

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District is comprised of four entire quarter-blocks and portions of four more quarter-blocks in the geographical center of Mt. Sterling lying immediately south and to the east and west of the Brown County Courthouse. The courthouse is situated on a separate block of its own immediately north of the business district.

The Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District lies in the center of the town's rectilinear grid whose north-south axis is actually north-northeast by south-southwest. Main Street, the principal east-west street in the district, is a portion of U.S. Route 24 some 45 miles east of the Mississippi River and 75 miles northwest of Springfield.

Mt. Sterling lies just west of the geographical center of Brown County and about midway north-to-south. Topographically the county is rolling, draining to the east where a portion of its east boundary is delineated by the Illinois River and an accompanying flood plain. Mt. Sterling is the point of highest elevation in the county. It is a town of twenty-two hundred population engaged in providing goods and services to the surrounding agricultural community. The only other community of substantial size in Brown County is Versailles (approximately 500 population) 12 miles southeast of Mt. Sterling. Nearest large commercial centers are Quincy (45 miles west,) Jacksonville (45 miles southeast,) and Macomb (40 miles northeast.)

The Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District lies on both sides of Main Street for one half block east and west of the town's principal north-south street, Capitol (formerly Main Cross.) It lies on both sides of Capitol one block north and all but one lot for a block south of Main Street. At the north end of Capitol Street, one block north of Main, is the Brown County Courthouse, on its own small block. The courthouse faces south onto Capitol and has flanking north-south streets just one block long and intersecting once again with Washington Street on the north end of the courthouse block. The courthouse block is large enough only for the courthouse itself, with no surrounding park or grounds, except a narrow lawn just north of the building. Lines have been drawn to include buildings with historic impact on the district or with architectural integrity from the period of significance. Excluded by the boundaries are areas where buildings exist in sequence which have lost their integrity, do not fit the commercial character of the district, or where there is a concentration of buildings that would comprise intrusions to this district. On the Main Street properties the rear alleys delineate the district boundary; for properties on Capitol the rear property lines designate the boundary.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 2 Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

Downtown Mt. Sterling supplies most of the day-to-day commercial needs of the community and all of the governmental services; however, implement and auto dealerships and large feed/fertilizer operations typically have tended to locate at the edges of town on the highways where more sprawl is available for those kinds of operations. The Commercial Historic District comprises most of the central business district.

Visual continuity is apparent in the district due to the density of contributing buildings and the fact that most of the buildings are nineteenth-century two-story red brick commercial structures. All the nineteenth-century buildings are Italianate in style, generally with cast iron corner pilasters, entry columns, and other storefront detail, generous transoms and clerestory windows, recessed entries, stone or segmental brick arched upper facade windows, and stamped metal cornices. Many have upper facade ornamental masonry corbel tables or masonry feature panels. Included are several commercial blocks or complexes with multiple storefronts. There are no three-story buildings; and most of the two-story buildings are of almost identical height and detail, as are the second-story windows. Only two parking lots and one vacant lot interrupt the rhythm of the district, and these had been important commercial building sites, all three casualties of extensive fires.

Of the five twentieth-century buildings in the district, two are two-story, three one-story. All are faced with dark red-blend brick. All but one of the twentieth-century buildings have slightly pedimented stone-capped cornices. There is only one other style represented, a two-story turn-of-the-century buff brick and stone Neo-Classical former bank. There are only two intrusions, both built since 1980. Only three other non-contributing buildings lie within the district, and these are nineteenth-century Italianate buildings which have had their facades either stuccoed or covered with ornamental plyboard. A number of Italianate building storefronts have been substantially altered with glass and aluminum display window arrangements, or in the case of two buildings, bricked-up to provide smaller window spaces for offices. Most typical upper facade alteration has been infilling to accommodate modern storm/screen units. About half of the buildings' second floors are occupied for apartment use, the other half for storage, except a bank which uses its second floor for its own offices and storage. At the alleys all fenestration and detail of all buildings remains original, despite facade alterations.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 3 Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

The dominant building in the district is the 1868 Brown County Courthouse which combines neo-classical and Italianate characteristics. It is a tall two-story red brick structure with a double-pile plan, but with front and rear halves connected by a central stem. Its floor plan, therefore, is H-shaped. Commanding the facade is a two-story pedimented portico supported by four Roman Doric columns. The cornice of the main block and the portico is decorated with modillions. A central feature of the lateral hipped roof behind the portico originally was an octagonal domed cupola. During an extensive fire in 1939 the courthouse lost its entire roof and portico pediment, most of its second-floor interior walls, and portions of its first-floor interior walls. The exterior walls and columns remained intact, and the building was rebuilt from the inside. The original shingled gabled roofs of the main block were replaced with hipped ones clad in standing-seam tin alloy. The cupola, however, was not rebuilt. Arched second-story window openings enclose twin arched double-hung sash. First-floor windows have segmental brick arches. All original shutters are missing, and original shutter hardware has been removed from the building. The double-door entry has a round arched fanlight transom.

The only other governmental building within the boundaries of the Commercial Historic District is the present-day public library. It lies at the west end of the district on the north side of Main Street. It is a one-story commercial tapestry brick building built in 1915 as a hardware store and was later given to the city for library use.

The district contains all of Main Street from the public library on the west end to and including the last Italianate commercial building on east Main. Beyond the library west lies a modern steel-building firehouse and more modern buildings beyond. On the east end the boundary was drawn to exclude an aluminum-clad church building now used to store automobile parts; residential neighborhood begins beyond the church. On the south side of east Main the last Italianate commercial building begins the east end of the district, east of which are all buildings built outside the period of significance or so altered as to make no contributions to the character of the district. On the west end an alley separates the district from modern structures. On the south end the last Italianate commercial building on the west side of Capitol is separated from a modern block building and quonset hut to the south. On the east side of south Capitol the last Italianate commercial building remains in the district while a church to the south of the boundary

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4 Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

does not contribute to the commercial character of the district. On the north end of the district the courthouse itself is included, but residential area to the north, west, and east of its individual block is excluded.

The boundaries of the Commercial Historic District delineate the contrasts between areas which have a concentration of buildings of integrity with common massing, materials, fenestration, detail and history against those areas which have no identity in common with the district, have buildings whose integrity is lost, or areas which represent a different type of district (viz. residential.)

The buildings listed below contribute to the character of the district. They meet a number of criteria. They were all built during the period of significance, i.e. 1868 to 1920. They all retain sufficient physical integrity to provide positive contributions to the district. Considered in evaluating their contributing nature were massing, fenestration, use of materials, sources of materials, facade detail, regional vernacular characteristics. Those buildings within the boundaries which were built outside the period of significance or which lack exterior physical integrity sufficient to add to the character of the district are listed at the end as non-contributing. Where indicated, some altered buildings have changes which could be reversed to produce a contributing building once again.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

Numbers refer to building numbers on District map.

1. 143 West Main
Lot 25
Name: Mt. Sterling Library
Built: c. 1915
Type: Commercial (Prairie School influence)
Owner/builder: Frank Hagel

This is a five-bay, one-story tapestry brick building with pedimented stone-capped cornice, panelled upper facade, and two pairs of large plate glass display windows. It was built by Contractor George Rex Gobell for the Hagel Hardware store. The Hagels had operated a store in an early frame building directly across the street from this location. The new

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5 Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

hardware store continued in business until this building was given to the City of Mt. Sterling.
Present Use: Mt. Sterling Public Library
Owner: City of Mt. Sterling, Mt. Sterling City Hall, Mt. Sterling, Il.

3. 123-125 West Main

Lot 27

Name: Stark-Simon Building

Built: 1889

Type Italianate Commercial

Photo 4

This two-story brick building has always been a cafe. Beginning with Henry Winkleson, cafe operator, it was also a restaurant under Print Adams and Charles Gordly until shortly after the turn of the century; it was for many years successful under the name of Nick Fritsch Cafe, a popular workinman's cafe, later as the Yakle Cafe. Also the Stark tavern was a success in one half of the building for a long period. The second floor was long used as a cigar factory, now for storage only.

Present Use: one half Pub Cafe, one half Pub Tavern.

Owners: 123 West Main, George Sheppard and Wayne Shepard, Mt. Sterling, Il.

125 West Main, George Sheppard and Robert Conaway, Mt. Sterling, Il.

4. & 5. 121-111 West Main

Lot 27 & 28

Name: Barry Block

Built: c. 1892

Type: Italianate Commercial

Owner/Builder: Lewis T. Barry

Photo 4

Mr. Barry came to Mt. Sterling from Indiana and started his trade of tanning, making shoes, saddles and harness. His business venture, which began in 1861, was so successful that he built the large commercial block which has housed many successful businesses such as Brooks Bookstore, Ed Teefey Grocery (Teefey was also state representative, as was his son after him,) The Otto Kunkler tobacco shop and cigar works (a large wooden indian stood in front of this store for many years,) the Cyril & Jacob Meyer cigar store which followed Kunkler, the Rodolf Photo Gallery on the second floor. The original business in the block was Barry's own retail shoe store. He had in one room a shoe repair business operated by Jacob Kunkler, brother of Otto. Geschwinder's Cigar store was also popular for many years, and it too had a wooden indian in front. The Schoonover Barbershop occupied a storefront for many years. Offices and apartments were always mixed on the second floor. "The Fair" dry goods business operated here, as did the Stollar dry goods firm.
Present Uses: Price and Shoopman Realty, Western Auto Store, Sears

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

Catalog Store.

Owners: 121 West Main, Floyd and Clara Huebner, Rte. 1, Coatsburg, Il.

119 West Main, Ned Price & J.M. Shoopman, 119 W.Main, Mt. Sterling, Il.

113 West Main, Morrison Moreillan, 113 W. Main, Mt. Sterling, Il.

111 West Main, Edw. L. Kunkel, 111 West Main, Mt. Sterling, Il.

6. 109 West Main

Lot 29

Name: O'Neil Building

Type: Commercial (vernacular)

Built: c. 1872

Photo 4

O'Neil's Hardware store is the only business surviving from the period when its building was constructed for that business. O'Neil's hardware was one of the early Mt. Sterling businesses, but today it is under ownership of a different family. It's motto during its most successful period described its dicotomous nature, "From nails to pills," as it was and still is both a hardware and drug store. Its motto remains.

Present Use: Hardware/drug store.

Owner: James and Dianne Heaton, 200 South Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.

7. 105-107 West Main

Lot 30

Name: Breidenbend Building

Built: c. 1900

Owner/builder: Joe and William Breidenbend

Photo 4

This building was built for a general merchandise store; its owners were avid sportsmen and gun enthusiasts. After some 30 years the Breidenbends sold the business and building to Charles Briggs, who operated the store for a while and then incorporated the stock in his Penny Store at another location. For most of its existence this building has housed a general dry goods/notions/equipment store.

Present Use: Florist shop.

Owner: Robert and Deborah Willer and Clifford and Doris Long,
105 West Main, Mt. Sterling, Il.

8. 101 West Main

Lot 30

Name: Curry Building

Built: 1892

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

Type: Italianate Commercial
Owner/Builder: Frank Clement Curry
Photo 4 & 5

A descendant of Mt. Sterling pioneers Alexander and Robert Curry, this Curry built and re-built his income property building three times after suffering three major fires. A first early building on this location burned in 1869. Mr. Curry felt that the fires occurred as a punishment for his having actively opposed the sale of liquor in Mt. Sterling. A new large brick building was erected which burned in 1892. Above this building had been a public hall. When he rebuilt he included second-floor office suites for doctors, dentists, etc. His third fire was in 1898, when a portion of the 1892 building remained and only needed to be partially re-built. For 50 years (1897-1946) the Curry building housed Harry Taylor's "Big Chicago Store," a dry goods store of excellent and widespread reputation. Being a promoter, Taylor adopted the sales slogan "Trade here and buy a farm," explaining what a thrifty move it was to shop in his store. For many years a seven-day-a-week operation, the Big Chicago Store variety of merchandise was unequalled for many miles. A shoe repair shop within the store was operated by Wm. Biergann. A small west room once operated as an early Geschwinder Cigar Store and for a short time as the Condee Restaurant. Most recently the entire first floor has been a florist shop.
Present Use: One half unoccupied, one half pizza restaurant.
Owner: Roger Eddington, Rte. 3, Mt. Sterling, Il.

9. 107 North Capitol
Lot 30
Name: Brockman Building
Built: 1892
Type: Italianate Commercial
Owner/Builder: Washington Brockman
Photo 5

One of the most popular stores in town was the Brockman Bookstore, which also carried greeting cards, school books, bicycles, wedding presents, and paint and wallpaper and other interesting merchandise from pianos to 5¢ tablets. After the Brockmans left the business, the store was used for further paint and wallpaper sales; still later it became the Penny Store.
Present Use: Unoccupied first floor; apartments second floor.
Owner: Doris Shelts, 111 North Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

10. 111 North Capitol
Lot 30

Name: Webber Building
Built: 1892
Type: Italianate Commercial
Owner/Builder: J.C. Webber
Photo 5

This income property was first and longest occupied by the Alex and Fred Brockman butcher shop, and after them the Frank Meyer butcher shop. During its earliest commercial life the second floor was occupied by the Harvey Williams photo gallery.
Present Use: Bar and Grill (Sportsmen's Bar.)
Owner: Doris Shelts, 111 North Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.

11. 115 North Capitol
Lot 11

Name: First National Bank Building ; Built: 1876
Type: Italianate Commercial
Owner/Builder: First National Bank
Photo 5

Not only the building but the bank business itself was the result of the energy and thrift of Frederick Drake Crane. He was the most sophisticated merchant in town, running a dry goods business in Mt. Sterling and finally in three other towns. He was a heavy stockholder and manager of the first creamery in Mt. Sterling, was interested in the first electric plant, of which his son was president. He was also one of the leaders in the Presbyterian Church, superintendent of the Sunday school classes, and sang regularly in the choir. He supported the Temperance Union, was active in the G.A.R., was a city councilman, mayor, and ran a private money-lending business before starting the First National Bank. The location of this bank had first been his father's dry goods store. In 1865 to expand the business Crane built the large store (#24) on east Main. After the dry goods store moved to East Main Crane started the bank in the old store building. Expansion of the banking business necessitated this store in 1876. In 1908 further expansion required a new building to be built on the southwest corner of Main and Capitol (#30.) After the bank moved to the new location, this building has had a number of uses, such as the Cullen dry goods store/ It is the earliest and most intact front and side facade in Mt. Sterling.

Present Use: Unoccupied.
Owner: Clara Gobell, 110 S. Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

12. 117 North Capitol

Lot 11

Name: Cravens Building, Built 1877

Type: Italianate Commercial

Owner/Builder: John Craven

Photo 5

Mr. Craven operated a grocery store in Mt. Sterling from 1869 to 1910, nearly the entire period of significance of this nomination. He was born in London, England, and came to Mt. Sterling when he was 23 years old. The Craven grocery was like no other business. Not everything he carried was the best quality, but he had the greatest variety in the region. In addition, he carried oddities and unusual merchandise. The ceilings of the store were covered with murals, baskets and barrels were piled everywhere, as most of his purchases were in bulk. He piled merchandise on the sidewalk outside the store. He made peanut butter while the customers waited for it. He made his own very unusual cheeses, preserves, and coffee. He bought long plugs of tobacco, cutting it off as ordered, selling it by the foot. His newspaper advertisements were often quotations from scripture, or poems, or other extraneous copy, seldom about groceries. He gave credit freely and scarcely kept books. People throughout Brown County always said, "If you can't find it anywhere else, you can find it at Crane's." He did not understand income tax or the philosophy of government inspection of foods. Ultimately, the IRS and USDA forced Mr. Cravens out of business.

Present Use: Brown County Senior Citizens Center.

Owner: City of Mt. Sterling, City Hall, Mt. Sterling, Il.

14. North Street at Capitol Street

Name: Brown County Courthouse

Built: 1868

Type: Neo-classical/Italianate

Owner/Builder: Brown County

Photos 1-2-3

Designed by David House, this was Brown County's second courthouse; both it and the first courthouse were built on the same site. The first one was moved away. Originally an octagonal cupola sat atop the south lateral roof ridge. A major fire in 1939 destroyed the entire roof, which was replaced, minus the cupola. The courtroom, judges' chambers, library, holding room, and jury room are located on the second floor. The first floor contains county offices of assessor, clerk, magistrate, etc.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 10

Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

16. 116 North Capitol

Lot 10

Built: c. 1892

Type: Italianate Commercial

Photo 6

This is the only frame structure in the Commercial Historic District. Its facade retains the original pressed metal upper facade and cornice elements, as well as oriel covering. Storefront retains cast iron pilasters and columns and original display window openings, clerestory window openings, and display apron ornamentation. Building lists 5 degrees south to north.

Present Use: Appliance storage.

Owner: Clarence Shields, 116 N. Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.

17. 114 North Capitol

Lot 10

Built: c. 1920

Type: Commercial

Photo 6

One-story brick commercial building with normal recessed center entry with flanking display windows. Facade is capped with flat cut limestone and features glazed brick display panel in upper facade with matching display window aprons. It has served principally as an appliance retail store since it was built. Facade and storefront are unchanged.

Present Use: Appliance store.

Owner: Clarence Shields, 114 N. Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.

18. 108 North Capitol

Lot 31

Built: c. 1890

Type: Italianate Commercial

Owner/Builder: Earl Brown

Photo 6

One of several cigar stores, the original business here also included an extensive pool hall, largest in Mt. Sterling. Subsequent to that the Cody Ryan restaurant operated here for many years. While a successful restaurant, the building had a series of ceiling fans, all operated by a single continuous leather belt. During the 1930s the building housed the town's largest grocery, the Miller Grocery. Present owners were clerks and meat cutters for the Miller store. Entire storefront (which

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 11 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

originally had a north and a south entrance) is covered with aluminum siding and a mansard-type roof at clerestory window height. Second floor windows have proper-fitting aluminum storms/screens. North entrance remains.

Present Use: Grocery retail store.

Owner: Henry Flynn, 108 N. Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.

19. 101 East Main
Lot 31

Name: Bloomfield Skiles Bank Building

Built: 1893

Type: Italianate Commercial

Owner/Builder: Bloomfield & Skiles Bank

Photo 6 & 7

Built on the site of the large burned-out Bloomfield Hotel, this building has served as a bank since it was built. Only the name of the bank has changed. Originally the metal cornice had small cylindrical features at the corners. At the principal corner of the building was the entrance to the bank; above the entrance and above the cornice was a stamped metal pediment with the bank and building date legend. In the past 20 years the entire storefront facades on both Capitol and Main Streets were removed, and pre-cast aggregate panels put in their places. A few small aluminum windows allow some light to enter the bank lobby. Second floor windows have been retrofitted with original opening-fitting aluminum storms and screens.

Present Use: Brown County State Bank

Owner: Brown County State Bank, 101 E. Main, Mt. Sterling, Il.

20. 113 East Main
Lot 33

Name: Hagel Bros. Building

Built: 1885

Type: Italianate Commercial

Owner/Builder: Hagel Brothers Furniture

Photo 7

For a number of years the Hagels carried on a fine furniture and undertaking business here. Following that, the Briggs-Hersman-Parker stove, furnace, and fence business operated here, still handling hardware and furniture. The same business, finally under the ownership of C.A. Ingels, survived until 1961, when it sold again; It is still in operation as the principal hardware store in town. The building exterior is unaltered, despite the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 12 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

intrusion of aluminum awnings over the display windows.
Present Use: Hardware store.
Owner: Mary J. Busen, 113 East Main, Mt. Sterling, Il.

21. 115-117 East Main
Lot 34
Name: Murphy Feed Building
Built: c. 1890
Type: Italianate Commercial
Photo 7
Built for a feed store, it remained that for many years. It later served as an automobile dealership, named Continental Motors.
Present Use: Retail auto parts.
Owner: Buckley Auto Parts, 115 E. Main, Mt. Sterling, Il.
22. 119 East Main
Lot 35
Name Oerzen Building
Built: c. 1890
Type: Italianate Commercial
Photo 7
A perfect size for a jewelry store, the building later served as a small restaurant on the first floor, residence on the second, and a plumbing business on the garden level. There was a front entry to the garden level by way of stairs down from the sidewalk.
Present Use: Auto parts storage.
Owner: Buckley Auto Parts, 115 E. Main, Mt. Sterling, Il.
23. 108 East Main
Lot 49
Name: During Building
Type: Italianate Commercial; Built: ca. 1875
Built for and operated as a grocery for many years, the building served after the turn of the century as the George Howard Restaurant for a long period. In recent years numerous temporary operations have located here.
Present Use: Unoccupied.
Owner: Robert Colwell, Mt. Sterling, Il.
Photo 11

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

24. 104 East Main
Lot 49
Name: Crane Building, Built 1864
Type: Italianate Commercial
Owner/Builder: Frederick Crane
Photos 11
Built and operated by a town patriarch, this has been Mt. Sterling's longest sustained and largest dry goods store. Crane was one of the most widely known men in Brown County. Born in 1843 he came to Mt. Sterling at age four. By the time he was fourteen he was running his own store, owned by his father, which Frederick parlayed into a chain of five stores. He was a Civil War veteran, city councilman, mayor, private money lender, creator of the First National Bank, choir singer, and Sunday School teacher. The building underwent facade changes about 1890 when new cast iron storefront elements were exchanged and original wooden cornice was replaced with a pressed metal one. Larger display windows were added in the 1950s.
Present Use: General merchandise store.
Owner: Lease Management, Inc., P.O. Box 16524, St. Louis, Mo. 63105
25. 108-110 South Capitol
Lot 50
Name: Clark Building
Built: c. 1880
Type: Italianate Commercial
Photo 10
The north half of this building has served as a drug store, Railway Express office, and restaurant. It was once a very successful millinery. It is now an insurance office. The south half was one of the most successful cigar stores in town, later the Clark feed store, still later a long-time law office.
Present Use: north half insurance office; south half abstract office.
Owner: Schuyler-Brown County Historical Society, 110 South Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.
26. 116-118 South Capitol
Lot 71
Built: c. 1890
Type: Italianate Commercial
Photo 10
The north half was long occupied by the very successful Palace Saloon whose proprietor put out a daily newsletter called the Afternoon Yell.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 14 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

Customers found it a great source of local news and gossip and considered the day incomplete without having stopped into the Palace. The south half was for most of its existence a funeral parlor. During the second ownership as a funeral home, the entire building was used for that purpose, and the entire first floor storefronts were removed and bricked up with tapestry brick. Second floor has always been residential. Present Use: North half Department of Public Aid, south half law offices. Owner: Ed Tucker, 116 S. Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.

27. 113-115 South Capitol

Lot 70

Name: Condee Building

Built: c. 1890

Type: Italianate Commercial

Photo 9

The north half was for a very long time the Grether Grocery store, later a shoe repair shop for years. The south half was longest occupied by the Rusk Stove company. Second floor was always, and still is, apartments.

Present Use: Florist shop.

Owner: Farmers State Bank, Mt. Sterling, Il.

29. 107 South Capitol

Lot 51

Built: c. 1920

Type: Commercial

Photo 9

Built for an office for the Central Illinois Public Service Company (gas/electric,) in recent years the building has become the office for the Jasper Oil Company, speculative oil field drillers. Second floor has always been an apartment.

Present Use: Oil company office.

Owner: Donald Tracy, 400 South Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.

30. 100 West Main

Lot 51

Name: First National Bank Building

Built: 1915

Type: Neo-classical Commercial

Photos 8 & 9

Originally designed as a bank on the first floor, with law offices on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

second floor. Later operated as a jewelry store on the first floor and four apartments up.

Present Use: Beauty shop, recreation room, first floor; apartments up.

Owner: Ralph Orr, RR4, Mt. Sterling, Il.

31. 104-106 West Main

Lot 51

Name: Stevenson Drug Building

Built: c. 1890

Type: Italianate Commercial

Photo 8

Built for an income property the building for most of its existence was occupied on the east side by a drug store, first Stevenson's, then Baxter's. The west side served long as Young's Specialty store, dealing in unusual dry goods and general merchandise. The second floor has always been apartments.

Present use: East half real estate office; west half unoccupied.

Owner: Frank Zorn, 1634 Wagonin Road, New Carlisle, Ohio 45344.

32. 108 West Main

Lot 52

Name: Oak Hall

Built: c. 1890

Type: Italianate Commercial

Photos 8

The most imposing presence on its block is "Oak Hall," or the Condee Restaurant building. On its second floor originally was a meeting hall which had Mt. Sterling's first oak floor, thus the name. After a few years the second floor was converted to residential use, which it remains. The first floor was many years devoted to successful restaurants, the best of which was Condee's, later Parkinson's. At various times the west half was Gilbert and Stout's men's clothing store, Kunkler shoe repair, Stevenson-Balzer-Faugust drug store, and Hense and Meyer feed store. Today the entire first floor is a going restaurant. Storefronts were modernized in the 1950s.

Present Use: Restaurant.

Owner: Verlin Condee, Rte 7, Box 354, Ft. Myers, Fla. 33905

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 16 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

33. 110 West Main
Lot 53
Built: c. 1885
Type: Italianate Commercial
Photo 8
Missing its elaborate wooden cornice and having traded its cast iron storefront for aluminum in the 1960s, the building retains its upper facade detailing. Second floor had been offices and is now apartments. Originally Niles drug store occupied the storeroom, later a grocery. In recent years it has served several retail ladies' apparel operations. Present use: Ladies' wear.
Owner: Gilbert McNeff, 101 W. Washington, Mt. Sterling, Il.
35. 118 West Main
Lot 53
Built: c. 1890
Type: Italianate Commercial
Photo 8
One of few one-story buildings in the commercial district, it had its storefront modernized during the 1950s-60s "aluminum sale" in Mt. Sterling. For a long period it served as a real estate office.
Present Use: Chiropractic office.
Owner: Terry Shaw, 2900 Southfield Drive, Quincy, Il. 62301
36. 120-122 West Main
Lot 54
Built: c. 1895
Type: Italianate Commercial
Photo 8
Unusual use of ceramic tile having the appearance of stone distinguishes this facade. Best known for most of its existence as Rodolf's Tavern, the building second floor has always been apartments. Modernized storefronts incorporate aluminum, glass, plywood.
Present Use: One half barbershop; other half beauty shop.
Owner: Gilbert McNeff, 101 West Washington, Mt. Sterling, il.
37. 124 West Main
Lot 54
Built: 1920
Type: Commercial
Photo 8

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 17 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

Built by Dr. McGann for his medical suite, its second owner, attorney John Alsup has been the only other occupant. As a one-story commercial building with some Prairie School influence, it shares facade features and proportioning with the four other twentieth-century building built during the period of significance in the Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District.

Present Use: Law office.

Owner: Mary Alsup, 124 West Main, Mt. Sterling, Il.

38. 126-128 West Main

Lot 55

Name: Mt. Sterling Auto Company Building

Built: c. 1915

Type: Commercial

Photo 8

This building was built by the Vermillion family which for many years had operated a livery business on South Capitol and then on Main in this location. It was built to accommodate the operation of the most successful Ford agency, where Model Ts ushered in the auto age to Mt. Sterling and the surrounding area. The building was the first in Mt. Sterling to have an elevator; crated Model T parts were assembled on the second floor. Building's second operation was a creamery. In recent years it has become a four-use structure.

Present Use: Faugust drug stroe, east storeroom; insurance office, west storeroom; cabinet manufacturing, rear space; apartments, second floor.

Owner: Glen Franklin, 128 West Main, Mt. Sterling, Il.

LIST OF NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

2. 127-129 West Main

Lot 26

Built: c. 1885

Name: Farmers State Bank Building

Type: Commercial

Building has been a two-storefront Italianate commercial block similar to the rest of the two-store West Main buildings. In the 1960s the building was covered with stucco and aggregate panels, totally obscuring its original character.

Photo 4

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 18 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

13. 121 North Capitol
Lot 11
Name: Ben Franklin Store
Built: 1984
Type: Commercial
Built for its present purpose, this large square-foot one-story building is all aluminum clad, except for display windows. It occupies the site of the former Murphy Opera House, which burned in the 1970s.
Owner: First National Bank of Moline, Trustee, Statement 2, Herman Segal, Stepmeadow Club, Rock Island, Il. 61201.
Photo 5
15. 118 North Capitol
Lot 10
Built: 1982
Type: Ranch House
Built for and occupied as a law office, it is a residential structure with floor plan for office use.
Owner: Robert Utter, 118 North Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.
28. 111 South Capitol
Lot 51
Built: c. 1875
Type: Italianate Commercial
Operated many years as a grocery on the first floor and offices on the second, and later as a telephone office, in recent years the entire facade was stuccoed and all original features lost.
Owner: Tracy and Tracy, 111 South Capitol, Mt. Sterling, Il.
Photo 9
34. 112 W. Main
Lot 53
Built: ca. 1980
Type: Commercial, one story with metal and glass facade
Former site of O'Neal & Clark Horse and Mule Clothing and Millinery. After the turn of the century, served for decades as the Grand Leader Store. An extensive fire in the late 1970s required a near total rebuilding.
Owner: Verlin Condee, 13886 River Forest Drive, S.E., Ft. Myers, FL 33905
Photo 9

This nomination contains thirty-five contributing buildings and five non-contributing buildings.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1920	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1868-1920 **Builder/Architect** Numerous

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mount Sterling Commercial Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture and commerce. It is representative of the development of small midwestern rural county seat/trade centers during the period of their greatest prosperity and influence: immediately following the Civil War to immediately following World War I. The high quality of the architecture within the district reflects the importance of Mt. Sterling as a regional commercial center during the period of significance. The district not only remains the commercial hub of both the community and county, but also both city and county official functions remain largely in the district. The district meets Criterion A: "associated with broad patterns of our history," as it represents the evolution of planned county seats and their courthouse squares as commercial centers. It also qualifies under Criterion C: "embodying the characteristics of a type," as it represents the sequence of architectural preferences in rural midwestern trade centers during the period 1868-1920.

By far the largest county in early Illinois was Pike County. From 1821 it encompassed the Military Tract from the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers north to Wisconsin. For a number of years some 32 off-shoot counties and parts of six others were formed from parts of Pike.¹ Such an off-shoot in 1825 was Schuyler County bounded on the east by the Illinois River in central Illinois. And Schuyler itself was a very large county, large enough that many settlers in Schuyler found it a hardship to travel across such long distances to the county seat at Rushville. Therefore, a movement began in 1836 to divide Schuyler into two smaller counties. This amoebic county division process was typical throughout the midwest during the settlement period. Despite opposition by political interests, a separate county was designated by an Act of the Illinois legislature in 1839. A developing town near the center of the new county was chosen for the county seat. The town, called Mt. Sterling, was also the highest point in the county, believed to be partially atop a prehistoric indian mound.

The methodology used in establishing the county seat for the new county is worthy of mention in that it, with some variations, was widely used in designating county seats. The Legislature decreed in its Act that three commissioners, each from a different nearby county, would be charged with selecting the Brown County seat "having due reference to the geographical situation, present and future population, as well as donations which may be offered for the erection of public buildings."² And they were given

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2

Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

twenty days in which to affect a proper choice. While there was a little competition from the Ripley and Versailles communities, the subscription from Mt. Sterling for public buildings was a handsome \$6339 from some 76 subscribers. And as might be expected, Mt. Sterling was chosen; the commissioners had accomplished their mission in eight days, were paid \$3 each per day and thanked for a job well done.

As was often the case in midwestern town development, particularly in the case of county seats, a strong promoter was owner of most of the land on which the new town grew. Frequently, as in the case of Mt. Sterling, the promoter/land owner was also a political force behind the selection of "his" town as county seat. The land on which most of Mt. Sterling was located was owned by Robert Curry, one of the largest landowners in the county. He was also the county's first justice of the peace and probably Brown County's leading Whig. His father was first Postmaster of Mt. Sterling. Curry was also at various times county clerk, Postmaster himself, magistrate, and circuit clerk. As an officer in the Blackhawk War, he also later commanded a battalion of Illinois Militia.

Early settlers in what eventually became Brown County were principally from Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia. As in the surrounding Military Tract, they had contracted "Illinois Fever" and had come as farmers or tradesmen and professionals who would furnish goods and services to the New West population. First settler in the Brown County area was Cornelius Vandeventer from Ohio, who established vast tilled acreages. He was followed by the second settler, his nephew Dr. Isaac Vandeventer, who established a giant medical practice in the emerging rural community. Many settlers, especially those from the upper south had come to Illinois to settle in Sangamon County, which had been highly touted. Such was the case of Robert Curry and his father Alexander Curry, who on their arrival in Sangamon County found that the demand for land in that county had inflated land costs enormously. Therefore, they like others proceeded further west and north. On their way they over-nighted at the cabin of William McDaniel in what was then western Schuyler County. The home and surrounding prairie were so to the liking of the Currys that they purchased the McDaniel house and acreage the next morning.³ The McDaniel cabin was close to the center of what became Mt. Sterling.

The new Brown County was named for General Jacob Brown, a distinguished soldier in the War of 1812, who after the War had been named commander-in-chief of the U.S. Army. The town was named Mt. Sterling by Alexander

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

Curry, the name taken from the indian mound and the surrounding highest ground in the county and the connotation of value in the word sterling. Alexander Curry also platted the town in 1830. In 1831 he and his son Robert built the first house to be built in the new town. It was built on the indian mound just three lots east of the main intersection in what today is the Commercial Historic District. Typical of many such first structures in a new town, this log house was used at various times as a dwelling, a post office, office of justice of the peace, hotel, and church.

Mt. Sterling was laid out in a standard grid representative of small midwestern towns. The first store was built of logs near the principal intersection, and the first school of logs was built a block north. Curiously, though Brown County did not become a county until 1839, it was in 1836 that the courthouse block was laid out in downtown Mt. Sterling. That block obstructed the principal north-south street, called Main Cross, just one block north of the principal intersection. The 1836 alignment of Main Cross split the street to flank the courthouse block for one block and then to become one street again just north of the courthouse block. Not only had Brown County not yet been designated by legislative decree, but also Mt. Sterling was still three years away from being named county seat of the non-existent county. The Currys had laid out the town on their property, had named it, were surely behind the political efforts to establish the county, and were responsible for thirty percent of the subscriptions for public buildings in the county seat derby. So determined were the residents of Mt. Sterling to have the county seat at some future date, that in 1836 they moved the newly-built schoolhouse to give ample room for the vacant courthouse block. So aware of the commercial benefits of county seat designation were the residents of Mt. Sterling that by 1836 they began to fill the present Commercial Historic District with the first generation of commercial and residential buildings. Also in 1836 the first brick residence was built, also in the commercial area.

Following the designation of the county seat at Mt. Sterling, in 1841 a modern and excessively sturdy county jail was erected at the rear of the courthouse block. The first courthouse was brick, two-story, and 45-foot square. Contracts were let for the Charles Howland-designed building in 1841 and the building completed in 1843, heralding the maturation of the Mt. Sterling downtown governmental/commercial complex.

Because of either poor construction, inadequate materials, or lack of maintenance by 1859 the courthouse was in such poor condition that a new one was being considered. But not for nine years was a committee formed to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4 Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

study the actual condition of the courthouse officially. The committee reported it to be in hopeless shape. It was sold and moved to another location. In 1868 Mt. Sterling had its new courthouse. It was designed by David House, of whom no more is known. It remains today, minus its original picturesque cupola.

In 1855 the Toledo Wabash and Western Railroad, an extension of the Northern Cross, brought fast transportation to and from Mt. Sterling and extended the reach of Mt. Sterling commerce. Extending west to the Mississippi shipping points and east as far as Ohio, the TWW became the popular highway between east and west. New markets were now available for the farming operations in Brown County where wheat, corn, oats, and barley were the principal crops.³ Increasing yields were being made possible by the rich soil and increasing cleared acreages. With distant markets now available, livestock operations around Mt. Sterling now also began increasing significantly.

The Civil War had a profitable effect on the commerce of Mt. Sterling, like towns of all sizes during that period. The military needs of men and material and the resultant inflation produced new profit plateaus for providers of goods and services in both urban and rural areas of the North. Mt. Sterling provided its share of men, harness, tools, food, wagons, horses, and livestock. After the War the TWW railroad, next known as the Great Western, extended rail service west of the Mississippi and south to St. Louis. As the farm markets expanded and farm profits grew, so did the farm trade center. It was clear that Mt. Sterling's future as a regional commercial center was bright. It was a time of growth and renewal in Mt. Sterling's Commercial core, and as a result a time for replacing Mt. Sterling's early buildings with a second generation of commercial structures suited to meet the new spatial and merchandising needs throughout the central business district. And impetus to that development was provided by the construction of a new courthouse in 1868. It was clearly the opening of a period of significance for Mt. Sterling. Two new hotels were built almost simultaneously "catty-corner" on Main and Main Cross and another one block south, three new department stores began to emerge downtown, several newspapers were thriving either in new buildings or in rented second floors in the commercial district, restaurants were popping up everywhere, as well as grocery stores, buggy shops, and blacksmiths, and furniture store/funeral parlors; a full complement of wholesale, retail, small industrial and service establishments located in the burgeoning town, especially downtown. Farm-to-market roads were improved after the Civil War, state roads were improved and Brown County was in full commercial stride.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5 Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

From 1868 until the turn of the century the Italianate commercial architectural wave that swept across the rural midwest brought change and "style" to the Mt. Sterling central business district streetscape. Cast iron architectural elements were brought up the Illinois River from St. Louis to Brown County, together with specially milled cornice larger and larger display glass, and later stamped metal facade segments, such as cornices, oriels, and awning covers. Mt. Sterling kept pace architecturally during this time with urban commercial centers, at least on its facades. Some merchants tried also to keep pace in merchandising. Harry Taylor stocked the "Big Chicago Store" (Building #8) on the northwest corner of Main and Main Cross with variety and volume of merchandise that one would expect to find in city stores. Additionally, he had seven-days-a-week business hours, which wouldn't become popular in cities for 75 years. In extolling his pricing policies Taylor advertised "Shop at the Big Chicago Store - and buy a farm!" Taylor's Italianate store building was the third one on that corner, two previous ones having burned down. The building was erected by a descendant of pioneer Robert Curry and had been operated as a general merchandise store until 1897. When Harry Taylor bought the store he revolutionized retailing in Mt. Sterling. The building is a six-bay, two-story red brick replete with brick quoining at all corners including the chamf red store corner-entry pier. A very ornamental pressed metal cornice stands above elaborate basket-weave and corbelled upper and lower facade panels. The shopfront has an entrance at the corner and at the west end. Original cast iron display floor elements have been replaced in recent years by extruded aluminum-formed display plate glass units with a continuous modern brick apron. Original canvas awnings have been replaced by a shingled mansard-type rooflet.

The Crane Store (Building #22) became a chain of stores in nearby towns and headquartered in Mt. Sterling. The volume merchandising allowed the Crane store to take advantage of volume purchasing and pricing, as in major city chain stores. The Cranes additionally made extensive twice-annual buying trips throughout the east coast to add to the variety and quality of their merchandise, and bringing a sophistication to Mt. Sterling retailing. The Crane store building was the largest building planned and built for a single purpose in downtown Mt. Sterling. Other large stores had second floors which served as offices, residences, or meeting facilities. But the Crane Store was retail merchandising on both levels. It was built in 1865 and was Italianate in style. It is a two-story red brick four-bay building one lot east of the corner of Main and Capitol. It boasted two complete entries and four display windows with cast iron stylized Greek columns and pilasters, deep-set entries and large display and clerestory windows. It had an elaborate wooden cornice

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 6 Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

above an austere upper facade. In the 1890s deterioration of the wooden cornice elements caused the cornice to be replaced with a standard stamped one. This store ran under continuous management from 1865 to 1965, when it was sold to a large chain, P.N. Hirsch Company.

Fires had taken the normal toll in the central business district in Mt. Sterling before and through the Civil War. In the 1870s and 1880s such a rash of fires occurred that the city council in 1891 passed an ordinance outlawing construction of any but masonry buildings in the commercial area. Lost during the two decades mentioned had been the Methodist Church and the Democrat-Message building side-by-side on south Capitol; side-by-side the following buildings burned on east Main; Kirkpatrick Marble Shop, Hodgdon Paint Store, Dr. Baxter's office, and Brockman's implement and buggy shop. On the northwest corner of Main and Capitol the Curry store had burned three times; on the northeast corner the Bloomfield Hotel and with it the Post Office and the Democrat-Message building east on Main. The ordinance accounts for the fact that all but one building in the Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District are of masonry construction. Within the past ten years (1976-1986) however, both opera houses (the Masonic Hall built c. 1875 and the Old Fellows Hall built c. 1885) burned completely, one across the street south of the courthouse and one on the southeast corner of Main and Capitol.

After the turn of the century regional architects were available for the more sophisticated and less financially conservative projects such as banks, schools, and churches, viz. United Methodist Church, First National Bank (Building #30,) or larger buildings such as the Mt. Sterling Auto Company (Building #38,) and the south grade school. Most new construction after the turn of the century in downtown Mt. Sterling was done during World War I. Much of it incorporates some Prairie School characteristics. Common to all of the World War I era buildings in downtown Mt. Sterling are tapestry brick facades; all but one have pedimented stone-capped cornices, soldier-coursed bordered brick upper facade inset panels, and corbel tables intended to relate to their Victorian neighbors. Display windows are broad expanses of plate glass, oriented more horizontally than their Victorian counterparts. Several entries are recessed. Stone belt courses match simple stone lintels, sills, and cornice caps. Most of the twentieth-century buildings in or near downtown Mt. Sterling bear resemblance to similar area work done by Quincy and Carthage architects of the time. One building in particular tells the story of sweeping change in the fortunes of Mt. Sterling as a commercial center, the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 7 Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

Mt. Sterling Auto Agency (Building #38.) This two-story commercial building had a broad entrance on the west alley side. It had extensive plate glass display windows facing Main Street. It was built to display, sell, service, and assemble the Ford Model T cars and trucks. The irony was that this building which did a brisk business selling Fords would also suffer the future results of the modern transportation trends. The more units that were sold here, the faster the trade centers were established in the larger surrounding cities, and the less trade was done in Mt. Sterling. As volume of Model Ts increased, the Mt. Sterling Ford Agency (which had evolved from a family livery business) began to have units sent by train carloads in crates. The units were then uncrated and assembled at the agency, affecting great purchase price concessions for the dealer and the consumer. The Ford Agency in Mt. Sterling was the first commercial building in Mt. Sterling to have an elevator installed as original equipment. All inventory was kept and all assembly done on the second floor of the agency.

With the advent of the automobile and truck mass production, modern improved highways of the 1920s, and proliferating short-run train schedules, rural town populations became less captive. A shopping trip to the city became first an event and then a planned necessity. Greater variety of merchandise, advertised bargain pricing, and the greener grass syndrome drove rural buyers to nearby cities in increasing numbers after World War I. And simultaneously development of rural trade centers first froze, and later declined. This post World War I phenomenon closed the period of significance for the Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District. Only infrequently has a rural commercial district survived the temptation to "modernize" its commercial image with aluminum covered facades, set-back drive-through entrances, and acres of plate glass. And only occasionally has a rural commercial district maintained sufficient vitality to allow it to keep most of its historic buildings and not to overbuild parking lots in their places. That it retains its historic and architectural character from the period of significance and maintains such a strong sense of time and place makes the Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District eligible for National Register nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 8 Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

Footnotes

1. The Jess Thompson Pike County History, Pike County Historical Society, Miller Printing Co., Racine, Wis. 1967, Page 3.
2. History of Schuyler and Brown Counties (1686-1882) Reprint, Stevens Publishing Co., Astoria, IL, Page 115.
3. Ibid, Page 256
4. Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties (1686-1882) Reprint, Stevens Publishing Co., Astoria, IL, 1972.

9. Major Bibliographical References

History of Schuyler and Brown Counties (1686-1882) Reprint, Stevens Publishing Company, Astoria, Il.
See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 8
Quadrangle name Mt. Sterling, Il.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 5	6 7 0 9 2 0	4 4 2 8 5 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 5	6 7 0 9 5 0	4 4 2 8 4 1 0
E	1 5	6 7 0 9 4 0	4 4 2 8 3 0 0
G	1 5	6 7 0 8 0 0	4 4 2 8 2 8 0

B	1 5	6 7 0 9 7 0	4 4 2 8 5 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 5	6 7 0 9 6 0	4 4 2 8 3 4 0
F	1 5	6 7 0 8 8 0	4 4 2 8 2 4 0
H	1 5	6 7 0 7 4 0	4 4 2 8 3 2 0

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet 10-3

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert Christie

organization Preservation Services date January 2, 1987

street & number 1445 Hampshire Street telephone 217-224-2300

city or town Quincy state Illinois

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Michael Durini*

title Director date 3-16-87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 + 10 Page 2 Mt. Sterling Commercial H.D.

The Jess Thompson Pike County History, Pike County Historical Society
Miller Printing Co., Racine, Wis., 1967.

Archives, Abstracts: Clara Gobeil Abstract Office, Mt. Sterling, IL.

History of Brown County 1880-1970, Brown County Board of Schuyler-Brown
County Historical and Geneological Society, Stevens Publishing
Co, Astoria, IL, 1972.

Combined History of Schuyler and Brown Counties 1686-1882, Reprint,
Stevens Publishing Co., Astoria, IL.

Photographic History Scrapbook, Henry Radinger, Mt. Sterling, IL, 1987.

10 UTM Continued

I 15 670730 4428390
J 15 670750 4428440
K 15 670860 4428440

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 10 Page 3 Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District

Verbal Boundary

The Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District begins in the center of the intersection of West North Capitol and Washington Streets and proceeds in the center of Capitol south to the intersection of North Street and Capitol, where it proceeds west in the center of North Street to the west property line of 121, 117, and 115 North Capitol, where it proceeds to the center of the alley between North and Main Streets, where it proceeds west to the west property line of 143 West Main, where it proceeds south to the center of Main Street, where it proceeds east to the center of the alley west of 128 West Main, where it proceeds south to the center of the alley between Main and South Streets, where it proceeds east to the west property line of 113-115 South Capitol, where it proceeds south to the south property line of 113-115 South Capitol, where it proceeds east across South Capitol to the east property line of 116-118 South Capitol, where it proceeds north to the center of the alley between South and Main Streets, where it proceeds east to the east property line of 108 East Main, where it proceeds north to the center of Main Street, where it proceeds east to the east property line of 119 East Main, where it proceeds north to the center of the alley between Main and North Streets, where it proceeds west to the east property lines of 114 and 116 and 118 North Capitol, where it proceeds north to the center of North Street, where it proceeds west to the intersection of North and East North Capitol Streets, where it proceeds north to the intersection of East North Capitol and Washington Streets, where it proceeds west along the center of Washington Street to the point of origin.

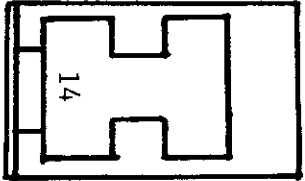
N O R T H



- District Boundary
- Contributing Building
- Non-Contributing
- Open Space

WASHINGTON

NORTH ST.

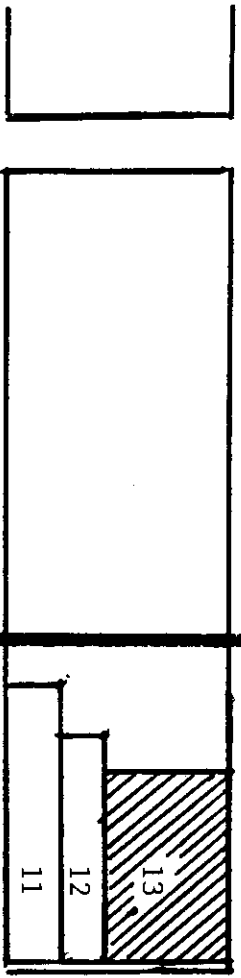


14

MT. STERLING COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

WASHINGTON

NORTH ST.

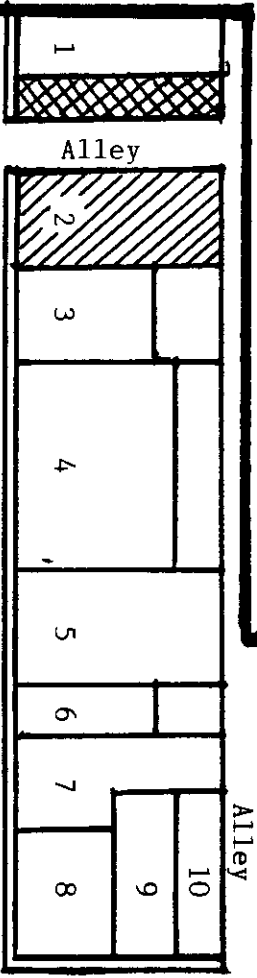


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12

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Alley



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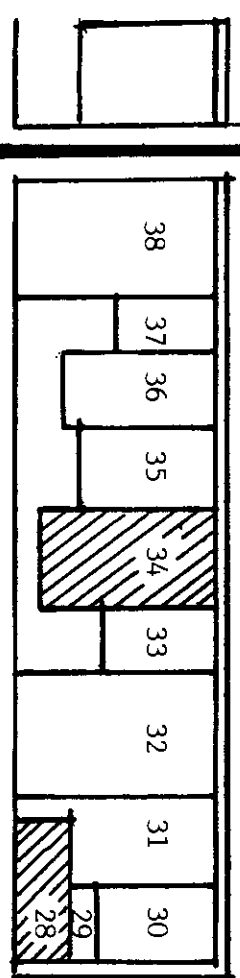
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9

10

Alley

WEST MAIN



38

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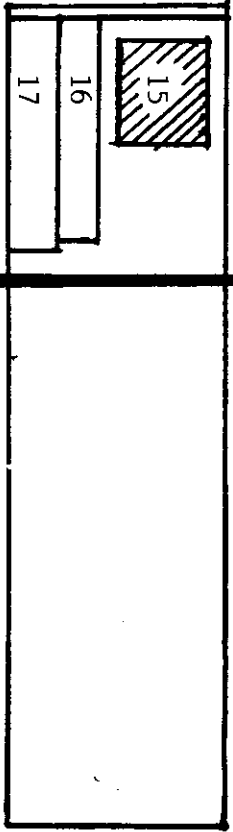
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28

Alley

SOUTH CAPITOL

NORTH CAPITOL

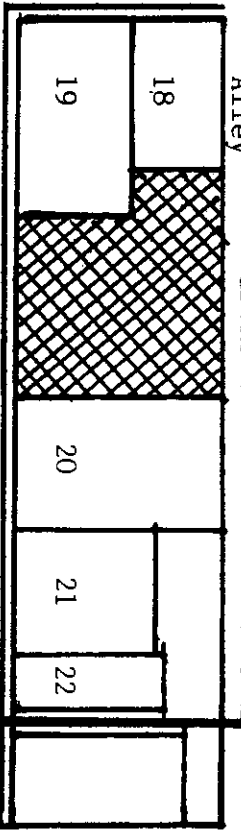


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Alley



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19

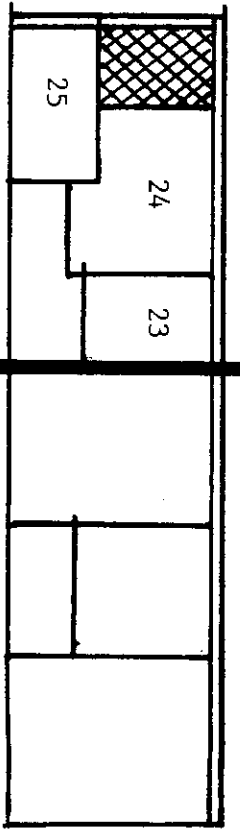
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22

Alley

EAST MAIN



24

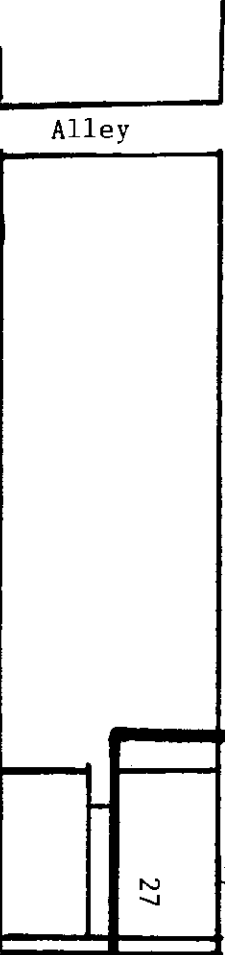
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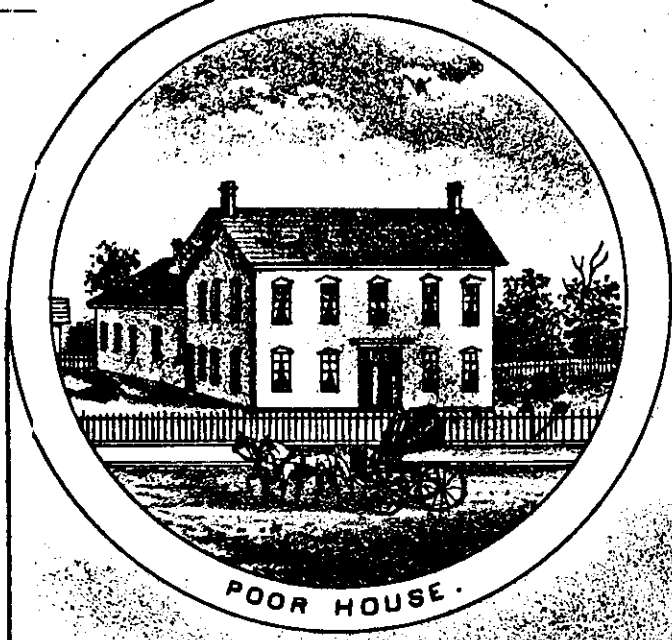
Alley

26

Alley



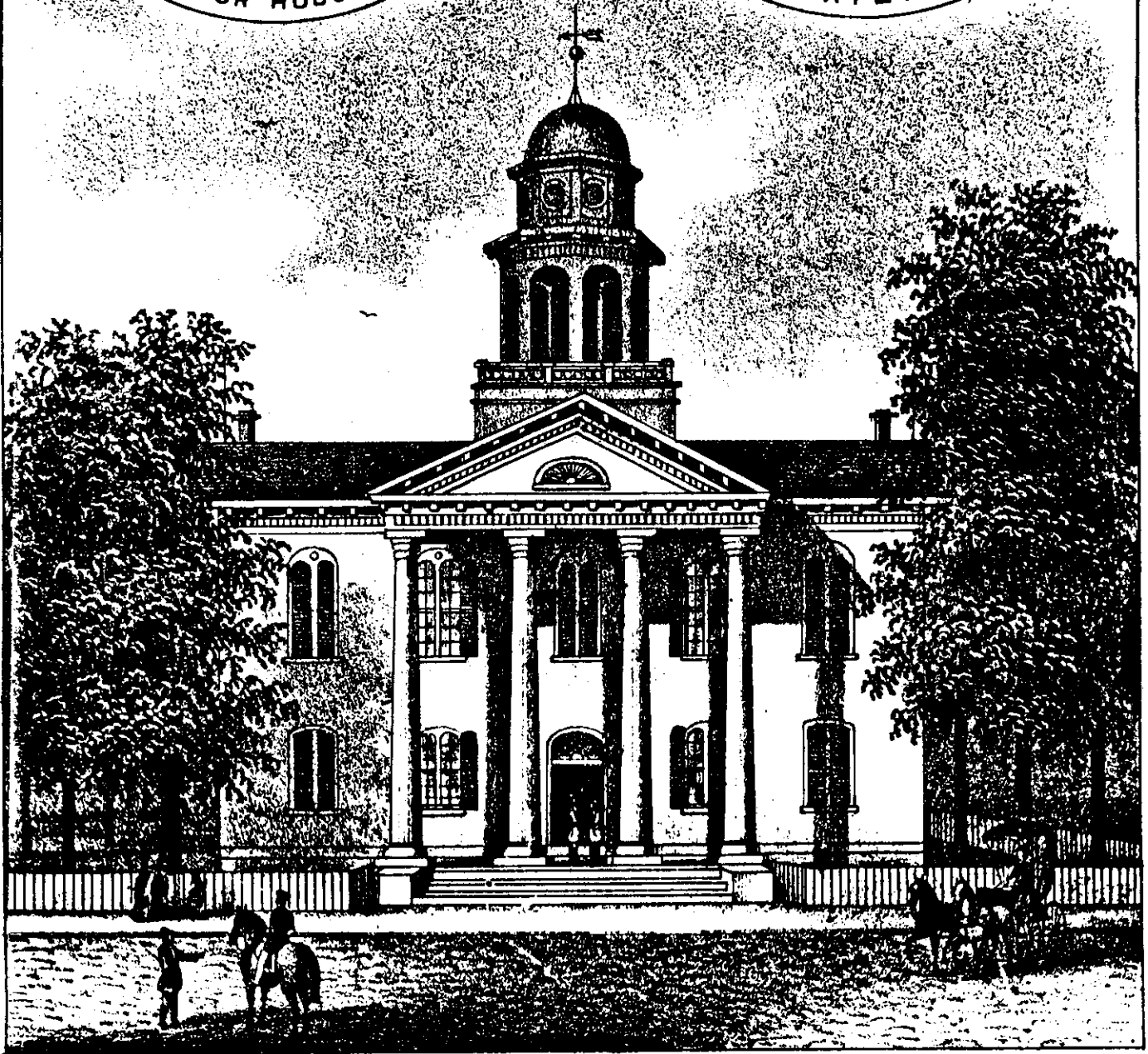
27



POOR HOUSE.



JAIL.



COURT HOUSE.

Exhibit 1
~~Photo 2a~~

Brown County Courthouse

Mt. Sterling Commercial Historic District
Mt. Sterling, Illinois
Photo taken from 1970 reprint of 1882 History
of Schuyler and Brown Counties, Illinois, Stevens
Publishing Co., Astoria, Il.

Print is of Brown County Courthouse as it appeared
in 1882, the time of the publishing of the history.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

P.O. BOX 37127

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20013-7127

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MAY 15 1987

The Director of the National Park Service is pleased to inform you that the following properties have been entered in the National Register of Historic Places beginning May 3, 1987 and ending May 9, 1987. For further information call (202) 343-9552.

STATE, County, Vicinity, Property, Address, (Date Listed)

ALASKA, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Ester, Ester Camp Historic District, Off AK 3 (05/06/87)
ALASKA, Wrangell-Petersburg Division, Wrangell, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, 446 Church St. (05/06/87)

CONNECTICUT, New Haven County, Branford, Branford Center Historic District, Roughly bounded by US 1, Branford River on the E and S, Monroe, and Kirkham Sts. (05/06/87)

ILLINOIS, Brown County, Mount Sterling, Mount Sterling Commercial Historic District, Roughly bounded by Brown County Courthouse, Alley on East, South St., and Alley on West (05/08/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Bendena vicinity, Albers, Albert, Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), S of Bendena (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Bendena vicinity, Symrs, J. A., Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), KS 7 (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Bendena vicinity, White, T. L., Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), KS 7 (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Bendena vicinity, Williams, M. D. L., Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), 3 mi. S of KS 20 (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Denton vicinity, Eylar, Mathew, Barn No. 1 (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), S of Denton off KS 20 (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Denton vicinity, Eylar, Mathew, Barn No. 2 (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), SE of Denton off KS 20 (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Highland vicinity, Hale, John R., Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), KS 120 (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Highland vicinity, Mission—Herring Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), US 36 (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Leona vicinity, Hanson, George, Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), S of Leona (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Leona vicinity, Streib, John, Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), N of Leona (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Sparkes vicinity, Nuzum, Godfrey, Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), KS 7 (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Troy vicinity, Bohr, Nicholas, Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), SE of Troy (05/07/87)

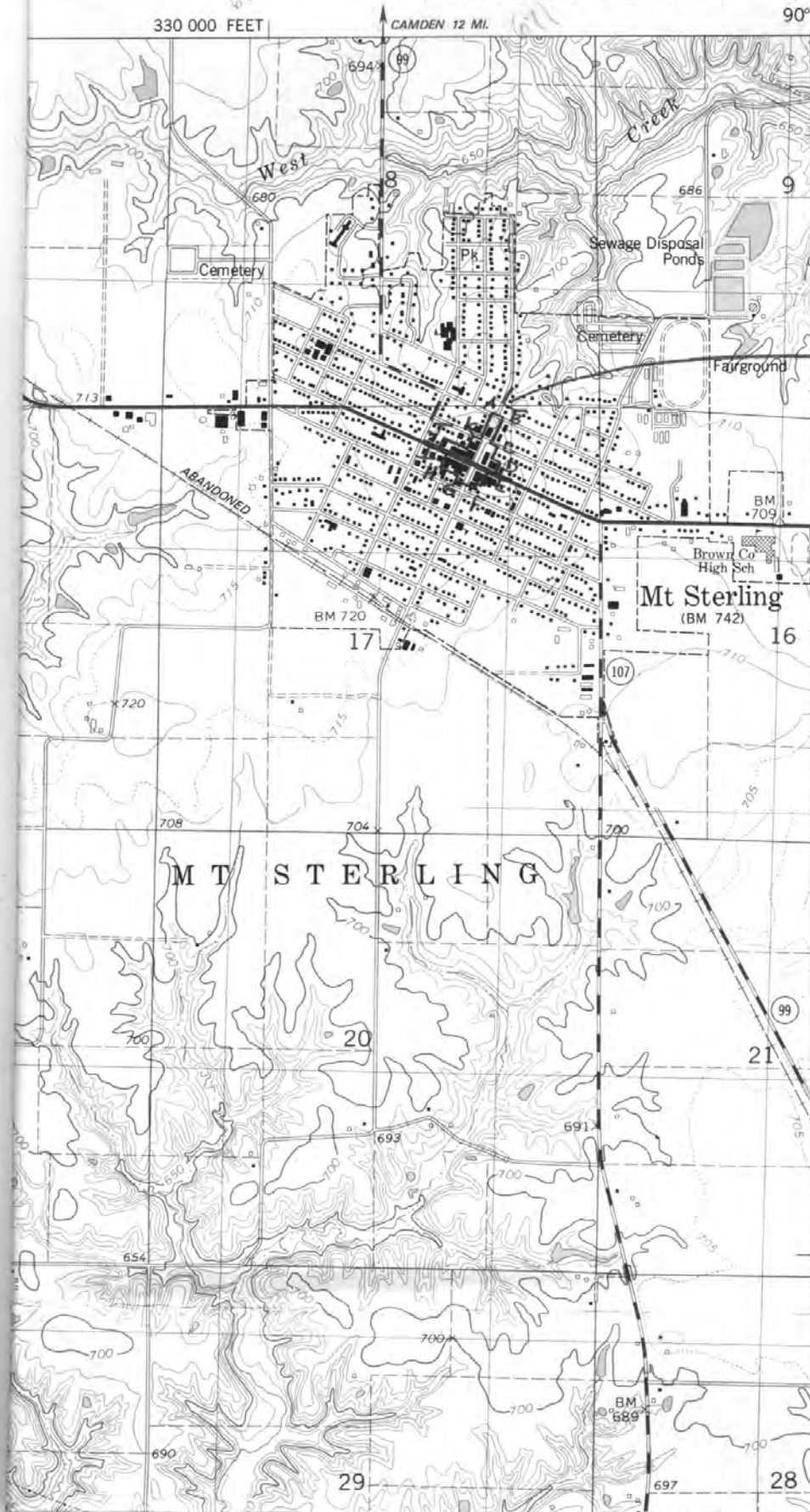
KANSAS, Doniphan County, Troy, Kinkhead, George, Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), Off US 36 (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Wathena vicinity, Chrystal, Herman, Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), W of Wathena (05/07/87)

KANSAS, Doniphan County, Wathena vicinity, Kienhoff, Fred W., Barn (Byre and Bluff Barns of Doniphan County TR), W of Wathena (05/07/87)

MT. STERLING QUADRANGLE
ILLINOIS-BROWN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 MT. STERLING 15' QUADRANGLE

2884 11 SW
(RIPLEY)



SHIP

1 210 000
FEET Mt. Sterling
Commercial Historic
District Zone 1.5

- A 4428 530 N
670 920 E
- B 4428 520 N
670 970 E
- C 4428 410 N
670 950 E
- D 4428 410 N
670 960 E
- E 4428 300 N
670 940 E
- F 4428 240 N
670 880 E
- G 4428 280 N
670 800 E
- H 4428 320 N
670 740 E
- I 4428 390 N
670 730 E
- J 4428 440 N
670 750 E
- K 4428 440 N
670 860 E