

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Temple Commercial Historic District
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Roughly bounded by French Avenue, 3rd Street, Avenue D, and 6th Street.
CITY OR TOWN: Temple **VICINITY:** N/A **NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A
STATE: Texas **CODE:** TX **COUNTY:** Bell **CODE:** 027 **ZIP CODE:** 76501

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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

Signature of certifying official

Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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): _____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private, Public-local, Public-federal

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: District

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:

CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING	
111	48	BUILDINGS
0	0	SITES
1	1	STRUCTURES
0	0	OBJECTS
112	49	TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 1 (Kyle Hotel)

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:

COMMERCE: business, professional, financial institution, specialty store, restaurant, warehouse

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

GOVERNMENT: government office, post office

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility, communications facility, warehouse

DOMESTIC: hotel, single family dwelling, multiple dwelling

RELIGION: religious facility

SOCIAL: meeting hall

RECREATION: theater

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:

COMMERCE: business, professional, financial institution, specialty store, restaurant, warehouse

TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

GOVERNMENT: government offices, fire station

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility, industrial storage

RELIGION: religious facility

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, Renaissance Revival, Romanesque Revival, Gothic Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH C. REVIVALS: Beaux-Arts, Classical Revival, Spanish Eclectic

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH C. AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Prairie School, Commercial Style

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco, Moderne, International Style

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION BRICK, CONCRETE
WALLS BRICK, CONCRETE, STUCCO, WOOD
ROOF CERAMIC TILE, ASPHALT
OTHER GLASS, CAST IRON, TERRA COTTA

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-16).

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- 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 VALUE, 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: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Commerce; Transportation; Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1881–1955

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1881, 1928, 1929

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: George Louis Walling; A. O. Watson; Sanguinet & Staats; Jarvis Hunt; W. B. Palmer; Wyatt C. Hedrick

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-17 through 8-29).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-30 through 9-33).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

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

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University (Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin)
- Other (Railroad and Heritage Museum, Temple, Texas; Bell County Museum, Belton, Texas)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: 100.62 acres

UTM REFERENCES: (see continuation sheet 10-34)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: (see continuation sheet 10-34 through 10-35)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: (see continuation sheet 10-36)

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Lannie Ethridge Kittrell, Architectural Historian/Historian

ORGANIZATION: Prewitt and Associates, Inc.

DATE: February 15, 2005

STREET & NUMBER: 2105 Donley Drive, Suite 400

TELEPHONE: 512/459-3349

CITY OR TOWN: Austin

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 78758

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-43)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-41 through Photo-42)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS (see continuation sheets Figure-36 through Figure-40)

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: On file with Texas Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER:

TELEPHONE:

CITY OR TOWN: Temple

STATE: Texas

ZIP CODE: 76501

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Temple Commercial Historic District
Temple, Bell County, Texas

Description

The Temple Commercial Historic District includes the original commercial center of Temple, Texas. The district encompasses approximately 23 city blocks that extend north from the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, a portion of the railroad tracks, and a few properties south of the tracks. The district is bounded roughly by 3rd Street on the west, French and Downs Avenues to the north, 2nd and 4th Streets on the east, and Avenues C and D on the south. Despite some new construction and a few cleared lots for surface parking, many of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century properties in the commercial center are generally in good condition and retain their integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Historic properties in the district include commercial, institutional, and industrial property types. Commercial properties include retail space, offices, banks, and restaurants; institutional properties include buildings dedicated to public use and governmental purposes; industrial properties include manufacturing establishments and warehouses. A few religious and residential properties are also within the district boundaries. The most common architectural styles in the district are Classical Revival and Art Deco. The district includes a total of 161 properties, including 159 buildings and 2 structures, with 112 classified as Contributing and 49 classified as Noncontributing. Of the 49 Noncontributing properties, 19 postdate the district's period of significance and 30 have either had unsympathetic alterations or do not retain sufficient integrity.

Temple is just east of Interstate Highway 35, at the intersection of State Highways 53 and 95, in northeastern Bell County. The land surrounding Temple is slightly hilly blackland prairie. The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, commonly referred to as the Santa Fe, founded the city of Temple, locating their division headquarters at the three-point triangular-shaped division for the railroad. The hub of the railroad's activity, with a line proceeding to the north, one heading west, and the third heading in a southeasterly direction, remains just southwest of the central business district. The terrain in the district is relatively flat and low near railroad tracks rising slightly towards the north and east.

The streets and blocks in the Temple Commercial Historic District are based on a parallel and perpendicular grid pattern and date to the original city layout from the early 1880s. The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad surveyed Temple in 1881, and divided the land into 65 numbered blocks with railroad tracks running in an east to west direction through the center (Figure 1). The Santa Fe's main line converged with its Fort Worth branch just west of these blocks. Blocks are divided up into lots with the highest density nearest the railroad. The north and south streets are numbered and east and west streets are avenues.

Green space was historically a block that served as city park and space between the railroad tracks, the depot, the YMCA, and the Harvey House hotel at the southern boundary of the district. Today, vegetation is limited to a few sidewalk plantings and green space around the Municipal Building and at the southern end of the district where a park replaced the demolished YMCA building. The city closed a couple of streets interrupting the street-and-block grid pattern. The original city park block is now a parking lot (Figure 2).

The earliest commercial development, dating to the late 1880s, is closest to the Santa Fe Railroad on Blocks 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, and 30, directly north of the tracks. The three-story, Victorian-era opera house and market building stood at the center of public square Block 13, where the Municipal Building stands today. The area between the Santa Fe Depot, YMCA, and Harvey House hotel was a vital public space in the city. Today only the depot remains. During the last decades of the nineteenth century brick one- and two-part commercial blocks replaced earlier one-story wood-frame or brick buildings. The newer buildings generally shared massing, scale, and setback from the street; they often reflected late Victorian-era styles, such as Gothic and Italianate. The west 100 block of S. 1st Street has some of the earliest extant Victorian buildings in the district.

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At the turn of the century, Temple's commercial center expanded, spreading north, east, and west of the original six-block core. The highest concentration of commercial blocks fronted S. 1st and S. Main Streets between Central Avenue and Avenue B. Classical Revival one- and two-part commercial block buildings constructed during the first two decades of the twentieth century are a prominent component of the district. The west 10 block of S. 2nd Street has a concentration of Classical Revival-influenced commercial block buildings. Temple had a Beaux-Arts Carnegie Library in the center of the city park block, churches, hotels, and the extant Renaissance Revival post office by the early 1910s. In 1908, Chief Engineer C. F. W. Felt petitioned the Galveston headquarters to build the current depot and the Santa Fe hired award-winning Chicago architect, Jarvis Hunt, to design it and a matching hotel. The Santa Fe Depot, built 1909–1911, at the southwestern end of the district is an excellent example of depot form constructed in the Beaux-Arts and Prairie School architectural styles.

Through the first half of the twentieth century new commercial establishments developed farther from the railroad tracks, towards the city's northern and eastern residential districts. By the early 1920s commercial buildings replaced residential blocks north of Central Avenue. The east 10 block and the west 100 block of N. Main Street are examples of commercial blocks constructed during the 1920s. With Temple's thriving economy and building boom of the late 1920s, many Art Deco buildings including the Municipal Building and Arcadia Theater were constructed in the district. In the 1930s, Spanish-influenced one-part commercial block buildings opened at the 500 block of N. 3rd Street and at 314–316 E. Avenue A and 206 E. Adams Avenue. The commercial buildings at the southeast corner of N. 3rd Street and W. French Avenue and the building at 215 N. Main Street are examples of the Spanish Eclectic style. The Moderne style of the 1940s is evident at 102 W. Elm Avenue and 220 N. Main Street. Examples of International Style buildings constructed in the 1940s and 1950s in the district include 4 N. 3rd Street and 201 E. Avenue A.

Important changes occurred to the physical environment of the district in the mid-twentieth century including exterior alterations to many historic buildings and demolition to make space for parking lots. Common alterations, often intended to keep up with popular styles, included application of new materials to original exteriors or new signage. The most heavily altered commercial blocks in the district are the west 10 and 100 blocks of S. Main Street. In addition many holes were created in the overall historic fabric of the district with removal of individual buildings. For example, the Gothic Revival Hammersmith Building at the southeast corner of S. 1st Street and W. Avenue A is now a surface parking lot. Also, the Carnegie Library burned in 1918 and the city park block became a parking lot in the early 1950s.

Property Types

The majority of the 161 total properties in the district are commercial buildings. Commercial block building types in the district fall within the subtypes of one-part and two-part commercial block buildings. Stylistic features reveal much about a building's construction date as well as broad trends in a town's architectural history and development. Commercial buildings constructed in a particular architectural style are infrequent. More often, historic-age commercial buildings incorporated a variety of styles or only used minimal ornamentation and, thus, are difficult to classify by style. Commercial buildings in the district are classified by façade composition with a brief discussion of stylistic influences. The most common property types identified in the district are discussed below. Other property types in the district include 14 industrial, 8 institutional, and 2 transportation properties. There are also 5 religious properties, 5 single-family dwellings, and 1 multiple-family dwelling.

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Property Type: One-Part Commercial Block

The one-part commercial block building can be defined as a simple box, often one-story, with a decorated façade thoroughly urban in its overtones (Longstreth 2000). This property type is the most common in the district, constructed as early as the 1890s and as late as the 1950s. Differences in the parapet and exterior façade material reflect stylistic influences and date of construction. Corbeled brickwork typically indicates late-nineteenth or very early-twentieth century construction. Corbeled brickwork utilizing different colored brick with a symmetrical pattern often portrays the Classical Revival style of the early twentieth century. Buildings that date to the 1920s and 1930s often have smooth façades with limited stylistic details in the parapet or stepped parapet walls representing the Art Deco style or are of stucco with ceramic-tile coping representing Spanish influence.

There are 70 one-part commercial block buildings and 36 two-part commercial block buildings in the district. The majority of the one-part commercial block buildings in the district are considered Contributing. Those that are considered Noncontributing either have unsympathetic alterations to the façade or do not retain enough integrity to portray the original building. Representative examples of the one-part commercial block building include the 1910s building at 8 S. 2nd Street that have an early Art Deco addition of glazed white terra cotta and the red-brick corner building at 101 S. 2nd Street.

The property at 8 S. 2nd Street can also be considered a one-story enframed window wall with tile along the sides framing the window as a whole. Other one-story buildings in the district that share this treatment include 105 and 107 S. 2nd Street.

Property Type: Two-Part Commercial Block

The two-part commercial block building is generally characterized as a box that can be divided into two distinct horizontal zones or divisions (Longstreth 2000). With 36 two-part commercial block buildings in the district, there are about half as many two-part commercial block types as one-part commercial block types. The two-part commercial block building is often at prominent corner lots.

The concentration of two-part commercial block buildings are on the western half of Blocks 14 and 22 facing Main Street, with one-part commercial block types throughout the district. The Italianate two-part commercial block building at 116 S. 1st Street is the earliest example of this type in the district. The Art Deco influenced two-part commercial block building at 2 S. 1st Street and the Classical Revival influenced property that has had minor alterations at 120 S. 1st Street are examples of corner lot buildings.

Property Type: Three-Part Vertical Block

The three-part vertical block type is a basic stacked vertical block building that has three distinct zones (Longstreth 2000). Buildings more than two stories tall are not common in the district but are prominent because of their towering stature relative to one- and two-part commercial block buildings. In the late 1920s Temple's skyline added three skyscrapers. These new buildings, all constructed in 1927 and 1928, are at the eastern and northern edges of the central business district.

The Classical Revival and Spanish-influenced Doering Hotel and the Mediterranean and Pueblo-influenced Kyle Hotel are representative examples of the three-part vertical block type. The Spanish-influenced-Commercial Style Professional

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Building, at 105 E. Central Avenue, is an example of a two-part vertical block building with its divided upper stories and ground floor.

Property Type: Institutional Buildings

Institutional buildings include federal, county, and municipal governments buildings erected with public monies. These buildings are often architectural landmarks because they are typically freestanding, architect-designed buildings. The institutional buildings in the district are finely crafted and designed in a particular architectural style.

Representative examples in the district include Wyatt C. Hedrick's 1928 Art Deco Municipal Building and the 1912 Renaissance Revival post office building at 101 N. Main Street, designed by James Knox Taylor.

Property Type: Industrial Buildings

Industrial buildings include manufacturing facilities, warehouses, and communications facilities. Most of the industrial buildings are closest to the railroad tracks in the district. Jupe Feed Mill is a manufacturing facility directly south of the railroad. Many historic-age storage buildings are also in this area. Although industrial buildings in the district are often devoid of stylistic ornamentation, most are considered Contributing properties.

Definition of Categories

Properties are categorized as either Contributing or Noncontributing to the district's overall historic and physical character. The district and its components must retain enough integrity to convey its role as Temple's central business district. The National Park Service defines the seven aspects of integrity as location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Contributing and Noncontributing status is determined by applying these aspects of integrity and evaluating the properties in the district. The issue of integrity is critical for the Temple Commercial Historic District because many of the buildings have been altered over the years. However, the concentration of historic properties and the common physical traits they share such as original setback, scale, massing, and association to the railroad and depot clearly distinguish the district as a commercial and transportation core for Temple.

Following is a list of extant properties in the Temple Commercial Historic District organized by assigned property number. Each property in the district is identified with address, building type, approximate date of construction, stylistic influence (where appropriate) and property name or historic association. The actual date of construction is provided whenever possible and dates of major alterations are also noted. The status column refers to the property's contributing category as a resource to the historic district; Contributing (C) or Noncontributing (NC) status is assigned to each property.

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Prop. No.	Status	Address	Building Type	Date of Construction	Stylistic Influence	Property Name/ Historic Association
1	C	102 W. Elm	institutional building	1940s	Moderne	Temple High Gym
2	C	N. 3rd/ W. French	L-shaped one-part commercial blocks	1930s	Spanish Eclectic	shopping center
3	NC	505 N. 3rd	institutional building	1964		Fire Station #1
4	NC	401 N. 3rd	two-story commercial building	1960s		vacant
5	NC	319 N. 3rd	gas station	1940s/1970s		Humble Oils
6	C	315 N. 3rd	one-part commercial block	1950s		Temple Chiropractic Center
7	NC	301 N. 3rd	one-story commercial building	1960s		Turley Assoc., Inc.
8	NC	301 N. 3rd	one-story commercial building	1960s		First Baptist Church, A
9	NC	217 N. 3rd	church building	1980s		First Baptist Church, C
10	C	215 N. 3rd	one-part commercial block	1950s	International Style	First Baptist Church, D/ Texas National Bank
11	NC	120 W. Central	institutional building	ca. 1990		Visitors Center
12	NC	1 S. 3rd	one-story commercial building	1960s		garage and tire store
13	C	17 S. 3rd	one-part commercial block	ca. 1945	International Style	Channel 17
14	C	4 N. 3rd	one-part commercial block	1940s	International Style	S. E. Inc.
15	NC	10 N. 3rd	one-story commercial building	1960s		office
16	C	18 N. 3rd	two-part commercial block	1910s	Classical Revival	Elbert Aldrich Realtor/ Doering Motor Car Co.
17	C	416 N. 3rd	one-part commercial block	1930s		Edward Jones Investment Co.
18	C	420 N. 3rd	gas station	1950s	mid-century modern	The Print Shop
19	C	504 N. 3rd	one-part commercial block	1930s		vacant
20	C	510 N. 3rd	one-part commercial block	1930s		Lifegate Christian Fellowship
21	C	319 N. 1st	two-part commercial block	1900s/1920s/ 1960s		dry cleaners
22	C	117 N. 1st	industrial building	1920s/1960s	Classical Revival and International Style	Southwestern Bell

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Prop. No.	Status	Address	Building Type	Date of Construction	Stylistic Influence	Property Name/ Historic Association
23	NC	1 S. 1st	one-part commercial block	1930s/1990s		Heartland Resources and Greg Davis Properties
24	C	5 S. 1st	one-part commercial block	1930s		Abundant Life Christian Fellowship
25	NC	10-18 Ave. A	multi-story commercial building	1980s		Texell Credit Union
26	C	115 S. 1st	one-part commercial block	1900s/1960s	Spanish	vacant
27	NC	117 S. 1st	altered two-part commercial block	1900s/1960s		B&W Beauty Co.
28	C	200? S. 1st	industrial building	1940s		Dock High Connection
29	C	120 S. 1st	two-part commercial block	ca. 1885	Classical Revival	Veteran's Café/ Masonic Lodge
30	C	118-118 A S. 1st	one-part commercial block	1890s/1920s	Victorian	Exquisite Expressions
31	C	116 S. 1st	two-part commercial block	1894	Italianate	Cotton Gin Saloon
32	NC	114 S. 1st	two-part commercial block	1890s	Victorian	theater
33	NC	112 S. 1st	one-part commercial block	1930s		Open Arms Methodist
34	C	110-110-1/2 S. 1st	one-part commercial block	1930s		First National Bank of Temple
35	C	26 S. 1st	one-part commercial block	1930s	Art Deco	EZ Pawn
36	C	24 S. 1st	one-part commercial block	1930s	Art Deco	EZ Pawn
37	C	6 S. 1st	one-part commercial block	1920s	Spanish	Bob's Boot and Shoe Repair
38	C	4 S. 1st	two-part commercial block	1920s	Art Deco	theater
39	C	2 S. 1st/107-109 W. Central	two-part commercial block	1926/1960s	Art Deco	Covington Credit Loans, Chick-Fil-A, etc.
40	C	315 N. Main	L-shaped one-story commercial strip	1950s		strip mall offices
41	NC	217 N. Main	one-part commercial block	1960s		L&M Electronics
42	C	215 N. Main	one-part commercial block	1930s	Spanish Eclectic	apartments
43	NC	213 N. Main	altered one-part commercial block	1930s/1980s		Korean First Baptist Church

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Prop. No.	Status	Address	Building Type	Date of Construction	Stylistic Influence	Property Name/ Historic Association
44	C	111 N. Main	three-part vertical block	1928	Mediterranean and Pueblo	Kyle Hotel
45	C	101 N. Main	institutional building	1912	Renaissance Revival	Temple College Downtown Center/ Temple Post Office/ Temple Public Library
46	C	17-19 N. Main	two-part commercial block	1910s/1930s/ 1960s		vacant
47	C	15 N. Main	two-part commercial block	ca. 1928	Art Deco	Baird, Crews, Schiller & Whitaker, P.C.
48	NC	11-13 N. Main	two-part commercial block	1928/1970s		vacant
49	NC	7-9 N. Main	two-part commercial block	1929/1970s		vacant
50	NC	1-5 N. Main/ 8 E. Central	one-part commercial block	1910s/1990s		Morgan Stanley and Dean Witter, Western Finance
51	C	1 S. Main	two-part commercial block	1910s/1990s	Classical Revival	Roming, Parker and Kasberg, LLP/ Hendler's Dept. Store
52	NC	3-5 S. Main	altered two-part commercial block	1912/1970s		parking building
53	NC	7-9 S. Main	altered two-part commercial block	1910s/1970s		parking building/ Woolworth's
54	NC	13 S. Main	two-part commercial block	1900s/1970s		In the Mood Ballroom
55	NC	15 S. Main	two-part commercial block	1900s/1970s		Cue's
56	C	17 S. Main	two-part commercial block	1900s/1950s		vacant
57	C	19 S. Main/ 6-10 E. Ave. A	two-part commercial block	ca. 1888/1960s	Victorian	Optical Association Building/ Farmers State Bank Building
58	NC	101 S. Main	institutional building	1980s	Brutalism	W. R. Poage Federal Building
59	C	201 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1910s/1980s		Club Rodeo
60	NC	203-205 S. Main	one-part commercial block	ca. 1900		vacant
61	C	207 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1920s		vacant
62	NC	210 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1950s		Boxing
63	C	204 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1920s		St. Vincent de Paul thrift store
64	C	202 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1920s		vacant

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Prop. No.	Status	Address	Building Type	Date of Construction	Stylistic Influence	Property Name/ Historic Association
65	C	120 S. Main	(two) one-part commercial blocks	1890s/1970s		Pawn shop
66	C	118 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1890s/1940s		Impression's
67	C	116 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1890s/1960s	mid-century modern	Johnnie's Cleaners
68	C	112 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1890s/1960s		store
69	NC	110-108 S. Main	(two) one-part commercial blocks	1890s/1960s	mid-century modern	1st Finance and Furniture
70	NC	18 S. Main	multi-story commercial building	ca. 1960/1990s		First National Bank of Temple
71	NC	16 S. Main	altered two-part commercial block	1900s/1960s	mid-century modern	Dollar General Store
72	NC	12 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1900s/1960s		Unity Church
73	C	10 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1900s/1960s		J & L Shoes
74	C	8 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1900s/1960s		blood donor center/ Cox's Mens Clothing
75	C	4-6 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1900s/1960s		Living's Barber Shop & Downtown Diner
76	C	2 S. Main/ 3-11 W. Central	two-part commercial block	1920s/1970s		Security Finance Loans, Books, Massage Therapist, etc.
77	C	2 N. Main	institutional building	1929	Art Deco	Municipal Building
78	NC	100 N. Main/ 6-10 W. Adams	altered two-part commercial block	1910s/1960s		Consumer Finance Loans/ Temple State Bank Building
79	C	106 N. Main	two-part commercial block	1920s	Art Deco	Home Furniture
80	C	108 N. Main	altered two-part commercial block	1910s/1960s		vacant
81	C	110 N. Main	two-part commercial block	1930s	Art Deco	art studio
82	NC	204 N. Main	one-part commercial block	1960s		First Baptist Church, F
83	C	220 N. Main	two-part commercial block	1940s	Moderne	Blanks, Greenfields & Rhodes
84	C	12 W. Calhoun	church building	1905	Gothic Revival	Christ Episcopal Church of Temple
85	C	17 N. 2nd	one-part commercial block	1920s		Fish Bowl
86	C	11 N. 2nd	one-part commercial block	1920s/1970s		Temple Help Center

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Prop. No.	Status	Address	Building Type	Date of Construction	Stylistic Influence	Property Name/ Historic Association
87	C	3-5 S. 2nd	two-part commercial block	1910s	Classical Revival	Hart's Flea Market
88	C	7-13 S. 2nd	two-part commercial block	1910s/1970s		Casey's Furniture
89	NC	19 S. 2nd	altered two-part commercial block	1910s/1980s		Perry Office Supply
90	C	101 S. 2nd	one-part commercial block	1910s	Classical Revival	Empire Seed Co.
91	C	105 S. 2nd	one-story enframed window wall	1910s		Nursery
92	C	107 S. 2nd	one-story enframed window wall	1910s		Engine repair shop
93	C	109 S. 2nd	one-part commercial block	1930s		vacant
94	C	301 S. 2nd	industrial building	1940s		Temple Feed and Supply
95	NC	220 S. 2nd	one-part commercial block	1950s		vacant
96	C	214 S. 2nd	one-part commercial block	1920s		antique store
97	C	14 S. 2nd	one-part commercial block	1910s	Classical Revival	Pignetti's Italian Grill
98	C	12 S. 2nd	one-story enframed window wall	1910s	Classical Revival	Duckhorn Tavern
99	C	8 S. 2nd	one-story enframed window wall	1910s/1930s	Art Deco	antique store
100	C	6 N. 2nd	one-part commercial block	1950s		store
101	C	10 N. 2nd	one-part commercial block	1950s		Midcity Pawn
102	C	102 N. 2nd	church building	1914/1955	Romanesque Revival and International Style	First United Methodist Church
103	C	204 N. 2nd	single family dwelling	1940s		FUMC Youth Activity Center house
104	C	302 N. 2nd	single family dwelling	1920s	Craftsman	single family dwelling
105	C	304 N. 2nd	single family dwelling	1920s	Craftsman	single family dwelling
106	C	308 N. 2nd	single family dwelling	1920s	Craftsman	single family dwelling
107	C	318 N. 2nd	church building	1910s	Colonial Revival	First Church of Christian Scientist
108	C	11 N. 4th	one-part commercial block	1920s		Goodwill

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Prop. No.	Status	Address	Building Type	Date of Construction	Stylistic Influence	Property Name/ Historic Association
109	C	202-206 S. 4th	one-story commercial building	1920s		commercial warehouse
110	NC	20 S. 4th	one-part commercial block	1950s		Lott Vernon & Co., P.C.
111	C	16-18 S. 4th	(two) one-part commercial blocks	1920s		American Printing
112	C	14 S. 4th	one-part commercial block	1920s		Casey's
113	C	10-12 S. 4th	one-part commercial block	1920s		Matush Auto Supply
114	C	300-302 S. 4th	industrial building	1940s/1960s		USDA office
115	C	301 S. 4th	industrial building	1940s		warehouse
116	C	102 W. Barton	church building	1938, 1980s	Classical Revival	First Baptist Church of Temple
117	C	14 W. Barton	single family dwelling	1940s		First Baptist Church of Temple church building
118	NC	8 E. Barton	one-part commercial block	1940s		Centrovision
119	C	10 E. Barton	institutional building	1940s	Moderne	FUMC Youth Activity Center
120	C	209-211 E. Adams	(two) one-part commercial blocks	1940s		Potters House thrift store
121	NC	100 W. Adams	institutional building	ca. 1973	New Formalism	Temple Public Library and Bank of America/ Temple National Plaza
122	C	206 E. Adams	one-part commercial block	1940s	Spanish	Stock Building Supply
123	C	105 E. Central	two-part vertical block	1929	Commercial Style and Spanish	Professional Building/ SPJST Building
124	NC	17 E. Central	altered two-part commercial block	1910s/1960s		Junior League thrift store/ Brady & Black Hardware
125	NC	11 E. Central	altered two-part commercial block	1909/1960s		Rudd Building
126	NC	13 W. Central	one-part commercial block	1930s/1990s		Nations Plan
127	NC	15 W. Central	one-part commercial block	1930s/1990s		Beach & Clark
128	C	111 W. Central	one-part commercial block	1930s	Art Deco	Omega Home builders
129	C	12 E. Central	one-part commercial block	ca. 1910/1970s	Classical Revival	Labor Ready
130	C	14 E. Central	one-part commercial block	ca. 1910/1970s	Classical Revival	Alicia's

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Prop. No.	Status	Address	Building Type	Date of Construction	Stylistic Influence	Property Name/ Historic Association
131	C	16 E. Central	two-part commercial block	ca. 1905	Classical Revival	Masonic Hall
132	C	102 E. Central	two-part commercial block	1920s	Classical Revival	Central TX workforce/Sears
133	C	110 E. Central	two-part commercial block	1928	Art Deco	Arcadia Theater
134	NC	112 E. Central	one-part commercial block	1920s/1960s		vacant
135	C	114 E. Central	three-part vertical block	1928	Classical Revival and Spanish	Hawn Hotel/ Doering Hotel
136	C	14 Ave. A	two-part commercial block	1890s	Classical Revival	Cheeves Bros. Steakhouse/ Cheeves Brothers Dept. Store
137	C	16–20 Ave. A	two-part commercial block	1890s	Classical Revival	Tax Service and Molly's Deli
138	C	19 S. 4th	one-story commercial building	1920s		lumberyard offices
139	C	20 S. 6th	multi-family dwelling	1920s	Mission Style	Nadine Apartments
140	C	314–316 E. Ave. A	one-part commercial block	1940s	Spanish	Kabella's Plumbing
141	C	201 E. Ave. B	one-part commercial block	1940s	International Style	office
142	C	17 E. Ave. B	one-part commercial block	1890s		Mexican Restaurant
143	NC	13 E. Ave. B	one-part commercial block	1890s		vacant
144	C	11 E. Ave. B	one-part commercial block	1890s		office
145	C	201 S. 1st	gas station	1920s		Grady's Barber Shop
146	NC	8–10 Ave. B	one-story commercial building	1980s		club
147	C	315 W. Ave. B	transportation-related building	1909–1911	Beaux-Arts and Prairie School	Santa Fe Depot
148	C		transportation-related structure	1880s		Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad tracks
149	C	N of RR tracks	industrial building	1940s		Temple Feed and Supply
150	C	S of RR tracks	industrial building	1920s/1940s		Jupe Feed Mill
151	C	S of RR tracks	industrial building	1910s		mill site
152	C	405 S. 2nd	industrial building	ca. 1900		warehouse
153	NC	405 S. 2nd	industrial building	1960s		office
154	C	312 S. Main	one-part commercial block	1920s		Temple Granite Works
155	C	400 S. Main	industrial building	1940s		bottle works

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Prop. No.	Status	Address	Building Type	Date of Construction	Stylistic Influence	Property Name/ Historic Association
156	NC	3rd St. bridge	transportation-related structure	ca. 1960		Bridge
157	NC	S of RR tracks	open commercial building	1990s		open market
158	NC	2 S. 3rd	one-story commercial building	1980s		bank
159	NC	303 S. 4th	industrial building	1940s		warehouse
160	C	405 S. 2nd	industrial building	1920s		warehouse
161	C	405 S. 2nd	industrial building	1920s		warehouse

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Statement of Significance

The Temple Commercial Historic District, in the heart of Temple, in Bell County, Texas, encompasses the city's historic business district and reflects its traditional role as the center of local trade and commerce. The common grid-pattern street layout with numbered blocks dates to the founding of Temple when the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad established the city as a major hub for their line. The Temple Commercial Historic District includes commercial buildings, industrial buildings, institutional buildings, churches, and a portion of the Santa Fe tracks. The predominant building types are commercial in nature, categorized as one- and two-part commercial block buildings. Extant buildings in the business district form a comprehensive group that exhibit Temple's vibrant late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century railroad-based economies and its evolution through the twentieth century. Architectural landmarks in the district include the Kyle Hotel, 1912 Post Office, Municipal Building, First United Methodist Church, and Santa Fe Depot. The late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial blocks, railroad depot and tracks, and industrial buildings reflect the relationship and importance of the railroad to Temple's development. The district is nominated at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce, Transportation, and Community Planning and Development, and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

The Founding of Temple

Settlement in the area that would become Temple, in central Bell County, was scattered prior to the 1880s and consisted of farms on the prairie land. The eastern part of Bell County on the Blackland Prairie is highly suitable for farming as soils are dark and rich. The western half of the county, separated from the Blackland Prairie by the Balcones Escarpment, is better suited for ranching because of its shallow, stony soils. Large numbers of immigrants came to Bell County from other Texas counties or other southern states during the late nineteenth century to take advantage of ranching and farming opportunities. The number of Bell County residents doubled between 1860 and 1870 to approximately 10,000, and then more than doubled again to 20,517 in 1880, and reached approximately 45,500 by the turn of the century (Conner 2002). Belton, established in the early 1850s, was the largest and wealthiest town in Bell County until the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad founded Temple.

By the early 1880s railroad companies were busy surveying and constructing the best routes for their railroad lines throughout Texas. Two railroads were built across Bell County in the early 1880s: the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad and the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad, often called the Katy or MKT. In 1880, after working with Belton city officials and planning the railroad's path through Belton, certain Santa Fe directors breached their agreement and bought 187 acres of prairie land in northeastern Bell County near old Birdsdale from Jonathan E. Moore. Moore sold this land for \$20 per acre to the Santa Fe. Soon, the Santa Fe established a construction camp in what they called Temple Junction, in honor of Bernard Moore Temple, chief construction engineer for the railroad. Local residents referred to it as Mudtown. The name shortened to Temple when the postal service established an office in January 1881 (Smyrl 2002).

Santa Fe directors, with Bernard Moore Temple, created a master plan to run the railroad from the Gulf of Mexico in Texas to the northwestern United States. When Santa Fe directors discovered the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad building in the same area they had their 187-acre land parcel surveyed into a grid pattern of streets and blocks (Figure 1). Santa Fe directors then advertised an auction and celebration with free food and a sale of lots to be held on June 29, 1881. Many lots were auctioned for \$45 to \$300 per lot. By 1882 the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad built their railroad through Temple and the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad established Temple as its division headquarters adding more railroad buildings and offices (Bell County Historical Commission 1988).

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Temple quickly became an important trading center with a growing population. Additional railroad shops added several hundred to the population, including doctors, lawyers, and merchants. By November 1881 Temple had its first newspaper, *The Weekly Times*. Temple was incorporated in 1882. That same year Temple had its first bank, the Bell County Bank, later known as the First National Bank of Temple. By 1884 Temple had approximately 3,000 residents, 3 churches, 2 banks, 2 weekly newspapers, an opera house, a waterworks, and a wide variety of other businesses (Smyrl 2002). Bell County's first telephones were operating in 1884 when the Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company connected Temple and Belton with other Texas cities. Southwestern Telegraph and Telephone Company installed local exchange stations in both Temple and Belton (Tyler 1936). In 1891 the Electric Light Company supplied electricity to a limited area. Temple had its first city-run fire station in 1895. By 1890 Temple had a population of 4,047 surpassing the county seat of Belton whose population was 3,000 (Temple Junior Chamber of Commerce 1958).

The 1885 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for Temple presents the earliest complete picture of the city. By May 1885 a business district existed just north of the Santa Fe and freight depot encompassing approximately six city blocks (Sanborn Map 1885). The central business district occupied city Blocks 20, 21, 22, 28, 29, and 30. Early commercial block buildings were generally one- or two-part commercial block buildings, wood-frame, or brick buildings with modest stylistic embellishments. Architectural details were usually limited to cornices, parapets, and pediments. Historic photographs show most two-story buildings had one-story wood balconies extending to the street. Commercial block buildings, built in a row, utilized the entire lot from street to alley for their establishment.

Just three years later the city had expanded and would continue to grow as the century progressed. By 1888, retail shops, restaurants, groceries, gambling establishments, saloons, a Masonic Hall, several offices, and a few hotels fronted S. 1st, S. Main, and S. 2nd Streets between Central Avenue and the railroad tracks. An Italianate two-part commercial block building with a recessed central entrance, stained glass windows, and initials and date in the pediment is at 116 S. 1st Street. This ornate example of the late-nineteenth-century two-part commercial block type was constructed by or for C.H.B. and completed in 1894. Several cotton and lumberyards were just outside the business district to the south, north and east, a city livery was just west, and a three-story market hall and city opera house was just north on the site of the present Municipal Building. Residential areas were farther north, east and west of the business district. Industrial properties, such as a planing mill, cotton gin, corn mill, and ice company were to the south of the railroad tracks (Sanborn Map 1888).

Temple's founding and early physical character reflected the fundamental role the Santa Fe played. The first depot in Temple was a boxcar, the second was a small one-story wood building, and the third, built in the 1890s, was a two-story wood building that followed traditional depot form and plan. The Santa Fe built a Harvey House hotel, often referred to as the Santa Fe Hotel, east of the two-story depot in the 1890s to serve traveling passengers as well as Temple residents. The Santa Fe also constructed a YMCA building during the 1890s farther east of the depot and Harvey House hotel.

Developments in the hospital industry, although outside the district, were critical to Temple's economic growth. For its Temple employees, the Santa Fe founded the town's first hospital. The 1891 Santa Fe Hospital was southwest of the central business district and served as a general hospital for railroad employees. Before 1891, the Santa Fe sent employees injured on the job to Galveston for treatment. The Santa Fe chose Temple as the site for a new employee's hospital because of its central location on the railroad's Oklahoma-to-Galveston line. One year later Dr. Arthur Carroll Scott (1865–1940), from Gainesville, Texas, was appointed chief surgeon. Dr. Raleigh R. White (1873–1917), from Cameron, Texas, joined the hospital staff in 1897 as joint chief surgeon. Scott and White quickly established a reputation as experts in the medical field and later opened a private practice in Temple. The International Order of the King's Daughters and Sons organization established King's Daughters Hospital in Temple in 1897 with a mission to provide medical care to the

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poor. Members of the organization rented a seven-room house on Avenue F south of the central business district between S. 3rd and S. 5th Streets for a private hospital. Doctors Scott and White were soon tending patients at King's Daughters Hospital. The hospital outgrew the facility and moved to an abandoned Catholic convent before finally moving to a donated home at S. 22nd Street and Avenue C in east Temple (Bell County Historical Commission 1988). Doctors Scott and White began their private medical practice on the second floor of the two-part commercial building, later known as Farmers State Bank Building, at 19 S. Main Street in 1897. The doctors practiced at Santa Fe Hospital and King's Daughters Hospital but kept their private offices at this location until they formed their private practice in 1904 (Office of Tourism, City of Temple n.d.).

Temple's Development During the Early twentieth Century

At the turn of the century, Temple was a thriving city with important railroad interchanges, burgeoning medical facilities, and an evolving business center. Temple, with approximately 7,000 residents in 1900, continued to outpace the county seat and was the largest city in Bell County (Smyrl 2002). By 1910 Temple recorded approximately 11,000 residents (Temple Junior Chamber of Commerce 1958). Local residents made several unsuccessful attempts to move the county seat to Temple. An interurban trolley line, the Belton and Temple Traction Company, operated from 1904 to 1926, and connected the two cities (Office of Tourism, City of Temple n.d.).

Temple's medical facilities continued to expand and gain prestige during the first decade of the twentieth century. The Santa Fe Hospital built a new four-story brick building in 1908. Two wings were eventually added to the Main Building. Prominent Fort Worth architects Sanguinet & Staats designed this building and the 1915 north wing. King's Daughters Hospital moved its hospital facility to the Walker home at 302 S. 22nd Street in east Temple. There, King's Daughters Hospital expanded with several additions and improvements through the 1910s (Bell County Historical Commission 1988). Doctors Scott and White terminated their staff associations with King's Daughters Hospital and established the Temple Sanitarium in 1904, which served as their private practice. Their practice was available to area residents, unlike the Santa Fe Hospital open only to railroad employees. Scott and White established a nurse's school in 1904 as an adjunct to the hospital. The two surgeons performed several successful surgeries at a time when surgery was in its infancy, bringing them and their hospital attention. The facility, originally housed in the Grundy residence at 212 N. 7th Street, moved to an abandoned convent on Avenue G in 1904. In 1912, Scott and White added new offices and operating rooms to the hospital facility with the convent serving as the main building. By 1917 the Temple Sanitarium was a 200-bed facility with an accomplished nursing school and a clinic of doctors seeing approximately 5,000 patients a year (Bell County Historical Commission 1988).

The twentieth century brought physical changes to the business district landscape. By 1900 Temple's market hall and opera house at the center of Block 13 had burned down and became a public park. To the west, city Block 12 also served as a public space. Street names had changed to what they are recognized as today. The six-block business district north of the tracks became more densely developed with the addition of clothiers, furniture stores, barbers, laundries, and banks. Additional office and retail space was created with properties fronting avenues such as Central Avenue and Avenue A. In general commercial block buildings fronted streets, such as Main and 1st Streets, the vertical roads on Temple's grid layout. Brick one-and two-part commercial block buildings replaced some original buildings. Several buildings from the late 1880s and 1890s built with wood were not as stable as early-twentieth-century construction. A Classical Revival brick one-part commercial block building replaced a one-story saloon, one-story office, and stables at the southeast corner of S. 2nd Street and Avenue A. Liveries and stables, as well as lumber and cotton yards were at the periphery of the central business district, although trolley cars were replacing horse and buggy transportation. In 1904 a Beaux-Arts Carnegie Library opened in the center of city park, Block 12. The library was a landmark and important gathering place for Temple

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residents and prominent organizations. The building suffered a fire on September 18, 1918, and burned; it was never rebuilt (Bell County Historical Commission 1988). Residential areas expanded toward the north, east, and west of the central business district as well as to the south of the industrial properties and railroad. During the early 1910s Temple High and Central Junior High Schools opened north of Downs Avenue near N. Main Street in a predominately residential area. Several churches appeared on the outskirts of the business district. Industrial properties remained immediately south of the railroad and the established cotton gin and feed mill, ice works, and planing mill continued to expand. By the early 1910s Temple also had concrete sidewalks and streets paved with red brick.

The railroad's presence in Temple was fortified before the end of the twentieth century's first decade. In 1900, the Santa Fe two-story wood depot, Harvey House hotel, and Santa Fe YMCA were just north of the railroad tracks. In 1908, the Santa Fe hired Chicago architect, Jarvis Hunt, to design the new Santa Fe Depot and matching hotel. He designed the extant depot in the Beaux-Arts and Prairie School architectural styles. Construction began in 1909 and was completed by January 29, 1911, for its first day of business. The proposed matching hotel was never built.

During the World War I era, Temple was as an important railroad and trade center. Its thriving economy was partially due to the cash crop, cotton. Cotton farming and the cotton industry were vital to the region. Blackland prairie farms throughout Bell County yielded cotton, corn, and other crops. The region's prosperity is evident in the number of prominent banks in Temple during the early twentieth century. Belton's business district flooded in 1913 when Nolan Creek overflowed its banks. Some Belton businesses moved to Temple during the early part of the twentieth century due to the county seat's hardships (Long 2002).

Temple's Building Boom

"Progressive Temple" was the phrase announced on signage throughout downtown during the 1920s. The automobile had arrived, taking the place of trolley cars. Automobile shops, garages, service and filling stations appeared throughout the area. By 1925 concrete roads replaced the red brick-paved streets (Office of Tourism, City of Temple n.d.). Temple had a booming economy and population of approximately 15,000 by the late 1920s (Bowmer 1981).

Schools, churches, hotels, and new businesses flooded Temple. Businesses established in Temple in the 1920s included the American Desk Manufacturing Company in 1921 and a Coca-Cola bottling plant in 1925 (Smyrl 2002). Temple Junior College opened in the fall of 1926 with an enrollment of 87 students. The college was associated with Temple Public Schools, sharing administration and faculty until constructing a separate building in south Temple in the late 1950s (Farrell 2002).

During the 1920s and 1930s Temple's hospital industry continued to grow. The Santa Fe Hospital expanded in phases adding a second wing in 1925 designed by Wyatt Hedrick (Benoit 1996). The Temple Sanitarium changed its name to Scott and White Hospital in 1922. The main convent building south of the central business district on Avenue G was the nucleus of what became Scott and White's collection of 31 buildings—mostly converted single family homes—covering 6 city blocks. At King's Daughters Hospital in east Temple, more-stable brick buildings replaced the older wood buildings.

By the late 1920s the central business district had expanded well beyond the original 6 blocks in each direction. To the north beyond the 2 city blocks that served as the public square and city park, stood the 1912 Post Office, the 1928 Kyle Hotel, Temple State Bank, the First Methodist Church, and the First Baptist Church. Businesses to the west of the central business district included automobile repair shops, garages, the Stegall Hotel, and the Martin Hotel. One- and two-part

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commercial block buildings replaced old wagon and lumber yards to the immediate east of the original 6-block central business district (Figure 2) (Sanborn Map 1928).

Because of the region's agricultural success, Temple's financial and commercial institutions prospered in the 1920s and resulted in a building boom during the latter part of the decade. A 1925 fire destroyed much of the western half of Block 14 along N. Main Street facing what was then the public square. These two-part commercial block buildings facing N. Main Street were rebuilt during the late 1920s (Office of Tourism, City of Temple n.d.). The first home for city government was the Art Deco Municipal Building constructed in 1928–1929 in the center of Block 13, the public square. Other construction included three skyscrapers that changed Temple's skyline. The Doering Hotel, which replaced a wagon yard, opened in 1928. The Kyle Hotel opened in 1929 at the corner of N. Main Street and Barton Avenue. The Professional Building at the corner of S. 2nd Street and Central Avenue also opened in 1929. The Professional Building housed a sporting goods store, magazine stand and snack shop on the ground floor, a beauty salon in the basement, with the upper floors occupied by law firms, doctors, a dentist, and other businesses (Bell County Historical Commission 1988). The Art Deco Arcadia Theater opened in the late 1920s offering residents more opportunities for culture and entertainment.

The 1930s and the Great Depression brought changes to Temple and interrupted its steady growth. The Depression was a period of zero population growth. The 1930 census recording of 15,345 residents differed little from the 1940 census recording of 15,344 (Bell County Historical Commission 1988). A severe drought coupled with the Great Depression brought the local cotton industry to a halt. Blackland prairie cotton farms produced one-third of what they had in the past and the price of cotton plummeted. The cotton industry never fully recovered in Temple, leaving farmland available for agriculture and raising cattle (Kahler 2001). During this time, there were also a number of lost jobs, foreclosures, and a few fires that impacted many lives.

Not everything came to a halt during the 1930s in Temple; some new buildings appeared in the district. According to the 1935 Temple City Directory, Temple boasted 62 industrial plants plus 2 of the finest hotels and 4 of the best hospitals in the South. Several modest one-part commercial block buildings were constructed as infill or to replace original buildings. Freestanding one-part commercial block buildings replaced dwellings along N. 3rd Street during the decade, evident on the east side of the blocks 300, 400, and 500. The 400 and 500 blocks of N. 3rd Street became a commercial center for the surrounding established neighborhoods. The one-part commercial block shopping center on N. 3rd Street and French Avenue and the building at 215 N. Main Street are good examples of the Spanish Eclectic style popular during this period.

Temple's Midcentury Development

The 1940s brought a wave of new residents to Temple and Bell County. Between 1940 and 1960, Temple's population nearly doubled, rising from 15,344 to 30,419 (Smyrl 2002). The military established a World War II training camp in western Bell County during the war. Camp Hood's headquarters, primarily a communications division, were in the First National Bank in Temple before construction of the base (Bell County Historical Commission 1988). Elvis Presley performed at the Arcadia Theater when he was stationed at Camp Hood. With additional residents and numerous servicemen, Temple's industry and businesses prospered during the postwar period.

By the mid-1940s Temple had become an important center for soil research and agriculture production for Texas. The Blackland Research Center moved from near Belton to just south of Temple in 1927. The research center started as a soil conservation experiment station founded by the state and Soil Conservation Service to study and prevent crop disease. The facility aided farmers and ranchers of the region (Bell County Historical Commission 1988). In 1939 the Texas State

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Soil and Conservation Board formed and located its headquarters in Temple. In 1942 the U.S. Soil Conservation Service also established state headquarters here (Temple Junior Chamber of Commerce 1958).

Scott and White Hospital was well known throughout the state by 1940. Hospital staff had grown to 38 doctors offering 10 areas of specialization (Strong 1993). By 1949 the Scott and White School of Nursing ranked among the nation's top nursing programs (Scott and White School of Nursing State Marker Files). Some graduates of the nursing school went on to serve in both world wars and in other hospital facilities. In 1942 one of the army's largest general hospitals was opened in Temple. The McClosky General Hospital, now known as the Olin E. Teague Veterans Center, added another dimension to local medical facilities (Marshall 2002). The Temple area became a convenient place for military personnel to retire to because of the numerous hospitals and medical treatment centers available.

Several important businesses opened in Temple in the postwar era. One example is Wilsonart International—a manufacturer of laminate and plastics—which opened a plant in south Temple in 1955. Ralph Wilson, who was retired from the plastics business in California, came to Texas upon hearing from his friend Arthur P. Brashear Sr. (owner of American Desk Manufacturing Company) of the need for a plastics supplier for his desk manufacturing company. Soon Wilson settled in Temple growing his business throughout the country. Temple remains home to Wilsonart International headquarters and several production plants (Wilsonart International).

During the 1940s and 1950s new construction in the central business district included expanding the industrial properties south of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad tracks and the addition of warehouses near the tracks. Several two-part commercial block buildings constructed in the popular Moderne style were built north of Adams Avenue on N. Main Street. Two fine examples of Moderne architecture are the Temple High School gymnasium at Elm Avenue and N. 1st Street and at 220 N. Main Street. The International Style one-part commercial block building at 4 N. 3rd Street housed a USO office during the 1940s and 1950s (Bowmer 1981). In the popular post-World War II minimalist style, a one-story L-shaped strip mall was constructed in the 1950s at the corner of Downs Avenue and N. Main Street.

Late-twentieth-century Development in Temple

By the late twentieth century Temple was recognized more for its industrial base and medical industry than as a railroad and trade center. Post-World War II development included new residential subdivisions and highways such as Loop 363. By 1963 Scott and White Hospital had completely vacated central Temple and moved to its new hospital complex in south Temple. The town grew into a metropolitan city, with the success of its industrial and medical affiliations. Much of the city's commercial business moved south and west of downtown in the 1970s. Grocery stores, strip malls, and fast-food chains sprung up west of the district along Central and Adams Avenues, between the central business district and Interstate Highway 35. The population rose to 42,483 in 1980 and 49,851 in 1990 (Smyrl 2002).

Although properties built during the late twentieth century generally do not fall into the period of significance for the Temple Commercial Historic District, many physical changes occurred that are worthy of noting. Several significant historic buildings were razed to accommodate parking needs for customers and for new construction. The Gothic Revival Hammersmith Building at the southeast corner of S. 1st Street and Avenue A and the *Temple Daily Telegram*, housed in the former Temple Opera House at the northeast corner of S. 3rd Street and Avenue A, are now surface parking lots. The two-story, ca. 1900 Central Fire Station at the northwest corner of S. 3rd Street and Avenue A was demolished to make way for the new *Temple Daily Telegram* building. The entire Block 30 between S. Main and S. 2nd Streets and Avenues A and B was cleared for the W. R. Poage Federal Building. As well as some significant buildings being razed for surface parking lots or new construction, this is also the period when alterations occurred to building exteriors. It was common for

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building owners to alter façades to keep up with the popular styles of the time. Common alterations seen in the district include replacing windows with cheaper metal windows, bricking-in upper-story windows; the addition of ceramic tile, stucco or other materials covering original exteriors; and changing out of original store-front windows to bigger plate glass windows. In some cases entire façades have been completely covered in stucco. The Mansard roof became a popular style added to existing front façades during the 1970s.

Several important buildings constructed during the late twentieth century include the ca. 1964 Post Office, the ca. 1973 New Formalist Nations Bank Plaza/Temple Public Library, the ca. 1980 *Temple Daily Telegram* building, the ca. 1960 3rd Street bridge, and the ca. 1985 Brutalist Federal Building.

The district is worthy of preservation because it is a cohesive example of a booming nineteenth- and twentieth-century central business district. Although Temple's commercial area grew to beyond the historic district, the nominated area represents Temple's early central business district and includes its original boundaries. Several landmark properties, many of which are architect-designed buildings, are included in the district. Beginning in the mid-twentieth century, residents shopped at local strip malls and new commercial centers leaving the historic business district underutilized and led to neglect and deterioration.

In the past decade many private dollars have been spent on rehabilitation of historic buildings in Temple's central business district. The Kiella Group has rehabbed the Cheeves Brothers Department Store as well as other buildings. With restaurants and stores opening in these historic buildings, residents are reviving the historic commercial center of the city.

Temple officials have used planning techniques to address certain issues. A 1964 report titled Temple Central Business District Comprehensive Plan Report by Marvin Springer and Associates and Cotton, Inc., addressed issues of historic buildings, use, parking, and urban design. In the 1990s the AIA worked with the city to publish a R/UDAT, specifically addressing the need to redevelop the central business district and apply to have the Santa Fe Depot listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The city currently offers incentive packages and tax abatements within the central business district to help smaller businesses and is currently working with groups such as the Temple Downtown Development Alliance and the Temple Economic Development Corporation on improvement projects.

Properties in the historic district are generally in good physical condition. The district includes a total of 161 properties, including 159 buildings and 2 structures. Of the 161 total properties, 112 are classified as Contributing and 49 are classified as Noncontributing. Of the 49 Noncontributing properties, 19 postdate the district's period of significance and 30 have either had unsympathetic alterations or do not retain sufficient integrity. Most historic buildings retain their massing, scale, and setback from the street. Many properties have had exterior additions. Some additions occurred during the period of significance and can be considered part of the history of the building, but others occurred in the 1960s and 1970s, sometimes compromising the integrity of the building. The historic district, even with some new construction and empty spaces serving as parking lots, retains overall integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Representative Properties in the Historic District

The Temple Commercial Historic District includes a variety of historic resources that are categorized into two groups: Contributing or Noncontributing to the district. Following are a few examples of representative properties for each group with a brief history and discussion of the property's integrity and its historical and architectural significance.



Kyle Hotel, 111 N. Main Street, Contributing

Built in 1928 on the northern edge of the central business district at the corner of N. Main Street and Barton Avenue, the Kyle Hotel was and remains today one of Temple's only high-rise buildings. The block had been residential at the turn of the century. Austin architect George Louis Walling designed the 13-story-plus-basement hotel in the Mediterranean and Pueblo styles. The hotel is a three-part vertical block building with three distinct vertical zones. L. H. Lacey & Co. of Dallas received the construction contract with Temple resident Ben Love serving as construction superintendent. The cost of the project including land, building and furnishings was about \$500,000. When it opened, the hotel was a first-class establishment managed by the prestigious Baker chain. The Kyle Hotel had a barbershop, beauty salon, coffee shop, roof garden, laundry, valet, tailoring services, banquet hall, and a presidential suite with porch.

The Kyle Hotel was built as a direct result of the 1920s growth at Scott and White Hospital. Dr. Arthur C. Scott played a pivotal role in the hotel's construction, persuading W. W. Kyle of Beaumont, Texas, to help finance construction by purchasing \$75,000 in hotel stock. In 1927, Scott transferred ownership of Lot 1, Block 6, in central Temple to the newly formed Temple Hotel Corporation. Scott believed the presence of a first-class hotel would benefit commercial interests of Temple as well as the Scott and White Hospital.

Scott and White Hospital leased the upper floors for hotel accommodations for families of patients and outpatient care. Financial difficulties and low hotel occupancy resulted in change of hotel management in 1933. Scott and White Hospital continued to use the Kyle Hotel throughout the 1930s and 1940s. By 1951 the hotel was known as the Kyle Hotel Convalescent Center. In 1960 the main floor banquet facilities were enlarged by demolishing a patio with fountain. In 1963, Scott and White Hospital moved to its new complex in south Temple. In the 1960s, with hotel occupancy on the decline and Scott and White Hospital farther away, the building was converted to apartments and public space was rented to civic and social groups.

Brudge Kyle, closed the hotel in 1974. In 1979, he sold the hotel to investors from Walker County. By 1981 the lending agency repossessed the property. The Temple Kyle Partnership, Ltd., bought the building in 1989 and converted it to retirement apartments. Working with local architect Robert Weaver and local contractor Bob Lowe Construction Company, and utilizing the Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, work was completed in 1991. The building was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 (Strong 1993).

The building is architecturally and historically significant to the district as an example of an architect-designed high-rise hotel built during Temple's heyday. It has not undergone exterior additions or alterations. It retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, setting, feeling, and association.

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Post Office/Temple Public Library, 101 N. Main Street, Contributing

This two-story-plus-basement, Renaissance Revival building at 101 N. Main Street was constructed in 1912 of stone and cement for use as a post office. On the northeast corner of N. Main Street and Adams Avenue, the building is on Lot 2, Block 6, of the original townsite. This was a residential Block in the early 1900s. The cornerstone shows the following inscription: Franklin McVeath, Secretary of the Treasury, and James Knox Taylor, supervising architect, MCMX. The general contractor was Cecil L. Saunders. The original cost of the building was \$64,400.

The building operated as the Post Office from 1912 through the 1960s, when a new postal facility opened on N. Main Street. This building was declared surplus and given to the city for use as a library. The architectural firm Rucker & Chamlee remodeled the building in 1964 for approximately \$130,000. The renovation was funded from a \$100,000 bond issue and funds originally slotted for a Carnegie Library. Fire destroyed Temple's original Carnegie Library in 1918. After 1918, the library found temporary housing at numerous establishments including the basement of the Municipal Building. The city used the former post office building as its public library from 1964 through the 1980s. In 1974, the second floor was remodeled to make room for the expanding library inventory. Rucker & Chamlee, once again, performed the work.

The former post office and public library building received Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation in 1978. In the late 1990s, the City of Temple and Temple College entered into a partnership and used the building for Temple College. It is currently known as the Temple College Downtown Center, which houses the Business Growing Center and the Business Information Center as well as other school offices. Temple College renovated the building and leases it from the city. Freese and Nichols, Inc., served as architect for the renovation and the contractor was WTC Masterbuilders Limited (Temple Public Library State Marker files).

The building is architecturally and historically significant to the district as an example of an architect-designed institutional building constructed in 1912 at the edge of Temple's business district. It has not experienced major exterior alterations. It retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, setting, feeling, and association.



First United Methodist Church, 102 N. 2nd Street, Contributing

The First United Methodist Church of Temple, at 102 N. 2nd Street, Lot 4, Block 6, of the original townsite for Temple is the second church building constructed on this site. The first church building, built ca. 1900, was destroyed by a 1911 fire. The present Romanesque Revival building, begun in 1912, was finished in 1914. The original architects were Sanguinet & Staats of Fort Worth. H. D. McCoy of Cleburne, Texas, undertook the building contract for a bid of \$50,000.

Romanesque Revival was popular during the period and is also referred to as Byzantine Revival. The three-story main building is of brown brick with a

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ceramic tile roof and has an attached domed sanctuary. There are 52 rooms, 3 fireplaces, and 4 outside stairways that lead to the main sanctuary. The church sanctuary seats 500 downstairs and 250 in the full balcony. Downstairs classrooms were converted to office spaces, a fellowship hall, and kitchen in 1954. A two-story brick educational building is attached at the northern portion of the block. The Temple firm of Rucker & Chamlee performed the remodel and addition. In 1967 art glass windows were installed. The church building was designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1979 (First United Methodist Church of Temple State Marker Files).

The church and educational buildings of the First United Methodist Church are significant as an architect-designed church in Temple. The church is an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival style. The two-story brick addition to the north of the church and its offices is a good example of post-World War II modernism. The church is wedged between the northern border of the business district and a neighborhood. It retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, setting, feeling, and association.



C. H. B. 1894, 116 S. 1st Street, Contributing

The two-part commercial block building at 116 S. 1st Street is an excellent and locally rare example of Italianate architecture commonly used for commercial buildings during the Victorian period. The commercial building is constructed of red brick and has a central recessed front entrance, stained glass transom windows, plate glass windows, wide projecting cornice with pediment, and arched 2-over-2 windows on the second story.

By September 1888 one-story commercial buildings made up the entire east side of Block 28, fronting S. 1st Street, with the exception of two corner lots that had two-story buildings. This building, constructed in 1894, replaced a one-story cigar and confections shop. Saloons, gambling establishments, a bowling alley, as well as other retail shops have occupied the building. Robert Robertson Saloon, with boarding upstairs, occupied this building in 1912–1913. In 1915–1916, Robert Robertson Saloon remained and Blum & Grauke provided furnished rooms on the second floor. S. E. Golden billiards and H. W. Wynne Luncheonette occupied this building in 1917–1918. By 1921 Lone Star Tailors, a bowling alley, and Abney's Hamburger Stand were here. The Brown Beer Parlor was in the building in 1935. The building was vacant in 1963. Cotton Exchange Antiques occupied the building in 2001.

The building is a good example of the Italianate style that is rarely represented in the district. The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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**Santa Fe Railroad Depot, 315 W. Avenue B,
Contributing**

The Santa Fe Railroad Depot in Temple was completed in 1911. The Santa Fe founded Temple in 1881. The first Santa Fe depot in Temple was a boxcar, the second was a small one-story wood building, and the third depot built in the 1890s was a two-story wood building. In 1898 a Harvey House, referred to as the Santa Fe Hotel, was built east of the two-story depot to serve traveling passengers as well as Temple locals.

In 1896, the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad bought the Gulf, Colorado, and Santa Fe Railroad and Temple became the railroad's southern division headquarters. The railroad was still referred to as the Santa Fe. In 1908, Chief Engineer C. F. W. Felt petitioned the Galveston headquarters to build the current depot. The Santa Fe hired award-winning Chicago architect Jarvis Hunt to design the new depot and matching hotel in the Beaux-Arts and Prairie School architectural styles. Construction began in 1909 and was completed in 1911, with a final cost exceeding \$200,000. The depot is a two-story mass with one-story blocks on either end. There are 18 rooms and a room referred to as the vault for the superintendent's clerks (City of Temple 2001).

In 1989, the Santa Fe moved all operations from the depot to a tower building in the north yards in Temple. The only occupant of the building until the early 1990s, when the building was abandoned, was Amtrak. In September 1995, the depot was donated to the city when Temple bought 8.76 acres of land around the building for \$176,000. In 1996, the Texas Department of Transportation granted \$2.4 million in ISTEAF funds for the depot's restoration. The restoration project, with an additional \$1.6 million dollars from the city, began in 1999 and was completed months later. The restored Santa Fe Depot opened July 8, 2000, and now houses Temple's Railroad and Heritage Museum and still serves as a passenger stop for Amtrak.

The building is architecturally and historically significant to the district as an example of an architect-designed depot signifying the importance of the railroad to Temple. The building retains integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, setting, feeling, and association.



17 E. Central Avenue, Noncontributing

At 17 E. Central is an altered two-part commercial block building at the southwest corner of S. 2nd Street and Central Avenue. The Classical Revival two-story-plus-basement building was constructed ca. 1910. Brady & Black Hardware occupied the property from 1912 through the 1920s. During the 1920s the hardware store occupied the entire first floor while Prairie Queen Tractor Company and a dentist office occupied the second level. A side entrance was added at the address 6 S. 2nd Street by 1930. During the 1960s Dyer Department Store occupied the building.

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The exterior was severely altered during the late 1950s or 1960s with a slipcover over the main façade. Large concrete panels were added on the Central and S. 2nd Street façades covering up all second-story signage, windows, cornice details, and first floor transom windows. The metal awning was removed and the side entrance was closed. Further alterations occurred during the 1970s or 1980s including painting the panels and adding stone to the ground-floor exterior covering all windows except one. The building currently houses the Junior League's Second Hand Rose thrift store. The property is categorized as Noncontributing due to the extensive applied additions compromising its architectural integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling.



Nations Bank Plaza/Temple Public Library, 100 W. Adams Avenue, Noncontributing

Temple National Bank built the three-story commercial building on Block 4 at 100 W. Adams Avenue in the early 1970s in the New Formalism architectural style as the new home for their bank. The block had several automobile repair shops, filling stations, a few dwellings, and some commercial shops in the 1940s.

One of Temple's earliest banks, Farmers State Bank opened in 1910 at the corner of Avenue A and S. 2nd Street. In 1911 the bank moved to the northeast corner of S. Main Street and Avenue A. By 1931 Farmers State Bank moved again, to the southeast corner of S. Main and Avenue A, where it remained for 40 years. Farmers State Bank merged in 1942 and became Temple National Bank. They remained at the southeast corner of S. Main and Avenue A. In the mid-1960s bank management began plans for the new bank building and plaza, Temple National Plaza (Bell County Historical Commission 1988).

Today the building also houses the Temple Public Library. The library and bank share both the building and parking lot. The property is considered Noncontributing because it postdates the district's period of significance.

This is an example of construction that postdates the district's period of significance. In general, a property must be at least 50 years old to be considered historic and eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. A property less than 50 years old may be eligible if it is of exceptional national, artistic, or architectural importance. However, neither this property nor any other that is less than 50 years old in the project area has achieved this level of significance. Thus, properties less than 50 years old in the Temple Commercial Historic District are categorized as Noncontributing.



Parking Building, 7-9 S. Main Street, Noncontributing

The historic building at 7-9 S. Main Street is an altered two-part commercial block building constructed in the early 1910s. It was one of the later buildings constructed on Block 22 facing S. Main Street. One- and two-story commercial establishments occupied most of the block in the 1890s, and a one-story dry goods and clothing store occupied 7-9 S. Main Street. A similar-sized commercial block building, constructed in 1912, is at 3-5 S. Main Street. In 1929 McCelvey Dry Goods occupied 7-9 S. Main Street and Woolworth's occupied 15 S. Main Street. Woolworth's moved into the location at 5-9 S. Main Street by 1963.

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Temple's commercial district, like other cities around the country, lost business as shopping centers and strip malls appeared. In an attempt to make the business district more accessible, parking lots were constructed. Several buildings were razed in downtown Temple during the 1970s and 1980s to accommodate more parking spaces. The buildings at 7-9 S. Main Street and 3-5 S. Main Street, were partially demolished during the late 1970s or 1980s, keeping the upper level façade. A parking lot now fills the space that these buildings occupied. The property provides empty space instead of a commercial space. The upper level façade, with only window openings, is the only remnant of the building, severely compromising the architectural integrity. Although integrity of location is present due to the presence of the façade, the property lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Temple Commercial Historic District encompasses the city's historic business district and reflects its traditional role as the center of local trade and commerce. The district is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Commerce, because its cohesive group of commercial properties retain architectural integrity and reflect the historic character of Temple and its development from the 1880s through the 1950s. The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad established the town of Temple and the commercial buildings, railroad depot, and industrial buildings within the district reflect the integral role the railroad played in Temple's development, thus the district is nominated under Criterion A in the area of Transportation. The district is also nominated under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning and Development, because the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad developed Temple with the common planned grid-pattern layout of streets and blocks. The district also meets Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, with many properties representing the best local examples of popular architectural forms and styles that evolved from the late-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries.

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- King’s Daughters Hospital
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UTM COORDINATES

Zone 14

1. 658173E 3442204N
2. 658305E 3442168N
3. 658462E 3442021N
4. 658513E 3441528N
5. 658559E 3441310N
6. 658305E 3440817N
7. 658122E 3440868N
8. 657756E 3441381N
9. 657776E 3441432N
10. 658005E 3441686N

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the center point of the intersection of W. French Avenue and N. 1st Street and following the center line of W. French Avenue in a westerly direction to center point of the intersection of W. French Avenue and Block 7 alley; then a 90° turn in a southerly direction 1-1/2 blocks along the center line of that alley to the approximate center of Block 2, encompassing the eastern 1/2 of the 500 block of N. 3rd Street and Lot 2 of Block 2; then a 90° turn in an easterly direction to a point at the center line of N. 3rd Street; then a 90° turn in a southerly direction and following the center line of N. 3rd Street 3-1/2 blocks to the center point of the intersection of N. 3rd Street and W. Adams Avenue; then 90° turn in a westerly direction to the center point of the intersection of W. Adams Avenue and Block 11 alley; then a 90° turn in a southerly direction 1 block to a point at the center line of W. Central Avenue; then a 90° turn in an easterly direction to the center point of the intersection of N. 3rd Street and W. Central Avenue; then a 90° turn in southerly direction 1 block to the center point of the intersection of N. 3rd Street and W. Avenue A; then a 135° turn in a southwesterly direction 1 block to a point at the northern edge of the railroad right of way; then an approximate 90° turn in a northwesterly direction along the center line of W. Avenue B to the western edge of the Santa Fe Depot; then a 90° turn in a southerly direction to a midpoint of the railroad right of way; then an approximate 110° turn in a southeasterly direction to the center point of the intersection of S. 3rd Street and W. Avenue C, encompassing the Santa Fe Depot, the railroad tracks and the 3rd Street bridge; then a 110° turn easterly following the center line of W. Avenue C to the center point of the intersection of W. Avenue C and S. 1st Street; then following a 1100° turn in a southeasterly direction across the northern edge of Block 41, to a point at the alley of Block 41; then approximate 110° turn in a southerly direction along the alleys of Blocks 41 and 48 to a point in the approximate center of Block 48; then a 90° turn easterly to a point at the center line of S. Main Street; then a 90° turn northerly to the center point of the intersection of Avenue D and S. Main Street, encompassing the eastern 1/2 of Block 41 and Lots 11, 12, 13, and 14 of Block 48; then a 45° turn southeasterly 1 block to the center point of the intersection of S. 2nd Street and E. Avenue D; then an approximate 110° turn in a southerly direction to the center point of the intersection of a private road and S. 2nd Street; then a 90° turn easterly for 2 blocks to the center point of the intersection of S. 6th Street and the southern boundary of the railroad right of way, encompassing Lots 5 and 6 of Block 1, the triangular Block 66, and Lots 5 and 6 of Block 6 south of the railroad tracks; then a 90° turn northerly to a point at the northern boundary of the railroad right of way; following an approximate 110° turn in a northwesterly direction to the center line of S. 4th Street at the northern edge of the railroad right of way; then a 110° turn northerly along the center line of S. 4th Street to a point at the southern edge of Lot 3, Block 43; then a 90° turn easterly for 1/2 block along the southern

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edge of Lot 3, Block 43 to the center line of Block 43 alley; then a 90° turn northerly approximately 1-1/2 blocks to the center point of the intersection of E. Avenue B and Block 36 alley; then a 90° turn westerly to the center point of the intersection of E. Avenue B and Block 31 alley; then a 90° turn northerly for 1 block to the center point of the intersection of E. Avenue A and Block 31 alley; then a 90° turn easterly for approximately 2 blocks to a point at the eastern edge of the western half of Lots 18–20, Block 25; then a 90° turn northerly to the northern edge of Lot 18, Block 25; then a 90° turn westerly for approximately 1-1/2 blocks to a point at the center line of S. 4th Street, including Lots 10 and 20 of Block 24, Lots 8–10 and the western half of Lots 18–20 of Block 25; then a 90° turn northerly to the center point of the intersection of 4th Street and E. Central Avenue; then a 90° turn easterly 1 block to the center point of the intersection of E. Central Avenue and 6th Street; then a 90° turn in a northerly direction 1 block to the center point of the intersection of E. Adams Avenue and N. 6th Street; then a 90° turn westerly for 1/2 block to the center point of the intersection of E. Adams Avenue and the Block 8 alley; then a 90° turn northerly along the center line of Block 8 alley to the approximate center of that block; then a 90° turn westerly 1/2 block to a point at the center line of N. 4th Street; then a 90° turn southerly to the center point of the intersection of E. Adams Avenue and N. 4th Street; then a 90° turn westerly 1 block to the center point of the intersection of E. Adams Avenue and N. 2nd Street; then a 90° turn northerly and along the center line of N. 2nd 3 blocks to the center point of the intersection of N. 2nd Street and E. Downs Avenue; then a 90° turn westerly for 2 blocks to the center point of the intersection of N. 1st Street and E. Downs Avenue; then a 90° turn northerly 2 blocks to the center point of the intersection of W. French Avenue and N. 1st Street, to the beginning point.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Temple Commercial Historic District includes the original 6-block central business district, the Santa Fe Depot, the railroad tracks, and blocks associated with Temple's commercial development throughout the historic period. The boundaries include the area associated with Temple's early railroad history and commercial development.

The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad established Temple as an integral point and founded the new city in 1881. By the turn of the century, Temple had a 6-block business district, depot building, Harvey House hotel, and YMCA building. Temple's commercial district grew beyond the 6 city blocks to encompass blocks to the west, north, and east. A major building boom in the late 1920s, due to a strong economy and increased population, resulted in construction of the Municipal Building, Kyle Hotel, Doering Hotel, Arcadia Theater, and Professional Building. Freestanding commercial buildings constructed in the 1930s and early 1940s to the north of the original business district, particularly along N. 3rd and N. Main Streets, served the surrounding residential neighborhoods. The southern end of the district encompasses the Santa Fe Railroad tracks, the 1911 Santa Fe Depot, and several manufacturing and warehouse industrial properties.

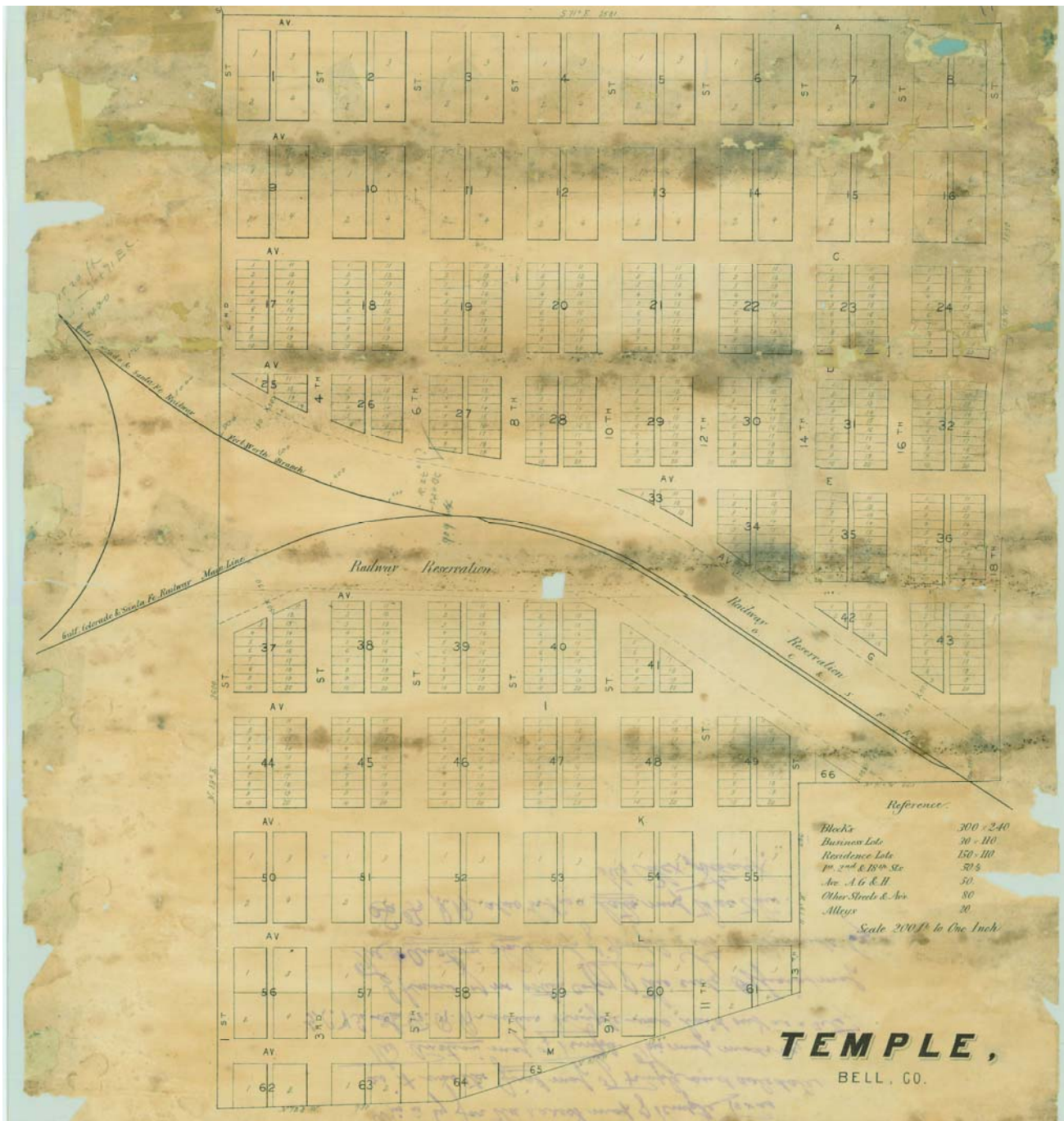
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Temple Commercial Historic District
Temple, Bell County, Texas

Figure 1. Temple, Bell County, Texas, c. 1880. Texas State Archives, Map Number 918.



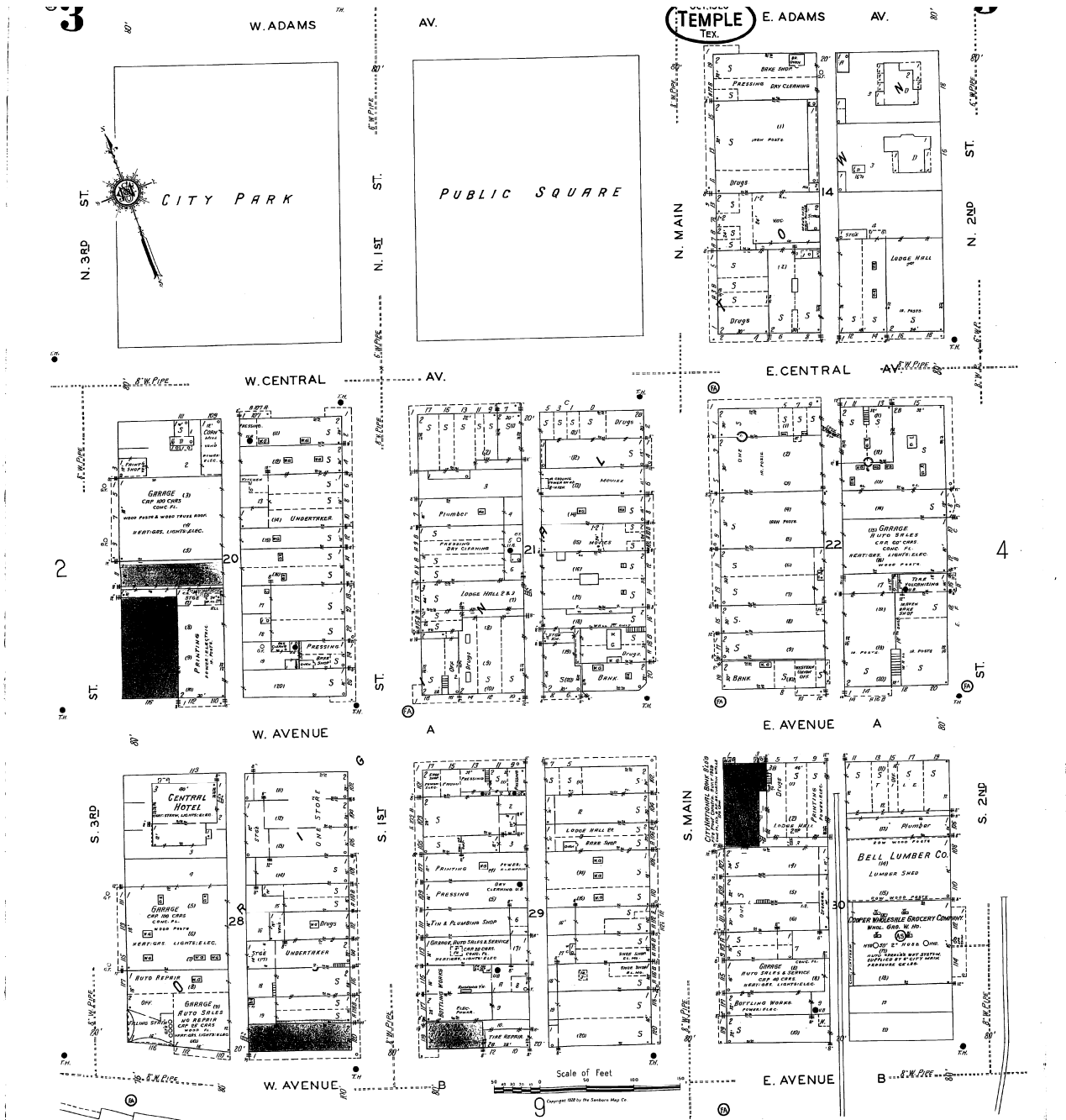
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Figure 2. Sanborn Map, October 1928, Sheet 3. Temple, Texas.



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Temple Commercial Historic District
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Figure 3. Temple State Bank and the Texas Store, c. 1915. Courtesy of the Bell County Museum, Belton, Texas.



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Temple Commercial Historic District
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Figure 4. Group of Temple residents in downtown Temple, c. 1929. Courtesy of the Bell County Museum, Belton, Texas.



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Temple Commercial Historic District
Temple, Bell County, Texas

Figure 5. Arcadia Theater, c. 1945. Courtesy of the Bell County Museum, Belton, Texas.



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Temple Commercial Historic District
Temple, Bell County, Texas
Photographed by Lannie E. Kittrell
April 2, 2005

Photo 1
Kyle Hotel
111 N. Main
Camera facing east

Photo 2
114 S. 1st
Camera facing west

Photo 3
213 N. Main
Camera facing east

Photo 4
Temple College
101 N. Main
Camera facing northeast

Photo 5
Commercial Building
17-19 N. Main
Camera facing east

Photo 6
Temple College
101 N. Main
Camera facing southeast

Photo 7
15 N. Main
Camera facing east

Photo 8
120 S. 1st
Camera facing northwest

Photo 9
Service Station
420 N. 3rd
Camera facing northwest

Photo 10
1920s facades
7-9 S. Main
Camera facing southeast

Photo 11
11-13 N. Main
Camera facing east

Photo 12
Saloon
116 S. 1st
Camera facing west

Photo 13
Grain Silos
301 S. 2nd
Camera facing northeast

Photo 14
Hawn Hotel
114 E. Central
Camera facing northwest

Photo 15
Second Hand Rose
17 E. Central
Camera facing southwest

Photo 16
Arcadia Theater
110 E. Central
Camera facing northwest

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Photo 17
Santa Fe Depot
315 W. Central
Camera facing southeast

Photo 18
Loan Company
120-118 S. Main
Camera facing northwest

Photo 19
Commercial Row
108-120 S. Main
Camera facing southwest

Photo 20
Municipal Building
2 N. Main
Camera facing west

Photo 21
220 N. Main
Camera facing southwest

Photo 22
Empire Seed
101 S. 2nd
Camera facing southeast

Photo 23
Commercial Building
8 S. 2nd
Camera facing southwest

Photo 24
Goodwill Store
11 N. 4th
Camera facing southeast

Photo 25
First Methodist Church
102 N. 2nd
Camera facing west

Photo 26
Public Library
100 Adams
Camera facing northwest

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Temple Commercial Historic District
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District Map (see reverse)