

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

SENT TO D.C.

4-14-06

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name **Downtown Momence Historic District**

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number **Roughly Washington Street, from North Locust** _____ Not for publication

city or town **to Pine, and Dixie Highway, from 2nd to River** _____ vicinity

state **Illinois** code **IL** county **Kankakee** code **091** zip code **60954**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William L. Wheeler / SHPO
Signature of certifying official

4-11-06
Date

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

American Indian Tribe

Downtown Momence Historic District
Name of Property

Kankakee, IL
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain):	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>49</u>	<u>8</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>49</u>	<u>10</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register **N/A**

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

Downtown Momence Historic District
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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Business

Commerce/Trade: Professional

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store

Government/Post Office

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Business

Commerce/Trade: Professional

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century

Late Victorian

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation **Limestone, Brick, Concrete**

Roof **Asphalt**

Walls **Brick, Stone**

other **Limestone**

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Downtown Momence Historic District

Name of Property

Kankakee, IL

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8. Statement of Significance

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning and Development

Architecture

Period of Significance **1849 - 1956**

Significant Dates

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository **Archives, Momence Progress Reporter**

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property **Approximately 9 acres**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	_____	3	_____
2	_____	4	_____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

Downtown Momence Historic District
Name of Property

Kankakee, IL
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Jane Johnson, Fran LeBeau, Lisa Wogan**

organization **c/o Main Street Momence**

date **February 2006**

street & number **PO Box 101**

telephone **815/472-3861**

city or town **Momence**

state **IL**

zip code **60954**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

- Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name **Multiple Owners**

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section 7 Page 1 **Downtown Momence Historic District Kankakee County, IL**

Narrative Description

The Downtown Momence Historic District is located within the relatively small community of Momence (2005 estimated population of 3171) 7.2 miles west of the Indiana state line in Kankakee County, Illinois, and 9 miles east of the City of Kankakee, the county seat. Momence, located 46 miles south of Chicago, is completely surrounded by flat, fertile, well-drained farmland. Its topographical elevation is 66 feet above the ground level of Chicago, and drains into the Illinois River by way of the Kankakee River located one city block south of the historic district. Illinois State Highway 1 (Dixie Highway), the first concrete paved highway in the state, passes north and south through Momence, bisecting the historic district.

The properties in the district are located along Washington Street, between North Locust and Pine, and Dixie Highway, between Second and River. The downtown has been laid out in a typical grid pattern, with public alleys behind all of the properties. All but two of the buildings within the historic district are commercial properties. The two exceptions, located at 117 and 121 N. Dixie Highway, are among the oldest structures in Momence constructed as single family residences. Today, the structure built in 1859 is still being used as a private residence. The other, built in 1869, serves the community as the "Momence Historic House" and home of the Momence Historical Society. The two oldest known buildings are the 1849 Lunchroom Building (102 N. Dixie Highway), wood clad with a pitched steel roof and the 1853 National Hotel (5 – 9 N. Dixie Highway).

The properties in the district are generally two-story, brick buildings with ground level storefronts. The hotels are three stories tall and the newer (post 1956) or remodeled buildings tend to be a single story. There is little setback from the street as most properties are built up to the sidewalks, which are 10 feet wide. The lots vary in size; but the standard lot size is 33 feet. There are a few open spaces where buildings were demolished, but overall, the district is pretty dense. Most of the properties share a common wall with the exception of the vacant lots and the two remaining residences. The residences are set back approximately fifteen feet. The width of the streets in the district is 82 ½ feet (five lanes wide), which is wider than most due to the highway.

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The Downtown Momence Historic District consists of 50 contributing buildings and 7 noncontributing buildings. In addition to the buildings there is one non-contributing structure and one non-contributing site. The city and Illinois Main Street Momence constructed a gazebo within a city park located on the site of two demolished downtown buildings within the boundaries of the Downtown Historic District. Contributing resources are significant to the district because they possess historic integrity and reflect the character of the district during the period of significance (circa 1849 to 1956). Non-contributing resources either lack the architectural integrity necessary to convey the ambiance of the period of significance, or were constructed after the period of significance of the district.

Buildings in the proposed historic district are of the following styles: Commercial, Italianate, Classical Revival, Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Colonial Revival. Building types in the district include one-part commercial, two-part commercial, false-front, and temple front. Foundations consist primarily of limestone, brick and block. Roofs are generally flat or slightly pitched with tar and gravel. The Haffner Building (123 – 125 E. Washington St.) is a good example of a steel bow truss roof. Walls are generally masonry, typically Victorian. There are also numerous examples of hydraulically pressed brick and Momence-made Tiffany glazed brick. Many storefronts are made of cast iron, often with decorative transom glass. Some upper stories have Mesker sheet metal trimmings.

The number preceding each of the building descriptions is keyed to a map of the historic district included at the end of the nomination form. Each entry is designated by a historic name, if known.

1. Momence Progress Reporter Building, 1959 (110 W. River St.). Noncontributing.
A one-part commercial building with a brick veneer houses the town newspaper office and printing press. (If this was built in 1956 it would contribute.)

2. National Hotel Building (Plein Plumbing & Heating/apartments), 1853 (5-9 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing.
This three-story brick building was constructed as a hotel by Hannibal Worchester and Dr. J.C. Lane. The first-floor commercial space features original windows; the bulkhead transom over

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the door is now covered. While the original cornice is intact, the entire façade is now covered with stucco. The first floor has housed Worchester & Lane Hall, Lynds Cooke Drug Store and Condon Saloon (ca. 1907), and Culver & Miller Drug Store (early 1900s).

3. MacDonald Park (11-13 N. Dixie Highway). Noncontributing site. City-owned park dedicated after two original two-story brick buildings burned down in 1981. Destroyed 1896 buildings, built by Wm. J. Dixon, had housed boot and shoe, furniture and undertaking, and restaurant businesses.

3a. MacDonald Park Gazebo. Noncontributing structure. Wooden gazebo in park was reinforced in 2004 by Main Street Momence.

4. Dixon Drug Store Building (All Pro Real Estate), 1896 (15 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. Two-story, red brick structure featuring glazed brick and scrolled metal window hoods, stone lintel and metal cornice with a Tiffany glazed brick entryway. The two-part commercial building has Queen Anne influences. The storefronts have been covered with wood siding. Built by Wm. J. Dixon, the building is believed to have exclusively housed drug stores on its first floor until 2003. Pharmacists included R.L. Edwards, Burdick and Joubert, Nyal, Murphy, Bregenzer, Miles and Wagner.

5. VFW, 1896 (19 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. Two-story, red brick on masonry structure also featuring glazed brick, brick with scrolled metal window hoods, stone lintels, and metal cornice. The two-part commercial building has Queen Anne influences. Wood siding covers the storefront. Built by Wm. J. Dixon, the building was initially occupied by a grocery and dry goods business, and later a boot and shoe shop.

6. American Legion Hall, ca. 1890s (23 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. Tiffany brick, masonry two-part commercial building with Queen Anne influences. The property features brick window hoods, tin lintel, and a metal cornice with brackets and a unique nameplate. The original storefront windows have been removed and replaced with wood siding. The structure, built by Wm. J. Dixon, originally housed a grocery and meat market; it later served as Deliere & Sons Grocery (1921-1934).

7. The Buckhorn (Richard's Tap), 1886 (25 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. Wm. J. Dixon built this two-story brick, Italianate building for Dixon's Bakery & Restaurant (1886-1916).

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Original upper-story windows have pressed metal hoods. Original pressed metal cornice is intact. Structure features an added Art Moderne plate glass storefront believed to be Vitrolite or Carrara.

8. Parish Bank Building (Centrue Bank), 1914 (29 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. Built by Wm. Parish Jr., this Classical Revival style building served as the family-owned Parish Bank for 82 years, until 2003. The masonry structure has a stone façade, lintel and cornice with four stone Corinthian columns. The interior lobby features an early 20th Century stained glass dome with ornamental steel framing from Chicago Metallics and four colors of glass from Kokomo Opalescent Glass Company. Preserved upper story offices are arranged in circular design to accommodate the dome. The addition on the corner was originally built in 1921 as a separate, two-story structure that housed Reitz and Pittman grocery (1920s and 1930s), Momence Milk Company, Momence Sweet Shop, among other businesses. Parish bought the building in 1981, removing second the story and altering the façade to include with bank.

9. Post Office Building (Centrue Bank storage), 1910 (107 W. Washington St.). Contributing. One-part Classical Revival building with limestone blocks on the lower façade and enameled Tiffany brick on the upper façade. The arched entryway, surrounded by fanned stonework, has since been converted to a window. The ornate stone cornice is original; the original large picture windows are intact but boarded up. The building served as post office until 1960s; later it became a furniture store.

10. Salisbury Building (office space), ca. 1870 (113 W. Washington St.). Contributing. Although the Sanborn maps indicate that the property on this location was built between 1907 and 1913, this building exhibits characteristics that suggest an earlier date and that it may have been moved. The two part commercial building is frame with a brick façade and an ornate metal cornice. The picture window, capped by a brick lintel with a keystone, and the flanking glass doors are not original. The three second-story windows on the façade are one-over-one, double-sash with stone sills. The sides of building have wood siding, scrolled wood brackets, and windows with carved wood hoods and irregular pane division. Historically, the building housed Christiansen's Bootery (1924), O'Brien Shoe Repair (1929), and Dr. Holly's dental practice (1943). Later, the building was occupied by Dr. Salisbury's dental office.

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11. Momence Cleaners, 1923 (117 W. Washington St.). Contributing. This early 20th Century one-part Commercial Style structure features a canted corner entry, tapestry brick, and a corbelled brick cornice. The façade is believed to have been remodeled during the 1940s. The east side of the building was not remodeled; the older brick and original arched window openings are still visible on this elevation. Originally housed an electric company.
12. Helen's Pizza, constructed between 1907 and 1913 (119 W. Washington St.). Contributing. This one-part brick commercial structure has a stucco façade. Housed Poppe's Tire Service in the 1930s and 1940s.
13. Elliott Law Office, 1928 (123 W. Washington St.). Contributing. Two-part commercial structure with modern brick storefront. The upper façade is intact, with original three-over-one windows. The property has housed National Food Storage (1940), A&P Store and Masonic Lodge (1951), and a bowling alley.
14. Fox Power Equipment, 1987 (129 W. Washington St.). Noncontributing. This one-part commercial block structure replaced the site's original building, which was destroyed by fire in 1986. It originally housed the Robert Wille Implement Store. It also housed Momence Whole Wheat Grain Company (1926) and a canning operation.
15. Community Hall Building (NAPA Auto Parts), 1920s (122 W Washington St.). Contributing. This one-part Tiffany brick structure was constructed as a community hall. Built by Harry Halpin, the building was the site of various sporting events, stage shows, meetings and classes, and was used extensively before the high school was built in 1936. Later, WPA classes were offered here. It is also said to have been the site of the first Gladiolus Growers exhibit and the Momence Women's Club flower show in 1937. Its final public uses were as a skating rink and American Legion Hall. The distinct barrel-vaulted roof is intact, though the Tiffany brick has been painted.
16. Ganeer Township Hall, 1987 (120 W. Washington St.). Noncontributing. This one-part commercial modern brick structure replaced the original township hall that was destroyed by fire in 1987.
17. Simpson Building, ca. 1895(106 - 114 W. Washington, 105 - 107 Dixie Highway)
Noncontributing. The original two-part commercial building has been completely covered with

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modern materials, including new, painted brick and siding. The original business entry on Dixie Highway, now covered, was for the William Graham Livery. Later the livery was the Hanson & Harry Hoag Garage (1920) and Reising Garage (1927). In 1925, a second story was added by the owner, who replaced the façade (facing Dixie Highway) with brick with a stepped parapet. In 1948, this building was connected to 106 – 114 Washington. It was sided in the 1970s.

18. First National Bank Building (Zeglis Law Office/Main Street Momence office), 1906 (103 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. The two-part, red brick Classical Revival bank building with Indiana limestone ornamentation, including fluted Ionic composite columns, large triangular pediment and carved faces, first served as the Exchange Bank led by President Edward Chipman. It became the First National Bank during the Depression and later served as Kankakee Federal Savings Bank, as well as various professional offices. The original walk-in safe is intact.

19. Historic name unknown, (Styles Plus), 1885 (111, N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. Now a hair salon, this freestanding structure with a false front was originally used as a dressmaker's and millinery shop. The board-and-batten wood siding was added to the façade before 1956.

20. Coach House, built between 1907 and 1913. Contributing. Two-story detached brick coach house located between Washington and 2nd Street on the alley behind Styles Plus

21. Momence Historical House, 1869 (117 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. This Italianate residence, featuring its original wood siding and windows with segmental-arched window hoods, is now a house museum depicting 19th Century residential life. It features a Tiffany brick chimney and wooden bulkheads under the front windows. Built by William Graham, former residents include Louis Stebbins (1898) and Oascak Boldue.

22. Historic name unknown, (Toma Residence), 1859 (121 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. This vernacular, one-and-one-half story wood-clad property is still used as a private residence. Prior owners include Fredric E. Legris (1904) and Pascal Baldire (post 1904).

23. Burnett's Plumbing Building (Dixie Barber Shop), pre-1931 (123 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. A two-part commercial brick structure featuring a stepped pediment, rosettes, Art Deco belt course, distinctive cartouche, and nameplate with "Burnett Plumbing & Heating" in Indiana limestone. The upper triple-window has a unique transom light. The original brick

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bulkhead is covered, but otherwise the storefront, with its transom-topped windows, is still intact.

24. Parks Café Building (Heat Wave Tanning Salon), pre-1931 (125 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. The original speckled glazed brick is perhaps the most decorative element of this two-part commercial building. The transoms above the display windows are intact, but covered with wood siding. The upper floor windows are replacements.

25. Lang Garage (Bumper to Bumper Auto Parts), built between 1907 and 1913 (127 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. This one-part commercial building was originally a garage. It has a distinctive barrel-vaulted roof and a stepped brick pediment. The storefront windows were bricked over in the 1970s. This was the site of the former Miller House Hotel with a second floor opera house, which was destroyed by fire.

26. Wennerholm Livery Building (America's Country Restaurant), 1885 (122 N. Dixie Highway). Noncontributing. The single-story brick livery and garage is now completely reconfigured and covered with modern materials, including extensive siding. The Fred Knightheart-built structure originally housed the Miller House Stables (1885), Central House Livery (1897), Wennerholm Bros. Livery (later auto livery), Strassy's Trucking Service (1940s) and Pachner & Koehler (P&K) Fishing Tackle (1950s), Momence Finer Foods (1970s – 1990s).

27. Hoag Theatre Building (Tina Olton Law Office), built between 1897 and 1907 (106 N. Dixie Hwy). Contributing. One-part unadorned brick commercial building has been painted but has some original windows. Its early uses included a barber shop, Melka Bros. Fine Tailoring (ca. 1900), Hoag Theatre (1907), H.C. Hanson Barbershop & Billiard Hall (early 1920s) and a printing office (1924). The Hoag Theatre was a precursor to the Momence Theatre Hoag built further south on Dixie Highway in 1925.

28. Historic name unknown, 1885 (104 N. Dixie Highway). Noncontributing. One-part commercial brick building with the original Tiffany brick facade covered entirely with exterior insulation and finish systems (E.I.F.S.). Currently unused, it previously served as Cotton shoe repair (1950s). Sanborn maps indicate this structure was historically used as the oven room of the Lunch Room Building. In the 1920s, it began independent use.

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29. The Lunchroom Building (B&L Coins/office space), 1849 (102 N. Dixie Highway). Contributing. This wood frame, false front commercial building has a unique pitched metal roof, intact original wooden cornice and some original window hoods. The second story windows have been replaced, and the lower storefront has been reconfigured, with the original Washington Street entrance moved to Dixie Highway, and the addition of new windows and wood siding. Over time, the structure served as a general store, variety store, grocery, lunch counter, sweet shop and bakery.

30-35. The J.B. Block, ca. 1871. (102-112 E. Washington Street.). Contributing. The construction of this two-story, red brick Italianate commercial block, containing six separate storefronts, was said to herald the movement of Momence's business district from River Street to Washington Street. "J.B." refers to builders J.B. Durham, J.B. Wickes and J.B. Worchester. All units have original ornate wooden window hoods, and four of the six have their original wooden cornices. Each unit is discussed separately below.

30. Watson & Cleary Building (102 E. Washington St.). Contributing. The storefront has non-historic upper and display windows, a covered transom, a non-historic bulkhead, a cedar shake canopy and a non-historic door. Originally this housed a grocery store operated by the W.P. Watson and P.J. Cleary families from about 1879 to at least 1930. Various business names include W.P. Watson's, Watson & Cleary's and P.J. Cleary & Sons Groceries. Watson was a Civil War veteran who served as Momence's mayor for six years; Cleary emigrated from Ireland in 1868. Most recently, the building was Simpson's Restaurant.

31. Astle's Hardware Building (104 E. Washington St.). Contributing. This building and business has been owned and operated by the same family in the same location since the early 1870s. Ownership progressed from William to grandson Charles in 1886. Charles' son Milan became part of the store in 1903, and Milan's son Charles Astle owns and operates the store today. Today, the storefront has a cedar shake façade; the upper floor windows are original. Descendents say William Astle moved into his new store by the light of the Chicago Fire.

32. Reins & Clapsaddle Building (now a clothing store) (106 E. Washington St.). Contributing. Now housing a resale shop, it was once a dry goods store operated by William Reins and Henry Clapsaddle until at least 1907. The storefront now has wood siding over the original transom; the upper floor windows are original.

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33. Momence Banking Co. Building (vacant) (108 E. Washington St.). Contributing. Originally this housed what is believed to be the independent bank of J.B. Durham, who helped build the J.B. Block. The now unoccupied store has an exposed storefront transom; the upper floor windows are original.

34. White Front Clothing Store Building (vacant) (110 E. Washington St.). Contributing. Retaining its white painted façade to this day, this building has served primarily as a clothing store, the first being D.C. Riker's White Front Clothing Store (ca. 1880 until ca. 1930). Others who operated the "White Front" store include H. Goldie (1930s and 1940s), Peter Bass (1950s), R. E. France, and Lester DuMontelle. Most recently it was occupied by Washington Street Antiques. Additions to the storefront include Tiffany brick and, later, a cedar shake canopy. The vertical siding is believed to be covering Luxfer prism glass transom. The cornice has been removed.

35. Culver's Drug Store Building (112 E. Washington St.). Contributing. Now housing H&R Block, the building originally contained Culver's Drug Store. The original display windows are intact, though the bulkheads are non-historic. The original cornice has been removed, and upper story windows are non-historic replacements.

36. Exchange Bank Building, (vacant) built between 1885 and 1890 (114 E. Washington St.). Contributing. This diminutive Italianate red brick, two-story building was built and organized as the Exchange Bank by Edward Chipman, W.W. Parish Jr., W.P. Watson and J.J. Kirby. It later became the Momence State & Savings Bank (1905), moving to the new building down the block. It has also housed a millinery, Cotter Bakery and Pat's Breakfast Nook. The decorative cast iron window hoods are believed to be Mesker. The original cornice has been removed.

37. Budweiser Inn, built between 1913 and 1924 (116 E. Washington St.). Contributing. This two-part commercial, white Tiffany glazed brick building has housed the Budweiser tavern since the early 1930s. Before that time, it housed the Deardurff Grocery (1919-1931). Features include historic cast concrete cornice as well as historic windows, entry door, transom, bulkheads, awning and hardware.

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38. Calkins Building, 1888 (118-120 E. Washington). Contributing. This two story, brick Italianate structure has since been covered with stucco. Also known as the Keyser-Calkins Block, the nameplate, "Calkins Building – 1888" is intact. Once H.H. Hicks & Son Jewelers, the building now contains a karate studio and church. Three easternmost upper windows retain the ornate metal window hoods, which are believed to be Mesker. The storefront is now sided. Lester Calkins was prolific in his contributions to Momence, in building, business, and, most notably, as the individual who brought electric power to Momence in 1890.

40. Historic Name Unknown (Med-Peds Associates), Inc. Built between 1907 and 1913 (122 E. Washington St.). Contributing. Two-part commercial, stucco over brick building originally housed a furniture and undertaker business owned by Lester Calkins. The building replaced J. Deerson's longstanding wood-sided furniture store on same site. The original ornate cornice is intact. The building is now a doctor's office.

41. Historic Name Unknown (Vacant), built between 1885 and 1890 (124 E. Washington St.). Contributing. This brick, two-part commercial building featuring unique brickwork, including Chevron-patterned, stepped brick cornice, as well as original arched top windows. The storefront is now covered with inappropriate siding. The building housed a stove and hardware store in early 1900s and a Kroger grocery in the 1930s.

42. Momence State & Savings Bank Building (Cuves/Dance in the Light), 1905 (128 E. Washington St.). Contributing. Stately Romanesque Revival two-story bank building with an enameled Tiffany brick exterior and red sandstone accents on the window hoods, sills, and dramatic arches creating a covered corner entry. All original arched windows have been restored and are intact. After absorbing the Exchange Bank, the bank was led by H.B. Hall, W.H. Bennett, D.E. Styles and others. The building currently houses a dance studio upstairs and a fitness center downstairs. The original barrel-vaulted safe is intact and lined with Tiffany glazed brick.

43. Hack's Dry Goods Building (vacant), 1890 (127 E. Washington St.). Contributing. Two-part commercial brick building with a newer brick façade added ca. 1950. Initially this building housed Momence's first electric power plant, an enterprise run by Lester Calkins. The site was known as "Daylight Corner." Later, the building housed Charles Hack Dry Goods (1907), Crane & Hacks Department Store (1925), Momence Dry Goods (1930), Lieberman's Dry Goods

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(1943), Economy Department Store (1951) and Cal Jean Antiques. The second story was the studio of photographer Frank Lane.

44. Haffner Building (vacant), built between 1894 and 1897 (123-125 E. Washington St.). Contributing. Classical Revival two-part commercial building featuring arched window hoods, steel bow truss roof, ribbed-glass transoms and a separate carved stone door surround with organic ornamentation. The building originally housed a dry goods store. It was Haffner's Dime Store in 1949.

45 – 48 Hoag, Buntain, Ruger & Spry Block, 1889 (115-121 E. Washington St.). Contributing. This two-part commercial building with Italianate details was built by Lester Calkins. The property, which houses four businesses, features bay windows, three of which remain intact, Mesker cornices, and prominent window hoods.

45. Spry Tavern (vacant) (121 E. Washington St.). Originally this housed Four Spry's Tavern; later, it was Dawson's Dime Store (1949) and Marsha's Dress Shop (1977-2005). The ribbed glass transoms were recently uncovered.

46. Ruger Harness Shop (119 E. Washington St.). First owner and Civil War hero Jacob Ruger was considered the finest harness maker in the country. The building is also the former site of the Resort Bakery; now houses an insurance agency. The bay window has been removed.

47 Buntain Building (vacant), (117 E. Washington St.) Former uses include the Momence Post Office (1890), Exchange Bank (1894-1896), Melka Bros. Fine Tailoring (1903), Yellow Front Store (1922-1950), and Tulips Floral & Gift Shop.

48. Hoag Meat Market (vacant), (115 E. Washington St.) Former uses include Hoag Meat Market (1890), Cromwell's Meat Market (1900), and Modern Beauty Salon (1943).

49. Jensen Drug Store Building, 1890 (111-113 E. Washington St.) Contributing. Two-part commercial block building with hydraulically pressed red brick and a limestone foundation. The second-story has restored windows and decoration. The 1927 storefront features Tiffany brick pilasters, sandblasted transom glass and a full-glass entry door. The arcaded storefront's wooden cabinetry, behind the storefront windows, is intact, as is much of the interior. The pre-Civil War

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drug store originally on this site was Worcester Emporium. L.S. Cooke, who purchased that building is believed to have built the existing property. In 1913, it was bought by N.P. Jensen, who purchased the building next door and expanded the shop to double its original size. Jensen made several improvements over the years, slowly adding upgraded fixtures and decoration during his ownership of the property.

50. Mate Hand Building, 1900 (109 E. Washington St.) Contributing. Two-part commercial block brick building with beautiful ornamentation, including dentils, unique decorative swags, and rosettes below the cornice. Elaborate brickwork punctuates upper story windows. The storefront has been sided. Formerly this housed Mate Hand's Barber Shop (1900) and Momence Radio and Appliance (1950).

51. Central House Hotel Building, 1882 (34 N. Dixie Highway) Contributing. Three-story brick commercial structure built by Fred Knighthart as the Central House Hotel. Sold in 1904 to F. Madsen and renamed Madsen Hotel. Later called Momence Hotel and Savoy Hotel. The windows on second and third stories are original and have wooden window hoods and concrete sills. The cornice has been removed and the entrance has been reconfigured to accommodate two first floor shops and a separate entrance for rental tenants. The hotel bar now houses an insurance company with a Washington Street entrance.

52. Momence News Agency, early 1900s (30 N. Dixie Highway) Contributing. Two-part commercial block, tapestry brick 20th Century building with cast stone parapets, limestone window sills, original windows, and original awning mechanism. Built by Hand and Brassard.

53. Prairie's Decorating Building, 1890 (28 N. Dixie Highway) Contributing. Two-part commercial block, brown brick building with cast stone parapets, limestone window sills, original storefront windows and bulkhead, and original awning mechanism. Has housed Cassie Halvorsen's Restaurant (ca. 1900), Thyfault's Paint Store (1927-1950) and Prairie's Paint Store (after 1950).

54. The Style Shop Building (It's Never Too Late Tavern), 1890s (22. N. Dixie Highway) Contributing. Two-part commercial block, 20th Century white Tiffany glazed brick building with black glazed brick geometric designs. All original windows have been replaced. Cedar shake

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siding covers transom windows. Has housed a cobbler shop (1890s), Verhines Grocery (1943), and The Style Shop (1940s-60s).

55. Momence Theatre Building, 1925 (18 N. Dixie Highway) Contributing. Classical Revival style brick structure featuring cast concrete decoration with corbels, shields, garlands and urns on its upper half. Also prominent is a large central arched parapet. The original marquee has been removed, and the original lobby has been converted to shops. The theatre is now undergoing a renovation. Harry Hoag was the builder.

56. Historic name unknown (Weekends), 1920s (10 N. Dixie Highway) Contributing. 20th Century, two-part commercial block structure with a white Tiffany enameled brick façade. The prism glass in the transoms is intact, but the storefront and second story windows have been replaced. Inappropriate wood siding covers the storefront's brick façade. The building once served as a newsstand and realty office; now it is occupied by a clothing store.

57. Texaco Service Station, 1962 (6 N. Dixie Highway). Noncontributing. One part commercial block building service station was built outside of the district's period of significance.

58. Mullady's Produce Building (Checkered Flag Pizza), 1890-1895 (118 E. River). Contributing. Two-part commercial, yellow brick building features a metal cornice with a leaf motif, decorative brick lintels, arched windows and a continuous limestone sill. The arcaded storefront is intact beneath the siding. Built as a saloon, it became part of Mullady's Produce Company in 1949. Now it houses a pizza restaurant. The two-story, east side addition is nondescript and constructed of concrete block.

59. River Street Mall, ca. 1960(124 E. River St.) Noncontributing. One-part commercial block building that replaced several original wooden structures. Today it houses a video store and tanning salon.

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Statement of Significance

The Downtown Momence Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for history and Criterion C for architecture. Under Criterion A, the district is locally significant because the buildings contribute to our understanding of the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Century of east-central Illinois. Today, the buildings within the district convey the feeling of a successful, small town commercial district that served eastern Kankakee County during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Under Criterion C, the district is significant for architecture because of the integrity of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings associated with this small east-central Illinois community. The buildings represent a wide range of commercial activities indicative of a thriving small town, riverside community. Several middle nineteenth century through early twentieth century building styles are represented in this district.

For both Criterion A and C, the period of significance for the Downtown Momence Historic District is 1849 to 1956. With regard to Criterion C, some of the modifications to the existing buildings within the district are difficult to date with any certainty.

Commercial Context and Significance

Momence, Illinois, is located within portions of Ganeer and Momence townships within Kankakee County in east-central Illinois. The city has a population of 3,171 and is situated on well-drained flatland surrounded completely by fertile farmland with the Kankakee River passing through town, one block south of downtown. Illinois Route 1 (Dixie Highway), the first concrete paved highway in the state, bisects the Downtown Business District. The Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad passes through Momence, one block east of the downtown area. The Union Pacific Railroad also passes through town one-half mile north of the district.

The area where Momence is today was located on the Hubbard and Vincennes trails. The Hubbard Trail was established in 1822 by Gurden Saltonstall Hubbard as a fur trade route connecting Vincennes, Indiana, and Fort Dearborn, Illinois. Just over seven miles to the east of present-day Momence were the great wetlands of Indiana. Therefore, the two trails were "forced" to the west through the rich heavily forested region of eastern Will County, later to

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become Kankakee County. Since the Hubbard Trail and Vincennes Trail passed through what was to become Momence along the east side, early travelers took notice of the area primarily because they had to "ford" or pass over the Kankakee River, where they also stopped for fresh drinking water.

Momence, which also became known as "lower crossing" on account of its location, was named for Pottawatomie Chief Momenza, whose tribe inhabited the area before the European settlers came. An early non-native settler was James Parish, whose descendants are current prominent citizens of Momence; he came to the Momence territory with others from eastern states to build cabins in the region. One of those settlers, Asher Sargeant, built a saw mill in 1838. During that period the first frame houses were constructed in and around the future town. That year, Sargeant built a grist mill, the only one within 50 miles. About that same time, a building was built in which a general store occupied one-half and a school occupied the other half. The area continued to be settled and by 1841, the town had grown large enough to have its own post office. In 1853, John Struck built a large flour mill which shortened the distance for wheat growers to travel to have their grain ground and refined.

The area settled by Parish and Sargeant was located on land granted to the Native American, "Je-Neir," her husband Isadore Momence, and his two brothers. In 1846, surveyor Robert Boylan's plat of Momence was filed in Will County, as Kankakee County (where Momence is located) was not established until 1853. At that same time of platting, Ganeer Township was formed. Through a spelling error by surveyor Boylan, Ganeer was its name, instead of "Je-Neir."

In the mid-1800s, there were two groups populating the region. One was the church-going residents, led by the Methodist preacher Elder Burr. The other group consisted of the river-rats - a slang term for hunters, trappers, and/or traders, the Kankakee Marsh horse thieves, and saloon keepers. During those times, Elder Burr had his hands full cleaning up the town and making it law-abiding.

Following the surveying and platting of the City of Momence in 1846, business buildings began to be constructed, making the start of a Downtown Business District. Transportation also played a significant role in Momence's early development. In the late 1840s, toll-bridge was

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constructed south of the downtown district, along what is today Dixie Highway, allowing rapid movement on both sides of the river.

In 1871 the Chicago, Vincennes, and Danville Railroad (later the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad) was completed. The east-west Plymouth, Kankakee, and Pacific Railroad (Union Pacific), one-half mile north of downtown, was completed first, but was never as busy. Typically the north traveling freight trains on the railroad carried furs from the region, smoked meat products, hay, straw, corn and other vegetables, and fruits. Southbound trains transported dry goods, lumber, iron cooking products, and other manufactured products. Momence became a regional hub for freight distribution, including flatboat movement of goods on the Kankakee River east to Indiana and west as far as Aroma (now Aroma Park). Industry flourished on both sides of the railroad tracks. One of the nation's largest glazed brick manufacturing brick yards, the "Tiffany Brick Company," was located on the south side; the company shipped glazed bricks nationwide.

Following the establishment of the railroad, travel time to Chicago from Momence was reduced from to just several hours depending on the number of stops along the way. The railroad, which was located just one block east of the Downtown Historic District, carried passengers migrating to Momence and brought much needed dry-goods including furniture and hardware to the area. By 1900, four railroads served Momence. Momence was considered a railroad hub. The railroad also brought many tourists to Momence, which was famous for its Island Park.

Housing units developed east and west of Route 1 and the center of the downtown district. Typically, residents of the town's housing units were employees or managers of the businesses which developed following the coming of the railroad. The railroad brought prosperity. With this new prosperity and housing, it brought a need for businesses in the central business district now called Downtown Historic District. In the beginning of the city development, there came numerous taverns and general stores. As time passed, "specialty" stores (millinery, for example) and businesses arose.

The railroad made building materials for the construction of the downtown buildings more accessible. Along with Momence-produced lumber and brick, Kankakee produced limestone

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building blocks and Chicago and other cities produced building supplies that brought about the downtown buildings.

Limestone building blocks were used primarily for building foundations and in some cases, finely honed limestone for exterior facades. Horse-drawn wagons transported limestone building blocks from quarries in western Kankakee County. These quarries produced very tough, dense, high-strength stone. The same stone was used to build the piers for the first "Illinois Central Railroad" bridge over the Kankakee River in Kankakee and the Kankakee County Courthouse in Kankakee.

Exquisitely produced face glazed bricks used in special places of downtown buildings were produced in kilns by one local company, which had substantial influence on the architecture of Momence's downtown district. Tiffany Brick Works, later called the Tiffany Enameled Brick Co., operated on the south side of the Kankakee River just east of Momence from 1884 to 1943. Leon Tiffany built his business making a superior quality red pressed brick, which he reportedly manufactured in a proprietary process for sale across the United States. Tiffany initially crafted his bricks from local clay; later, clay was shipped by rail from Brazil, Indiana.

After reading of a new glazing process in the industry trades, Tiffany persuaded originator Isaac Hardy of England to come to Momence in 1893 to introduce his technique to this country. Thereafter, Tiffany Enameled Brick Co. gained worldwide acclaim for its porcelain-glazed bricks. Applications included many homes on S. Roosevelt Ave. and State Street in Chicago, the original White Castle hamburger restaurants, the Northwestern Railroad Station and many Coca-Cola bottling plants.

Though offered in many hues, the Tiffany brick found most often in downtown Momence is white. It was often applied to older buildings as decoration during the prosperous 1920s and earlier. However, there are several examples of entire buildings or facades incorporating the glazed brick, including the 1905 Momence State and Savings Bank (128 E. Washington), the c. 1920 Budweiser Inn (116 E. Washington), the 1920s Community Hall Building (122 W. Washington St.), and the two buildings flanking the Momence Theatre at 10 and 22 N. Dixie Highway

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As many as 200 men were employed at the Tiffany Brick Co. during its operation.

Other building materials were made from the natural resources in the region. Sand used in the production of mortar which bonded building bricks was taken from the Kankakee River. This sand was washed, filtered, and cleaned prior to use. Hardwoods and softwoods used in local buildings were harvested from forests all around Momence. Following the cutting and drying processes, the woods of various species were further cut and shaped before use.

Though some nails were produced locally, much of the nails, screws and bolts used in the building process came from "national" manufacturing centers.

The oldest extant commercial properties in the district, the Lunchroom Building (a general store dating to 1849), and the National Hotel Building (1853), were pretty typical of businesses found in a community of that size at the time. While the completion of the toll bridge had an impact on the town's growth, it was not until after the Civil War, after the railroad was completed, that more refined and modern structures were built in downtown Momence. About one-third of the buildings downtown were constructed between 1871 and 1900; most of these replaced frame pioneer buildings and tended to be retail businesses. For example, the J.B. Block (1871), which houses six businesses, originally was occupied by a grocery store, a drug store, a clothing store, a hardware store, a dry goods store, and a bank. While specialty stores continued to dominate the downtown, some offices and buildings for social/recreational use were constructed toward the end of the nineteenth century. The very large Miller Opera House at 127 N. Dixie Highway, which was later destroyed by fire, was a center of community life.

The second building boom in the downtown occurred between 1900 and 1930, reflective of the prosperous American economy at that time. Three prominent banks were built (the Momence State & Savings Bank, First National Bank, and the Parish Bank) and a new post office was constructed. More attention was given to entertainment and recreation as well. The Hoag Theatre moved into the property at 106 N. Dixie Highway in 1907 which it occupied until the early 1920s. In 1925 Hoag built the grander Momence Theater, located at 18 N. Dixie Highway. In the late 1920s the Community Hall Building, which hosted many stage and sporting events, was completed. Perhaps the most notable new businesses that opened in the downtown during this period were automobile-related. Most were converted from old livery stations, but at least

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one, the building located at 127 N. Dixie Highway, was built specifically for automobiles. These service stations were perfectly sited for the increased automobile traffic with the official opening of the Dixie Highway in 1921.

No buildings were constructed in the downtown between 1931 and 1950. This was common in most communities, largely due to the strain on the economy caused by the Depression and World War II. The district was pretty much built out before then. Five new buildings were constructed after 1950: Fox Power Equipment (1987), Momence Progress Reporter (1959), the Texaco Service Station (1962), River Street Mall (ca. 1960), and the Ganeer Township Hall (1987). Fox Power Equipment and Ganeer Township Hall were built on lots where the original buildings were destroyed by fire. MacDonald Park was also once the site of a business that had burned down.

The Architecture of Downtown Momence¹

The commercial building, as a distinct architectural form, did not develop until the 19th century, even though trading centers and market halls have been around since antiquity. From the end of the 19th century until the age of the automobile, most commercial buildings in the United States looked alike, although there might have been slight regional differences. Commercial buildings were typically joined by side party walls with the commercial business on the first floor and offices or residences above. The commercial building, as a form, almost always fits on its entire lot, and is built to the sidewalk.

Commercial buildings characteristically have a storefront on the first floor that has often been remodeled due to changes in architectural fashion, marketing, and technology through the years. Historic storefront configurations usually follow a three-part system of bulkhead at the base, display window, and transom above. Historic display windows are often flush or recessed, with single panes and some sort of subdivision. Entry doors are usually centrally placed, off-center, or at the corner and can be either flush or recessed. Historic storefront materials are generally limited to wood or metal, with supporting columns and piers. Decorative storefront elements

¹ General information about the one-part, two-part, and temple front commercial building types, as defined by Richard Longstreth, was excerpted from the Downtown Hinsdale Historic District National Register of Historic Places Registration Form by Jennifer Kenny, Granacki Historic Consultants, Chicago, Illinois, 2005.

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include molded cornices, column capitals, brackets, canopies, ceramic tile entries, and fascia boards. When a commercial building has more than one story, the entry door to the upper stories of the building is also integrated into the design of the storefront. The upper stories of a commercial building usually reflect some high-style elements, notably found at the cornice, in window treatments, or as applied ornament.

There is limited scholarly work that classifies the various types of commercial buildings that have been constructed in American business districts in the last 150 years. In *The Buildings of Main Street*, one of the few sources, Richard Longstreth has developed a classification system for historic commercial structures built within compact business districts prior to the 1950s. His system uses building mass as the determining factor. He classifies most commercial structures under four stories tall as either One- or Two-Part Commercial Blocks regardless of apparent architectural stylistic elements. The distinction between the two classifications is in whether there is a strong horizontal cornice, string course, or other architectural feature that visually divides the facade into one or two stacked horizontal bands. A One-Part Commercial Block is almost always one-story, while a Two-Part Commercial Block may be two or more stories tall. Most historic commercial buildings fall into one or the other of these two classifications. Generally these types were built before 1950, but occasionally a contemporary commercial structure may be built on an infill parcel on a traditional commercial street. Whether or not they share party walls with the adjacent building, generally only the front of a Commercial Block has any architectural detailing. The building is located at the front lot line, along a public sidewalk, and has display windows facing that sidewalk. There are usually no display windows, public entrances, or architectural treatment on the side facades, although occasionally a larger Commercial Block, located on a corner, may have part or the entire side facade treated similarly to the front.

Longstreth uses a few other massing types, one of which is the Temple Front. The Temple Front is a type that is derived from the temples of Greek and Roman architecture that is usually two or three stories high, and has a row of full-height columns extending across the front and a triangular pediment. He also classifies newer, commercial structures that sit apart from surrounding buildings as Freestanding, or Drive-In. These are situated typically on larger parcels, usually not adjacent to any other buildings, and with parking in front, on the sides, or even surrounding the building. Entrances are oriented in a way to accommodate the automobile passenger. Longstreth suggests the terms Freestanding, Strip Mall, and Drive-In for some of

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these types. None of the properties in the historic district really fall into these categories, since the newer buildings were built adjacent to the historic properties and not dominated by parking lots. These properties would probably be better classified as One-Part Commercial Block.

Many of the historic buildings in the district are either One- or Two-Part Commercial Blocks, representing the architectural styles that were popular in the United States from the 1850s to the 1950s. Such styles represented include Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Richardsonian Romanesque, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, and the Commercial Style, the name given to design loosely based on simplified classical motifs and employed in much commercial construction of the 1910s and 1920s. Despite some alterations on some of the properties, the stylistic features and integrity of most of the older structures in the district are intact.

ONE-PART COMMERCIAL BLOCK

While the majority of the One-Part Commercial Block buildings were built after 1900, the oldest example, the property at 104 N. Dixie Highway, dates from 1885. Most of these examples in the district have few stylistic features; typically if there is any ornament it would be found on the cornices. The exception to this is the property at 107 West Washington, which served as the post office from 1910 until the 1960s. Built in the Classical Revival style, the building has limestone accents and an elaborate stone cornice adorned with modillions. Later examples of this type include the filling station at 6 North Dixie Highway (1962), and the Momence Progress Reporter at 110 North River Street (1959).

TWO-PART COMMERCIAL BLOCK

According to Longstreth, the Two-Part Commercial Block is considered the most common type of commercial building in America. Found principally in small and moderate-sized communities between the 1850s and 1950s, the building is always a two- to four-story building characterized by a horizontal division into two clearly separated zones. These zones reflect differences of use on the interior, with the ground-floor level possessing public places such as a store or lobby, and the upper stories having the more private spaces of the building including offices, living spaces, or a meeting hall. The upper stories often reflect domestic high style architecture in ornamentation.

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The majority of the buildings in the district are Two-Part Commercial Block properties. Most are Italianate or have Italianate features, such as the J.B. Block on East Washington and the Madsen Hotel on the southeast corner of Washington and Dixie Highway, but other examples include the Richardsonian Romanesque bank at 128 West Washington and the Commercial Style Burnett's Plumbing Building at 123 N. Dixie Highway.

TEMPLE FRONT

The two buildings in the district that can be classified as temple-fronts were both originally banks. The First National Bank, on the northwest corner of North Dixie Highway and West Washington Street, has the triangular pediment that resembles the Greek and Roman temples for which this type is named. The Parish Bank, located at 29 North Dixie Highway, lacks the pediment, but has the full two-story columns and classical features commonly found on this property type.

FALSE FRONT

This property type, defined by Herbert Gottfried and Jan Jennings in their publication, *American Vernacular Design, 1870 - 1940*, is identified as a building with a false roof on the front, to make it appear larger. Usually, the gabled or flat roof of the building is obscured from the front of the property. Many people think that false-front buildings typify the commercial buildings of the American frontier, but they are common in commercial districts across the country.

There are two historic examples of False-front commercial buildings in the district. The Lunchroom Building, at 102 N. Dixie Highway, is the oldest known building in the district and an excellent example of this property type. The property is located on a corner, so the junction of the false front and the gabled portion is highly visible from the side street. Another historic example of this type is the property at 113 West Washington, which has a brick front and clapboard sides.

There are False-front properties in the district that have since been clad with non-historic materials. The property at 105 N. Dixie Highway is completely covered with vinyl siding, but its gabled roof behind the façade is clearly seen from the sidewalk. Next door, at 113 N. Dixie Highway, is a one-story, False-front commercial property that has been clad with non-historic,

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board-and-batten siding.

CONCLUSION

Downtown Momence still is the hub of the community. It has remained the center of retail and business for the residents for over 150 years. The district has retained its historic character and is a good candidate for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Mesker Bros. Iron Works catalog (1904)

Sanborn Map Company

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UTM References

1. 16 444270E	4557073N	9. 16 444454E	4557145N
2. 16 444306E	4557073N	10. 16 444515E	4557145N
3. 16 444306E	4557114N	11. 16 444515E	4557008N
4. 16 444347E	4557114N	12. 16 444388E	4557008N
5. 16 444347E	4557200N	13. 16 444327E	4556978N
6. 16 444388E	4557200N	14. 16 444327E	4557024N
7. 16 444388E	4557185N	15. 16 444270E	4557024N
8. 16 444454E	4557185N		

Verbal Boundary Description

The Downtown Momence Historic District is principally located at the intersection of Washington Street and Dixie Highway in the County Clerk's Subdivision, Blocks 3, 4, 43, and 44. Beginning at the northwest corner of the district on W. 2nd Street on the northeast side of the alley between Pine and Dixie Highway, proceeding east to the intersection of N. Dixie Highway, then proceeding south down the middle of Dixie Highway, turning east to include the property at 122 N. Dixie Highway and continuing east to the alley between Dixie Highway and Locust Street, then south down the middle of the alley to the northernmost boundary of the properties facing E. Washington, then continuing east to the middle of N. Locust, then proceeding south to the intersection of N. Locust and E. River, then continuing west down the middle of E. River to the alley between Dixie Highway and Pine, then north to the southernmost boundary of the properties facing W. Washington, then continuing west to the middle of Pine Street, then north to the northwest corner of Pine and W. Washington, then turning east on W. Washington to the easternmost boundary of 122 W. Washington, then continuing north to the northwestern boundary of 122 W. Washington, then east to the alley between Pine and Dixie Highway, then north to the point of the beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains the most significant concentration of Momence's historic commercial buildings. The northern boundary was drawn to include the commercial properties facing N. Dixie Highway and exclude the parking lot on the southeast corner of E. 2nd Street. The area on the north side of E. 2nd Street is characteristically residential. The east boundary excludes the area on the east side of N. Locust, which is also more residential, and excludes the church on the

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northwest corner of N. Locust and E. 2nd, the parking lot adjacent to the church, and a noncontributing building south of the parking lot. The southern boundary was drawn to exclude the south side of E. River Street; the area was historically commercial, but many properties were demolished or recently altered. The western boundary runs north along the alley off of W. River to include the commercial properties facing Dixie Highway and west to include the properties on the south side of W. Washington. The boundary on the north side of W. Washington excludes the parking lot on the northwest corner but includes the American Legion adjacent to the property. The western boundary excludes the properties facing Pine Street, which are more residential than commercial.

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National Park Service

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Section **Photographs** Page 28 **Downtown Momence Historic District Kankakee County, IL**

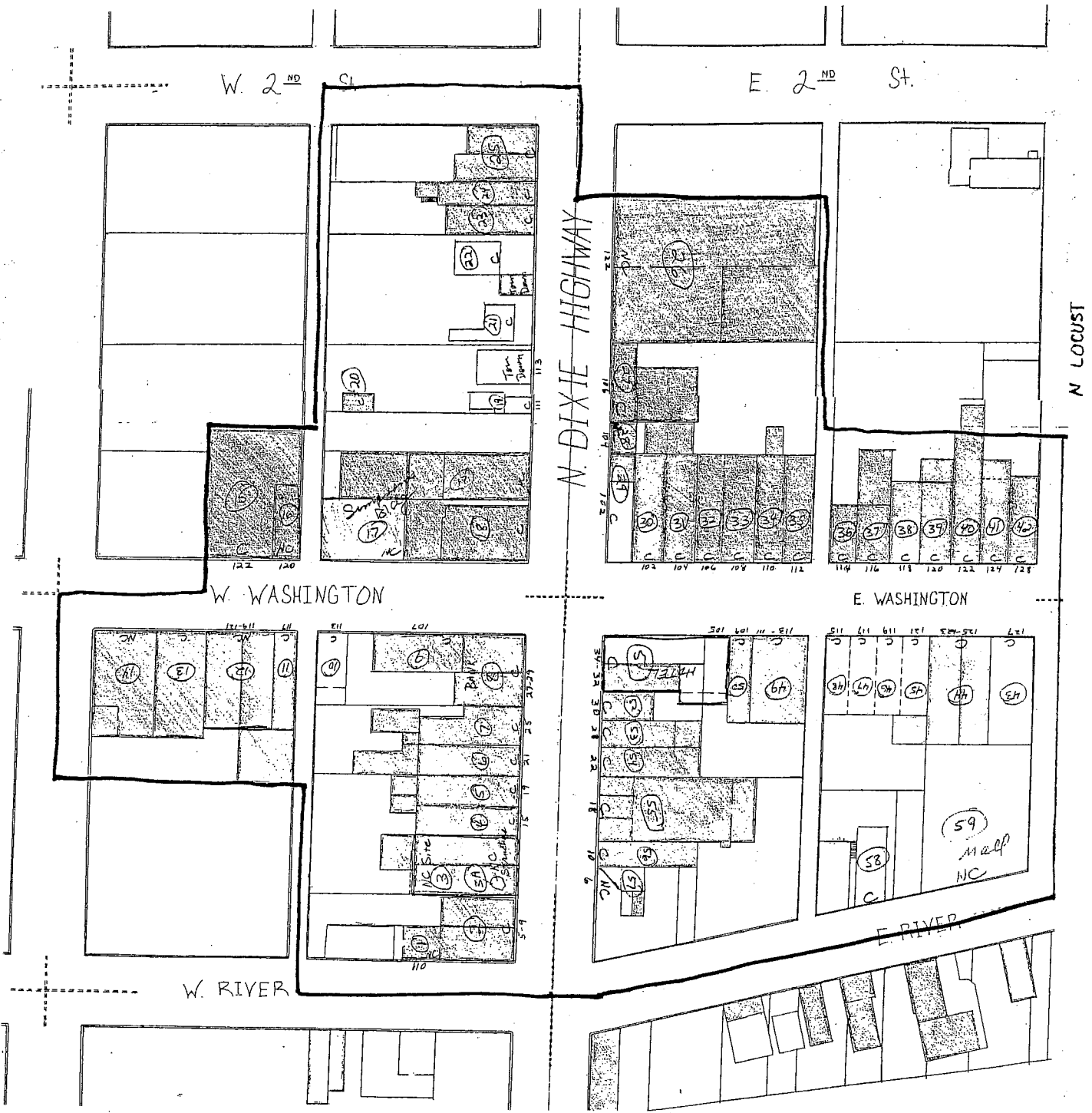
Photograph List

Downtown Momence Historic District
Kankakee County, Illinois

Art Romadka, Photographer; negatives Main Street Momence; taken 2/2006

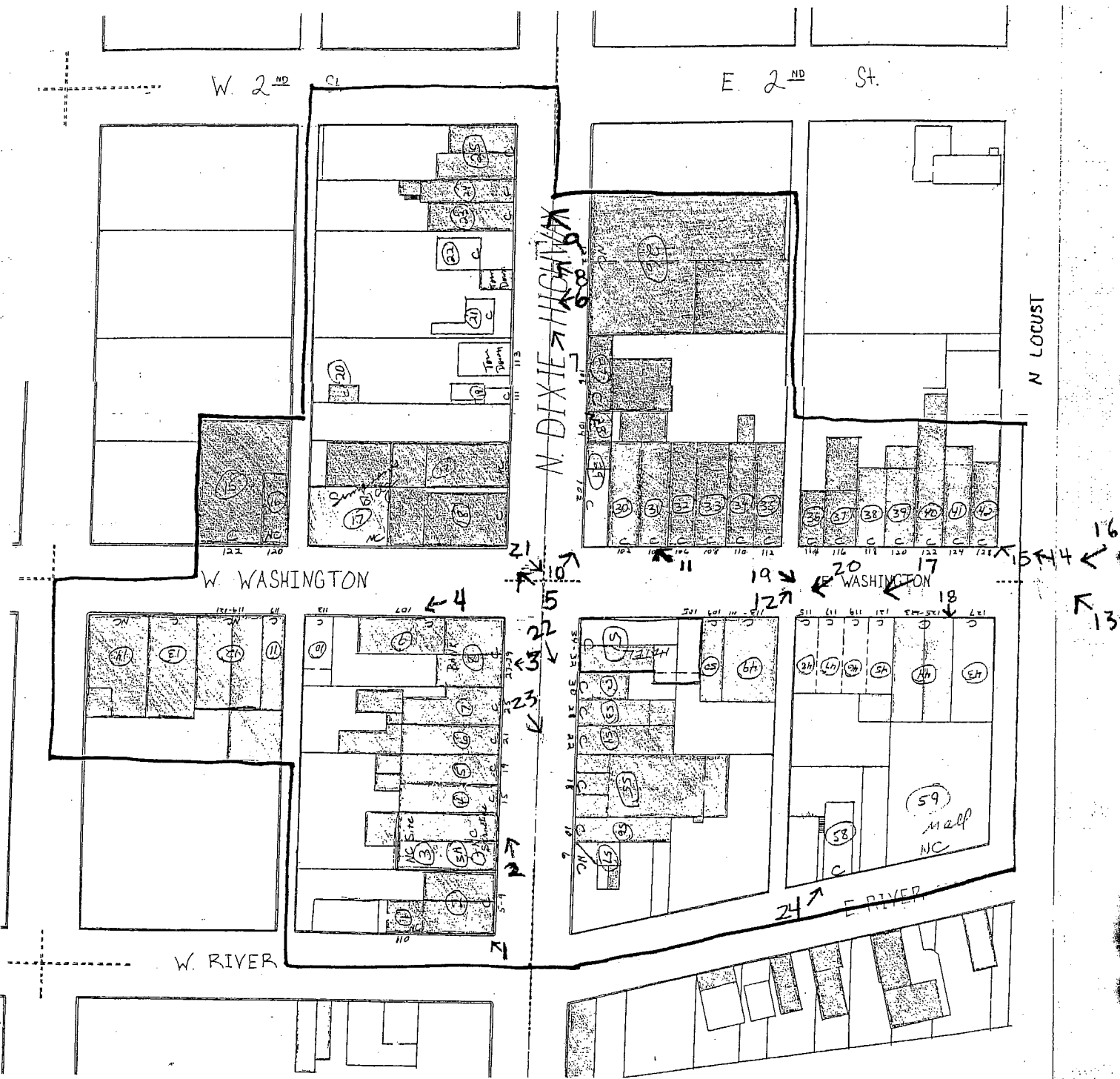
Building numbers correspond to the numbers in the Narrative Description

1. Southwest corner of Dixie Highway and River Street, showing National Hotel (#2) with building #1 behind it. Camera facing northwest.
2. West side of N. Dixie Highway showing buildings #3 - #8 with First National Bank (#18) also in view. Camera facing northwest.
3. Parish Bank Building (#8). Camera facing west.
4. South side of W. Washington showing buildings #9 - #14. Camera facing southwest.
5. North side of W. Washington showing buildings #15 - #18. Camera facing northwest.
6. West side of N. Dixie Highway, showing buildings #21 and #22. Camera facing west.
7. West side of N. Dixie Highway showing buildings #21 - #25. Camera facing northwest.
8. West side of N. Dixie Highway showing buildings #22 - #25. Camera facing northwest.
9. West side of N. Dixie Highway showing buildings #23 - #25. Camera facing northwest.
10. Northeast corner of Dixie Highway and Washington showing building #29. Camera facing northeast.
11. Astle's Hardware Store (#31). Camera facing northwest.
12. North side of E. Washington showing buildings #36 - #42. Camera facing northeast.
13. North side of E. Washington showing buildings #29 - #42. Camera facing northwest.
14. Northwest corner of E. Washington and Locust showing buildings #41 and #42. Camera facing northwest.
15. Detail of Momence State and Savings Bank (#42). Camera facing northwest.
16. South side of E. Washington showing buildings #43 - #51. Camera facing southwest.
17. South side of E. Washington showing buildings #46 - #51. Camera facing southwest.
18. Detail of Greenman ornamentation (#44). Camera facing south.
19. South side of E. Washington showing buildings #43 - #48. Camera facing southeast.
20. South side of E. Washington showing buildings #49 - #51. Camera facing southwest.
21. Southeast corner of Washington and Dixie showing the Central House Hotel (#51). Camera facing southeast.
22. East side of Dixie showing buildings #52 - #57. Camera facing southeast.
23. East side of Dixie showing buildings #54 - #57. Camera facing southeast.
24. Building #58 on River Street. Camera facing northeast.



Downtown Momenca Historic District





Downtown Momenca
 Historic District
 Photo Key



Tampa, 06000443,
LISTED, 5/31/06

FLORIDA, MARTIN COUNTY,
Seminole Inn,
15885 SE Warfield Blvd.,
Indiantown, 06000442,
LISTED, 5/31/06

GEORGIA, COBB COUNTY,
Moore, Tarleton, House,
4784 Northside Dr.,
Acworth, 06000453,
LISTED, 5/31/06

ILLINOIS, COOK COUNTY,
Krause Music Store,
4611 N. Lincoln Ave.,
Chicago, 06000452,
LISTED, 5/31/06

ILLINOIS, DU PAGE COUNTY,
Downtown Hinsdale Historic District,
Roughly bounded by Maple St., Lincoln St., Garfield St. and Second St.,
Hinsdale, 06000011,
LISTED, 5/30/06

ILLINOIS, HENRY COUNTY,
Kewanee Public Library,
102 S Tremont,
Kewanee, 06000447,
LISTED, 5/31/06
(Illinois Carnegie Libraries MPS)

ILLINOIS, KANKAKEE COUNTY,
Downtown Momence Historic District,
Roughly Washington St., from N. Locust to Pine and Dixie Hwy., from 2nd to
River,
Momence, 06000449,
LISTED, 5/31/06

ILLINOIS, KANKAKEE COUNTY,
Durham--Perry Farmstead,
459 N. Kennedy Dr.,
Bourbonnais, 06000445,
LISTED, 5/31/06

ILLINOIS, SANGAMON COUNTY,
Jennings Ford Automobile Dealership,
431 S. Fourth St.,
Springfield, 06000450,
LISTED, 5/31/06

ILLINOIS, WILL COUNTY,