NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 ___Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District_____

other names/site number __N/A_____

2. Location

street & number _Along sections of S. Broadway and Vine Street_____ not for publication ___N/A_____

city or town __Poplar Bluff_____vicinity ____N/A_____

state __Missouri_____ code __MO_____ county __Butler_____code __023____ zip code _63901__

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _x_ 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 _x_ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide _x_ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Claire F. Blackwell 26 October 1994

Signature of certifying official Claire F. Blackwell Date
Deputy SHPO
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
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

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register _____
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
____ removed from the National Register _____

____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Butler County, Missouri
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_X_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

___ building(s)
_X_ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_14__	__4__	buildings
__0__	__0__	sites
__0__	__0__	structures
__0__	__0__	objects
_14__	__4__	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.)

_Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri_____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

__COMMERCE/TRADE_____ __specialty store/business_____
__SOCIAL_____ __meeting hall_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

__COMMERCE/TRADE_____ __specialty store/business_____
__SOCIAL_____ __meeting hall_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
_LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate_____
_LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/_____
_Colonial Revival_____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation __Brick_____
roof __Asphalt_____
walls __Brick_____
other __Wood_____
__Metal/Tin_____

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

Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Butler County, Missouri
County and State

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)

_X__ 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).
Commerce

Period of Significance
__ca. 1880 - 1943_

Significant Dates
__N/A_

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
__N/A_

Cultural Affiliation
__N/A_

Architect/Builder
Unknown

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

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
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: __Historic Preservation Program, Missouri Department of Natural Resources_

Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District _Butler County, Missouri_
Name of Property County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _Approx. 7.1 acres___

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A.	15	732570	4070870	B.	15	732700	4070850
C.	15	732695	4070800	D.	15	732660	4070800

_X__ 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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title___Philip Thomason/Principal_____

organization__Thomason and Associates_____date__October, 1993_____

street & number__P.O. Box 121225_____telephone__615-383-0227_____

city or town___Nashville_____state__TN_____zip code __37212_____

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 _____

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.).

Narrative Description

The Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District is located along sections of S. Broadway and Vine Street in downtown Poplar Bluff, Missouri. The district is composed of one- to three-story commercial buildings constructed primarily during the 1880s and 1890s. Several of these buildings were remodeled the late 1920s and early 1930s following a tornado in 1927 which damaged the downtown area. The district retains its original street and block pattern as laid out during the 1850s with streets running parallel to the Black River in northeast/southwest directions. All of the buildings in the district are of masonry construction and reflect elements of the Italianate and Colonial Revival styles. Within the district are 18 buildings, of which 14 are considered contributing to the character of the district.

The area of the proposed district along Vine and S. Broadway contains the largest intact collection of historic commercial buildings in the city. In recent years, many of the buildings in the downtown area have been altered with modern storefront materials, enclosed upper facade windows, or concealed facades. Many early 20th century buildings surrounding the courthouse have been razed for parking lots or vacant lots. Other commercial buildings are located on the edges of the downtown area and in several of the adjacent neighborhoods. No other significant collection of historic commercial architecture was inventoried in Poplar Bluff. Despite altered storefronts and some upper facade remodeling, the Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District retains much of its original character.

All of the properties included in the historic district are commercial buildings and no other property type is represented.

Individual Property Descriptions:

1. 105-109 South Broadway: This is a two-story brick, five bay, rectangular plan commercial building constructed ca. 1900. The building has three separate storefronts which are divided by brick piers. All of the storefronts were remodeled ca. 1940 with multi-colored Carrara glass panels on the storefront. The storefront was remodeled again in 1965 with metal and glass display windows, doors, and bulkheads. The south bay has an original door opening which leads to a second story staircase. This door opening retains an original single light glass and wood door. Above the door is an enclosed transom. The second story retains five original window bays with each bay containing paired one-over-one rectangular wood sash windows. The windows are set within segmental arches which have three courses of brick relief arching. The windows also have stone sills. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice. (C)

2. 113 South Broadway: This is a two-story brick ca. 1890 building with a ca. 1940 storefront which has black Carrara glass and aluminum storefront windows. The upper facade was rebricked ca. 1960. Original windows have been removed and replaced with four-light fixed metal design. (NC)

3. 117-119 South Broadway - Fraternal Building: This is a three-story brick commercial building constructed in a rectangular plan ca. 1928. The building faces both Poplar and S. Broadway Streets with storefronts on both facades. All of the storefronts have been altered although several retain original single light glass and wood doors. Most storefronts have added metal panels and display windows and enclosed transoms. The north storefront bay on the S. Broadway Street facade is the most original and has original brick bulkheads, a single light glass and wood door, and a large single light display window. Dividing each storefront are brick piers with concrete bases. Dividing the first and second floors is a large cast concrete cornice and rows of soldier course brick. The upper two floors contain five bays of windows on the S. Broadway Street facade and three bays of windows on the Poplar Street facade. Each window bay is divided by a full height brick pilaster with concrete Doric capitals. The window openings have original concrete sills and soldier course lintels. The windows are 12-light casement windows of metal. Between the windows are rectangular panels of decorative brick and concrete laid in diamond patterns. Above the third story windows are two concrete cornices and concrete panels inscribed "IOOF" and "KP." At the roofline is a stepped parapet with concrete coping. (C)

4. 201 South Broadway: This is a two-story, three-bay, ca. 1900 brick structure with a stucco exterior. The main entrance is on the corner of the building. The original door and windows were replaced ca. 1969 with plate glass windows and a metal and glass door. There is an original side entrance on the Broadway facade that has a wood paneled door with a large glass light. There is a glass transom above the door. This door leads to second story stairs. The original windows have been filled in with wood and stucco panels and original windows have been replaced with smaller metal-frame sash windows. (NC)

5. 203 South Broadway: This is a two-story brick, two bay, rectangular plan commercial building constructed ca. 1906. The building's storefront was altered ca. 1960 with metal and glass display windows, doors, and bulkheads. At the corners of the storefront are original cast iron columns with floral capitals. The cast iron was manufactured by the Union Iron and Foundry Co. of St. Louis. On the second floor are two window openings with brick sills. The original windows have been removed and replaced with smaller one-over-one metal windows. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice and flat parapet with terra cotta coping. (C)

6. 205 South Broadway: This is a one-story brick, single bay, Tapestry Brick commercial building constructed ca. 1906. The building has an altered storefront with metal and glass panels and doors added ca. 1960. At the corners of the storefront are cast iron pilasters which retain original capitals with floral designs. The cast iron was manufactured by the Mesker Bros. Company of St. Louis. Above the storefront is a large transom area which has been enclosed with metal panels. Above the transom area is a soldier course lintel. At the roofline are recessed brick panels and brick piers which project above the parapet. In the upper facade are two window bays. The windows have been enclosed with wood panels and ca. 1970 one-over-one sash windows. (C)

7. 207-215 South Broadway: This is a one-story brick, rectangular plan commercial building constructed ca. 1913. The building was constructed with five separate storefronts divided by brick piers. Each storefront has been

altered with the addition of ca. 1970 metal and glass doors, bulkheads, and display windows. The original transom area has been covered with metal panels and across the storefront is a metal awning added ca. 1970. The upper facade retains its original design and includes a soldier course lintel over the transom and elaborate corbelled brick cornice at the roofline. (C)

8. 311-317 Vine Street: This is a one-story, eight-bay brick commercial building built ca. 1905 with two separate sections. The west section contains three storefronts, each with a large plate glass picture window and door. The storefronts have bulkheads of brick and stucco. Two of the doors appear to be original wood frame and single-light doors. These two storefronts are divided by an original cast-iron column. The east section has a storefront with a plate glass window and ca. 1970 metal and glass door. The two sections are separated by a square brick pilaster. There are metal awnings above three of the storefronts. (C)

9. 319-325 Vine Street: This two-story brick building was constructed ca. 1908. The two storefronts were altered ca. 1940 with a black and tan Cararra glass surround. The storefronts have ca. 1970 aluminum and glass display windows, transoms, and entrances. Above the storefront is a metal awning. Windows on the upper story have segmental arches and contain one-over-one rectangular wood sash lights. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice. Ca. 1960 metal awnings have been added over the windows. (C)

10. 400 Vine Street: This is a two-story, six-bay, brick commercial structure built ca. 1905 on a concrete foundation. The original storefront was altered ca. 1940 with black and tan Carrara glass panels. The main entrance is through ca. 1970 double metal and glass doors on the corner of the building. A secondary entrance of double metal and glass doors is located on the north facade. Both entrances have glass transoms. The storefront display windows have wood and stucco bulkheads with Carrara glass panels. Second story windows are original arched, wood frame, one-over-one double-hung sash and ca. 1970 single light design with brick and stucco sills. There is a decorative corbelled brick at the cornice. Remodeling of the upper facade with a stucco exterior took place following the tornado of 1927. (C)

11. 401 Vine Street - Begley Building: This is a three-story brick, rectangular plan, six bay commercial building constructed in 1908. The building was designed with Colonial Revival influences and has two separate storefronts on the main facade. The storefronts retain original cast iron columns and recessed entrances. The entrances have original single-light glass and wood double doors and the original bulkheads have been covered with metal panels. Above the storefronts are six bays of original two light transoms. These transoms are separated by full height cast iron columns. The upper facade has six bays of windows on each floor. Each window has a concrete lintel and sill, and ca. 1928 three-over-one vertical sash windows remain. Dividing each of the upper floor windows and at the corners of the building are brick quoins. Above the third story windows are blind arches with keystones. At the roofline is a terra cotta cornice with dentils and modillion blocks. In the center bay on the third story level is a datestone inscribed "Begley Block Erected 1883 Rebuilt 1908." (C)

12. 406 Vine Street: This is a one-story ca. 1900 brick building. The storefront retains original wood and glass display windows, a recessed entrance and cast iron pilasters which were manufactured by Christopher and Simpson of St. Louis. The storefront has ca. 1970 wood panels. The upper facade has also been covered with ca. 1970 wood panels. (NC)

13. 407-415 Vine Street: Constructed in 1899, this two-story brick building has five separate storefronts and unified upper facade detailing. The 407 storefront has original single-light glass and wood doors and black Carrara glass surround. Bulkheads have Carrara glass panels. The transom has been covered with metal panels. The 409 storefront has added wood panels and a ca. 1965 aluminum and glass door. The 411 storefront has a ca. 1940 black Carrara glass surround with brick bulkheads and a four-light opaque glass transom. The 413 storefront has ca. 1970 metal panels, brick bulkheads, and original cast iron columns. The 415 storefront has ca. 1970 metal panels, an enclosed transom, and an aluminum and glass door. The cast iron on the storefront was manufactured by the "St. Louis Architectural Iron Company." On the upper facade are segmental arched windows with paired one-over-one sash lights. The majority of the windows have been covered with wood panels or enclosed with brick. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice. In the central bay of the 407 facade are original double doors of single-light glass and wood paneled design. This entrance originally led to a balcony which has been removed. (C)

14. 408 Vine Street: This is a ca. 1910 brick building. The exterior was rebricked around 1965 and a modern storefront has been added. (NC)

15. 410 Vine Street: Vacant lot presently used for parking.

16. 416 Vine Street: This is a two-story brick, rectangular plan commercial building constructed ca. 1900 and the main facade was largely rebuilt ca. 1928 following the tornado. The building is of Tapestry Brick style and has been altered on the storefront. The storefront has ca. 1970 metal and glass doors, display windows and transoms. In the west bay of the storefront is an original glass and wood door which leads to a second story staircase. On the second floor are five bays of one-over-one rectangular wood sash windows. Two window openings contain paired one-over-one sash windows. The windows share a concrete sill and above the windows are soldier course lintels. Above the windows is a concrete sill and at the roofline is a flat parapet with concrete coping. (C)

17. 424 Vine Street: Constructed in 1896, the primary facade of the building was rebuilt ca. 1928 following the tornado. The storefront has original (ca. 1928) brick and concrete bulkheads and wood and glass display windows. The transom has been enclosed with wood panels. The entrance has a ca. 1965 aluminum and glass door. The west bay of the storefront has an opening leading to the second floor staircase and a ca. 1965 aluminum and glass door. Dividing the storefront bays are brick piers. Windows in the upper facade have ca. 1970 fixed single-light wood windows. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice. (C)

18. 426-430 Vine Street: This building was constructed in 1896 and the main facade was rebuilt following the tornado of 1927. A fire in 1992 gutted the interior and the facade has recently been razed. The lot is presently vacant.

19. 432-442 Vine Street: Constructed in 1896, this two-story brick commercial building was rebuilt following the 1927 tornado. The building is composed of two storefronts with the east storefront retaining an original surround of black Carrara glass. The Carrara glass panels on the west storefront have been largely removed and only a few remain. The east bay has an original single-light glass and wood door. An original single-light glass and wood door is located in the recessed bay of the east storefront. Above the storefront is a soldier course lintel and brick water table. The west storefront has ca. 1970 aluminum and glass display windows and entrance. On the upper facade, the original windows have been removed and replaced with ca. 1970 single light and two-over-two wood sash windows and wood panels. Above the window openings is a soldier course lintel. At the roofline is a stepped parapet wall. (C)

20. 444 Vine Street: Built in 1896, this two-story brick building was rebuilt following the tornado of 1927. The building has a storefront added ca. 1970 with aluminum and glass display windows, entrances, and bulkheads. Across the width of the storefront is an added metal awning. In the east bay of the storefront is an original single-light glass and wood door which leads to the second story staircase. Windows in the upper facade are paired original one-over-one wood sash. In the facade above the windows are decorative inset wood panels. At the roofline is a corbelled brick cornice. (C)

Statement of Significance

The Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its role in local and regional commerce. The district is located in the center of downtown Poplar Bluff and contains buildings used historically for a variety of retail businesses and offices. Poplar Bluff has been a regional trade center since the 19th century and until recent decades much of the commerce of the city and the county was centered in its historic commercial area (see "Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri" MPS: Late 19th and Early 20th Century Commercial Buildings of Poplar Bluff, Missouri, ca. 1880-1943). The properties which comprise the district represent the largest collection of historic buildings retaining integrity in the downtown area. The buildings are modest examples of the Italianate and Colonial Revival styles and collectively do not possess architectural significance. The district derives its significance through retention of its sense of time and place and association with the mercantile heritage of Poplar Bluff's downtown area.

Poplar Bluff developed into one of the largest population, manufacturing, and commercial centers of southeast Missouri during the late 19th century. Dozens of brick commercial buildings were constructed in its downtown area at the turn of the century. The city was also a center for rail transportation and a large number of hotels were built adjacent to the depots. In the early 20th century, a series of fires and a devastating tornado transformed the appearance of the downtown area and many of its Victorian era buildings were destroyed or rebuilt. The downtown area continued to be the dominant commercial center of the region well into the mid-20th century. The Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District retains the largest concentration of remaining historic commercial buildings in the city and is composed of 14 contributing and 4 non-contributing buildings. These buildings continue to be used for commercial businesses such as offices and specialty stores.

Poplar Bluff was designated in 1849 as the county seat of Butler County.[1] Its location along the Black River established the town as a commercial site dependent upon river trade and transportation. The dense forests and low-lying swamplands surrounding the community hindered road construction and it remained a small community until after the Civil War. The construction of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railroad in 1872 prompted commercial and residential growth in the community.[2] The railroad provided ready access to markets for the abundant timber in the area and numerous lumber companies opened operations in the community. These companies employed hundreds of workers and Poplar Bluff's population grew from 791 in 1880 to 4,321 in 1900.[3]

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[1]George R. Loughead, Early History of Butler County, Missouri (Stinson Press, 1987), p. 7.

[2]David Bruce Deem, History of Butler County, Missouri: A Narrative Account of its Historical Progress, its People and its Principal Interests (Poplar Bluff, MO: Poplar Bluff Printing Company, 1925), p. 29.

[3]Ibid, p. 106-109.

By the late 1870s, many one- to three-story brick commercial buildings had been constructed in and around the public square. These buildings were constructed with designs reflecting the Italianate, Queen Anne, and Second Empire styles which displayed cast iron storefronts, arched windows, and pressed metal upper facades. Dozens of brick Italianate, Queen Anne, and other period style commercial buildings were constructed in the city's downtown district south and west of the courthouse square. This district covered approximately two blocks along Main and Vine Streets. Early businesses included hardware stores, drugstores, general merchandising establishments, a bank, barber shops and an opera house. During the early 1900s the commercial district spread further west to Fifth Street and south to Cedar Street. Manufacturing firms located on the fringes of the downtown commercial area included the Poplar Bluff Ice Company, Poplar Bluff Foundry and Machine Shop, and the J.V. Porter Lumber Company. A number of hotels were located along the railroad as well, concentrated within the vicinity of the railroad depots.

The commercial growth of the city continued, spurred by lumber industries and railroads. Between 1900 and 1910, the population of Poplar Bluff grew from 4,321 to 6,916.[4] This decade witnessed peak timbering of the area's forests and Poplar Bluff was a shipping center for lumber and wood products. To the south and east of the downtown area were several major industries and altogether in 1907 there were 57 manufacturing plants in the city employing 1,387 workers. These included the H.D. Williams Cooperage Company, the Hargrove and Ruth Saw and Planing Mill, and the Palmer Stave and Heading factory.

The increased commercial activity in the community resulted in the enlargement of the downtown commercial area and the construction of new buildings. Several buildings along S. Broadway and Vine Street were constructed in these years, most notably the three-story Begley Building in 1908. The buildings within these blocks contained a wide variety of businesses. The building at 319-321 Vine Street contained a clothier and grocery store on the first floor while the second story contained rooms for a boarding house. A large hardware company was located in the Begley Building at 401 Vine Street with offices in the upper floors. The large building at 407-415 Vine Street contained a variety of businesses such as a farm machinery company, undertaker, and bottling works. On S. Broadway the buildings contained drug stores, dry goods shops, and other businesses.

Poplar Bluff's commercial activity and population growth peaked in the period from 1900 to 1910. Second Street became heavily populated with manufacturing firms and hotels while blocks between Fourth and Second Streets housed various commercial businesses. In 1910, Main Street served as home to dry goods stores, grocery stores, jewelers, milliners and tailors. A movie house was located on N. Main Street and an adding machine and typewriter company was located on Pine Street. New manufacturing companies along Second Street included a wagon shop at 102 N. Second and machine shop at 525 N. Second.[5]

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[4]Ibid, p. 107-110.

[5] Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1901 and 1910.

In addition to the increase in commercial activity, the prominence of railroads resulted in the construction of hotels and train depots within the downtown area of Poplar Bluff. The city was a major stop on the railroad between St. Louis and Little Rock, resulting in the construction of over a dozen hotels in and around downtown. Sanborn maps from 1901 show at least four hotels surrounding the St. Louis-Iron Mountain train depot, including the Crown Hotel at the corner of Cherry and Fourth Streets, the Riverside Hotel at 226-227 Ash Street, the Central Hotel at 206 Second Street and the Van Winkle Hotel at the corner of Cedar and Main Streets.[6] Today, only one unaltered early hotel still stands. Located at the corner of Poplar and Second Streets, the Ozark Hotel was constructed in 1911. Its Colonial Revival style of architecture was typical of other brick buildings constructed in Poplar Bluff in the early 20th century. Two train depots constructed during the early 1900s also remain in the downtown area. These include the Union Pacific Depot on Main Street built in 1910, and the Frisco Depot on Moran Street built in 1928. The Union Pacific Depot remains in use as a freight depot while the Frisco Depot has been rehabilitated for use as a train museum. The Ozark Hotel, Union Pacific Depot, and Frisco Depot have been individually nominated to the National Register.

After 1910, diminishing timber reserves in the area led to the closing of many of the lumber related industries and the city grew by little over 1,000 residents from 1910 to 1920. The downtown area continued to be an active vital commercial center for the region; however, little new building construction occurred during most of the 1920s.[7] By 1924, the downtown area contained less than a dozen dwellings along Second Street. Large manufacturing firms had moved into this area including a wholesale grocery company at the corner of Poplar and Second, and the Hamilton Brown Shoe Company adjacent to the Black River. A new movie theater opened at 310-314 Pine Street while the one on Main Street also remained in operation. Residential apartments replaced businesses at 203-215 Pine Street and at least two banks operated downtown, one at 200 S. Main and another at 102 S. Main.[8]

The appearance of the downtown area was extensively changed by the tornado of May 9, 1927. The tornado cut a swath directly through the commercial area going from southwest to northeast along S. Broadway and Main Street. The tornado killed 82 people and it destroyed or damaged every building along its path east of Fifth Street to Second Street. Before crossing the Black River it wrecked the Butler County Courthouse to such an extent that the building had to be razed. Some buildings only incurred minimal damage such as the loss of brick or metal cornices and blown out windows and storefronts. Other buildings were largely destroyed such as the building at 117-119 S. Broadway. The remnants of the building were razed and a new three-story building was completed on the site in 1928. The rebuilding of the downtown area after the 1927 tornado reflected simpler masonry forms which are

[6]Ibid, 1901.

[7]Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1901, 1910, 1917, 1924, 1928.

[8]Ibid, 1924.

commonly called "Tapestry Brick." These facades are characterized by rectangular windows, minimal brick cornices at the roofline, and decoration largely confined to brick patterns in the upper facade. Most of the buildings in the 400 block of Vine Street were rebuilt after 1927 with these characteristics. The Begley Block survived the tornado relatively undamaged, retaining its original Colonial Revival stylistic influences and two separate storefronts with original cast iron columns and recessed entrances. This building housed the city's first elevator and many prominent businesses during the early 20th century. The tornado resulted in the loss of much of the downtown area's Victorian era character.[9]

Few buildings were constructed or rebuilt over the next few decades in the downtown area. The timber industry in the region had declined dramatically by 1930 due to the removal of much of the area's old growth forests. Many of the lumber related businesses closed during the 1920s or were put out of business by the economic conditions of the Depression. Following World War II, much of the new commercial activity moved to automobile oriented strip shopping areas along Highways 60 and 67. Many of the city's original hotels and other commercial buildings in the downtown area were razed or vacated.

Over the past few decades most buildings in the downtown area have been altered through the addition of modern storefronts or concealment of upper facade detailing. Despite these changes and alterations, the blocks to the west and south of the intersection of Vine and S. Broadway retain sufficient character to maintain the sense of their early 20th century time and place. With the exception of the Begley Block and the Fraternal Building, the buildings in the district are largely modest examples of period commercial styles.

In recent years there has been renewed interest in Poplar Bluff's downtown area. The city has become part of the state's Main Street Program and rehabilitation is planned for several buildings. To the south of the district the Frisco Depot has been rehabilitated into a train museum which is hoped to spur tourism in the downtown area. The proposed district along Vine Street and S. Broadway contains Poplar Bluff's most extensive collection of intact historic commercial buildings. Despite alterations and loss of some of the original downtown character, this collection retains much of its original character.

Additional information on the Poplar Bluff Commercial District is located in the accompanying Multiple Property Cover Document, "Historic Resources of Poplar Bluff, Missouri".

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[9]Richard Minetree, "Tornado, 1927," Butler County Missouri, Vol. II (Poplar Bluff, MO: Butler County Genealogical Society, 1988), p. 11.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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UTM References

E. 15/732620/4070640
F. 15/732570/4070650
G. 15/732590/7070770
H. 15/732480/4070790
I. 15/732490/4070840

Verbal boundary description

The boundary for the Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District is shown as the heavy broken line on the accompanying map, "Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Butler Co., MO," drawn to a scale of 1"=100'.

Verbal boundary justification

The boundary for the Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District is drawn to include the largest collection of contiguous pre-1945 commercial buildings which retain their historic and architectural character in the downtown area. Surrounding the district are parking lots, post-1945 buildings, or pre-1945 buildings which have been extensively altered. A few unaltered early 20th century buildings are located one block east of the district along S. Main Street. However, on the east side of S. Broadway is a two-story parking garage which dominates the block and these buildings are therefore omitted from the district.

Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff
Butler County, Missouri
Photos by: Thomason and Associates
Date: August, 1993
Location of Negatives: Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory
Missouri Department of Natural Resources
Jefferson City, MO

Photo No. 1: 200 block of S. Broadway, view towards northwest.

Photo No. 2: 200 block of S. Broadway, view towards southwest.

Photo No. 3: 100 block of S. Broadway, view towards northwest.

Photo No. 4: Fraternal Building at 117-119 S. Broadway, view towards northwest.

Photo No. 5: 100 block of S. Broadway, view towards southwest.

Photo No. 6: South side of 300 and 400 blocks of Vine Street, view towards southwest.

Photo No. 7: 416 Vine Street, view towards southeast.

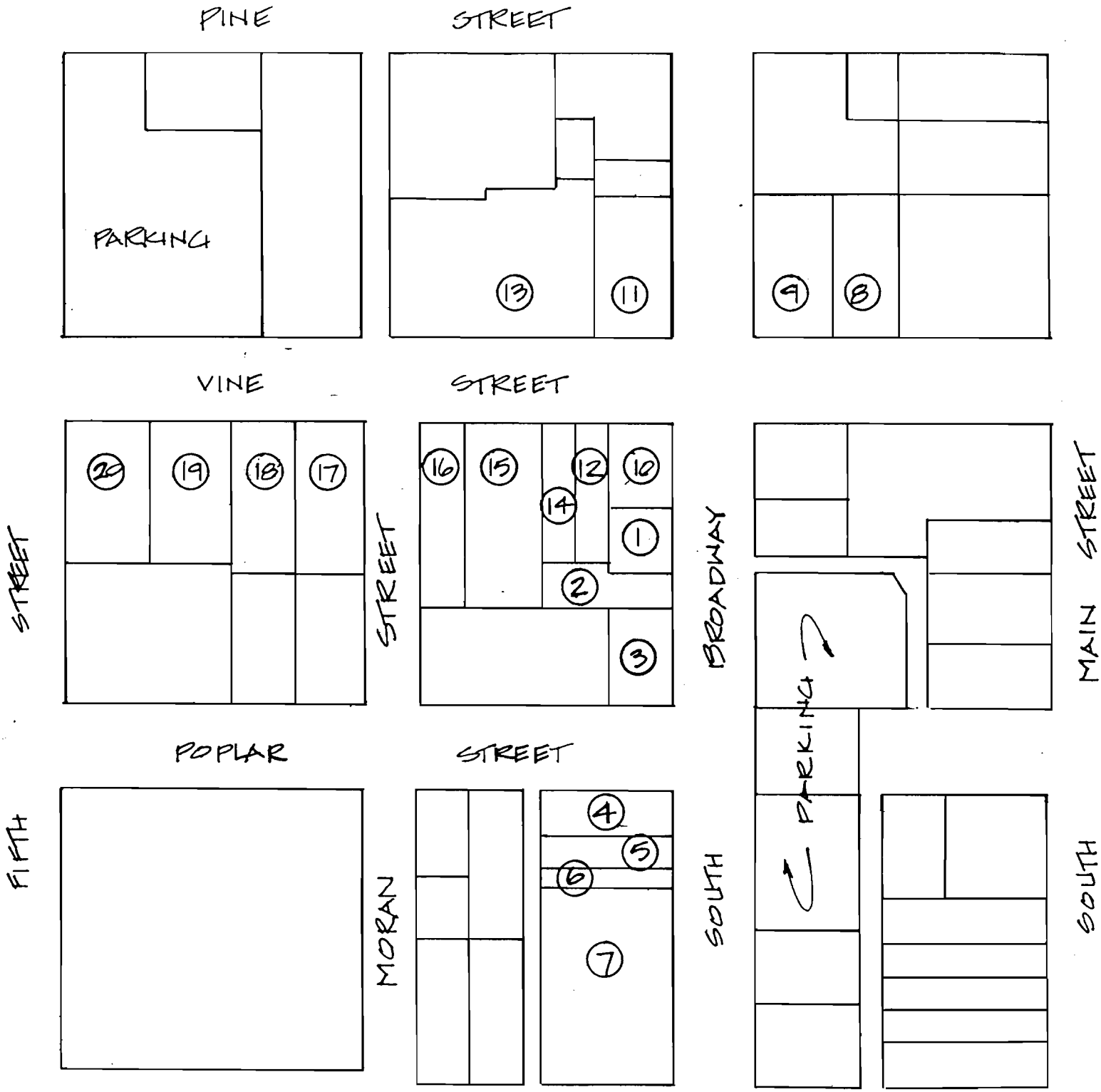
Photo No. 8: 400 block of south side of Vine Street, view towards southwest. (NOTE: the facade of 426-430 Vine Street has been razed since this photograph was completed).

Photo No. 9: 400 block of south side of Vine Street, view towards southeast. (NOTE: the facade of 426-430 Vine Street has been razed since this photograph was completed).

Photo No. 10: 400 block of north side of Vine Street, view towards northeast.

Photo No. 11: 400 block of north side of Vine Street, view towards northwest.

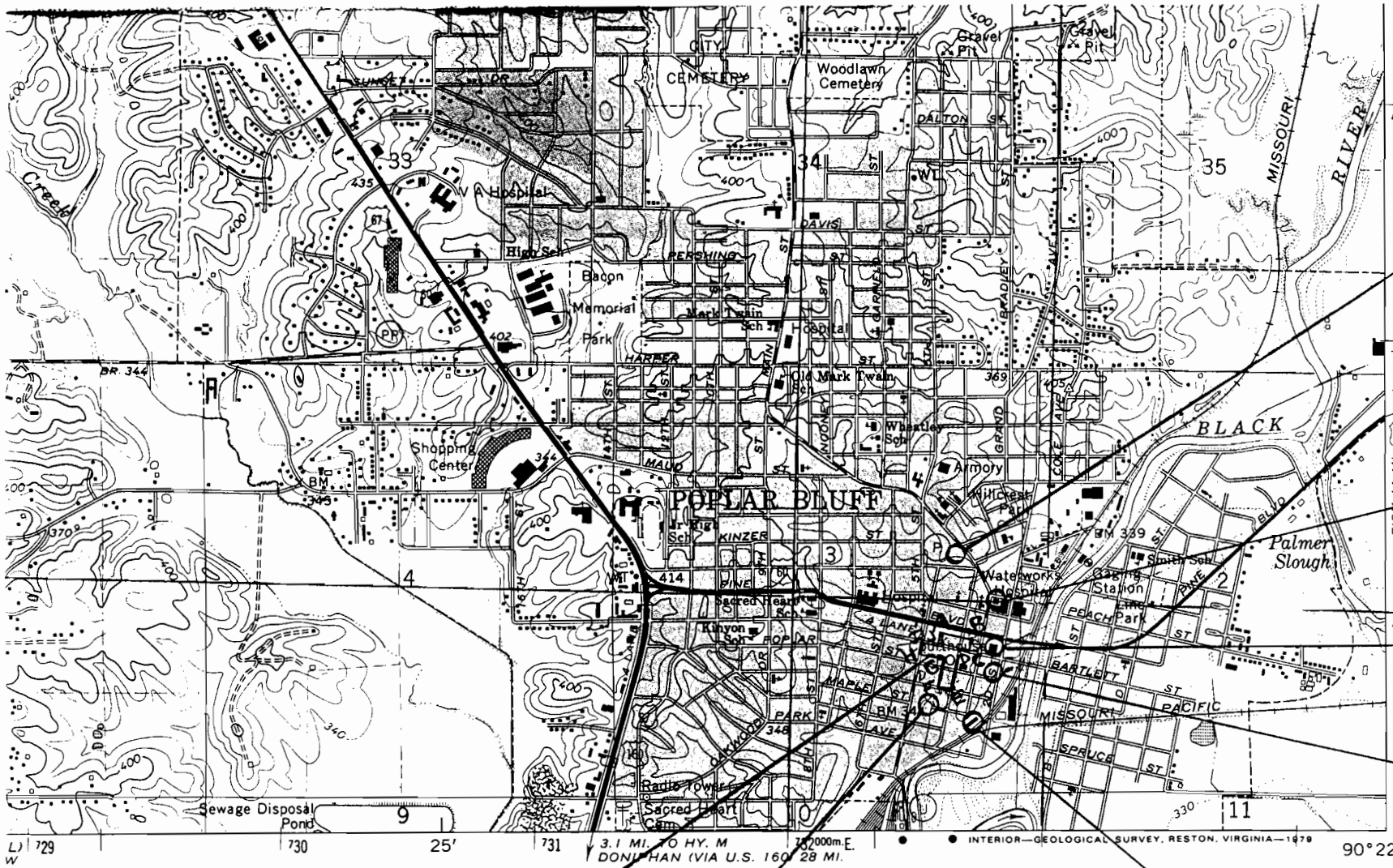
Photo No. 12: 300 block of north side of Vine Street, view towards northwest.



Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District
Butler Co., MO

SCALE: 1" = 100'

N



MOORE-DALTON HOUSE 15/732640/4071180

POPLAR BLUFF PUBLIC LIBRARY 15/732800/4071000

THE BUILDING 15/732790/4070720

BUTLER COUNTY COURTHOUSE 15/732790/4070820

ST. LOUIS, IRON MOUNTAIN AND SOUTHERN 15/732710/4070510

ST. LOUIS-SAN FRANCISCO R.R. DEPOT 15/732530/4070580

000

1 MILE

4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 KILOMETER

AL 20 FEET
5-FOOT CONTOURS
AL DATUM OF 1929

. MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
OLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
URVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
D SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

POPLAR BLUFF COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

A. 15/732570/4070870
B. 15/732700/4070850
C. 15/732695/4070800
D. 15/732660/4070800
E. 15/732620/4070640
F. 15/732570/4070650
G. 15/732590/4070770
H. 15/732480/4070790
I. 15/732490/4070840

MISSOURI

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface

Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface

Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface

Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

POPLAR BLUFF, MO.

SW/4 POPLAR BLUFF 15' QUADRANGLE

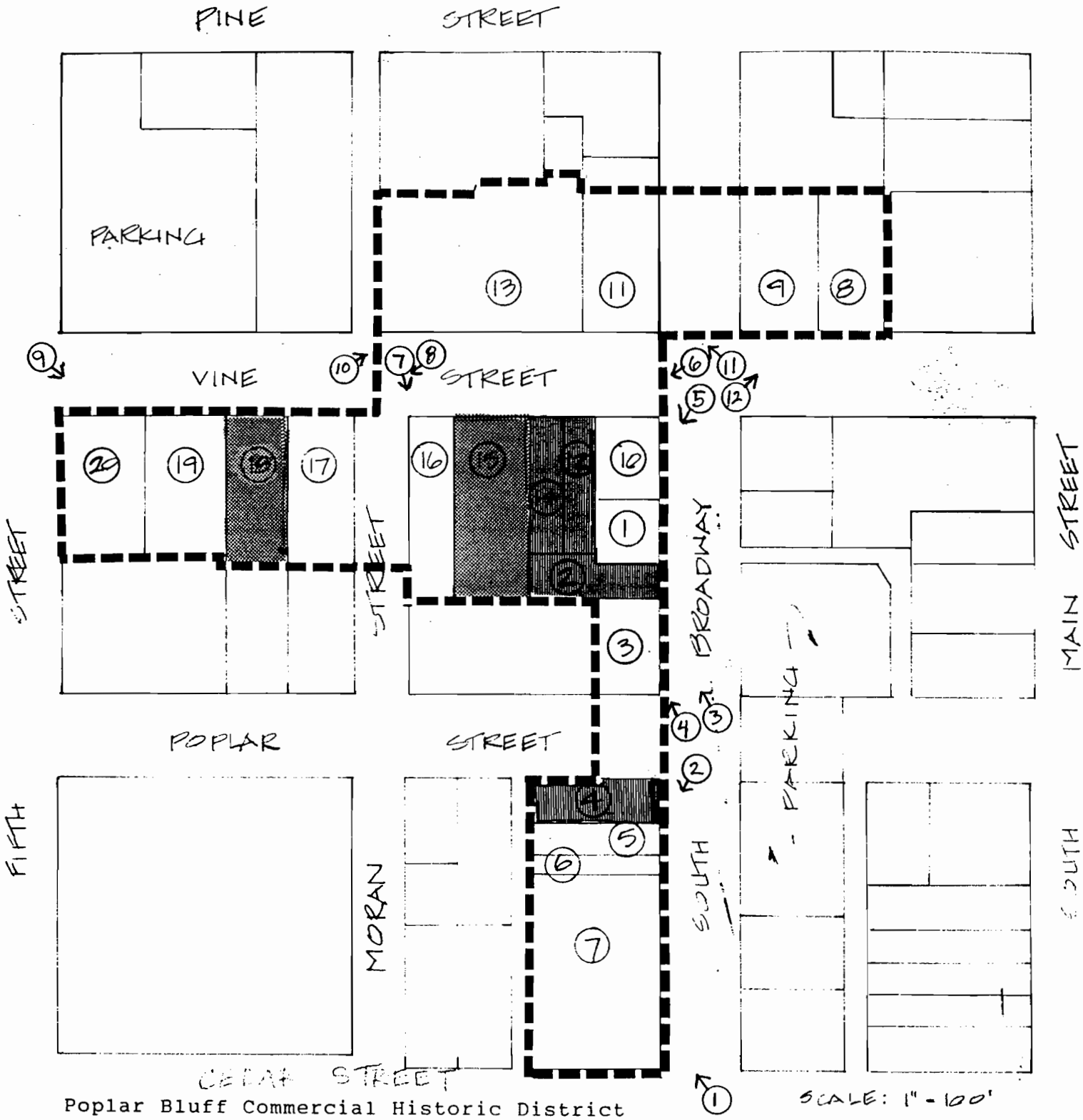
N3645—W9022.5/7.5

1966

PHOTOREVISED 1979

AMS 7957 IV SW—SERIES V879

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF POPLAR BLUFF (BUTLER COUNTY) MO



Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District
Butler Co., MO

Photo Key

Vacant Lot

Noncontributing Property

N

Photo #1 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO -

Photo #2 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO - But

Photo # 3 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO - Bu

Photo #4 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO -

Photo #5 of 12 -Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO - B

Photo #6 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO - Bu

Photo #7 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO

Photo #8 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO -

Photo #9 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO

Photo #10 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO-Bu

Photo # 11 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO - B

Photo # 12 of 12 - Poplar Bluff Commercial Historic District, Poplar Bluff, MO