

# Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey



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909 1/2 Kansas Ave, Suite 7  
Topeka, Kansas 66612  
785-234-5053  
cdavis@davispreservation.com

Gray County Historical Society  
PO Box 831  
Cimarron, Kansas 67835

*The Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey which is the subject of this report has been financed in part with Federal funds from the National Park Service, a division of the United States Department of the Interior, and administered by the Kansas Historical Society. The contents and opinions, however, do not necessarily reflect the view or policies of the United States Department of the Interior or the Kansas Historical Society.*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Chapter 1</b> .....	<b>Introduction</b>
Background/Methodology	
A Note on Sources	
A Note on Historic Status	
<b>Chapter 2</b> .....	<b>Architectural Analysis</b>
Introduction	
Architectural Styles	
Commercial Plan Forms	
<b>Chapter 3</b> .....	<b>Cimarron</b>
A Brief History	
Survey Boundaries	
List of Surveyed Properties	
Findings/Recommendations	
Map of Survey Area	
Map of Potential Historic District	
<b>Chapter 4</b> .....	<b>Montezuma</b>
A Brief History	
Survey Boundaries	
List of Surveyed Properties	
Findings/Recommendations	
Map of Survey Area	
<b>Chapter 5</b> .....	<b>Copeland</b>
A Brief History	
Survey Boundaries	
List of Surveyed Properties	
Findings/Recommendations	
Map of Survey Area	
<b>Chapter 6</b> .....	<b>Ingalls</b>
A Brief History	
Survey Boundaries	
List of Surveyed Properties	
Findings/Recommendations	
Map of Survey Area	
<b>Chapter 7</b> .....	<b>Ensign</b>
A Brief History	
Survey Boundaries	
List of Surveyed Properties	
Findings/Recommendations	
Map of Survey Area	

**Footnotes**

**Bibliography**

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### Background/Methodology

The Gray County Historical Society received a Historic Preservation Fund Grant from the Kansas Historical Society to document the county's downtowns through a historic survey. The purpose of the historic survey is to identify properties or districts that may be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Prior to the undertaking of the historic survey, only fifteen properties in Gray County had been surveyed; and only three had been listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

To complete the survey project, the Gray County Historical Society hired historic preservation consulting firm Davis Preservation. Davis Preservation surveyed a total of 169 commercial properties in the communities of Cimarron (pop. 1934, 67 properties), Montezuma (pop. 966, 41 properties), Copeland (pop. 339, 26 properties), Ingalls (pop. 298, 16 properties), and Ensign (pop. 191, 19 properties). The firm began its site work in Montezuma, Ensign and Copeland in August 2010. Sitework for Ingalls and Cimarron was completed in October 2010. The first public meeting on the project was held on October 13, 2010. A second public meeting, aimed at sharing survey findings, will be scheduled following the completion of this report.

### A Note on Sources

Davis Preservation conducted archival research at the Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS), the Cimarron City Library, and online. In the general remarks column of the survey database, the firm noted sources for certain information. Unfortunately, the sources commonly used for historic surveys do not exist for the majority of the communities in Gray County. The survey data is more thorough for Cimarron, the county seat, because it is the only community in the county for which Sanborn maps exist. No city directories exist for any of the communities.

The lack of these historical records necessitated a novel approach to the project. At the public meeting on October 13, 2010, attendees were asked to share their downtown stories, which Davis Preservation recorded on digital audio. Participants were also given maps of the survey areas and photos of properties for which additional information was sought. This approach proved particularly fruitful for the community of Ensign and Cimarron. Betty Herrman, who has extensively researched Ensign's history, shared a wealth of information, as did Wiley McFarland of Cimarron.

For more information on sources, see Bibliography below.

### A Note on Historic Status

In the online survey database, properties are placed into three categories: 1) eligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places (Yes), 2) not eligible for listing (No), or 3) would contribute to a potential national register historic district (Contributing). A building's potential to contribute to a national register historic district does not mean that it is located in a geographic area that qualifies as a historic district. A historic district is a geographically definable area that includes a concentration of buildings, structures or objects that have significance. Unfortunately, because many commercial buildings in Gray County have been lost or heavily modified, most communities lack a geographic concentration of significant historic commercial buildings.

In order to be designated as a potential contributor to a potential historic district, a property must be at least 50 years old and possess historic integrity. The following is a list of reasons a property may have been designated above as a non-contributor to a potential historic district:

1. *The building was built fewer than 50 years ago.*

Example: U. S. Post Office, Ingalls

2. *The building has been covered with non-original siding, such as steel, vinyl or wood.*

Example: Trickey Coverage, Copeland

3. *The storefront, which is integral in interpreting a commercial building, has been closed in.*

Examples: Carl Leatherwood, Inc., Cimarron

*Exception – An enclosed storefront will not render a building non-contributing when the building’s second floor is pristine.*

4. *The second-story windows have been closed in.*

*Exception – Enclosed second-story windows will not render a building non-contributing when the building’s first floor is pristine.*

Historic status, contributing or non-contributing, is identified in the enclosed maps.

The recommendations related to contributing/non-contributing status of properties are the professional opinions of Davis Preservation. **Please note that only the State Historic Preservation Office and National Park Service can make final recommendations as to historic status and the existence of potential historic districts.** Based upon the consultant’s above recommendations, 38 of the surveyed properties are identified as “Contributing.” 32 of the surveyed properties are identified as “Non-Contributing.”

## Chapter 2 Architectural Analysis

### Introduction

The architecture of Gray County's downtowns is reflective of various periods of development. The first permanent buildings were constructed in the 1880s, when Cimarron, Ensign, Ingalls and Montezuma were vying for county-seat status. However, the majority of the historic buildings date to the early twentieth century, when advances in irrigation and new rail lines breathed new life into southwest Kansas and new communities, like Copeland, were established.

Because the majority of the communities in Gray County have grown little in past decades and never had a prolonged period of permanent construction, they retain semblances of their early history. Throughout the county, wood-framed false-front buildings, elsewhere replaced by masonry construction, still remain. As communities evolved in the early twentieth century, some continued a tradition of masonry architecture, whose massing and proportions reflects those found in the false-front buildings they replaced. For instance, the Ensign Garage and Peoples State Bank have centered entrances flanked on each side by punched square window openings, in lieu of the more common continuous storefronts found elsewhere.

Although a variety of architectural styles are represented in downtown Cimarron, the county's largest town, the majority of the commercial buildings in Gray County do not fall within the categories of high-style architecture. Where stylistic influences are present, they are noted in the survey forms under the styles identified in the National Park Service's National Register Bulletin 16a. The commercial plan form classifications came from the typology in Richard Longstreth's *The Buildings of Main Street*.

Many of the structures surveyed are not buildings at all. In fact, one could argue that

the most prominent structures in these farming communities are their imposing grain elevators and water towers. Over time, massive reinforced-concrete elevators supplanted less imposing wood-framed models. Water towers are of the beloved tin-can variety.

### Architectural Styles

Below is an analysis of architectural styles represented within the survey boundaries:

#### Italianate

The Italianate Style was the predominant architectural style for commercial buildings during the 1870s and 1880s. Character-defining features of this style include tall narrow windows, cornices, and details such as hood molds. Only one (1) of the 169 surveyed properties in the county, the old Gray County Courthouse, is categorized as Italianate.



#### Second Empire

One (1) building in the survey area, the Cimarron Hotel, was designed in the Second Empire Style (see photo below). The style's distinctive Mansard roof was developed by French architects during the reign of Napoleon III (1852-1870) to skirt regulations and maximize living space. The style peaked in Kansas in the mid-1880s. Still, because the style was fading in prominence by the time most Kansas communities were building permanent buildings, there are only a handful of examples in the state.



## Commercial Style

The predominant commercial architectural style in the early twentieth century (1910s to 1930s) was the Commercial Style. This style is characterized by simple designs with square window openings, as opposed to tall, narrow ones. They have few architectural details. They generally have no cornices – and instead have parapets or stepped parapets, sometimes punctuated by corbelling. Most are red brick. Reflecting the county's second major period of growth, this is the most prolific of the commercial architectural styles. Of the 169 surveyed properties, 35 (21%) are categorized as Commercial Style. Among these are the Peoples State Bank and Montezuma Hardware (see photos below).



columns, pediments, entablatures, dressed stone, dentiling and shallow hipped or flat roofs. The style was often employed in the 1910s and 1920s, after the City Beautiful Movement popularized free-standing buildings for public and institutional uses.

## Tudor Revival

There are two (2) Tudor Revival buildings in the survey area. These include a service station (Property #60, see photo below) and Carter's Hotel (Property #6). Common in 1920s residential architecture, Tudor Revival is distinguished by steeply pitched gabled roofs, half timbering and asymmetry. It takes cues from traditional English architecture. Carter's Hotel, with its shallow-gabled roof, is a simplified version of the style, with its only character-defining feature being its half timbering. Although the service station retains its faux chimney, its steeply pitched roof is conspicuously missing.



## Spanish Eclectic

Like Tudor Revival, Spanish Eclectic architecture takes its cues from old-world architecture. There is one example in the survey area, Property #39 (see photo below). The style, popular nationwide from 1915-1940, was adopted for both residential and commercial architecture. Character-defining features include low-pitched roofs with clay tiles or pan (metal made to look like clay tile) tiles, arched openings, multi-pane windows, and stucco or blond brick exteriors.

## Neoclassical/Classical Revival

One (1) building in the survey area, the Gray County Courthouse in Cimarron (see photo below), is Classical Revival in style. As its name implies, Classical Revival architecture draws on the influences of Classical architecture from ancient Greece and Rome. Character-defining features of Classical Revival include



## Streamline/Art Moderne

Four (4) of the buildings in the survey area fall into the Streamline/Art Moderne category. Whereas Art Deco architecture places an emphasis on verticality and rigid geometric patterns, Art Moderne features horizontal massing, architectural glass block and rounded elements.



## Modern

There are six (6) Modern buildings in the survey area. The "Modern" classification generally encompasses the mid-century buildings marked by simple form and lack of architectural adornment. They tend to be more angular than Streamline/Art Moderne buildings. An example is the Montezuma Medical Clinic (see photo below).



## Ranch

Although the classification of "Ranch" is generally reserved for residential buildings, there are some exceptions to the rule. Two of the buildings in Ensign, both associated with the Farmers Coop (see photo below), have been classified as ranch style. Among the character-defining features of the style are



rectangular massing, wide overhanging eaves, shallow hipped or gabled roofs, and Chicago-Style (tripartite) windows.

## Postmodern

Three (3) of the buildings are Postmodern Style. Unlike Modern buildings, which lack stylistic detail, Postmodern buildings have architectural ornament and often reference architectural styles from the past in a playful way. The Cimarron Library with its arched openings and the Stauth Museum (see photo below).



## Other

One hundred three (103) of the surveyed properties do not fall within a formal style category. Among the historic property types that fall into this category are the many false-front type buildings in the county. Others include the many Butler buildings that have been constructed in the downtowns. Below is the Copeland Cafe.



## Commercial Plan Forms

Because many commercial buildings lack architectural detail, they are sometimes best classified by commercial plan form, as identified in Richard Longstreth's book *The Buildings of Main Street*. Below are the Commercial Plan Forms assigned to the surveyed properties:

### One-Part Commercial Block

Forty-five (45) of the surveyed properties, the majority of the historic commercial buildings, are classified as one-part commercial blocks. One-part commercial blocks are one-story buildings that serve a single use. The majority of the façade is occupied by storefront windows. They include both masonry examples, common in Cimarron, and false-front buildings, common elsewhere in the county. The false-front buildings feature wood parapets. Late nineteenth-century examples feature prominent cornices. Early twentieth-century examples have corbelled parapets.



### Two-Part Commercial Block

Seven (7) of the surveyed buildings are two-part commercial blocks. Two-part commercial blocks are buildings that are two or more stories in height – with the building divided into two zones differentiating the uses of the first stories, usually retail, from the upper stories, which were often office, meeting space, or



residential. Detailing is similar to one-part commercial blocks, with prominent cornices on late nineteenth-century examples and corbelled parapets on early twentieth-century examples.

### Quonset

There are five (5) Quonset huts in the survey area. Quonset Huts were named for Quonset Point, Rhode Island, the place where hundreds of thousands of them were manufactured during World War II. Their portability, lightweight design and structural stability made them ideal for a variety of military uses. After the war, surplus Quonsets were acquired for industrial and farm use.



### Grain Elevators

Grain elevators, from quaint wood-framed buildings to massive reinforced concrete structures, are a necessity in the wheat state. Because every town in Kansas has at least one, grain elevators are often taken for granted. Still, these imposing structures are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under the Historic Agriculture-Related Properties of Kansas Multiple Property Nomination.



Water Towers

Next to grain elevators, water towers are often the most prominent features on the rural landscape. Copeland, Ensign and Montezuma have tin-can-type water towers and metal pump houses that date to the 1950s. These water towers are individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



## Chapter 3 Cimarron

### A Brief History

*(the following includes excerpts from the National Register nomination for the old Gray County Courthouse, prepared by the author of this report.)*

The platting of Cimarron, Kansas in 1878 coincided with the arrival of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway. The *New West* newspaper, established in March 1879 boasted its devotion “to the Development of the Great American Desert.”<sup>1</sup> The Kansas High Plains were the traditional home of the nomadic Comanches, Kiowas and Kiowa Apaches, who created centuries-long trading ties with the Spanish Southwest. In 1821, after Mexico gained independence from Spain, freighter William Becknell was the first Euro American trader to take advantage of the trade route that came to be known as the Santa Fe Trail. In the 1840s, an increasing number of wagon trains, including military suppliers during the Mexican War, followed the trail. Traffic only increased after 1848 when the U. S. gained control of Santa Fe. At the location of present-day Cimarron, the trail split into two branches – one that extended west to Bent’s Fort and another more arduous route, known as the Cimarron Route, which angled southwest to Fort Union and Santa Fe.

In the years following the Civil War, the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe (ATSF) Railway stretched west along the route of the Santa Fe Trail, platting new towns along the way. Cimarron was platted in 1878 by the Arkansas Valley Land and Town Company, a corporation that platted towns along the rail line. Early on, Cimarron was located in Foote County, which was established in 1873. Because it was never organized, Foote County, which had a population of only 411 in 1880, was tied administratively to nearby Ford and Finney Counties. Foote County was rendered defunct in 1881 with the establishment of Gray County, which combined Foote County and the southern half of Buffalo County.<sup>2</sup>

When Gray County was organized in 1881, Cimarron was one of only three towns, including Mason and New Buffalo, that had post offices. In July 1884, a devastating tornado tore through the town, bringing national attention and spurring new investment in the community.<sup>3</sup> Between the time of the Gray County’s establishment in 1881 and its formal organization in 1887, Cimarron saw many civic improvements. In 1885, the City Council commissioned the construction of wooden sidewalks.

They built the town’s first waterworks in 1886.<sup>4</sup> Among the private construction projects in the 1880s were the Cimarron Bank and Klaine’s Hotel, also known as the New West or Cimarron Hotel.<sup>5</sup> As the population of western Kansas expanded in the prosperous 1880s and Gray County was formally organized in 1887, Cimarron found itself vying with newer towns for county-seat designation (see “County Seat War” below). In 1889, Cimarron beat out Ingalls (est. 1888), the main contender, to become county seat.

Like many western Kansas towns, Cimarron never realized the high hopes of the boosters who gambled their lives on its success. By the time Cimarron was named county seat, Kansas was entering an economic bust. As early as 1886, the newspaper foreshadowed what was to come: “We are not suffering, but a little rain would be acceptable.”<sup>6</sup> Cimarron boosters scoffed at Eastern investors’ plans to irrigate the region:

“Notwithstanding the fact that the ‘Eureka Irrigating Ditch’ is dry as a bone, they are trying to construct a dam across the river at a point just above Ingalls ... The ditch ain’t worth a dam.”<sup>7</sup>

The predictions were right. Indeed, the ditch was not “worth a dam.” In 1887, the crops failed, and Gray County leaders were forced to appeal to the state for aid.<sup>8</sup> The Cimarron Hotel was converted to a sanitarium.<sup>9</sup>

Hardships created unique opportunities for some. In 1895, when Cimarron’s population was 663, the town elected a woman

mayor.<sup>10</sup> Progressive-Era pursuits followed. In 1904, Cimarron businessmen established a commercial club which organized a free fair, agitated for municipal water and lights and promoted the establishment of U. S. Highway 50 as the “New Santa Fe Trail.”<sup>11</sup>

The same technology developed for the auto industry was adapted for use in irrigation. By the early twentieth century, southwest Kansas farmers recognized that dry rivers, like the Arkansas, did not have to mean dry crops. New irrigation systems allowed individual farmers to access plentiful underground aquifers and marked a new period of growth for Gray County.

In 1910, Cimarron remained the county’s only incorporated town, with a population of 587.



The town reaped the benefits of record-high crop prices during World War I. By 1918, Cimarron boasted two banks, telephone service, a hotel, four churches and a grain elevator that was hailed as the “most important shipping point between Dodge City and Garden City.”<sup>12</sup> The population grew to 1058 in 1920 – and 1499 in 1930.<sup>13</sup> Today, Cimarron has a population of 2000.



# Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey

## List of Surveyed Properties in Cimarron

#	Add #	Dir	Street	Historic Name	Alternate Name	Primary Style	Date		Status
1	300	S	Main	Gray County Courthouse		Neoclassical	1927	Doc	Y
2	221	S	Main	Commercial Building	Senior Center	Commercial Style	1925	Est	C
3	219	S	Main	Commercial Building	Addison Warehouse Storage	Other	1910	Est	N
4	217	S	Main	Commercial Building	Wagner Accounting	Other	1925	Est	N
5	215	S	Main	Commercial Building	Wagner Accounting	Other	1930	Est	N
6	215	S	Main	Carter's Hotel		Tudor Revival	1925	Est	Y
7	215	S	Main	Commercial Building	Carl Leatherwood, Inc.	Vernacular	1910	Est	N
8	123	S	Main	H. Dickerson Building	EBH and Associates	Commercial Style	1926	Doc	C
9	119	S	Main	Commercial Building	Police Department	Commercial Style	1926	Doc	C
10	117	S	Main	Gray County Courthouse; Masonic Hall	Hair Alley; Thrift Shop; Dr. Brian Hedrick, DDS	Italianate	1886	Doc	NRHP
11	113	S	Main	Commercial Building	Progressive Insurance	Commercial Style	1910	Est	C
12	111	S	Main	Commercial Building	Daylight Donuts	Commercial Style	1925	Est	C
13	109	S	Main	Commercial Building	Ridenour & Ridenour	Commercial Style	1920	Est	C
14	107	S	Main	Commercial Building	Ridenour & Ridenour	Commercial Style	1920	Est	Y
15	103	S	Main	Commercial Building	Gechter's Ready Wear	Commercial Style	1925	Est	C
16	101	S	Main	Opera House; General Store	Clark's Drug	Italianate	1890	Est	C
17	101	N	Main	Movie Theater	Carpet for Less	Streamlined/Art Moderne	1947	Est	N
18	103-105	N	Main	Commercial Building	Carpet for Less	Other	1920	Est	N
19	107	N	Main	Commercial Building	Racy's Medical Clinic	Other	1920	Est	N
20	111	N	Main	Movie Theater	Hair Center Plus	Commercial Style	1930	Est	Y
21	113	N	Main	Commercial Building	Benton Accounting	Commercial Style	1930		N

## Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey

<b>22</b>	117	N	Main	Commercial Building	Kramer Insurance	Commercial Style	1930	Est	N
<b>23</b>	119	N	Main	Commercial Building	Tony's Barber Shop	Other	1930	Est	N
<b>24</b>	121	N	Main	Commercial Building	First National Bank	Other	1967	Doc	N
<b>25</b>	203	N	Main	Cimarron Hotel	Luther Inn	Second Empire	1886	Doc	NRHP
<b>26</b>	207	N	Main	Commercial Building	United States Post Office	Other	1977	Doc	N
<b>27</b>	202	N	Main	Commercial Building		Streamlined/Art Moderne	1930	Est	N
<b>28</b>	120	N	Main	Commercial Building	Cimarron Public Library	Postmodern/Neoelectic	1990	Doc	N
<b>29</b>	118	N	Main	Commercial Building	First National Bank Annex	Postmodern/Neoelectic	1990	Doc	N
<b>30</b>	116	N	Main	Commercial Building	Norma Pena and Company, Salon and Boutique	Commercial Style	1925	Est	C
<b>31</b>	112	N	Main	Commercial Building		Commercial Style	1925	Est	C
<b>32</b>	108	N	Main	Commercial Building	Credit Union of Dodge City	Commercial Style	1925	Est	N
<b>33</b>	106	N	Main	Commercial Building	Cimarron Rural Health Clinic	Commercial Style	1910	Est	N
<b>34</b>	104	N	Main	Commercial Building	Burns Chiropractic	Other	1910	Est	N
<b>35</b>	100-102	S	Main	Commercial Building	Moments that Matter Photography; Kansas Wheat House	Commercial Style	1925	Est	C
<b>36</b>	104	S	Main	Commercial Building	RES Americas, Inc.; Zephyr Wind Power	Commercial Style	1920	Est	C
<b>37</b>	106	S	Main	Commercial Building	Old Oak & Lace	Other	1920	Est	N
<b>38</b>	108	S	Main	Commercial Building	Poppy D's Pizza	Commercial Style	1910	Est	N
<b>39</b>	110-112	S	Main	Commercial Building	Farm Bureau; Kramer Insurance Agency	Spanish Eclectic	1925	Est	C
<b>40</b>	116	S	Main	Commercial Building	Vogel Accounting	Commercial Style	1925	Est	C

Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey

41	120	S	Main	Commercial Building	Gray County Community Learning Center	Other	1980	Doc	N
42	122	S	Main	Commercial Building	Weigh Station	Other	1980	Doc	N
43	122	S	Main	Cimarron Co-op Exchange	Dodge City Cooperative	Other	1949	Doc	Y
44	200	S	Main		Irsik and Doll	Other	1970	Est	N
45	210	S	Main	C. C. Isely Lumber Company; Aiken Lumber Company	Stephens Lumber	Other	1910	Est	N
46	220	S	Main	Commercial Building	DM & M Farms	Other	1965	Doc	N
47	222	S	Main	Commercial Building	Curtis E. Campbell Chartered, Inc.	Other	1925	Est	N
48	306	S	Main	Commercial Building		Other	1930	Est	C
49	314	S	Main	Commercial Building	Day Care	Other	1978	Doc	N
50	320	S	Main	Commercial Building	Cimarron Family Fun Center	Other	1961	Doc	N
51		W	D	Gray County Shops		Other: Government Rustic	1936	Doc	Y
52	302	S	Main	Commercial Building	Magouirk GM Dealership	Other	1974	Doc	N
53				Farmers Co-op		Other	1930	Doc	Y
54	104	W	A	Commercial Building	Irsik and Doll	Modern/Modern Movement	1971	Doc	N
55	115?	W	A	Christian Church		Commercial Style	1922	Doc	Y
56	113?	W	A	Commercial Building		Vernacular	1910	Est	C
57	111?	W	A	Commercial Building		Vernacular	1930	Est	C
58	109	W	A	Commercial Building	Kyler Knobbe Law Firm	Commercial Style	1925	Est	N
59	111	E	A	Commercial Building		Other	2000	Est	N
60	203	E	A	Commercial Building		Tudor Revival	1925	Est	C
61	210	E	A	Commercial Building	Preferred Auto Service; Cimarron Crossing Auto Sales and Service	Modern/Modern Movement	1935	Est	C

## Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey

<b>62</b>	202	E	A	Commercial Building	Richie's Restaurant	Other	1960	Est	N
<b>63</b>	106	E	A	Commercial Building	Johnny B's Grill	Commercial Style	1925	Est	C
<b>64</b>	108	E	A	Commercial Building		Modern/Modern Movement	1950	Est	C
<b>65</b>	107	S	1st	Commercial Building	Blue Jay Restaurant	Other	1978	Doc	N
<b>66</b>				Commercial Building		Other	1950	Est	C
<b>67</b>				Jail		Other	1920	Est	C

## Findings/Recommendations

### Architectural Analysis

Neoclassical – 1  
Commercial Style – 2  
Other – 28  
Tudor – 2  
Vernacular – 3  
Italianate – 2  
Art Moderne – 2  
Second Empire – 1  
Postmodern – 2  
Spanish Eclectic – 1  
Modern – 3  
One-Part Commercial Block – 28  
Two-Part Commercial Block - 7  
Temple Front – 1

### Individually eligible properties

Nine (9) properties within the survey area in Cimarron appear to have the potential for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Below is a brief description of each of them. As noted below, some of these buildings will require interior evaluation before a formal determination of eligibility can be made.

#### **Gray County Courthouse (Property #1)**

This building, constructed in 1927, is Cimarron's third county courthouse. The first, built in 1886, was located at 117 S. Main. The second was located at the southwest corner of Main and Avenue D. The current building was designed by Hutchinson architects Routledge and Hertz, a firm that designed other courthouses in Comanche, Edwards and Hodgeman counties. Although the courthouse itself has changed little since its original construction, the grounds have changed a great deal over the years. By the early 1930s, there was a fish pond north



of the building. There was a gazebo on the northeast corner of the property, built for use for band concerts. Historically, dozens of trees dotted the courthouse lawn. They were destroyed by Dutch elm disease in the 1960s.

#### **Carter's Hotel (Property #6)**

This lot is part of a three-lot-wide parcel historically occupied by Carter's Hotel, which drew guests from the nearby Santa Fe passenger depot, located 1/2 block to the north. This gabled stucco building post-dates 1922. By 1930, Carter's Hotel was managed by Clifford Darnell. For years, his wife Della, who was 20 years his junior, managed the hotel. Her son Robert was killed in action during World War II. The interior of this building will require evaluation before a final determination of eligibility can be made.



#### **Cimarron State Bank (Property #14)**

This building was built to house the Cimarron State Bank. There was a one-story bank here by 1915. The current façade interprets the 1920s time period. The bank failed in 1929. Later the building was used as a city hall and library. (Wiley McFarland)



**Movie Theater (Property #20)**

The northern half of Block 12 was not developed until the 1920s, due in part to the alignment of the Soule Canal, an irrigation ditch that ran through the northern end of the block. Between 1915 and 1922, the fire department had built a hose cart in lots 2-3 - and there were two grain bins on lot 3. The building on this parcel was built ca. 1930. The building housed a movie theater (known locally as "The Picture Show"). The theater was managed by Frank Morris, who was in this position by 1930. Art Ashcraft was the projectionist. The theater was in business until the 1960s. The interior of this building will require evaluation before a final determination of eligibility can be made.



**Gray County Shops (Property #51)**

This building was built in 1936 as county shops with funds from the Works Progress Administration (WPA). According to former county commissioner Wiley McFarland, county workers had to let air out of the tires in order to get the county trucks through the overhead door, capped by a concrete beam lintel.



**Coop (Property #53)**

This building was constructed in 1930 for the Farmers Co-op.



**Cimarron Coop (Property #43)**

There was an elevator at this location by 1906, when a one-story coal shed and two-story feed mill were built here. The complex was operated by the C. C. Isley Lumber Company by 1915. To the east was an elevator and feed mill built in 1911, which was owned by J. B. English in 1915. According to the appraiser's records, the reinforced concrete elevator was constructed in 1949. By then, the elevator was operated by the Cimarron Co-op Exchange. Today, the property is operated by the Dodge City Cooperative.



**Christian Church (Property #55)**

This was the historic location of the Christian Church. There was a wood-framed Christian Church here by 1915. The current building was constructed in 1922. Although it was built in a way that would allow for the addition of a second story, the building was never expanded. The church later replaced the building, which is now vacant. The interior of this building will require evaluation before a final determination of eligibility can be made.

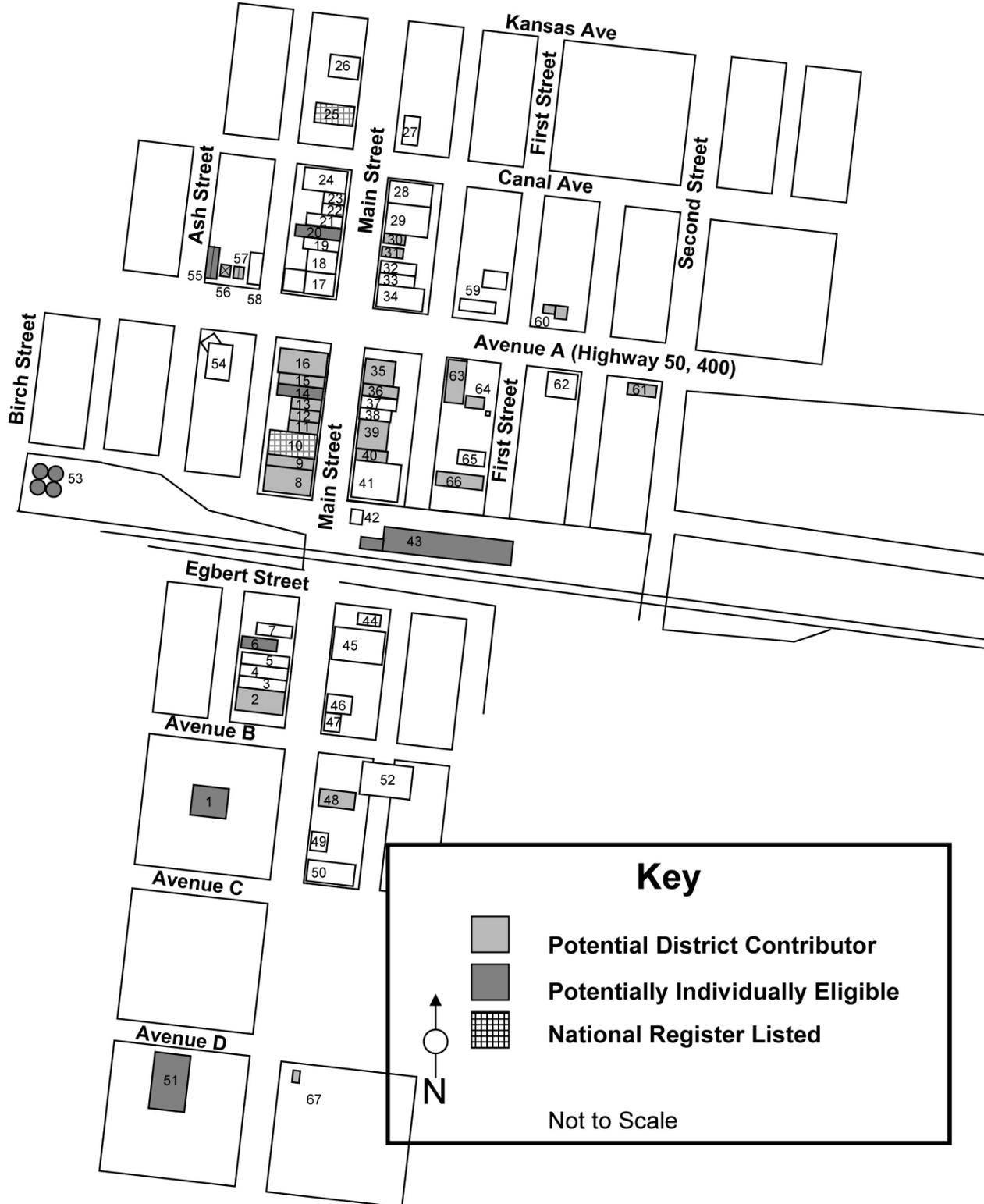


**Jail (Property #67)**

This small reinforced concrete building was a holding cell for prisoners.



# Cimarron

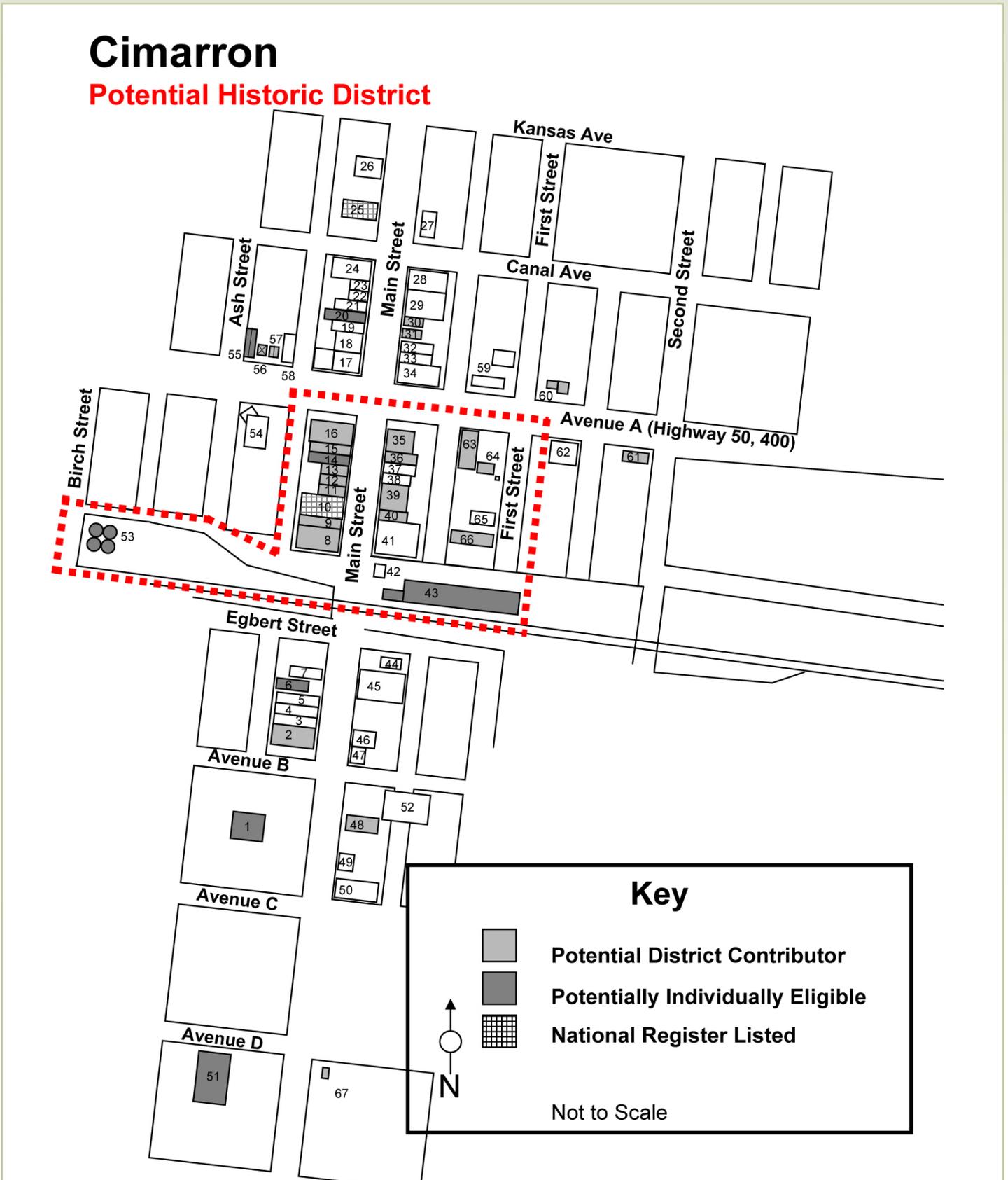


**Potential Historic District**

There is a concentration of buildings that have the potential to contribute to a potential historic district. This area is identified on the map below.

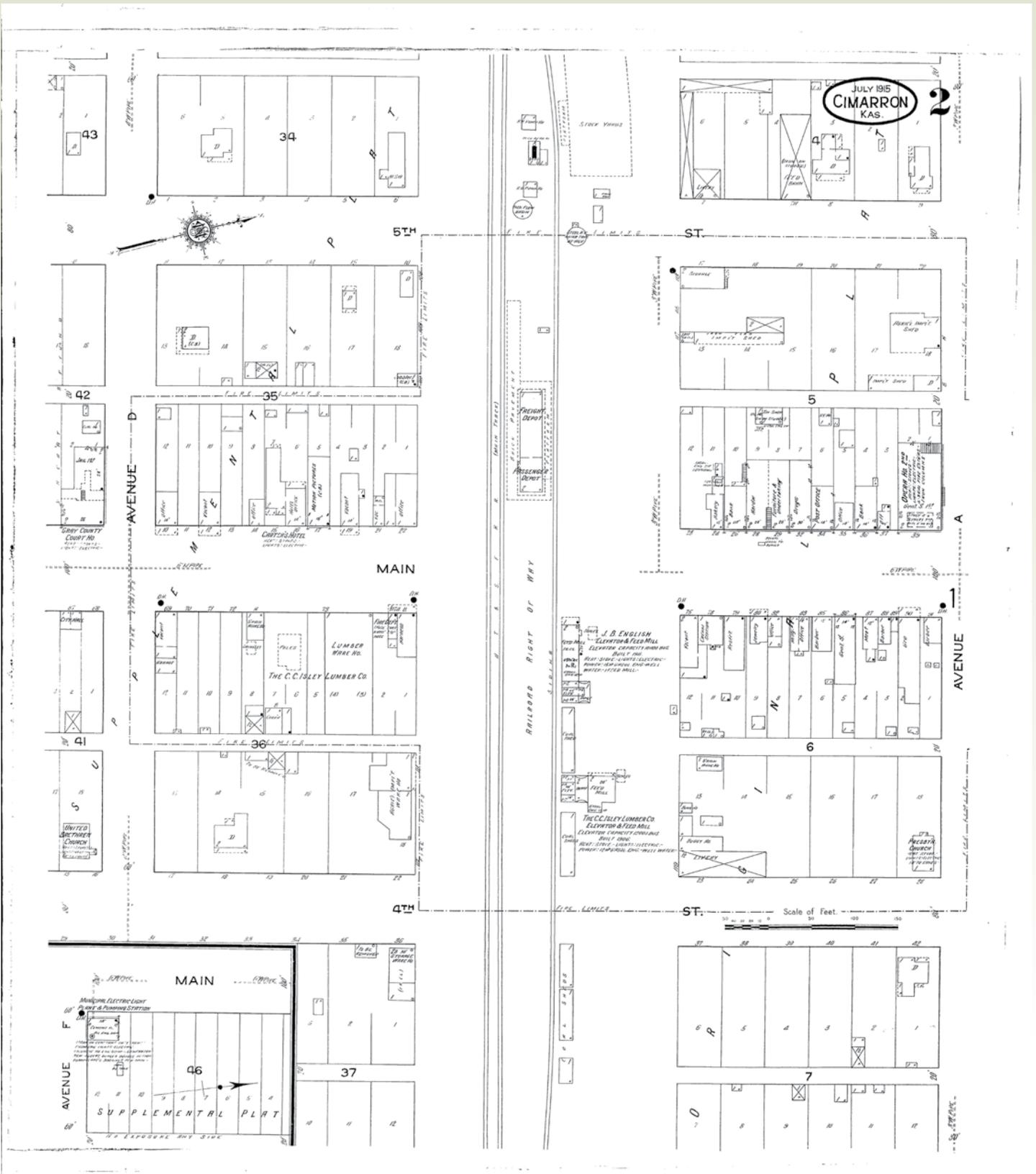
# Cimarron

## Potential Historic District



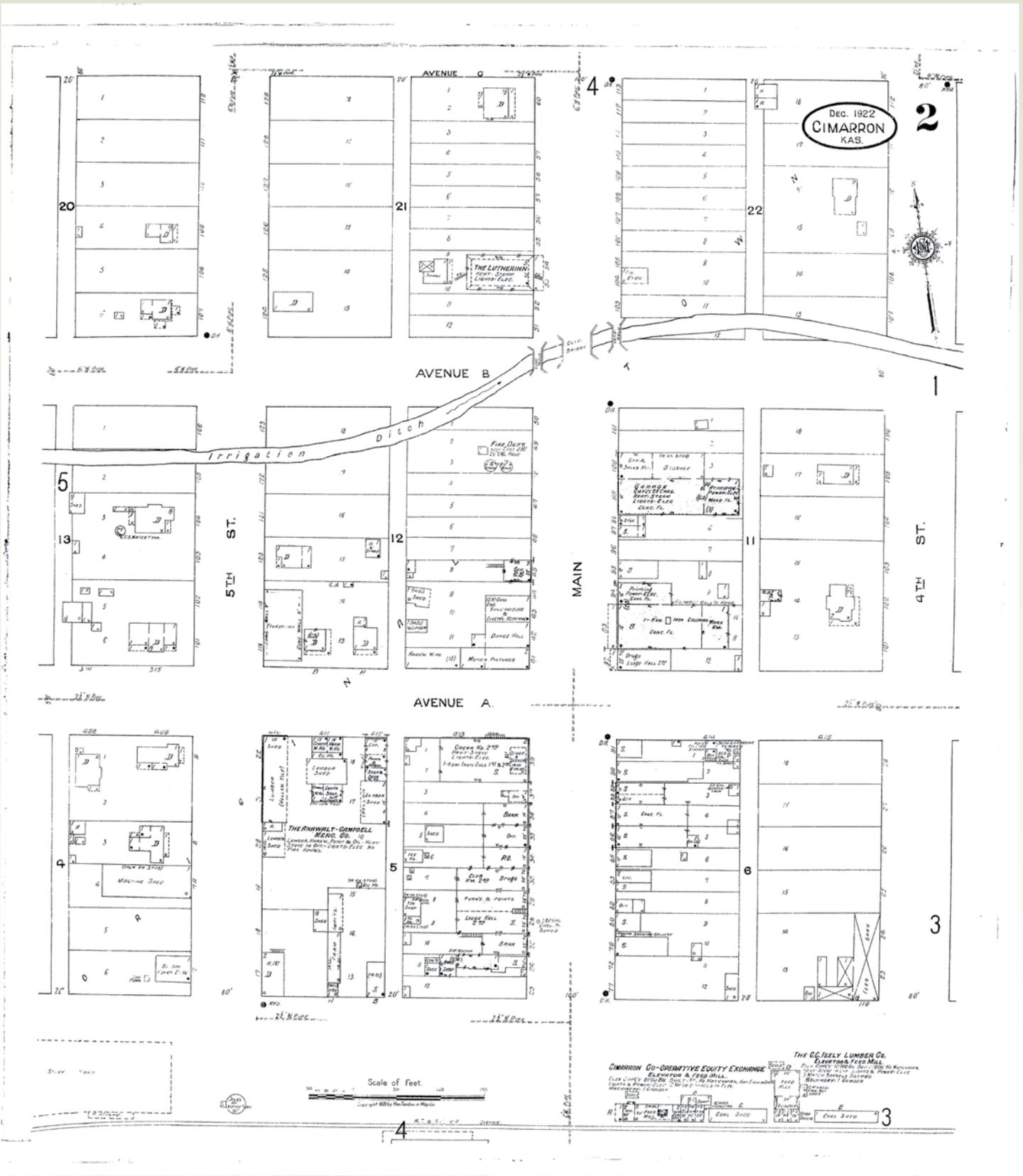


Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey



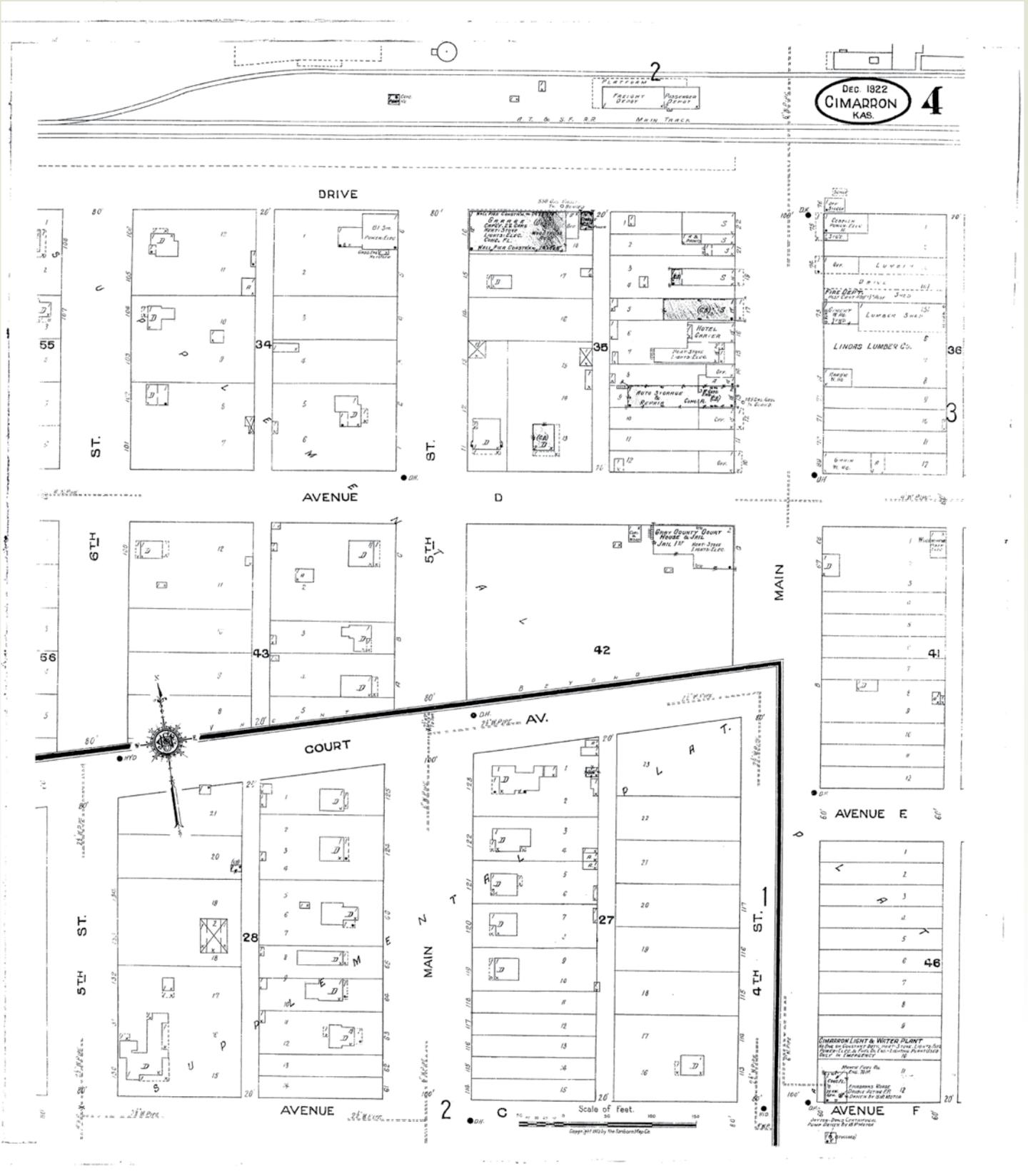
Sanborn Map, Cimarron, 1915, Sheet 2

# Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey



Sanborn Map, Cimarron, 1922, Sheet 2

# Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey



Sanborn Map, Cimarron, 1922, Sheet 4

## Chapter 4 Montezuma



### Brief History

Montezuma, originally located two miles from its present location, was incorporated in 1887 by real estate speculators aiming to cash in on Asa Soule's irrigation canal scheme. The town founders named the town after the Aztec emperor who was conquered by Spanish conquistador Hernan Cortes, and named the streets for figures and places associated with the conquest. For instance, Alvarado Street was named for Cortes' trusted captain Pedro de Alvarado. Escalante Street was named after Juan de Escalante, Spanish captain who was with Cortes on his 1519 expedition. Texcoco was the lake on which the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan (now Mexico City) was built.<sup>14</sup>

As long as Asa Soule's canal scheme held water, Montezuma's future was certain. By 1886, the town boasted a bank, newspaper, and population of over 100. To secure Montezuma's support for Ingalls in the 1880s county-seat election, Asa Soule constructed a "gift" railroad to Montezuma. When Ingalls lost its bid for county seat and Asa Soule's own desert conquest failed, Montezuma, Kansas went the way of Montezuma's empire. By 1910, the population of Montezuma had plunged to eleven (11) and the community received mail only tri-weekly.<sup>15</sup>

New irrigation techniques and the 1912 construction of a new Santa Fe line that stretched along the old Cimarron Cutoff route of the Santa Fe Trail breathed new life into southern Gray County. And Montezuma was one of the towns that reaped the bounty. By 1920, Montezuma's population had soared to 163. Like most communities in southwest Kansas, the population shrank in the 1930s, plunging from 424 to 340. According to *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas*, the community waited "patiently by the roadside during 7 years of ruined crops." Since then, however, Montezuma has seen a steady increase in population, reaching 966 in 2000.<sup>16</sup>



# Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey

## List of Surveyed Properties in Montezuma

#	Add #	Dir	Street	Historic Name	Alternate Name	Primary Style	Date		Status
1	202	N	Aztec	N/A	Cory's Snow Palace	Not Applicable	2000	Est	N
2	204	N	Aztec	N/A	Borth Agency, Inc.	Other	1979	Doc	N
3	206	N	Aztec		Montezuma Lumber & Hardware	Other	1970	Doc	N
4	206	N	Aztec		Montezuma Lumber & Hardware	Commercial Style	1920	Est	N
5	206	N	Aztec		Montezuma Lumber & Hardware	Commercial Style	1927	Doc	Y
6	106	N	Aztec			Commercial Style	1930	Est	C
7	208	N	Aztec		The Montezuma Press	Other	1980	Doc	N
8	300-302	N	Aztec		Tom Brown Drug	Commercial Style	1915	Est	N
9	304	N	Aztec		Dodge City Medical Center	Modern/Modern Movement	1963	Doc	N
10	101	E	Texcoco		Montezuma Service Station	Other	1950	Est	Y
11	309	N	Aztec		Montezuma Township Library	Other	1972	Doc	N
12	307	N	Aztec	Diamond Theatre	Legion Building; Senior Center	Commercial Style	1925	Est	C
13	301	N	Aztec			Commercial Style	1930	Est	C
14	209	N	Aztec		Montezuma State Bank	Other	1968	Doc	N
15	207	N	Aztec		US Post Office	Modern/Modern Movement	1954	Doc	C
16	205	N	Aztec		D & B Market	Other	1977	Doc	C
17	203	N	Aztec		Eva's Kitchen	Buckaroo Revival	1987	Doc	N
18	0	E	Toltec		Stauth Memorial Museum	Postmodern/Neoelectic	1996	Doc	N
19	0	E	Toltec		Garage	Other	1915	Est	C
20					Garage	Other	1915	Est	C
21					Garage	Other	1920	Est	N
22	105	W	Mexitli		Just For You	Other	1992	Doc	N
23	101	W	Mexitli		Great Plains FCU	Other	1970	Est	N

## Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey

24	0	W	Mexitli		City Building	Other	1953	Doc	N
25					City Building	Other	1980	Doc	N
26	205	W	Mexitli		Residence	Other	1915	Est	N
27					City Building	Other	1925	Est	C
28					Water Tower	Other	1925	Est	Y
29	0	W	Mexitli			Other	1915	Est	C
30	100	W	Mexitli		Gray County Wind Energy, LLC	Other	1964	Doc	N
31	200	W	Mexitli			Other	1935	Doc	C
32	300	W	Texcoco		Hi-Way Inn	Other	1950	Est	Y
33	0	W	Texcoco		Quonset Hut	Other	1950	Est	C
34	0	W	Texcoco		Grain Elevator	Other	1930	Est	Y
35	0	W	Texcoco		Polaris	Other	1970	Est	N
36	0	W	Texcoco			Other	1980	Est	N
37	0	W	Texcoco			Other	1980	Est	N
38	0	W	Texcoco			Other	1950	Est	N
39	107	W	Texcoco		Dodge City Cooperative	Other	1990	Doc	N
40	0	W	Texcoco			Other	1959	Doc	N
41	0	W	Texcoco		Grain Growers Cooperative, c/o Dodge City Cooperative	Other	1930	Doc	Y

### Architectural Analysis

Other – 30  
 Commercial – 6  
 Modern – 2  
 N/A – 1  
 Buckaroo Revival – 1  
 Postmodern – 1  
 One-Part Commercial Block – 7  
 Quonset - 1

### **Montezuma Hardware (Property #5)**

This building was built in 1927 and retains a high degree of integrity from its original construction. The interior of this building will require evaluation before a final determination of eligibility can be made.



## *Findings/Recommendations*

### **Individually eligible properties**

Six properties within the survey area in Montezuma appear to have the potential for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Below is a brief description of each of them. As noted below, some of these buildings will require interior evaluation before a formal determination of eligibility can be made.

**Service Station (Property #10)**

Although this building is very plain, it retains a high degree of integrity and, therefore, may be eligible for listing under the Roadside Kansas Multiple Property nomination. The interior of this building will require evaluation before a final determination of eligibility can be made.



**Grain Elevator (Property #34)**

This is a six-bin rural concrete elevator as identified in Lisa Mahar-Keplinger's typology (Lisa Mahar-Keplinger, *Grain Elevators* (Princeton Architectural Press, 1993)).



**Water Tower (Property #28)**

This is a classic tin-can-type water tower indicative in Kansas small towns.



**Coop (Property #41)**

This is multi-bin urban concrete elevator as identified in Lisa Mahar-Keplinger's typology (Lisa Mahar-Keplinger, *Grain Elevators* (Princeton Architectural Press, 1993)).



**Hi-Way Inn (Property #32)**

Although this building is very plain, it retains a high degree of integrity and, therefore, may be eligible for listing under the Roadside Kansas Multiple Property nomination.

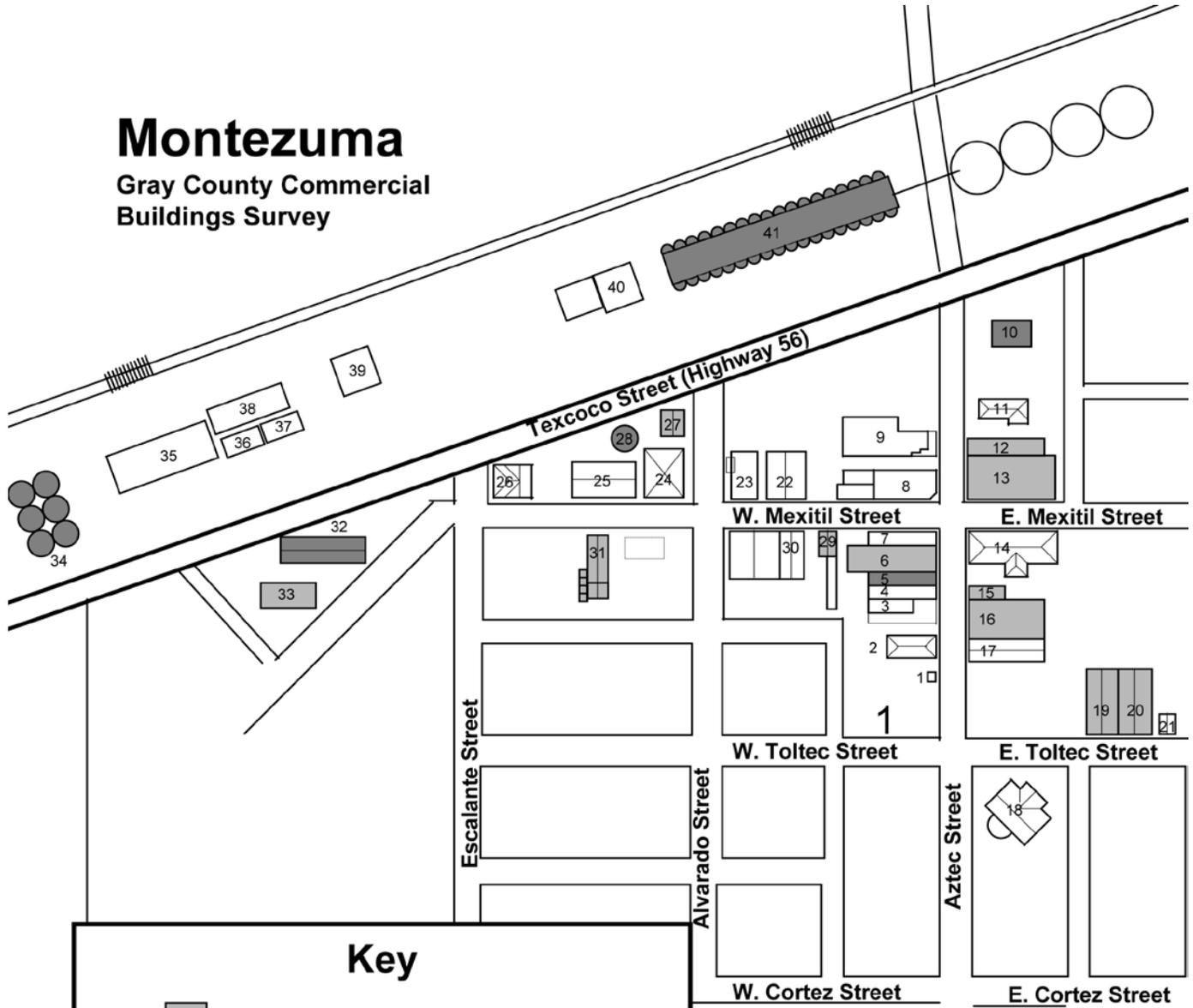


**Potential Historic District**

There are no potential historic districts in Montezuma.

# Montezuma

## Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey



**Key**

-  Potential District Contributor
-  Potentially Individually Eligible
-  National Register Listed

 N

Not to Scale

## Chapter 5 Copeland

### A Brief History

Like all the communities in Gray County, Copeland has strong historical ties to the Santa Fe Railroad. However, unlike most of the others, Copeland was not established during the 1880s boom. The town, named after Santa Fe Secretary/Treasurer E. L. Copeland, was platted by the Santa Fe Land Improvement Company in 1912, in advance of the arrival of the Santa Fe line that now stretches along south Gray County to connect Copeland, Montezuma and Ensign.

By this time, technological advances provided for the irrigation of dry lands, facilitating wheat farming. Communities along the Santa Fe provided services like water, dining and hotels, to the railroad, as well as markets for grain and trading centers for a growing cadre of area farmers. The Santa Fe Land Improvement Company began selling lots on June 11, 1912. The post office was established on October 26, 1912.<sup>17</sup> By 1916, according to E. Faye Ward's history of Copeland, "the Rounds and Porter Lumber Co...[the first building in Copeland] had supplied the materials for the eight room 'Gordon House,' Stebbens Store, Fred Bush Real Estate Office, Jim Hilliard Cream Station, George Graham Restaurant, Jess Rayl house and barn, George Alexander livery stable, A. B. Gresham's home and office, O. O. Wilcox blacksmith shop and home, hardware store, schoolhouse, bank, and other buildings."<sup>18</sup>

By 1920, the town boasted a population of 462 and a brand new high school. The city's population nearly doubled in the decade that followed, reaching 784 by 1930. Copeland was incorporated as a city of the third class on January 4, 1926. In 1929, a 517,000-bushel-capacity grain elevator was built at a cost of \$125,000. Unfortunately, the 1930s dust storms were hard on the area, leaving the "great tube [to stand] almost empty."<sup>19</sup>

Many left the area during the Great Depression. Between 1930 and 1940, the population of Copeland plunged from 423 to 262. In the last twenty years, the population has increased, standing at 339 in 2000.



# Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey

## List of Surveyed Properties in Copeland

#	Add #	Dir	Street	Historic Name	Alternate Name	Primary Style	Date		Status
1	0		Santa Fe	Copeland Water Tower		Other	1954	Est	Y
2	0		Santa Fe	Water Tower Pumping Station		Other	1954	Est	Y
3	0		Scott	Quonset Hut		Quonset	1950	Est	C
4	203	S	Santa Fe	Unknown	Trickey Coverage Agency	Other	1920	Est	N
5	201	S	Santa Fe		Copeland Café	Other	1975	Est	N
6	109		Santa Fe	Bank?	Copeland Public Library	Commercial	1920	Est	C
7	107		Santa Fe		Copeland Post Office	Commercial	1949	Doc	C
8	103		Santa Fe		Copeland Santa Fe Senior Center	Other	2002	Doc	N
9	2000		US 56		United Telephone Building	Other	1965	Est	N
10	100		Santa Fe		Mid-America Auto	Other	2003	Doc	N
11	110		Santa Fe		Mikey's Auto Repair; Nelson Implement Co.	Commercial	1930	Est	C
12	0		Santa Fe		Copeland City Hall	Other	1969	Doc	N
13	204		Santa Fe	American Legion - Post 369	American Legion - Post 369	Streamlined/Art Moderne	1940	Est	C
14	0		Santa Fe		Dan Ray's Bar and Grill	Commercial	1925	Est	Y
15	210		Santa Fe		Montezuma State Bank	Other	1996	Doc	N
16	0		Santa Fe		Montezuma State Bank	Other	1996	Doc	N
17	201				Dunham Drilling Co.	Other	1982	Doc	N
18	0		US 56		Unknown	Commercial	1925	Est	C
19	2000		US 56		Archer Daniels Midland	Other	1950	Est	C
20	2000		US 56		Olfert Auto Sales	Streamlined/Art Moderne	1930	Est	C
21	2000		US 56		Flea Market	Other	1925	Est	Y

22	0			Unknown		Quonset	1950	Est	N
23	2000		US 56	Unknown		Quonset	1950	Est	N
24	2000		US 56		Crop Production Services	Other	1974	Doc	N
25	2000		US 56		Copeland Grain Elevator - West Parcel	Other	1994	Doc	N
26	2000		US 56		Copeland Grain Elevator - East Parcel	Other	1970	Doc	N

Architectural Analysis

- Other – 16
- Quonset – 3
- Commercial – 5
- Streamlined/Art Moderne - 2
- One-Part Commercial Block – 6

*Findings/Recommendations*

**Individually eligible properties**

Four properties within the survey area in Copeland appear to have the potential for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Below is a brief description of each of them. As noted below, some of these buildings will require interior evaluation before a formal determination of eligibility can be made.

**Copeland Water Tower (Property #1)**



This is a classic tin-can-type water tower indicative in Kansas small towns. It was built in 1954. A nomination for the tower could include the adjacent pumping station.

**Copeland Water Tower Pumping Station (Property #2)**

This one-story metal building is very similar to the temporary classroom building converted to a city hall in Ensign. It is front-gabled with two centered entry doors flanked on each side by a 9-pane window. The building is clad in standing seam metal. It was built in 1954.



**Bar and Grill (Property #14)**

Despite an inappropriate shingled shed awning, this building retains a high degree of architectural integrity. The building was historically divided into two storefronts, with two centered entrances flanked on each side by large plate-glass windows. The double-hung windows on the north and south sides of the recess, framing the entrances, are a unique feature. Although the south elevation is parged, the presence of historic openings indicates that this building was constructed



as a free-standing structure. It has a unique stepped parapet rear (east) elevation. The interior of this building will require evaluation before a final determination of eligibility can be made.

**Potential Historic District**

There are no potential historic districts in Copeland.

**Flea Market (Property #21)**

This building is comprised of two masses, a large shed with monitor roof and a projecting gabled commercial bay with canted entrance, a ribbon of storefront windows, and a large stepped parapet.

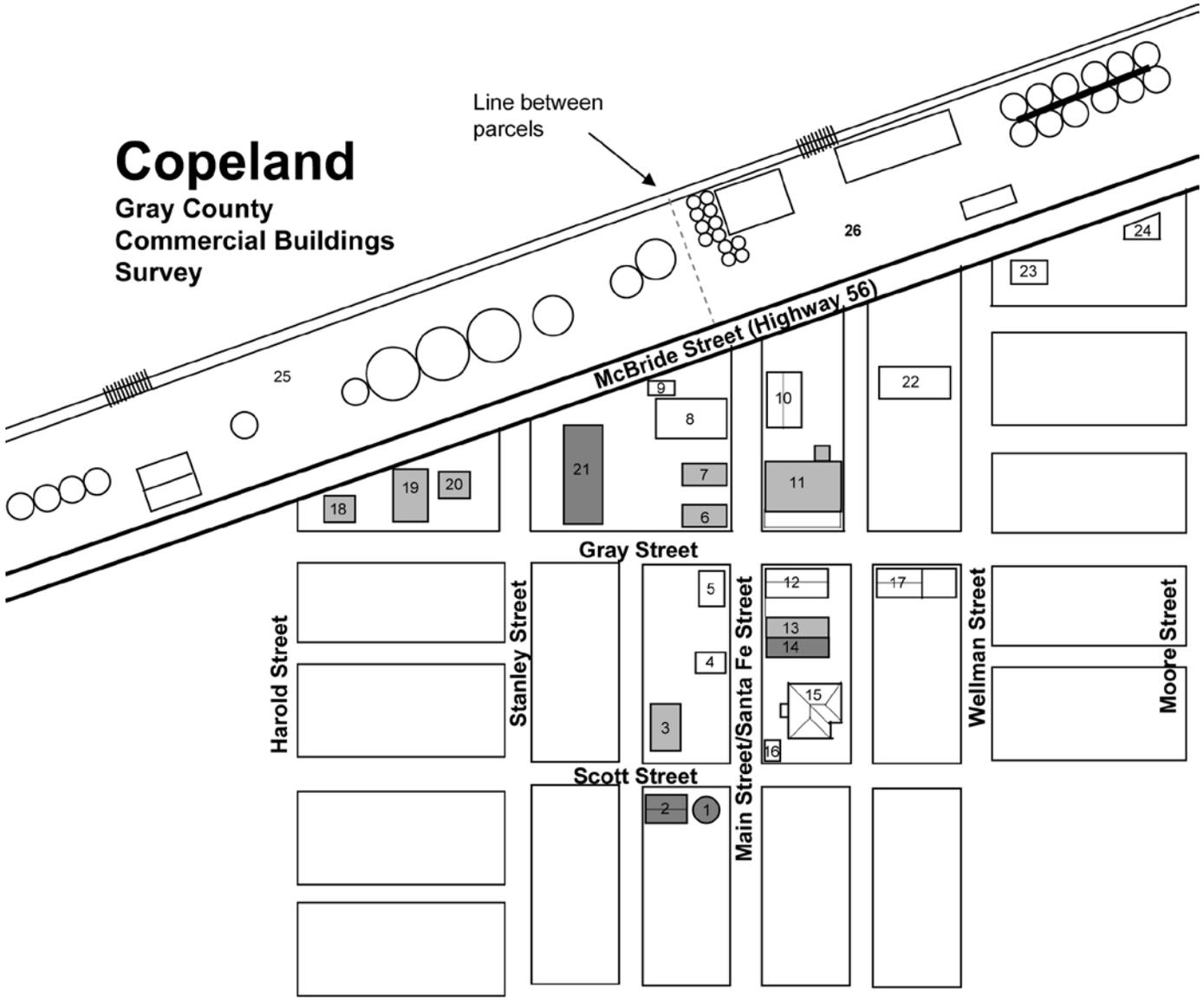


**Copeland Grain Elevator (Property #26)**



Copeland's first grain elevator, a wood-framed building with metal siding, was built in 1914. The current reinforced concrete structure was built in 1930 and retains its historic integrity.

**Copeland**  
 Gray County  
 Commercial Buildings  
 Survey



**Key**

	<b>Potential District Contributor</b>
	<b>Potentially Individually Eligible</b>
	<b>National Register Listed</b>
	
Not to Scale	

## Chapter 6 Ingalls

### A Brief History

Ingalls was founded in 1884 by New York capitalist Asa T. Soule who invested heavily in a scheme to divert water from the Arkansas River to irrigate surrounding farmland. When Gray County was established in 1887, Cimarron was named temporary county seat. Soon, however, Cimarron faced steep competition from Ingalls, the only other community with railroad access.

In an effort to establish the community as a contender for county-seat designation, Soule “erected a hotel, a church, and a store or two”... and “encouraged” voters by building a “gift” railroad from Ingalls to Montezuma.<sup>20</sup> In 1887, having secured Montezuma’s support, Ingalls won an election to become county seat. Cimarron supporters balked at Soule’s effort to buy votes by building the railroad. Ingalls supporters uncovered a plot to sell \$10,000 in bonds to buy support for Cimarron. Cimarron refused to turn over the county records. The issue was not settled until 1896, when Cimarron won an election to remain the permanent seat of Gray County.

In 1912, Ingalls, whose population was 250, was described as a “little town in Gray county...” with “a number of stores, telegraph and express offices, and a money order post office.”<sup>21</sup> The population plunged during the 1930s from 273 to 187; it hovered around 200 until the 1970s, when the population began to rise. The current population of Ingalls is 328. Ingalls remains a regional center for the county’s Catholic population. The St. Stanislaus Parish, which built its first wood-framed building in 1909, covers a region that includes Ingalls, Cimarron, Kalvesta and Montezuma.



List of Surveyed Properties in Ingalls

#	Add #	Dir	Street	Historic Name	Alternate Name	Primary Style	Date		Status
1	204	S	Main		Shed	Other	1890	Est	N
2	204	S	Main	Ingalls Depot	Santa Fe Museum	Other	1890	Doc	N
3	204	S	Main	Montezuma Depot	Santa Fe Museum	Other	1918	Doc	N
4	200	S	Main		Ingalls City Hall	Other	1967	Doc	N
5	204	S	Main	Soule Canal Irrigation Pump		Other	1884	Doc	Y
6	108	S	Kansas			Other	1900	Est	N
7	106	S	Main			Other	1915	Est	C
8	102	S	Main		Ingalls Café	Buckaroo Revival	1983	Doc	N
9	104	N	Main	Ingalls Co-op		Other	1961	Doc	Y
10	104	N	Main	Ingalls Co-op		Other	1964	Doc	C
11	104	N	Main	Ingalls Co-op		Other			C
12	104	N	Main	Ingalls Co-op		Other	1920	Est	Y
13	111	S	Main		Ingalls Post Office	Other	1960	Doc	N

Architectural Analysis

Other – 15  
 Buckaroo Revival – 1  
 One-Part Commercial Block – 1  
 Two-Part Comm Block – 0

**Ingalls Coop (Property #9)**

The co-op complex includes a variety of structures. The reinforced concrete grain elevator is divided into two parts that are perpendicular to one another. This is an example of a “concrete urban elevator” as identified in the typology established by Lisa Mahar-Keplinger in her book *Grain Elevators*. (Princeton Architectural Press, 1993)

*Findings/Recommendations*

**Individually eligible properties**

Two properties within the survey area in Ingalls appear to have the potential for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Below is a brief description of each of them.



**Ingalls Coop (Property #12)**

This is a wood-framed grain elevator clad in corrugated metal. It is an example of a rural wood elevator as identified in Lisa Mahar-Keplinger's typology (Lisa Mahar-Keplinger, *Grain Elevators* (Princeton Architectural Press, 1993)).



**Potential Historic District**

There are no potential historic districts in Ingalls.

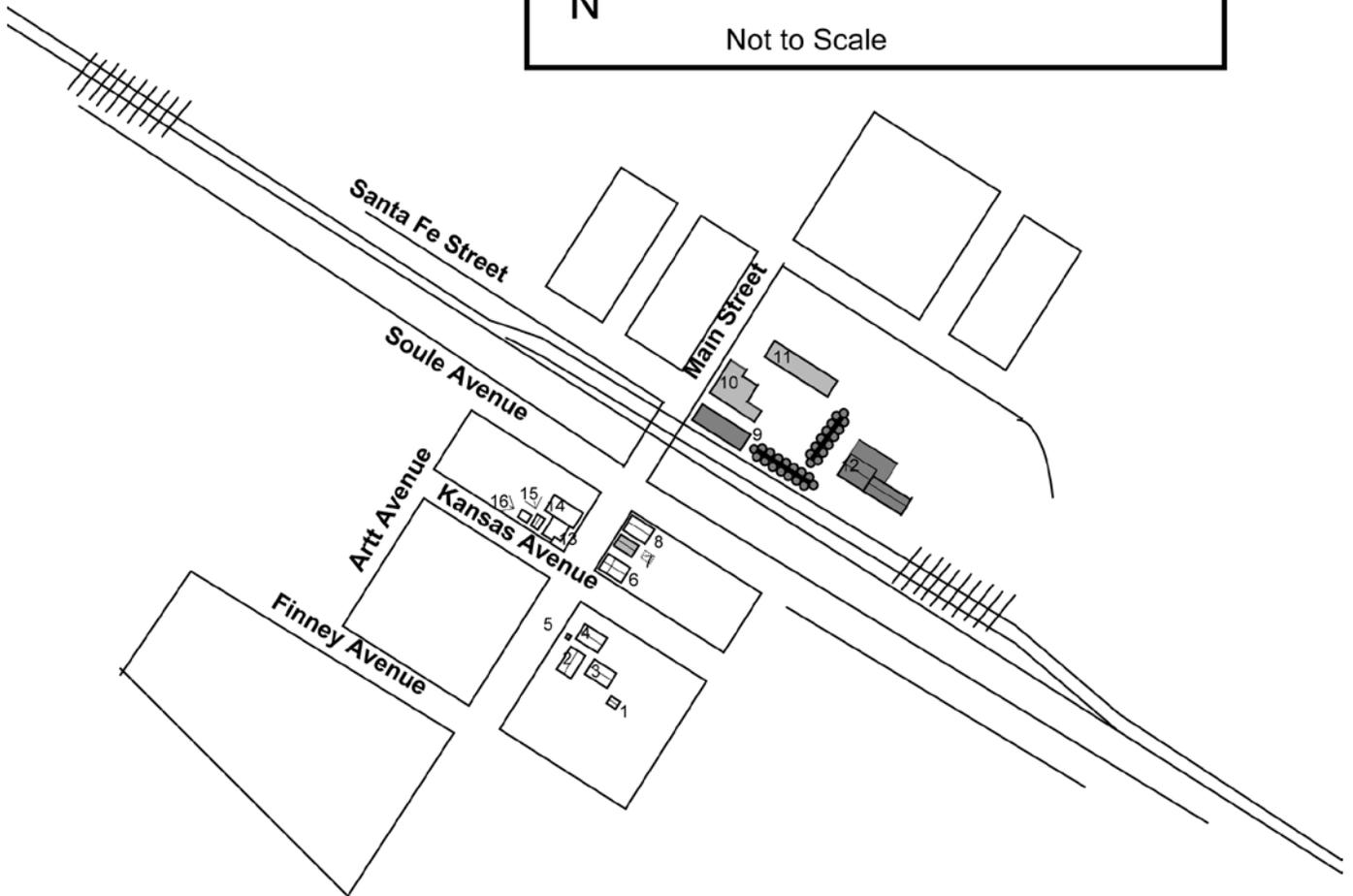
**Ingalls**  
Gray County  
Commercial Buildings  
Survey

**Key**

	Potential District Contributor
	Potentially Individually Eligible
	National Register Listed

 N

Not to Scale



## Chapter 7 Ensign

### Brief History

Like Montezuma and Ingalls, Ensign was founded during the 1880s real estate boom and wagered its future on the success of Asa Soule's canal scheme. The town was founded in 1887 by G. L. Ensign, a Jewish merchant based in Lawrence who speculated in various business dealings in southwest Kansas, including the Jewish colony of Beersheba.<sup>22</sup> Ensign named the streets for Kansas military forts, including Leavenworth, Dodge, Larned and Zarah.<sup>23</sup> When Soule's canal and railroad schemes failed, Ensign's future seemed lost. (G. L. Ensign was among those who testified in the various lawsuits tied to Soule and the county seat dispute.) By 1910, the unincorporated "rural post office" of Ensign had a population of only 41.<sup>24</sup>

Like Montezuma, Ensign was revived in 1912 when the Santa Fe Railroad built its new line through southern Gray County. This second boom produced a slue of false-front buildings along Aubrey Street. The more-permanent buildings included the Ensign Garage, Peoples State Bank, and Ensign Opera House. Despite the boom inspired by the new Santa Fe line, Ensign's population leveled out, and has hovered around 200 since 1930. In 1938, the town was described as "a cluster of small frame buildings in the shadow of a grain elevator."<sup>25</sup> Unfortunately, although the town's population has remained steady for nearly a century, many of these distinctive small frame buildings have been lost.



# Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey

## List of Surveyed Properties in Ensign

#	Add #	Dir	Street	Historic Name	Alternate Name	Primary Style	Date		Status
1	101		Aubrey	Jones Service Station	Phillips 66	Other	1921	Doc	Y
2	205		Aubrey	Ensign Garage		Other	1915	Doc	C
3	209		Aubrey	Peoples State Bank		Commercial Style	1924	Doc	Y
4	309		Aubrey	Restaurant/ Barber Shop		Other	1915	Est	N
5	201		Aubrey		Ensign Implement Co.	Other	1968	Doc	N
6	306		Aubrey	Ensign Post Office		Other	1915	Est	N
7	0		Aubrey		United Telephone Building	Other	1965	Est	N
8	302		Aubrey		Ensign Masonic Hall	Other	1977	Doc	N
9	108		Aubrey	Ensign Grade School Temporary Classroom	Ensign City Hall (Former) and Library	Other	1950	Est	C
10	302		Bent		Ensign City Hall	Other	2000	Est	N
11	306		Bent	Lloyd Service Station	Carter Country and Grocery	Modern	1950	Est	Y
12	706		Bent		Farmers' Cooperative Grain and Supply Co. - Fertilizer Department	Other	1960	Est	N
13	706		Bent		Farmers' Cooperative Grain and Supply Co. - Yellow Morton Building	Other	1970	Est	N
14	706		Bent		Farmers' Cooperative Grain and Supply Co. - Service Station	Ranch	1990	Est	N

15	706		Bent		Farmers' Cooperative Grain and Supply Co. - Quonset Hut	Quonset	1950	Est	C
16	706		Bent		Farmers' Cooperative Grain and Supply Co. - Weigh Station	Ranch	1960	Est	Y
17	706		Bent		Farmers' Cooperative Grain and Supply Co. - Grain Elevator	Other	1963	Doc	Y
18	0		Bent	Ensign Water Tower		Other	1954	Doc	Y
19	301		Custer	Ensign Opera House		Other	1915	Est	N

Architectural Analysis

- Other – 14
- Commercial – 1
- Modern – 1
- Ranch – 2
- Quonset – 1
- One-Part Commercial Block – 3

Russell about 1943, and it became a Phillips 66. When Harvey returned from World War II, he added a television sales and repair shop to the complex. Since Harvey's death, the place has been used for storage. (Betty Herrman)



*Findings/Recommendations*

**Individually eligible properties**

Six properties within the survey area in Ensign appear to have the potential for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Below is a brief description of each of them. As noted below, some of these buildings will require interior evaluation before a formal determination of eligibility can be made.

**Jones Service Station (Property #1)**

This building was constructed by Charlie T. Jones in 1921 as a service station that was part of a complex that included auto tourist cabins and a single-family residence. It was sold to George Murry and Paul Rixon in about 1939. It was sold to Ernest "Shorty" and Harvey

**Peoples State Bank (Property #3)**

The Peoples State Bank was the name of the reorganized bank that replaced the Ensign State Bank, which was chartered in 1915 and closed by the state bank commissioner in 1925 or 1926. The original officers of the Peoples State Bank were Linn Frazier (President), Alec Hamilton (Vice President), and G. W. Daugherty (Cashier). Linn Frazier came to town from Fowler.<sup>26</sup> In 1935, at the recommendation of the state bank commissioner, the bank merged with Montezuma State Bank. Later, Russell Pegram purchased the building. From

1947 to 1958, Luella Pegram Smith and her husband Earl Smith operated Smith's Fountain and Coffee Shop in the front. They lived in the bank. After their deaths, the family sold the building to Bruce Hartnett for his carpenter shop. (Betty Herrman) The interior of this building will require evaluation before a final determination of eligibility can be made.



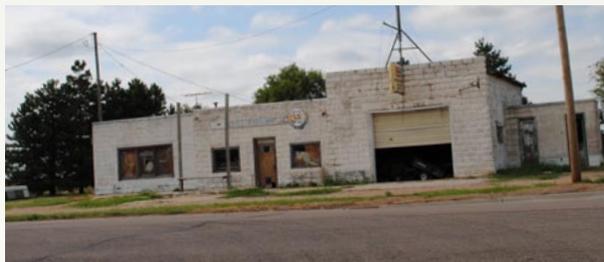
**Coop (Property #17)**

This is multi-bin urban concrete elevator as identified in Lisa Mahar-Keplinger's typology (Lisa Mahar-Keplinger, *Grain Elevators* (Princeton Architectural Press, 1993)). It was built in 1963 and will soon be fifty years old.



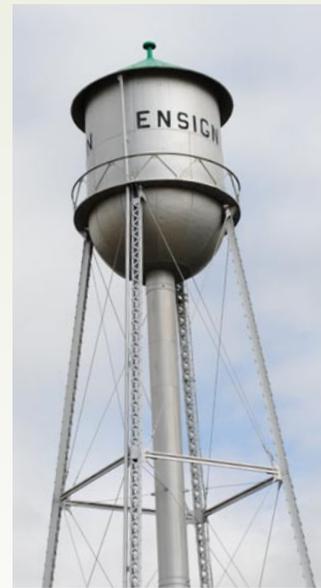
**Service Station (Property #11)**

This building was built in 1947 by Elbert Proffitt and Jack Lloyd. In 1952, they sold it to Bob Cofer. Cofer sold it to Duane Bryant in 1961. Jack and Shirley Richardson bought it in 1973. Pete Falcon bought it in 1977 and added pool tables. It became Carter Country service station and grocery, proprietors Will and Jackie Carter, in 1979. (Betty Herrman)



**Water Tower (Property #18)**

This is a classic tin-can-type water tower indicative in Kansas small towns.



**Coop Weigh Station (Property #16)**

This is a unique ranch-style building built for use as a coop weigh station. It would be eligible for listing in combination with the adjacent grain elevator.

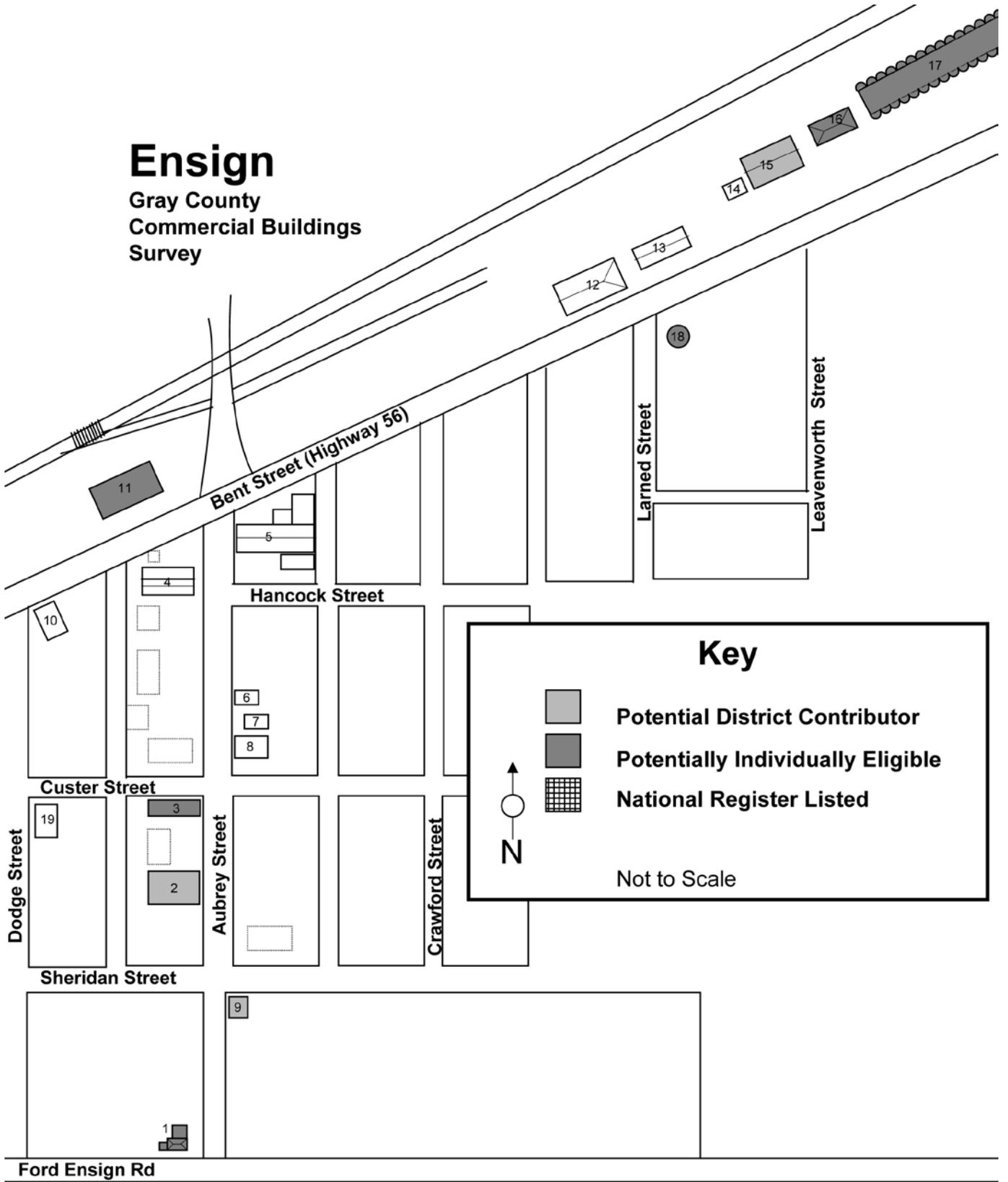


**Potential Historic District**

There are no potential historic districts in Ensign.

# Ensign

Gray County  
Commercial Buildings  
Survey



# Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey

## FOOTNOTES

- 1 Frank Blackmar, ed. *Kansas: a cyclopedia of state history, embracing events, institutions, industries, counties, cities, towns, prominent persons, etc.* (Chicago: Standard Pub. Co., 1912).
- 2 Kansas Counties, Kansas State Historical Society, <http://www.kshs.org/genealogists/places/counties.php?county=FT>, accessed 3/8/09.
- 3 *Atchison Globe*, 28 July 1884; *New York Times*, 29 July 1884.
- 4 Elsie D. Wagner, *Cimarron: The Growth of a Town* (Cimarron: Elsie Wagner, 1976).
- 5 Nora Pat Small, National Register Nomination, Cimarron Hotel, Cimarron, Kansas.
- 6 *Jacksonian*, 27 August 1886.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 *New York Times*, 23 January 1888.
- 9 Small.
- 10 Kansas Census, 1895.
- 11 Wagner.
- 12 Blackmar.
- 13 US Census, 1910, 1920, 1930.
- 14 Sondra Van Meter McCoy and Jan Hults, *1001 Kansas Place Names*, (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1989).
- 15 Blackmar.
- 16 WPA Federal Writers Project, *The WPA Guide to 1930s Kansas*, (Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1984), 401-402.
- 17 McCoy.
- 18 Faye E. Ward, *A History of Early Day Copeland, Kansas, 1912-1965*, (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1977).
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# Gray County Commercial Buildings Survey

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