor rotunda, and the addition of a central elevator which destroyed the spectacular rotunda area. Since its construction, this building has been the center of government for Brown County.

1 Court Street RICHARDSON LAW OFFICE



The freight depot on the north side is still in tact and showcases "ghosts" of period advertising on the brick walls.

Built as a depot in 1907 for the Great Northern Company, this building has been successfully restored and is used as a law office. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Architect Samuel L. Bartlett designed it with an English Vernacular style evident by Tudor distinctions, arched windows and quoins. The Great Northern branched into North Dakota and east to Minneapolis, however, the best excursion this line provided was from Aberdeen to Tacoma Park during the "chautauqua years." The GNR was the third of four railroads built in Aberdeen.

1 N. Main **MILWAUKEE DEPOT**



The Milwaukee Depot, built in 1911, was the 4th depot built by the Milwaukee Road in Aberdeen. It was built in a style which later became known as Prairie Style and features a low pitched hip roof in red tile, rows of same sized windows, and an emphasis on the horizontal. Prairie Style buildings were meant to “hug” the prairie with their low, flat massiveness. The estimated cost of the construction was \$93,000. From 1911 to 1969, South Dakota’s only transcontinental passenger service was available from Aberdeen’s Milwaukee Depot. East bound travelers departed at 2 a.m., averaging 79 m.p.h., and arrived in downtown Minneapolis by 6:30. In peak years, 14 scheduled passenger trains stopped here daily. In 2003, Tom and Danielle Aman Enterprises acquired the depot for developmental and preservation purposes. This depot played a historic role during WWII as troop trains were diverted through Aberdeen specifically to sample free “pheasant sandwiches” prepared by the Aberdeen Railway Station Canteen inside the depot (now gone). The Red Cross and USO, who prepared the sandwiches at the Canteen, were featured in wartime news reels and several periodicals of the time.

1 S. Main **BEL AIRE APARTMENTS**



This building was built by Andrew L. Larson, with the newest front section dating back to 1905. Larson called it the Commercial Hotel, and it is the oldest Main Street structure in continuous use for lodging. The original wood-frame building was partially destroyed in a fire in 1905, and Larson replaced it with this

brick structure, one section at a time. Budget-priced compared to the Alonzo Ward or Sherman House, its location across from the depot guaranteed a steady flow of customers. It was sold and changed to the Linmore Hotel in 1947, and became the Bel Aire Apartments in 1970. Note the name plate at the top of the facade directly above the corbelling which decorates two sides of the building. The windows are framed in brick arches and a support beam is still visible above the transom window area. Decorative rosettes disguise nuts used to secure the beam.

9-11 S. Main **R&A BAR / J R PAWN**



This building was the Schaeffer Hotel from 1916-1930’s, the New State Theater in 1936, and the Star Tavern in 1958. Attributes include dark brown brick with coping and subtle brick eared window surrounds. Today it is The R&A Bar and JR Pawn shop. Metal corinthian columns support a balcony at the back of the building. The center door on the front facade still retains remnants of the original transom which would have been above both storefront openings. It is leaded glass which has been painted. The upstairs have been abandoned for years.

commercial buildings. The lowland on the west side, which was a substantial slough, slowed down the development across the street. Many of these first buildings were small, hastily constructed wood frame stores with boomtown fronts. However, crop failures and a depression in the 1890's ended the construction boom. It wasn't until the early 1900's that rising crop prices brought a return to prosperity. Construction continued into the 20's despite the post WWI drop in



Street cars provided public transportation in Aberdeen until 1922.

agricultural prices. The 1920's also marked the arrival in Aberdeen of three national chain stores: Kresge, J.C. Penney and Montgomery Wards.

The Great Depression of 1929 brought a significant, but less traumatic economic decline for Aberdeen than the rest of the nation, and as the commercial and social center for a large and highly developed territory, Aberdeen normally teemed with activity. By the 40's traffic got so heavy on Main Street that policemen had to put up traffic signals at the intersections of 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Avenues.

ABERDEEN'S CORE

Downtown has been a banking and government center since the 1880's and continues in that role today. All levels of government are resident in the downtown, most occupying historic structures. Several banks have built new buildings, some remodeled and yet others have restored their historic facades. In many cases, efforts have been made to build buildings which conform to a historic

look. Most notable is the Great Western Bank (6th Avenue) which is a marvelous example of retaining prairie style elements in a new building.

PERSEVERANCE, SURVIVAL AND REBIRTH

Despite numerous fires, flooding, and rebuilding, Historic Downtown Aberdeen persevered through the years and today remains a standing monument to days passed. While touring downtown, take time to appreciate the fine details in many of the buildings.

On May 23, 1988 this portion of the downtown area – Main Street from Railroad

Ave. to 6th Ave. was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as "The Aberdeen Commercial Historic District." Key structures on neighboring Lincoln Street are worthy of future inclusion. Three in the downtown already are on the



New buildings for ACS/Wells Fargo (top) and Great Western Bank are examples of new investment into the historic downtown core. Both were completed in 2003.

National Register: Brown County Court House, First United Methodist Church and the Great Northern Depot.

As with most downtowns across the country, Aberdeen's began to decline in the mid 1980's. In early 2000, several projects began, including substantial reinvestment in the core commercial area, which began to change the landscape of the area with the hopes of returning value, prosperity, and opportunity. Hopefully this interest in restoration and new business ventures will continue and revive the pioneering spirit which drove the first citizens of Aberdeen to build a thriving community.

Enjoy your walk!

Welcome to DOWNTOWN ABERDEEN

THE BIRTH OF THE HUB CITY

Aberdeen, the third largest city in South Dakota, began in 1881. While the town of Columbia was busy growing into the county seat, Charles H. Prior, the superintendent of the Minneapolis office of the Milwaukee Railroad, made a decision that shattered Columbia's hopes of becoming the territorial capitol. What Columbia lacked was a railroad, and according to Prior's

wishes, the Milwaukee tracks were rerouted west and when they stopped in a dry slough, the people built a city. The new town was named to honor Prior's boss, Alexander Mitchell, who was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. Prior planned a depot at the end of the new railroad grade and centered a main street just west of the depot. In June of that year, Prior teamed up with Samuel Jumper to begin selling lots. People walked or rode from as far as Watertown, eager to buy these first lots. That next winter brought deep snow and a late spring thaw, flooding the area between 2nd Avenue and the corner of Lincoln and 3rd

Ave. However, anxious businessmen competed for the best of the submerged lots.

With nine rail lines extending out from Aberdeen like the spokes on a wheel, it soon became known as the Railway Hub of Dakota. When South Dakota became a state in 1889, the city was promoted as The Hub City of the Dakotas.

In 1890, the Pettibone City Directory



Main Street 1897



Main Street 1916



Fireworks were shot off from the rooftop garden of the Citizen Building in 1911.

Aberdeen sits amid her treasures a queen of the rich prairies about her, and reaching forth her iron arms to the north and south, to the east and west." 1890 boasted not only an unusually large population for so young a town, but also 230 businesses, including more than 60 retail stores, 20 hotels, 11 farm implement dealers, 7 newspapers, 35 lawyers, 43 real estate agents, state-of-the-art telephone service, an artesian well, and at least 9 churches. This was also the year that Aberdeen beat out Columbia as the county seat.

DOWNTOWN ABERDEEN

With the exception of the Masonic Temple, all 82 buildings in the 6 blocks of Aberdeen's Commercial Historic District were built for commercial use. Commerce is still centered here today for the Hub City. While

few ground floor storefronts have escaped some sort of alteration, many of the buildings retain their original structure. Almost half of all 82 buildings were built between 1908 and 1929, reflecting the boom years of both Aberdeen's and South Dakota's commercial development.

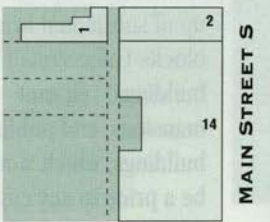
Lots on Main Street sold for \$125 per 25 ft. frontage, and \$150 for corner sites. One block over on Lincoln Street, twice as big, sold for only \$80. These cheaper prices, as well as the poor drainage on Main Street, was a big reason for business owners to consider taking up shop over on Lincoln.

In 1884, nearly all of the first 3 blocks of Main on the east side were filled with

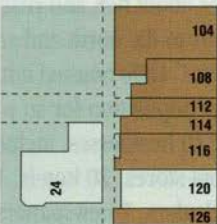


Main Street 1942. Downtown has always been a gathering place for civic events and parades.

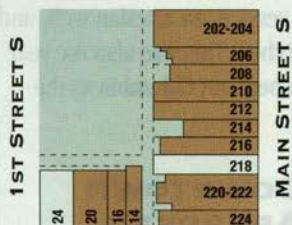
RAILROAD AVENUE SW



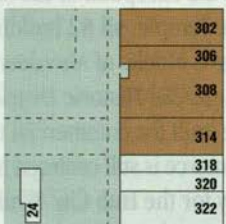
1ST AVENUE SW



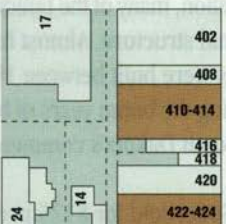
2ND AVENUE SW



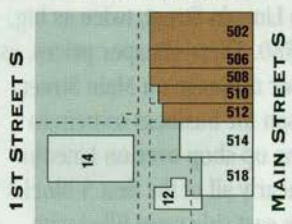
3RD AVENUE SW



4TH AVENUE SW

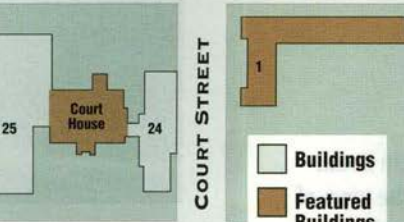


5TH AVENUE SW

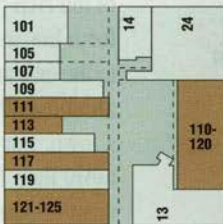


6TH AVENUE SW

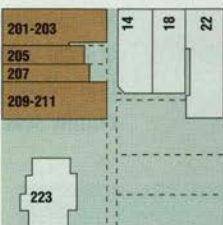
RAILROAD AVENUE SE



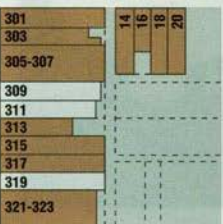
1ST AVENUE SE



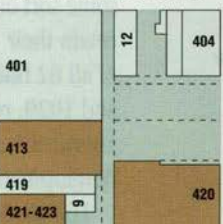
2ND AVENUE SE



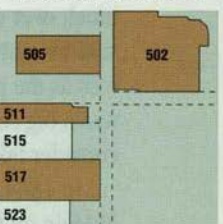
3RD AVENUE SE



4TH AVENUE SE



5TH AVENUE SE



6TH AVENUE SE

ADDRESS	BUILDING	PAGE #
1 N. Main	Milwaukee Depot	2
1 S. Main	Bel Aire Apartments	2
9-11 S. Main	R&A Bar/JR Pawn	2
21-23 S. Main	Dacotah Prairie Museum	3
104 S. Main	Alonzo Ward Hotel	4
108 S. Main	Office Equipment	4
111-113 S. Main	Sander's Sew & Vac	4
112-116 S. Main	Van Slyke Block	5
117 S. Main	A to Z Singer	5
121-125 S. Main	Natural Abundance (Wells Block)	6
126 S. Main	Closet-To-Closet	5
201-203 S. Main	Former First National Bank	6
202-204 S. Main	Citizen's Building	6
205 S. Main	Treasure I-Lan	6
206 S. Main	Studio 9	7
207 S. Main	Jan's Ceramics & Dolls	7
209-211 S. Main	Engel Music	7
212 S. Main	Sammy's Restaurant	8
214 S. Main	Dakota Unlimited	8
216 S. Main	Pauer Sound & Music	8
220-222 S. Main	Aberdeen National Bank	8
224 S. Main	Play It Again Sports	9
301-303 S. Main	New Trends	9
302-308 S. Main	Dacotah Bank	10
305-307 S. Main	Head Start	10
313 S. Main	Former Marie O. Simmons	10
314 S. Main	District Service Center	11
315-317 S. Main	Webb Shoes	11
321-323 S. Main	Formerly The Main	11
413 S. Main	Capitol Building	12
410-414 S. Main	New Beard Block	13
421-423 S. Main	The Boston Fern	13
422-424 S. Main	Colonial Rose/Print On It	13
502-508 S. Main	Malchow's	14
503 S. Main	Masonic Temple	14
510 S. Main	Anchors of Faith	15
511 S. Main	An Affair to Remember	15
512 S. Main	Don's Hardware	15
517 S. Main	Former Elk's Building	15
502 S. Lincoln	First United Methodist Church	16
420 S. Lincoln	YMCA	16
423 S. Lincoln	Murdy Clinic Apartments	17
415 S. Lincoln	Veteran's Memorial	17
110-120 S. Lincoln	Gellhaus /Dakota Silk Screen	17
123 S. Lincoln	Municipal Building	17
S.E. 1st Ave	Brown County Court House	3
14-20 S.E. 3rd Ave	Commercial Buildings	9
14-20 S.W. 3rd Ave	Retail Complex	9
102 S.E. 4th Ave	Post Office / Court House	12
1 Court Street	Richardson Law Office	3

The term, "block" refers to a single building with space for businesses, apartments and retail stores. The buildings' names are listed as the current tenant, sometimes as the original name (still evident on the building), and sometimes by the most prominent, most recent tenant.