1. Name of Property

Historic name  Sylvan Grove Historic District

Other names/site number

Name of related Multiple Property Listing  NA

2. Location

street & number  Sylvan Grove, Kansas, Main Street business district (starting at north 2nd St., then south 2 ½ blocks to south Depot/Cross Elevator easement)  

city or town  Sylvan Grove

state  Kansas  code  KS  county  Lincoln  code  105  zip code  67481

3-4. Certification

I hereby certify that this property is listed in the Register of Historic Kansas Places.

Applicable State Register Criteria:  _X_ A  _B_  _C_  _D_

Signature of certifying official/Title  Patrick Zollner, Deputy SHPO  Date

Kansas State Historical Society  
State agency
### 5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>x private</td>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing 17 Noncontributing 15 buildings</td>
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<tr>
<td>x public - Local</td>
<td>district</td>
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<tr>
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<td>site</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>public - Federal</td>
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**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the State Register**

1

### 6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions</th>
<th>Current Functions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution, Specialty Store</td>
<td>Institution, Specialty Store, Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT: City Hall, Post Office</td>
<td>GOVERNMENT: City Hall, Post Office</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRANSPORTATION: Rail-related</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>EDUCATION: Library</td>
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<tr>
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<td>RECREATION &amp; CULTURE: Museum</td>
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### 7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification</th>
<th>Materials</th>
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<tr>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
<td>(Enter categories from instructions)</td>
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<tr>
<td>LATE VICTORIAN: Richardsonian Romanesque</td>
<td>foundation: STONE: Limestone, BRICK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATE 19TH &amp; 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:</td>
<td>walls: STONE: Limestone, BRICK, WOOD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian Renaissance, Tudor Revival</td>
<td>roof: SYNTHETICS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LATE 19TH &amp; EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN</td>
<td>other: CAST IRON, GLASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MODERN MOVEMENT; OTHER: Vernacular</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Sylvan Grove Historic District encompasses the city’s business district, a two-block, one-acre area, extending from just north of 2nd St. & Main, then south to the southern boundary of the Union Pacific Railroad Depot on the east side of Main Street. On the west side of Main Street, the area includes grain elevators on the south and extends north for two blocks to 2nd Street. The recommended district boundary encompasses 36 resources, 20 of which, or 56 percent, contribute to the town’s historic character. A number of free-standing contemporary metal buildings have replaced former historic buildings; however, the existing commercial buildings in Sylvan Grove’s historic district convey architectural value, reflect the community’s development since 1887, and are important to the town’s history. The district retains good historic integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. Although some of the materials, design, and workmanship have been altered, the area still reflects its importance to the community’s history.

Setting and Streetscape
The proposed Historic District is comprised of parts of five city blocks along Main Street in downtown Sylvan Grove, each containing 14 lots measuring 25’ wide x 150’ deep. The buildings in the Historic District are one- or two-story, except for the elevator structures that are each more than 50’ high. Most of the contributing buildings in the Historic District were constructed from 1887 until 1930 and are native limestone structures. Main Street is 75’ wide and features sidewalks that are 10’ wide. Buildings generally are one or two lots in width. A 97’ x 39’ park is located on the west side of S. Main St. and the former site of the Stuive Furniture Company building. Flowers, bushes, trees, and a bench are inviting and serve to connect the gap between the Knapp Hardware and Farmers State Bank buildings. Flowerpots are placed throughout the business district to bring color and beauty to the area. Every block has at least one or more vacant lots that once held a commercial building.

General Characteristics
The first commercial buildings constructed in Sylvan Grove were primarily wood-frame structures. The Depot building is the oldest structure still standing from that era, having been built in 1887. A fire in 1897 destroyed a large area of the town’s business district on the west side of Main Street, prompting the construction of the first permanent masonry buildings.

Between 1887 and 1930, a total of 20 commercial buildings were constructed on Sylvan Grove’s Main Street. New construction was minimal after 1930 until the mid-1960s when seven new structures were built. Some empty lots where businesses once stood were replaced with large metal sheds, some used for commercial purposes at the time, but now mostly used as private or city-owned storage facilities. Main Street was virtually unchanged from 1971 until 1993 when another non-commercial storage shed was constructed where the Star Hotel (N. Main St.) had once stood, and the new Rural Fire Department was built in 2009 on the site of the former Sylvan Hotel (S. Main St.). Several building facades have recently been renovated (Kohler Harness Co.-2015; City Hall/Library-2019; Kaempfe Building-2019; Legion Hall-2020). These renovations improved the aesthetics of Main Street; however, when the original historical facia was covered, the buildings were classified as non-contributing to the Historic District.

Most of the early buildings had storefront awnings covering the sidewalks as well as a place to tie a horse and buggy on the unpaved street (HOH, p. 65 photo). A major change to the face of Main Street came in 1964 when Kansas Highway 181 was extended south from Kansas Highway 18 through Sylvan Grove’s Main Street to Wilson Lake. All of the awnings, railings, and other apparatus associated with the Main Street buildings were removed to install curb and gutter to
widen the road to accommodate four lanes of highway through-traffic and to provide diagonal parking in front of the businesses. Outdated sidewalks that were constructed from brick or cement were also replaced at that time.

A total of 36 resources, 20 of which contribute to the town’s historic character. Thirteen of the contributing buildings are constructed of native limestone from nearby quarries and may or may not have stone facia. Several free-standing contemporary metal buildings have replaced former historic buildings. However, the contributing commercial buildings in Sylvan Grove’s historic district convey architectural value, reflect the community's development since 1887, and are important to the town’s history and economy. The District retains good historic integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. Although some of the materials, design, and workmanship have been altered, the area still reflects its importance to the community’s history.

Architectural Styles
Properties in the historic district reflect a variety of architectural styles, although, like many Kansas buildings, architectural designs are often not classic examples of a style but rather a Midwest or local interpretation of a popular style. Late Victorian, Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival, Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement, and Modern Movement styles are reflected in the business district of Sylvan Grove. Late Victorian influence can be seen in metal facades and cornices, cast-iron columns, and window hoods, as well as masonry adaptions of the same. Victorian sub-styles include Richardsonian Romanesque and Italianate, both styles executed primarily in native limestone.

Richardson Romanesque buildings typically feature arched openings, brick or stone facades, and heavy materials, which is why the Romanesque buildings in Sylvan Grove utilize local limestone. While the Italianate style was a common trend among commercial buildings in the late nineteenth century, especially in Kansas, it is less common in Sylvan Grove due in part to the prominence of stone construction. Ornate window hoods and cornices that usually have brackets distinguish Italianate designs. Most of Sylvan Grove’s pre-1900 buildings are of stone construction with no applied ornament. However, several storefronts retain cast-iron columns that are characteristic of the Italianate and Classical Revival styles even though the building has few other stylistic references.

Only one building reflects the Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revival period known as Tudor Revival. This building, the Diers Oil Co. service station, features a steep gable roof and dormer, a style adopted and popularized by Phillips 66 in the 1930s for its gas service stations. Both Commercial Style and Minimal Commercial (early to mid-twentieth century) examples are evident in the historic district. Nine buildings, or 27 percent of the buildings, can be classified as Commercial Style, which is characterized by its simplicity of structure. Commercial buildings in the district can be one- or two-story structures and are characterized by a stepped or shaped parapet, but seldom has a cornice. The primary ornament is corbelling or string courses on the parapet and/or simple geometric trim. Storefront materials often include brick or tile bulkheads, masonry piers, and lintels versus cast-iron columns and wood storefronts. Windows are typically squared tops instead of arched lintels or ornate hoods.

A number of buildings are classified under the Vernacular Style. Vernacular architecture is defined as an architectural style based on the needs, construction materials, and traditions that are specific to a locality. The native stone construction is a prominent physical characteristic, even when the building may have references to other styles. Simulated bracketed cornice and projecting arched windows are found on more than one of Sylvan Grove’s limestone buildings. Modern Movement buildings are characterized by a lack of ornament featuring brick facades and steel windows, clean lines, and simple construction. The Post Office and Wilson Telephone building reflect the architecture of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Both buildings exhibit Utilitarian principles of functionality rather than ornamental purposes.

As an agricultural community, locally produced wheat and other grains were and continue to be the driving force of the local economy. Two examples of historic agricultural structures are found in the two grain elevators still standing. One was constructed in 1893 and the other in 1900. Both are excellent examples of typical grain elevators located throughout the state, with only minimal cosmetic changes made in well over 100 years.
Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NO.</th>
<th>KHRI #</th>
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<th>DATE</th>
<th>Eligibility</th>
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<tr>
<td>1A</td>
<td>105-149</td>
<td>127 N Main</td>
<td>Wilson Telephone Co.</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>105-149</td>
<td>127 N Main</td>
<td>Phone Booth</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>105-5310-00002</td>
<td>123 N Main</td>
<td>Rolfe's Blacksmith Shop</td>
<td>1905</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>105-150</td>
<td>119 N Main</td>
<td>Laundromat</td>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Non-Contributing</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>105-151</td>
<td>115 N Main</td>
<td>Sigle &amp; Meeks Machine Shop</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Non-Contributing</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>105-152</td>
<td>111 N Main</td>
<td>Ray's Garage</td>
<td>1969</td>
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<td>Wohler Drug Store</td>
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<td>105-153</td>
<td>104 S Main</td>
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<td>Farmers State Bank Bldg</td>
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<td>105-155</td>
<td>118-120 S Main</td>
<td>Gatewood's Original Garage</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>105-156</td>
<td>122-130 S Main</td>
<td>Fire Station</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Non-Contributing</td>
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<td>132 S Main</td>
<td>Cross Grain Co - Office</td>
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<td>Contributing</td>
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<td>132 S Main</td>
<td>Cross Grain Co - Grain Elevator E</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Contributing</td>
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<tr>
<td>13C</td>
<td>105-157</td>
<td>132 S Main</td>
<td>Cross Grain Co - Frame Granary</td>
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<td>13D</td>
<td>105-157</td>
<td>132 S Main</td>
<td>Cross Grain Co - Grain Elevator W</td>
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<td>105-158</td>
<td>101 E 2nd</td>
<td>Diers Oil Co</td>
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<td>105-159</td>
<td>110 E 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<td>16</td>
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<td>126 N Main</td>
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<td>105-160</td>
<td>120 N Main</td>
<td>Kaempfe Produce</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>105-161</td>
<td>116 N Main</td>
<td>Old Hopfer Grocery &amp; Dry Goods</td>
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<td>105-162</td>
<td>112 N Main</td>
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<td>115 N S Illinois</td>
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<td>Sylvan State Bank</td>
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<td>105-166</td>
<td>101 S Main</td>
<td>Kohler Harness Co</td>
<td>1908</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>105-167</td>
<td>103 S Main</td>
<td>Us Post Office</td>
<td>1961</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>105-168</td>
<td>105 S Main</td>
<td>Stout Bakery</td>
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<td>105-169</td>
<td>107 S Main</td>
<td>Buehring's Barber Shop</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>105-170</td>
<td>109 S Main</td>
<td>Sylvan Café &amp; Recreation</td>
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<td>105-171</td>
<td>115 S Main</td>
<td>Lou Serrien's Garage</td>
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<td>105-172</td>
<td>117 S Main</td>
<td>Commercial Building</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>105-173</td>
<td>123 S Main</td>
<td>Fire Truck Garage</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>105-174</td>
<td>129 S Main</td>
<td>Farmer's Elevator Building</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>105-120</td>
<td>131 S Main</td>
<td>Sylvan Grove Union Pacific Depot</td>
<td>1887</td>
<td>NR-Listed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SYLVAN GROVE PROPERTIES

1A. Wilson Telephone Company
Address: 127 N. Main
Date of Construction: 1956
Architect: Unknown
Architectural Classification: Mid-Century Modern

Description: This 16’ x 40’ freestanding one-story small brick building is characteristic of modern phone company buildings. It is concrete with red brick facade. The entrance is located on NE corner with asymmetrical concrete block piers and flat concrete canopy that projects slightly over the entry.

History: The Wilson Telephone Company purchased Cross Telephone Company on March 29, 1956, (RD B28/L1) and later that year constructed the brick building to house the telephone electronics for the Sylvan Grove “526” exchange (SGN 3/29/1956). Now known as Wilson Communications, the same ownership has provided service to Sylvan Grove for 65 years.

Integrity: No alterations have been made that affect the structure’s architectural mid-20th Century design and integrity. The building represents a long-standing business concern in the town, which began telephone service in 1901 (SGN 11/1/1901).

1B. Wilson Telephone Company – Phone Booth
Address: 127 N. Main
Date of Construction: 1958
Architect: Unknown
Architectural Classification: Mid-Century Modern

Description: Glass wall and metal frame enclosed phone booth with coin-operated touch-tone keypad. It measures 33 1/2” x 33 1/2” x 7”1”.

History: The phone booth was installed in 1958 and was updated with a touch-tone unit in December 1990 (per Mary Zorn, Wilson Communications, 2/19/2020). Although it is operational, most of its use today is as a prop or backdrop for tourists and photographers.

Integrity: The structure’s materials are original and in very good condition, and the phone is in working order. It conveys an important period in Sylvan Grove’s history relevant to updated communications and modern technology.

2. Rohlf’s Blacksmith Shop
Address: 123 N. Main
Date of Construction: ca. 1907
Architect: Unknown
Architectural Classification: Vernacular

Description: This is a freestanding 20’ x 100’ one-story stone building with a gable roof with corrugated metal. The stone front facade is rectangular, extending above gable roof and features a central arched opening with swinging wood doors flanked by two windows covered with metal. Window openings on sides are exposed with varied wood double-hung frame windows. A large (43 ft.) rear addition extends from the west side, matching shape and proportions of stone building. The addition has metal siding and roof with an over-sized garage door at the west facade.

History: The first reference to this blacksmith shop is found in the September 19, 1907, issue of the Sylvan Grove News that refers to Fred Rohlf’s business as “the Stone Blacksmith Shop.” Although Rohlf bought the property on 1/22/1907 (RD B28/L2), the actual date of construction is not known. Rohlf sold the tools and machinery to Louis Kasiska in 1908 but retained ownership of the building (SGN 9/10/1908). A.D. Quickert purchased the building in 1917; Fred Steenbock was the owner from 1922 until 1953 when Frank Sigle took ownership. Later, Frank partnered with his brother, Howard, and eventually, Frank’s son-in-law, James Meeks, joined them. The business continued until 1990. Since that time, various owners have used the building for storage (RD B28/L2).
**Integrity:** A tin roof and boarded windows in the front have been implemented, but the architectural integrity of the building, in general, is very good. It is representative of the use of native materials for commercial construction. Its historical contribution to the growth and economy of the town gives it historical integrity.

### 3. Laundromat

**Address:** 119 N. Main

**KHRI#:** 105-150

**Date of Construction:** early 1963

**Architect:** None

**Current Function:** Storage

**Architectural Classification:** Mid-Century Modern

**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_03”

**Description:** This is a 20’ x 31’ free-standing one-story block commercial building with metal siding on the front facade and painted block on the sides and rear. A single door in the center of the front and rear facades are the only openings. Two windows flanking the doorway have been covered with metal siding.

**History:** Howard Sigle built and owned the Laundromat to accommodate the needs of the many temporary construction workers and their families who lived in Sylvan Grove during the construction of Wilson Dam. It closed in the 1970s and has been privately owned as a storage facility since that time.

**Integrity:** The application of a metal façade and window coverings negate its status as a contributing property.

### 4. Sigle & Meeks Machine Shop

**Address:** 115 N. Main

**KHRI#:** 105-151

**Date of Construction:** 1965

**Architect:** Unknown

**Current Function:** Commercial Storage

**Architectural Classification:** Metal Building

**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_04”

**Description:** This 40’ x 88’ free-standing gable-roofed shed has a concrete foundation and metal roof and siding with a garage door on front and rear. A single man-door and horizontal band of four windows are located on the south half of the front facade, the garage bay on the north half.

**History:** This building was constructed in 1965 to handle the expanded business growth of Howard Sigle’s Butler Building dealership and the addition of Frank’s Sigle’s son-in-law, James Meeks, to the business (Verbal, Jody Sigle, 2/21/2020). Subsequent owners since 1998 have used the building for agricultural and commercial storage (RD B28/L4).

**Integrity:** Due to its metal construction and lack of architectural and historical significance, the building does not have fit the qualifications of a contributing property.

### 5. Ray’s Garage

**Address:** 111 N. Main

**KHRI#:** 105-152

**Date of Construction:** 1969

**Architect:** Unknown

**Current Function:** Meitler Auction House

**Architectural Classification:** Metal Building

**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_05”

**Description:** This is a large 38’ x 96’ freestanding metal-framed shed on a concrete foundation with ca. 1998 shed addition on the east end of the south facade. There is a single door on the front facade with a two-light horizontal window. A single man door is in the center of the rear facade. There are two-light vertical slider windows on the front/east and south sides of the shed bay.

**History:** After a fire destroyed the former Gatewood Chevrolet building that contained Ray Blasé’s garage in the back of the building and the newly opened Home Café in the front, the town rallied to assist Blasé to clear the site and build the existing steel-frame shop (SJ 9/28/1969). Blasé operated the vehicle repair shop until 1995 when it was sold to Raymond M. Meitler. It has served as home to the Meitler Auction House since then (RD B28/L5).

**Integrity:** Due to its metal construction and lack of architectural and historical significance, the building does not fit the qualifications of a contributing property.
### 6. Behrhorst Bros. Hardware

**Address:** 105 N. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-5310-00004  
**Date of Construction:** 1905  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Restaurant and Brewery  
**Architectural Classification:** Late Victorian -Richardson Romanesque  
**Description:** The two-story commercial building is built of native limestone with large arched windows across the upper front facade. An arched brick header caps the upper windows, which have paired wood-frame double-hung units with arched panel above. The lintels are two-tier header brick lintels within a large brick arched cap. Building features replacement wood storefronts featuring twin recessed entry bays and a single door on the north end providing street access to the upper floor. A projecting stone course caps the parapet on the front facade. There is a one-story 20’ shed bay with metal siding on the rear façade, and an open steel fire escape provides access to a door at the west end of the south facade (2nd floor). The building measures 50’ x 68’ and is somewhat taller than a standard two-story building.  
**History:** Reinhold W. Wohler constructed the building with the intent to provide a hardware store on the first floor and opera hall on the second floor (SGN, 12/8/1904). The original elevator into the basement is still intact and operational. Behrhorst Bros. Hardware operated their store in the space until sometime after the 1925 fire when S.M. Lawson Hardware moved in with his hardware store (HOH, p. 56). Lawson purchased the building in 1935 from Reinhold Wohler (SGN, 4/1/1953) and operated there until his death in 1995.  
**Integrity:** The building’s windows, doors, and façade have not been altered. The building was constructed between two other structures, and when one of the supporting structures was torn down, the integrity of the north wall was compromised. Stone repair work was completed in 2014 when the brewery owners purchased the building. It now has no structural defects and is an excellent example of Late Victorian-Richardson Romanesque architecture. Historically, the building represents the agricultural aspect of the young town at a time when it was economically booming, and its future was bright. It has stood the test of time and is now a centerpiece for the town’s Main Street.

### 7. Wohler Drug Store

**Address:** 101 N. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-5310-00003  
**Date of Construction:** 1897  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Commercial & Rental Apartment  
**Architectural Classification:** Commercial Style/Vernacular/Two-Part Commercial Block  
**Description:** The two-story commercial building is constructed of native stone and measures 25’ x 58’. It features a traditional replacement storefront and upper windows (1/1 double-hung with storms). The storefront has Z-brick bulkhead and aluminum siding covering transom. The entrance is deeply recessed at the north end of the storefront. There are minimal window openings on the south and west facades and a single door at the north end of the west facade. A single door (slab metal) provides access to the upper floor at the west end of the south facade.  
**History:** Reinhold W. Wohler’s drug store was constructed in 1897 and anchored “Drug Store Corner” (Figure 1) at 1st & Main for many years (SGN 9/2/1897). Mr. Pinney bought the drug store in 1905 (SGN 3/16/1905). A newly licensed pharmacist bought out Pinney in 1909 (SGN 7/1/1909), and it became Stoy Ware’s Drug Store (SGN 11/11/1909) until 1944 (TB). Several doctors conducted their medical practices in the building, including Dr. Shelksohn, Dr. N.L. Book, (SGN 12/28/1900) and Dr. Frank Dlabal from 1957-1972 (TB). Other tenants included a law office, an agricultural engineering firm, a beauty salon, a clothing store, and, most recently, a psychologist. The upstairs apartment was vacant from about 1967 until 2012 when it was remodeled for its current use as an Airbnb apartment.  
**Integrity:** As one of the oldest remaining commercial buildings in Sylvan Grove, it meets the criteria for historical value. The façade has had some alteration below the front window, but the building as a whole retains its architectural and historical significance.
8. Old Sylvan State Bank Building
Address: 100 S. Main St.

Date of Construction: 1897

Architect: Unknown

Architectural Classification: Late Victorian – Richardsonian Romanesque

Description: This 50’ x 100’ one-story native stone building features corbelled stone band above storefronts and a cornice band with brackets at the parapet cap. Openings on the front facade feature hammered stone detailing contrasting the adjacent natural-faced stones. The north half of the front facade features large arched stone door and window openings typical of Romanesque revival. Arched openings have a narrow projecting band on the outside perimeter. The entrance is recessed with a single light door. The adjacent window has boarded arched transom over a two-light display window. A second storefront is located on the south half of the front facade with a traditional wood storefront with a recessed central entrance framed by cast-iron columns. Metal siding has been installed over the bulkhead, and fixed angled wood awning with composition shingles has been installed over the transom area. The north facade is distinguished by arched openings matching the front on the east half (original bank) with two windows and a single door with transom. At the west end of the original facade, a third storefront is in place but boarded. Cast-iron columns are visible, as is a recessed central entry. A one-story rear addition is slightly shorter than the original building with a shed roof. A single door is located in the center of the north side of the bay, and a garage door is centrally located in the center of the rear/west facade.

History: A new, limestone bank building was built in 1898 on this site that replaced the wood-frame building that was destroyed in the 1897 fire (SGN 8/25/1898). The Sylvan State Bank conducted business there until 1913 when a new building was opened across the street (HOH, p. 49). Sylvan Grove City Ordinance No. 7 was approved, marking the front step of the building as the benchmark for measuring the grade on Main Street from the Depot north to 2nd St. (ALERT 1/11/1900). John and Myrtle Lang owned the building from 1911-1962 when it was sold to Salem Thaemert, who ran the IGA Store next door (RD B37/L1). Previous business tenants have included Lang’s Apparel Shop, 1940-1947 (FB/TB); U.S. Post Office (1947-1961); and Benchmark Antiques (1972-1976) (HOH, p. 56). Vacant for many years, it is now occupied by a hair salon and clothing sales store.

The secondary storefront has a long retail history. Lang & Dehler operated a full-line store in the new building selling dry goods, notions, groceries, clothing, and other supplies (SGN 8/25/1898). It also operated as Berger Bros. Store (SGN 3/16/1899), Calene and Berger, (SGN 6/8/1903). In 1910, Calene bought out Berger, and half-interest was sold to W.M. Coover and C.C. Colden. The name changed to Calene Mercantile Co. (SGN 8/18/1910). In 1913, Glen C. Calene purchased W. M. Coover’s interest in the business (SGN 7-10-1913) and remained in operation until 1941 (FB/TB). Joseph Krysl operated Krysl IGA from 1941-1958 (FB/TB). He added a locker plant at the rear of the building for meat processing and frozen storage (SGN, 4/1/1953). Then Salem Thaemert took over as owner of Thaemert’s IGA in 1958 until 2004 (FB/TB). The last owners, Warren and Bonnie Mitchell operated the grocery until it closed for good in 2007 (RD B37/L2). More recent uses were as a restaurant, thrift store, carpentry/remodeling shop, and saddle shop.

Integrity: The building is a significant historical site through its early use as Sylvan Grove’s first bank, grocery store, post office, clothing store, and other commercial businesses from the very start of the town. It retains its architectural significance through its native stone building materials and unique façade that incorporates two storefronts.

9. Knapp Hardware
Address: 104 S. Main

Date of Construction: circa 1898

Architect: Unknown

Architectural Classification: One-Part Commercial Block

Description: This 24’ x 88’ building has a corrugated metal covering the facade obscuring the stone facade. The storefront has recessed central entry with flanking horizontal light windows and is covered with metal siding. The stone corner piers have a tooled dimpled face. The exposed south facade has no openings; the parapet steps down to the west. A concrete block rear addition of 26’ (included in the total size above) has stepped parapet. The oversized opening in the center of the rear facade has been downsized to accommodate a single man door. A membrane roof wraps over the top of the parapet.
History: This building was constructed sometime soon after the 1897 fire. Knapp Hardware was the occupant and sold to H.W. Rahmeier (SGN 12/1/1898). Rahmeier merged with a partner to form Rahmeier & Behrhorst Hardware (SGN 4/4/1901); E.G. Behrhorst became sole proprietor (SGN 10/16/1902). In 1905, Behrhorst Brothers Hardware moved into their new building in the next block north (SGN 4/2/1905). Saenger Hardware, later known as Saenger Bros. Hardware, took over the space from 1905-1918 when it was sold to H.J. Harwi (SGN 8/15/1918). Joseph Stuive and G.B. Hopfer bought the building from Harwi and formed Sylvan Cash Hardware (SGN 10/8/1922) that operated until the early 1940s when Stuive, who owned a large furniture store next door, moved the hardware inventory into his building. Hopfer Jewelry was the last tenant until Hopfer’s death in 1945 (BLC). The Sylvan Grove American Legion Post #359 has owned the building since 1947 (SGN, 4/1/1953).

Integrity: The use of siding that covers the historic fabric of the façade and replacement of original window openings results in its classification as non-contributing.

10. Farmer’s State Bank Building
Address: 108 S. Main
KHR#: 105-154
Date of Construction: 1909
Architect: Unknown
Current Function: Business office
Architectural Classification: Late Victorian -Italianate
Documentation: Photo “Sylvan_10”
Description: One-story native stone building is freestanding with buildings to north and south formerly demolished. Stone piers are featuring dimpled facade with dressed margin frame front facade with pressed metal upper facade and cornice. Storefront is a replacement but retains proportions of traditional historic commercial storefronts. It angles back to a recessed entrance at the north end and has a canvas awning over the transom area—multi-light display windows over a contemporary paneled wood base. There is a single man door on the south facade, and one-story shed bay with metal siding on the rear. A one-story shed bay with metal siding measuring 23’ was added to the original 27’ x 60’ building in the mid-1900s.

History: The one-story building was erected in 1909 at the cost of about $5,000 and adjoined the south side of Raffety Bros. Store (SEJ, 6/10/1909). The newly established bank opened for business on Tuesday, October 19, 1909. (SGN 10-21-1909). While it ran successfully for more than 20 years, it could not overcome the effects of the stock market crash and the Great Depression, and it closed for good on February 11, 1931 (SGN 2/11/1931). The building later housed Stuive Funeral Home until 1967, and several plumbing businesses. In 1995, it became the office for a local family-owned farming and ranching concern that is the present owner (RD B37/L8).

Integrity: The structure retains all the detail and structural design of Late Victorian-Italianate architecture, which gives it architectural credibility. Its native stone construction and place in Sylvan Grove’s economic growth, and failure, contribute to its historical integrity.

11. Frank Gatewood’s Garage
Address: 118-120 S. Main
KHR#: 105-155
Date of Construction: 1900
Architect: Unknown
Current Function: City Hall/Library
Architectural Classification: One-Part Commercial Block
Documentation: Photo “Sylvan_11” and Fig. 3 “Meyer Bros. Garage”
Description: This one-story 50’ x 70’ concrete building is freestanding with a hipped roof. There is a contemporary stone veneer on the lower storefront with metal siding on the upper front facade. A center garage bay wall was removed to enlarge the library. The new entrance is a glass-front double door entry. The end bays having a single-light fixed sash window in a punched opening and a single door for separate entry into the city hall. A central opening on the rear facade provided drive-through access for fire trucks.

History: Frank Gatewood’s Garage was built in 1900 (HOH, p. 64). Model T passenger cars were sold at the location, repairs made, and vehicle oil and gas were sold and “exchanged for produce” (SGN 4/20/1911). In 1928, Meyer Brothers (Frank and Lou) conducted an auto repair business in the building (SGN 4/1/1953). Frank Meyer became sole owner in 1941 (SGN 4/1/1953) and also sold Case farm implements (HOH, p. 64) and DeSoto automobiles (SGN, 3/23/1955) until 1955. Hlad Motor Company operated there for a short time, starting in the spring of 1955, selling Plymouth and DeSoto cars (SGN 4/27/1955). The City of Sylvan Grove purchased the building from Hlad Bros. in early 1956 (RD B37/L10). It was remodeled to house the City office, library, and fire department (SGN, 7-25-1956) in the three separate sections of the building. City Hall was located in the north section, and the City Library occupied the southern section in 1957, having
moved from the second floor of the Sylvan State Bank building. The Fire Department occupied the middle garage bay. The library expanded into the center garage bay in 2019. City Hall offices remain in the north section of the building. **Integrity:** Recent alterations have covered its original historic facade, resulting in a non-contributing building.

12. **Fire Station**  
Address: 122-130 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-156  
**Date of Construction:** 2009  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Rural Fire Department Station  
**Architectural Classification:** Metal Building  
**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_12”  
**Description:** This one-story building is a contemporary steel construction, 6’ x 100’, with a shallow gable roof and metal roof and siding. The fire department occupies the south half with garage bays of the west and south facades; EMS occupies the north half of the building. The facade has a native stone veneer base with metal siding above. There is a single door with three small fixed sash windows on the front facade of the EMS side. There is a garage bay at the west end of the north facade and no openings on the rear.  
**History:** The new rural fire district building was built in 2009 on the site of the former Sylvan Hotel (RD B37/14).  
**Integrity:** New construction does not meet historic or architectural criteria for a contributing property.

13 CROSS GRAIN COMPANY COMPLEX (Fig. 4): This collection of structures is comprised of three primary buildings (two elevators and office) and one secondary building (granary).

13A. **Cross Grain Company (1) - Office**  
Address: 132 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-157  
**Date of Construction:** circa 1920  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Uninhabited  
**Architectural Classification:** One-Part Commercial Block, distinguished by corner entryway.  
**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_13a”  
**Description:** The office is an 18’ x 22’ freestanding one-story concrete structure with stucco walls over the clapboard base. The building has a side-facing gable roof with contemporary metal. The entrance is canted, recessed below the eave at the northeast corner. A second entry is located at the west end of the north façade. This is located in a 6’ addition to the west. Wood doors and windows are in place, many altered and covered. A scale is located immediately north of the building.  
**History:** This structure was most likely built after E.S.W. Cross bought the grain elevators from M.E. Wunderlich in 1920. Components of the scale were housed in the building, along with a small office. Cross sold out to the Farmers Elevator Company, which owned the property until 2005 when it was sold to private non-commercial owners. (RD B36/L15).  
**Integrity:** Its age and unique design, coupled with the entire property’s historic contribution to the agricultural economy of the town, add to the property’s significance and integrity.

13B. **Name**: Cross Grain Company (2) – Grain Elevator (East)  
**Address:** 132. S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-157  
**Date of Construction:** 1900  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Private use.  
**Architectural Classification:** Early 20th Century Grain Elevator  
**Documentation:** Photo – “Sylvan_13b”  
**Description:** Historic agricultural building of wood construction and covered with tin sheeting and including a shed bay. Monitor roof. The building is 24’ x 32’ and stands 54’ high with a 15,000-bushel capacity. Shed addition on the north.  
**History:** According to a 6/1/1900 Sylvan Grove News article, “Work began on an elevator just south of the Sylvan Hotel, for the P.V. Elevator Company...machinery run by gas engine is located in one room of the office building.” (Historic photo indicates a second office building was once located north of the present building and south of the Sylvan Hotel (SHS historic photo collection). Also referred to as the Peavey Elevator, it operated for an unknown number of years until it was sold to M.E. Wunderlich (date unknown). He sold it to E.S.W. Cross in 1920 (SGN 7/15/1920) and later became a part of the Farmer’s Elevator properties.
**Integrity:** The main structure of the elevator has been virtually unchanged since it was first built. Its historic significance represents the initial commerce of Sylvan Grove, grain sales, storage, and marketing, that drew farmers and entrepreneurs to the area at the turn of the century.

13C. **Cross Grain Co. (3) – Frame Granary**  
**Status:** Contributing  
**Address:** 132 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-157  
**Date of Construction:** ca. 1888  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Private storage  
**Architectural Classification:** Agricultural Structure  
**Documentation:** Photo – “Sylvan_13c”  
**Description:** A small 15' x 26' wood-frame structure with horizontal wood sides with remnants of corrugated metal siding. This building has a shallow gable roof with deteriorated shingles. Two openings are located in the roof to fill grain into the building.  
**History:** Probably constructed at the same time as the east grain elevator, it was used for the storage of sacked feed and supplies related to the grain elevator.  
**Integrity:** The structure has seen very few changes since it was constructed. It is directly related to the historical and economic context of the elevators as a whole.

13D. **Cross Grain Co. (4) – Grain Elevator (West)**  
**Status:** Contributing  
**Address:** 132 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-157  
**Date of Construction:** 1892  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Private use  
**Architectural Classification:** Late 19th Century Grain Elevator  
**Documentation:** Photo – “Sylvan_13d” & Fig. 5 “Wunderlich's ‘Pride of Sylvan’ Roller Mill”  
**Description:** Three-story, 28’ x 34’ grain storage/elevator of wood construction and covered with tin siding, monitor roof and shed bay on the north side. Later addition of a 28’ x 34’ covered lean-to structure to dump grain from trucks. Appears to be original to the site with a stone foundation and old corrugated metal siding over metal sheathing. There are openings in the gable end and sides of the monitor for fill with augers. The building retains a tin standing-seam roof.  
**History:** The Sylvan Grove Sentinel reported on 10/28/1892 that “Mart Wunderlich will build a new elevator next season large enough to take in any amount of grain.” Wunderlich was a local entrepreneur who was involved in several businesses, including a partnership in both the Robinson and Norris Elevators, located on the east side of Main Street near the railroad depot. The west elevator increased its capacity to 10,000 bushels in the summer of 1900 (LB 7/19/1900). After several additions to the Wunderlich Elevator, he started the Sylvan Roller Mill business in 1913 in connection with his elevator at this location. It was a flour mill that produced “Pride of Sylvan Grove” flour and also bought and sold other grains for resale. It was touted as being “the very latest and most up-to-date of its kind that money could buy…and assures the people of Sylvan Grove that the Sylvan Roller Mills will turn out as good a grade of flour as can be found on the market anywhere” (SGN 9/4/1913). He operated the businesses until 1920 when he sold out the entire operation to E.S.W. Cross and moved to California. Although Cross was new to the elevator business, the paper reported that “he is blessed with good business judgment and will make a success of this business.” (SGN 7/15/1920). Later sold to Farmer's Elevator Co.  
**Integrity:** Classic example of rural American grain elevators with a rich history in agricultural development in the Sylvan Grove area and architecture that can be described as real Americana.

14. **Diers Oil Co.**  
**Status:** Contributing  
**Address:** 101 E. 2nd  
**KHRI#:** 105-158  
**Date of Construction:** ca. 1930  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Privately owned storage  
**Architectural Classification:** Late 19th and Early 20th Century Revivals – Tudor Revival Styles/English Cottage Style  
**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_14”  
**Description:** This small 21’ x 13’ "house-type" gas station has a steep gabled dormer, and stucco over brick on exterior walls are characteristics common to the style. The ca. 1930 station has large multi-light industrial sash windows and an exterior door to a restroom on the west. A wood frame garage with shiplap wood siding is extant on the east-facing E. 2nd
Street. It is connected at the rear by an angled gable-roof bay to the "new" station, that was positioned at an angle at the corner of E. 2nd and Main with pumps in the front accessible from either street.

**History:** Built by Henry Diers in about 1930 and later operated by his son, Clarence, this was a true “full-service” station that also offered tank wagon service (SGN 4/1/1953) for 45 years. It was sold to Neal Lovin in 1975 who operated it until 1979 (RD B20/L14). Several other owners utilized self-service gas pumps until it was closed permanently in 2002. It is used now for storage.

**Integrity:** The building retains its original architecture and uniqueness. Major oil companies adopted this style in the late 1920s as a marketing strategy that would make them more easily assimilated into neighborhoods (NPS Brief 46). It is historically significant because it is representative of the second generation of service stations popular in that era. It served Sylvan Grove for many years and is part of the charm of downtown Sylvan Grove.

### 15. Blacksmith Shop

- **Address:** 110 E. 2nd
- **Date of Construction:** circa 1919
- **Architect:** Unknown
- **Current Function:** Under renovation by Sylvan Historical Society
- **Architectural Classification:** One-Part Commercial Block
- **Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_15”
- **Description:** This one-story 25’ x 35’ shed has a shingled gable roof with a small brick chimney near the north end. Old shingles are in place in the gable end of the rear/south facade. The building faces north and has a stepped parapet that appears to be new construction or new sheathing at least. The parapet, which covers the front gable end, has vertical wood siding. The building is a structural clay tile with an oversized opening in the center of the north and south sides. The openings have been infilled with wood, the front downsized for a single man door. The east and west sides have 6/6 double-hung wood windows.
- **History:** This building replaces a wood structure that was destroyed by fire circa 1919. The structure served as blacksmith shops for Lee Standley and Oscar Quickert until 1945 when it became a storage facility for William J. Kasiska, who had a filling station across the street and later for Unified School District No 299 (RD B29/L28). The Sylvan Historical Society purchased it in 2017 with plans to restore it to its original use as a working blacksmith shop for public viewing.
- **Integrity:** Repairs and updates over the years have negated its architectural value as a contributing property.

### 16. B.F. Foster Building

- **Address:** 126 N. Main
- **Date of Construction:** 1913
- **Architect:** Unknown
- **Current Function:** Yesterday House Museum
- **Architectural Classification:** Late Victorian – Richardsonian Romanesque
- **Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_16” and Fig. 6 “Jensen Creamery”
- **Description:** Two-story 50’ x 68’ limestone building has a corbelled cornice and arched stone lintels with a projecting course at the perimeter. The facade has two storefronts with recessed entrances. Cast-iron columns define the storefront bays. Vertical wood siding has been installed over storefront windows and upper windows. There is a fixed angled awning with contemporary standing-seam metal. The north facade fronts E. 2nd street with four upper windows (1/1 double-hung wood windows), two single door and window openings on the lower level, and an oversized opening with plywood infill with a multi-light wood transom exposed near the east end. The building is free-standing with minimal openings on the south. A slab door provides access to an exterior fire escape on the west half of the upper south facade. A small window is boarded near the east end. The original building was 68’ long; a one-story gabled 40’ x 50’ metal shed was added to the rear in 2017 for antique farm machinery displays.
- **History:** Built by Benjamin F. Foster in 1913 for his produce and feed store (SGN 8/28/1913). Jensen Creamery had space in the building in 1914 (Fig. 4), along with Belle Springs Creamery (SGN 2/27/1919), Kirschbraun & Sons Creamery (SGN, 6/10/1920), and E.G. Naegle creamery (SGN 10/20/1921). Frank and Lou Meyer had an auto repair service in the building and sold Plymouth automobiles (HOH p. 57) until they moved to the old Gatewood Garage on S. Main – the current City Hall. The building was later home to Diers & Ulrich Implement, International Harvester dealers in 1945 (IH, p. 30), Diers Implement (SGN 11/13/1946), and laterly, Geyer Implement where Case and Minneapolis-Moline implements and DeSoto and Plymouth cars were sold (SGN 10/17/1956). The building was purchased by the Sylvan Historical Society in 1978 and renamed Yesterday House Museum (RD B29/L28). The east side of the building (first floor) housed the volunteer fire department equipment in the early years. The second floor, referred to as Foster Hall (SGN 5/11/1922), was home to the Masonic Lodge (SGN 4/14/1921) for a time. After Diers purchased the building, the spacious upstairs
was referred to as Diers Hall and was a community gathering hall for dances, roller skating, and meetings (SGN 11/13/1946). The original bandstand is still in place.

**Integrity:** The building is a classic example of Romanesque architecture. Its early use as a commercial property and community hall, plus its preservation as a museum, qualifies it as a historic landmark in Sylvan Grove.

### 17. Kaempfe Produce

**Address:** 120 N. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-160  
**Date of Construction:** ca. 1888  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Commercial Use  
**Architectural Classification:** One-Part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo – “Sylvan_17”  
**Description:** One-story 50’ x 82’ stone building with contemporary metal siding on the front and rear facades; stone is exposed on the north. A shed roof was installed with a metal-framed roof structure extending above the stone wall on the sides. A large one-story gabled shed is located off the rear/east facade.  
**History:** Documents indicate that the Moline Plow Co. owned the two-part building in 1888 (RD B29/L24-25). Two hardware companies, Hill Hardware and later Harwi Hardware, as well as Bacon & Lance Shoe and Harness Shop and then Towner’s Garage, also operated there (HOH, p. 57). At some point, the building was divided into two separate units. Early 20th-Century photos illustrate Land Insurance & Loan, Farmers Elevator Co., and a Harness Shop in the building (SHS historical photo collection). In 1942 Albert Kaempfe started Kaempfe Produce and took over both parts of the building (HOH, p. 57). A one-lane bowling alley may have operated there in the 1940s, according to several verbal accounts. Kaempfe sold livestock feed of all kinds and bought cream and eggs until 1969. Robert “Frenchy” Fortin had an upholstery shop in the building starting in December 1969 (SGN 12/11/1969). Sammy Goebel, a local carpenter, worked there in the early 1970s until his death in 1988. In 1991, Stan Labertew purchased the building for his bee and honey business and operates out of the building today (RD B29/24).  
**Integrity:** The original façade has been replaced with metal siding that covers original windows and the north side of the building, which was a separate business entity at one time before Kaempfe purchased it and implemented it into his store. The use of modern materials to cover the historical character of the building compromises its architectural and historical integrity.

### 18. Hopfer Grocery & Dry Goods

**Address:** 116 N. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-161  
**Date of Construction:** 1899  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Restaurant/convenience store  
**Architectural Classification:** Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movement – Commercial Style  
**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_18”  
**Description:** The original native stone building was 50’ x 58’. It has a large fixed awning with shingles over two storefronts. The storefronts are contemporary replacements in keeping with the proportions and components of a traditional historic commercial storefront. There are slightly projecting courses forming a cornice at the top of the parapet. The building has two rear additions, both frame with metal roof and siding. The first has a shed roof; the second is flat and open to the east (canopy). At the front sidewalk, a concrete ramp with handrail provides access to the storefront, which is raised above grade approximately 2 feet.  
**History:** This building held some general merchandise/grocery stores over the years, beginning with Dehler & Skiles 1899-1901 (SGN, 8/19/1899), W.A. Skiles & Company (SGN 5/16/1901), and Kirtland & Wunderlich 1901-1904 (SGN 11/7/1901). E.A. Hopfer purchased the store in 1904 (SGN, 7/1/1904). He operated the enterprise until 1936 when Ray Eckleman took over the business (SGN 4/1/1953). He expanded the store by adding a basement department that handled a line of variety, toys, men and boys wearing apparel, shoes, small hardware, hunting items, and gifts. (SGN 9/11/1946). He sold the store to Lloyd Andersen (RD B29/L22), who re-opened it as Andy’s General Store in 1969. It closed in 1977, the end of the building’s use as a full-line grocery store (FB/TB). Subsequent tenants included the Sylvan Lumber Company (1980-1993) and B&W Arcade (1993-2004). IAG, LLC, bought the building in 2010 and remodeled it for a restaurant called Hometown Café (RD B29/L22). Later, Hometown Convenience Store occupied the south side of the building, replacing the Lincoln County Medical office. The convenience store remains in business. The restaurant closed in 2018, but current management plans to re-open it in 2020.
Integrity: This is another building built early in Sylvan Grove’s history that retains architectural integrity through its original construction. It has had continuous use as a commercial building for more than 120 years, giving it credibility as a local historic landmark.

19. Garage – Non-historic
Address: 112 N. Main
KHR#: 105-162
Date of Construction: ca. 2006
Architect: Unknown
Current Function: Private Storage
Architectural Classification: Agricultural Building
Documentation: Photo “Sylvan_19”
Description: This is a 40’ x 68’ one-story metal shed with a shallow front-facing gable roof. The building has horizontal metal siding, and the roof is contemporary standing-seam metal. There are a garage door and an entry door on the front facade and an entry door and two garage doors on the rear/east facade.
History: Constructed in 2006 for private storage, it was subsequently sold to private individuals who also used it for storage. No commercial business has occupied the building.
Integrity: The building’s recent construction and lack of historic value does not meet qualifications for consideration.

Status: Non-contributing

20. Garage
Address: 115 N. Illinois
KHR#: 105-163
Date of Construction: Built in 1940.
Architect: Unknown
Current Function: Private Storage
Architectural Classification: Utilitarian
Documentation: Photo “Sylvan_20”
Description: This one-story 32’ x 24’ freestanding front-gable garage is located behind the building at 112 N Main Street. The garage has vertical wood siding exposed in the gable end and corrugated metal siding on the balance of the facades. The gabled roof retains standing seam metal roofing. There are sliding wood doors on the east and west ends and a single man door at the west end of the north facade. A band of four steel sash windows is in place on the south.
History: The garage is on the same parcel with the building at 112 N. Main, but now has a separate address and is therefore surveyed separately. Historical data is not available.
Integrity: It is a secondary utilitarian building and is not a primary contributor to a potential historic district even though it is more than 50 years old.

Status: Non-contributing

21. Cuddy & Hardesty Drug Store
Address: 110 N. Main
KHR#: 105-164
Date of Construction: 1901
Architect: Unknown
Current Function: Private Storage
Architectural Classification: One-Part Commercial Block
Documentation: Photo “Sylvan_21”
Description: One-story 25’ x 60’ freestanding native stone building is one of the most intact historic buildings in downtown Sylvan Grove. The storefront appears to be original wood with cast-iron columns framing a wide recessed center bay with double doors. The wood storefront has paneled bulkhead and multi-light wood-framed transom. A corrugated metal awning is in place over the storefront. The stone foundation is visible above the sidewalk below the wood bulkhead. Projecting stone courses forming a cornice at the top of the parapet. The parapet steps down on the north and south facade to the rear/east facade. The rear facade retains original openings with a center door flanked by a window; the door and windows are replacements.
History: The building was constructed by co-owners Joseph G. Cuddy and U.G. Hardesty in 1901 (SGN 6/6/1901). In 1902 Cuddy purchased Hardesty’s interest in the business, and it became Cuddy’s Drug Store (SGN 1/4/1902). Fred G. Thaemert’s Music Store occupied the building from 1906 until 1939 (SGN 9/27/1906). Several restaurants (Edna’s Café from 1939-1946; Naegele Café, 1946-51; and The Home Café 1951-1969) also operated in the building (FB/TB). Subsequent owners operated a tavern in the building, including George’s Tavern and the Do Drop Inn, the last one closing in 1984. The building was converted to storage at that time. (RD B29/L18)
**Integrity:** This building conveys the highest level of architectural and historic integrity with its original design, construction, and age. Very little has been done to the building to alter its original state. Its use as a commercial building was a contributing factor in the growth of Sylvan Grove over the years.

### 22. Sylvan State Bank

**Address:** 102 N. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-165  
**Date of Construction:** 1913  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Banking facility  
**Architectural Classification:** Late 19\(^{th}\) and Early 20\(^{th}\) Century American Movements - Commercial Style  
**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_22”  
**Description:** This two-story 50’ x 68’ brick building has a contemporary addition on the north that extends over the lower level of the front facade. The addition has a brick and stucco facade, and a pent with contemporary metal siding caps the addition dividing the upper and lower facades on the original building. A drive through canopy, also with metal siding is located on the north side of the addition, setback from the street. The original brick building is a traditional Commercial Style structure with a panel of three upper windows with a corbelled brick surround and a continuous stone sill. The upper windows on the west and south sides have been infilled. The south street facade reveals a rusticated brick base and ornate brick detailing at the parapet. Projecting brick and stone surrounds frame ribbons of 3 glass block windows on the lower facade. The stone sills match those on the upper windows on the front facade. The block panels have aluminum-framed horizontal light windows with short metal canopy across each window panel. The glass block and aluminum windows are likely a mid-century remodel. An arched door opening features a corbelled brick surround, but the opening has been infilled with brick. The original 2-story brick building has a one-story addition on the north and a drive-through canopy north of the addition, but all are attached to the building; there are no outbuildings. A small woodshed is located at the rear entrance on the east facade protecting the rear entrance. The one-story north addition that wraps over the storefront of the original building and upper windows have all been infilled.  
**History:** The original two-story brick building was completed in 1913 to replace the old bank building across the street to the southwest (SGN 9/18/1913). Remodeling in 1982-83 included the one-story addition to the north and addition of the drive-in teller window. From 1913 until the mid-1950s, the offices of several doctors and dentists were located on the second floor (Drs. Dierker, Andresen, DeVinny, Smith Dennis and Higgins), as well as the City Library and jeweler W. F. Czeskleba. Since 2011, Bennington State Bank has conducted business in the building.  
**Integrity:** The building does not sufficiently portray its original historic character for listing.

### 23. Kohler Harness Co.

**Address:** 101 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-165  
**Date of Construction:** circa 1908  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Privately owned car repair  
**Architectural Classification:** Commercial Building  
**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_23”  
**Description:** This 24’ x 74’ one-story gabled-roof shed consists of two parts. The front half of the building is a frame structure on a concrete foundation with metal roof and siding. This appears to have been built as an addition on an older building at the rear, matching the height and roof slope. The rear half of the building is a frame structure on a stone foundation with a replacement metal roof (early Harness Shop). The rear portion has weathered wide wood clapboards and 4/4 double-hung wood windows.  
**History:** This building was home to William Kohler’s Harness Shop beginning in 1908 (RD B36/L27). He carried a full line of hand-made harness and also made repairs (SGN 9/1/1908). Henry Diers owned the building from 1946 until 1955 when it was sold to Gordon Meitler, who operated Meitler Service, a vehicle repair shop. He ran a successful business there until his death in 1992. It has been privately owned since that time (RD B36/L27).  
**Integrity:** Metal façade and siding render this historic property as non-contributing.

### 24. U.S. Post Office

**Address:** 103 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-167  
**Date of Construction:** 1961  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** U.S. Postal facility  
**Status:** Contributing
**25. Stout Bakery**  
**Address:** 105 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-168  
**Date of Construction:** 1913  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Vacant  
**Architectural Classification:** Late 19th and Early 20th Century American – Commercial Style  
**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_25” and Fig. 7 “Stout Bakery”  
**Description:** This two-story 25’ x 65’ native stone building features a simple concrete cap on the parapet. Two upper windows feature a continuous sill and label lintel or hood molding, both of projecting stone. Stone piers frame the storefront opening. The storefront is an aluminum replacement with a recessed entry on the north end and a Z-brick bulkhead. A large fixed awning obscures the transom and part of the storefront with roofing shingles. There is a one-story limestone addition at the rear with a single man door. The upper rear facade of the original building appears to have been reconstructed with concrete block. Openings include downsized windows flanking a center door. The south facade is exposed with a vacant lot to the south. A brick chimney rises flush with the south facade. There are three upper windows and one window in the south side of the rear addition.  
**History:** Mert Stout built the Stout Bakery building in 1913 because he had outgrown his current place of business. He and Walter Thorpe were partners in the business (SGN 1/23/1913). Stout eventually sold out to Thorpe in 1919 (RD B36/L24). Thorpe ran the business until 1929 when he sold to the Behrhorsts. C.B. and Sue Wiley owned and operated a drugstore and soda fountain at this location from 1946 to 1962 (TB). Bill and Bertie Beverly took over the drug store in 1966 until 1969 (SGN 10/16/1969) when Lorna Lovin bought the building and remodeled it into a restaurant called the Home Café (SGN 11/13/1969). It replaced the restaurant that was lost in the September 1969 fire at Ray’s Garage. The café was owned by Pete and Nancy Falcon and/or family from 1992-2002. Several subsequent owners ran the café under different names until 2008. The upstairs apartment has had limited occupancy since the Beverly’s lived there in the late 1960s. The building has been vacant since 2008 (RD B36/L24).  
**Integrity:** This is a simple example of a Commercial Style building that retains its original architecture and historic value as a building that exemplifies native stonework and long-time use for numerous businesses.

**26. Buehring’s Barber Shop**  
**Address:** 107 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-169  
**Date of Construction:** 1925  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Sylvan Senior Center  
**Architectural Classification:** One-Part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_26”  
**Description:** This one-story 16’ x 60’ building was built as a part of the building on the south, but now is a separate parcel and owned separately. The facade has non-historic materials - corrugated metal on the upper facade and board and batten wood siding on the storefront. A large fixed awning with roofing shingles is located over the transom area. The door is recessed on the south end of the storefront with a ramp running parallel to the storefront. The brick facade is visible at the top of the north facade, which is now exposed. The brick parapet steps down to the east. A membrane roof wraps over the top of the parapet and terminates on the face of the facade. The rear facade is concrete block with brick at the top, possibly a former replacement.

**Architectural Classification:** Modern Movement  
**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_24”  
**Description:** This 40’ x 60’ one-story building is typical of ca. 1960s post offices across the nation. It is blond brick with an asymmetrical facade and flat roof. A corner solid brick plinth frames a slightly recessed aluminum storefront with flat metal canopy. The storefront system includes a multi-light transom that spans to the south end of the front facade over a solid brick wall with aluminum letters “United States Post Office.” A band of aluminum windows is located near the center of the north façade. The north 2/3 of the rear facade is recessed below the roof for a loading area with man doors to the south and west. The building is a good representative of Modern Mid-Century post office and would be eligible for individual listing and a contributor to a historic district.  
**History:** In continuous operation since 1961 as the town’s United States Post Office location. Owned and built by Clarence A. Diers. Family heirs retain ownership (RD B36/L26).  
**Integrity:** One of the town’s best examples of the Modern Movement architecture. Its age and useful purpose to the town over the years qualifies it for historical documentation.
History: This building, built by Hugo Buehring, replaced the Buehring Barber Shop that was destroyed in the 1925 fire (HOH, p. 61). Buehring sold it in 1942 to partners Lela Pearson and Agnes Brichtacek, who opened Milady’s Shoppe, a beauty shop. Their business expanded to include the NuStyle Shoppe in 1946, a ladies’ ready-to-wear store (SGN 4/1/1953). After Pearson’s retirement in 1984, Ronda Smith ran the beauty shop for several more years, then Robert Sperry had a small engine repair shop in the space until 1989. The Sylvan Senior Center then purchased the building, the current occupants, in 2000 (RD B36/L22).

Integrity: Cosmetic changes to the façade and shared wall with a structurally unsound building, result in it being non-contributing.

27. Sylvan Café & Recreation
Address: 109 S. Main
Status: Non-contributing
KHRI#: 105-170
Date of Construction: 1925
Architect: Unknown
Current Function: Vacant
Architectural Classification: One-Part Commercial Block
Documentation: Photo “Sylvan_27”
Description: This one-story 31’ x 60’ building was built as a part of the building on the north, but they are on separate parcels and owned separately. The façade is predominantly non-historic materials - corrugated metal on the upper facade and wood siding on the storefront. A fixed awning with corrugated metal siding spans over the storefront. The door is recessed on the north end of the storefront with a ramp running parallel to the storefront. The storefront is a contemporary replacement with a single horizontal window in a punched opening. A brick foundation is visible below the storefront. The rear façade is block with brick at the top, possibly a former replacement.

History: This building was part of the new row of one-story structures with metal facades that were re-built by Hugo Buehring following the 1925 fire. Sylvan Café and Recreation was located in this building from the time it was built until the late 1960s under several different renters and/or owners. It was a teen center in 1969-1971. Recent use has been as a pool hall (Mayetta’s 1989-1999; MGD’s 2001-2009; Misty Wacker 2009-2012). It has been vacant since 2012 (RD B36/L21).

Integrity: The roof has collapsed, and the building is unstable. Not a candidate for nomination as it will be torn down.

28. Commercial Building-Lou Serrien’s Garage
Address: 115 S. Main
Status: Contributing
KHRI#: 105-171
Date of Construction: 1925
Architect: Unknown
Current Function: Feed Store
Architectural Classification: One-Part Commercial Building
Documentation: Photo “Sylvan_28”
Description: This one-story 50’ x 60’ building resembles its neighbors at the storefront but has a gabled roof with rear shed addition (metal siding) at the rear. The gabled roof is likely an addition and the shed a rear addition on the historic building. The upper facade has pressed-metal siding stamped to look like stone. The peak of the gable roof is visible above the parapet on the front facade. There are three storefront bays, one of which retains historic components and proportions. The south storefront has wood paneling over the transom and textured stucco over the bulkhead. Two-light aluminum replacement display windows are extant on the south end. The entrance is a pair of paneled French doors with wood surround. The north bay is covered with corrugated metal siding, the center bay is also covered with metal but has a single main door in the center.

History: This string of one-story buildings with metal facades were rebuilt following a devastating fire in 1925 that destroyed seven businesses, including the Sylvan Grove Garage, that had been in business since at least 1911, run by Abe Seirer and Ed Dobratz (11/9/1911). Besides vehicle repair work, they sold Model T Ford cars (SGN 1/25/1912). Later Seirer operated the Abe Seirer Garage there and also sold Fordson tractors (SGN 1/29/1920 & 8/21/1921). After the fire, Seirer rebuilt, then Lou Serrien operated an auto repair garage from 1946 until his death in 1956 (SGN 3/21/1956). Mrs. Serrien sold the building to Don Abendroth Garage (1961-1964), and Mr. & Mrs. Pete Peterman operated Pete’s Mower and Outboard (1964-1979) (FB/TB) and owned the building until 1996. The building changed hands in 1996 but was vacant until 1999 when Marble & Granite Designs (MGD) purchased it. Currently, a feed sales/storage facility occupies the building (RD B36/L19).

Integrity: façade is intact as are original doorways and windows, giving it architectural integrity. Its age and continued use as a commercial building contribute to its historical integrity.
29. Commercial Building

**Address:** 117 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-172  
**Date of Construction:** circa 1929  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Feed Store - Storage  
**Architectural Classification:** One-Part Commercial Building  
**Documentation:** Photo "Sylvan_29"  
**Description:** Originally, this was a 25' x 40' one-story stone building with a wood parapet on the front facade. Pressed-metal siding, stamped to look like stone, is in place on the upper facade with several loose and missing pieces. The original wood storefront is in place except for the asymmetrical recessed entrance with a solid door and wood paneling covering the sidelights. The stone foundation is visible below the original wood bulkhead, and an angled metal slat awning is in place over the transom. At the rear, the building has a 60' addition with metal siding and central garage opening. The roof on the original stone building has been altered. A shed roof has been installed on the building, and rear shed 60' long has been added. The south wall has been raised for the shed roof but remains obscured by the parapet on the front facade.  
**History:** Rebuilt after the 1925 fire, this building was occupied by George Urban’s Pool Hall from 1929 till 1945 (RD B36/L18). George’s Tavern was in the building for a time, and then it was a restaurant, plumbing shop, and Wedge Music Store (HOH, p. 61). It was converted to storage in 2001 for Marble & Granite Designs (RD B36/L18) that built the addition. It is now part of the feed store business next door.  
**Integrity:** Original façade and storefront lend to its architectural integrity and historical past.

30. Sylvan Grove Fire Station

**Address:** 123 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-173  
**Date of Construction:** 1975  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** City Truck Storage  
**Architectural Classification:** Commercial Building  
**Documentation:** Photo "Sylvan_30"  
**Description:** This one-story 30' x 100' metal shed was built to house two fire trucks and has a shallow gable roof and metal roof and siding. The building is freestanding and has two garage bays on the front and rear for drive-through access.  
**History:** Garage/Shed is in place in ca. 1976 parade photos. It was sold to the City of Sylvan Grove for vehicle and equipment storage in 2018 (RD B36/L16).  
**Integrity:** No features meet the architectural or historical criteria for a contributing property.

31. Farmer’s Elevator Office

**Address:** 129 S. Main  
**KHRI#:** 105-174  
**Date of Construction:** 1936  
**Architect:** Unknown  
**Current Function:** Under renovation for future Senior Center  
**Architectural Classification:** One-Part Commercial Block  
**Documentation:** Photo "Sylvan_31"  
**Description:** This one-story 35' x 70’ stone building has metal on the upper facade with a painted sign - Farmers Elev. Co. A flat canopy extends above the storefront with wood posts and railing on the sidewalk. The storefront has formerly housed two businesses with a recessed center bay that has two doors, one into each side of the building. The north storefront window has been downsized with wood paneling to accommodate two small horizontal windows. The south storefront retains large display windows. Panels cover the bulkhead on both storefront bays. The native stone is exposed on the south and east sides. A small projecting wood bay and a drive-up service window reflect the historic function as the Farmers Elevator, a truck/grain-scale remains south of the building. The rear facade has a large central garage bay. The roof is vaulted and obscured by the parapet.  
**History:** The Farmer’s Elevator purchased the property in 1929 and erected this building in 1936 for their offices and sale of bagged feed and other agricultural supplies (SGN 4/1/1953). Bill Thrun also had his creamery there for many years (HOH, p. 61). The buildings, elevators, and land were sold in 1999 to Sylvan Grain Agri-Services, then to Miller Grain in 2000, and to Roland Spencer in 2003 for his farm and ranch supply company. It was also a warehouse for an internet
sales company before it closed in 2006. It was purchased in 2019 and gifted to the Sylvan Senior Center for their new building (RD B36/L15).

**Integrity:** The building is historically relevant to the agri-business aspect of the town. Farmer’s Elevator had a presence in Sylvan Grove since 1905 when it was located in the former Kaempfe Produce building. Architecture is a typical example of One-Part Commercial Block.

### 32. Sylvan Grove Union Pacific Railroad Depot

**Address:** 131 S. Main  
**KHR#:** 105-120  
**NRHP Ref. #:** #14000118  
**Date of Construction:** 1887  
**Architect:** Union Pacific Railroad Blueprint  
**Current Function:** Historical Museum  
**Architectural Classification:** Railroad Depot Building  
**Documentation:** Photo “Sylvan_33”

**Description:** Typical of 1880s UP depots, this is a “combination” style freight/passenger building. A wood-framed, and sloped-roof structure that measures approximately 20'-6” x 66'-7” x 20'-0” with an agent’s bay window. It has remained on its original site (RR tracks removed in 1993 after flood). The roof is corrugated metal, and the facades are wood with horizontal clapboards over vertical siding at the base. A ramp to replicate the original freight entry was constructed at the door located on the north end of the west façade.

**History:** The Depot was constructed in 1887 by the Kansas Pacific Railroad. It is part of the “Plainville Line” of stations extending from Salina, Kansas, west to Plainville, Kansas. Livestock, grains, eggs, cream, and other commodities were shipped to outlying markets. Likewise, all supplies and merchandise required to build the town and supplement its businesses came through the Depot. The U.S. Mail arrived daily on the train. Immigrants often arrived via the train, which brought them from points east. Passenger trains took travelers to all points east and west until service was discontinued in 1958. When the Depot closed in 1968, it marked the end of an era. The rails were removed in 1993 following extensive flooding in the area that deemed the tracks unsafe. The Depot was purchased by the Sylvan Historical Society in 2005 and rehabilitated with funding from the Kansas Heritage Trust Fund. National Register of Historic Places nomination: Sylvan Grove Union Pacific Depot, Sylvan Grove, Lincoln County, Kansas. Listed 04/02/2014.

**Integrity:** The building is in its original state. Renovations to replace the foundation, paint, and repair it were completed in 2017. The Depot’s historic value is priceless, for, without the railroad and the depot, the town of Sylvan Grove may have never re-emerged after the effects of the 1886 flood. It represents the lifeblood of the town where all supplies came in, market commodities and livestock were shipped out, mail service was possible, and passengers could take advantage of transportation. It was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014.
8. Statement of Significance

Applicable Criteria
(Mark “x” in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for State Register listing)

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<tr>
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<td>Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.</td>
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<td>Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.</td>
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<td>Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.</td>
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<td>Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.</td>
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Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply)

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<td>B</td>
<td>Removed from its original location.</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>A birthplace or grave.</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>A cemetery.</td>
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<td>A reconstructed building, object, or structure.</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>A commemorative property.</td>
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<td>G</td>
<td>Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.</td>
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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

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Period of Significance

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Significant Dates

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Significant Person
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Cultural Affiliation

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Architect/Builder

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<td>Architects are unknown.</td>
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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the oldest extant commercial building in Sylvan Grove’s downtown core built in 1887, that being the Depot. The period continues until 1970, as there is no clear end date for the commerce of the community. The buildings in the Historic District still serve as the commercial core for Sylvan Grove’s economy.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)  NA
Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that notes under what criteria the property is nominated.)

The Sylvan Grove Historic District is nominated under the criteria of Commerce. Since Sylvan Grove was platted in 1887, the two-block district has housed all the business concerns necessary for a small town’s survival. Grocery and general merchandise stores provided food, clothing, and the necessities for the townspeople. But more important, perhaps, were the types of businesses that supported rural life, for, without the farmer, towns like Sylvan Grove would not exist. Local farmers could have their horses shod, harnesses made, and purchase new farm implements and vehicles right on Sylvan Grove’s Main Street. Hardware stores were stocked with everything from buggies to plows to sewing machines. Repair shops and blacksmith shops were in abundance from the start of the town. Grain elevators bought, stored and shipped their crops, the railroad took their livestock to market, and the local creameries purchased their eggs, milk and cream, which in turn were traded for groceries at the local store. The buildings in the Sylvan Grove Historic District date back to a time when the town was new, bustling, and full of hope for the future. Many have survived to give continuous service for more than a century. They are a symbol of the fortitude and strength required to settle the plains of Kansas.

Elaboration (Provide a brief history of the property and justify why this property is locally significant.)

Sylvan Grove was first settled in 1876 near the Saline River, about one mile southwest of the current site. A flour mill was constructed there on the Saline River in 1877 by Mr. H.S. Merriman and A.J. Masterson. Farmers from 30 miles away were known to have lined up the night before to have their wheat ground into flour. Merriman and Masterson also built a store nearby, known as the Cross & Morgan General Store, that same year. A raging flood in 1886 wiped out the flour mill, the primary source of the town’s economy, and nearly signaled the end of the little town.¹ News that the Salina, Lincoln & Western Railway, a branch of the Union Pacific Railroad, was coming west through the area meant a second chance for Sylvan Grove.²

“Although the town is only a few months old, the strides she has made in that brief period is amazing,” the July 28, 1887, Sylvan Grove Sentinel reported. “Its location in the western part of Lincoln County, 16 miles from the county seat and at least 20 miles from any other town of importance, gave it advantages as a business point which are unexcelled by any other new town in Western Kansas.” Businesses quickly sprang up at the new location to meet the needs of people coming to the area, and Sylvan Grove was revitalized. The business district of the town was taking shape. At least 25 business buildings had been erected, and more were in the works. These included a hotel, two lumber yards, two restaurants, a boarding house, bakery, billiard hall, hardware store, drug store, grocery store, meat market, blacksmith shop, agricultural implement house, and two barbershops.³

The “new” town was platted on higher ground near the rails about one-half mile northeast of its original location. The Sylvan Grove Town and Land Company was chartered on December 15, 1887, and the town was platted.⁴ The downtown Sylvan Grove business district was and remains an approximate two-block section of the town’s Main Street with commercial buildings on either side of the street.

The use of local limestone to construct buildings was no accident. During the time of Sylvan Grove’s settlement, trees and forests were not abundant; however, huge limestone deposits known as the Greenhorn Limestone formation, were readily available near the surface of the ground. In fact, Lincoln County is the Post Rock Capital of Kansas,⁵ and Sylvan Grove sits atop Post Rock Country, a 200-mile long x 10-60 mile wide area, stretching diagonally southwest from near the Nebraska border in Washington County to just north of Dodge City in Ford

² Ibid, p. 9
³ Ibid, p. 10
⁴ Ibid, p. 11
⁵ State of Kansas Senate Resolution No. 1854 designating Lincoln County as Post Rock Capital of Kansas
Therefore, resourceful settlers quarried the stone and used it in the construction of many permanent commercial and residential buildings, barns, outbuildings, and even fence posts. European immigrants who were knowledgeable and experienced in masonry led the way in the construction of early stone buildings. Their workmanship is evident not only in the intricate designs on the stone but also in the precise construction of the heavy material.

The late 1880s was a time of huge growth for the town. The railroad brought with it boundless opportunities for immigrants as well as businessmen. Settlers poured into the area to secure prime farmland through The Homestead Act of 1862. Business owners and land speculators were quick to realize the potential for economic success and wealth that came with the influx of new people to the area.

During the 1890s, the little town began to stabilize. In 1892, three churches (Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Methodist) were built, and public and parochial schools provided education for the town’s youth. Sylvan Grove was incorporated on October 12, 1899, and an election to name a mayor and council members was held. The town was on the road to prosperity.

Sylvan Grove realized slow and steady growth over the years. Telephone service had become available in 1901, and electric lights and a water tower in 1911 made Sylvan Grove a community with many modern conveniences. The Depression and Dust Bowl years, however, took a toll on Main Street businesses. The Farmers State Bank, which had been in operation since 1909, folded in 1931, and many farmers who were unable to make a living had moved away to greener pastures. The town’s enterprising business owners adjusted to the ebb and flow of the population, but some were able to stay in business for decades. These included S.M. Lawson Hardware (75 years); the Wunderlich, Cross, and Farmer’s Elevator (106 years); the grocery store known as Berger Bros., Calene Mercantile, Krysl IGA, Thaemert IGA, and Mitchell’s Grocery (109 years); and the Sylvan State Bank, now Bennington State Bank, which has been in continuous operation for 127 years.

From the late 1940s through 1969, new construction on Sylvan’s Main Street was limited. In 1957, the Wilson Telephone Company built a small brick building on North Main Street to house its local communications hardware. In 1961, a modern brick Post Office was established. Howard Sigle constructed a cinderblock building for use as a laundromat in 1963. Sigle Bros., who ran a machine shop, enlarged its operation with a large metal building in 1965. Ray’s Garage rebuilt after the 1969 fire.

Just as the town grew with the coming of the railroad, transportation played a big part in its downfall. The construction of the new Kansas State Highway 18 north of town in 1958 bypassed Sylvan Grove by a mile. Travel was easier on new asphalt roads, making it easier to go to larger towns for shopping and business. By 1970, new Interstate Highway 70 with its four-lane design made travel through Kansas even more convenient and fast. Businesses found it hard to compete with larger towns in the area, and many that had been the face of Sylvan Grove’s Main Street soon went out of business. These included Stuive Furniture, Andy’s Grocery, Gatewood Chevrolet, Geyer Implement, and Kaempfe Produce. At the same time, the rural population was downsizing, taking more business away from the town.

Fires throughout Sylvan Grove’s history have changed the face of the town several times. Just as Sylvan Grove was establishing its business district, a fire in 1897 on West Main Street destroyed many wood frame businesses including Seirer’s blacksmith shop, a barbershop, Raffety & Nesmith’s Store, Gallagher’s Harness Shop, Knapp & Company’s Store, and the Sylvan State Bank, all on the west side of Main Street. The Sylvan State Bank rebuilt with limestone, as did Knapp Hardware, and the Yellow Front. In 1901 Cuddy & Hardesty’s Drug Store was built with limestone, and in 1905 Reinhold Wohler built a two-story store next to his drug store for Behrhorst Bros.

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6 Kansas Geological Survey, University of Kansas, geokansas.ku.edu/post-rock-country
7 Lawson, p. 12-13
8 Sylvan Grove News, 1/1/1901
9 Lawson, p. 15
10 Sylvan Grove News, 2/11/1931
11 Sylvan Historical Society, Construction of K-18 photo collection
12 Wikipedia: Interstate 70 in Kansas, 2/29/2020
13 Lawson, p. 52
Hardware. B.F. Foster’s building was built in 1913. These new buildings gave Sylvan Grove’s Main Street a new face with native limestone.

The 1925 fire on East Main Street destroyed Hugo Buehring’s Barber Shop, S.M. Lawson Co., Hardware, Abe Seier’s Ford Garage, Rubin Alley Jewelry Store, Jim Alley Pool Hall, the livery stable owned by Jim Alley, and the hotel owned by Grattige. Again, enterprising merchants rebuilt. In 1969, a fire destroyed the newly remodeled Home Café and Ray Blasé’s garage on East Main Street, formerly F.A. Gatewood Chevrolet. The east side grain elevators burned down in 1977.

The Historic District has always been a central spot for celebrations. Sylvan Grove hosted the Korn Karnival on its Main Street from 1906-1908. A parade with elaborate floats made by the merchants, musical entertainment, horticulture exhibits, livestock show, and a carnival company attracted much attention. But the star of the show may have been a mammoth corn-shock ladies restroom, described as “42 feet high” constructed on Main Street, and concerts were popular at “Drug Store Corner.” Fig. #. During World War I, male and female Blue Cross battalions performed drills and marched on Main Street during the Fair.

Main Street has been the site of numerous parades over the years, the largest being the 1976 Bicentennial Parade and the 2008 Lincoln County-Sylvan Grove Fair & Agriculture Association’s 100th Anniversary Parade, both with more than 100 entries. The most unusual parades might have been in 1977 and 1978 when the Moto Guzzi National Owners Convention rode an estimated 200 motorcycles up and down Main Street.

Recreation opportunities were realized in many Main Street businesses, such as one-lane of bowling at the Kaempfe Building, roller skating and basketball in the Opera Hall, and pool and snooker at the local pool halls. Outdoor movies were shown during the summer months in the lot north of the Sylvan State Bank Building, and Arthur Bacon sold popcorn on the corner of 1st & Main for movie-goers.

Today, interest in the preservation of the remaining historic buildings has gained popularity. The Sylvan Grove Historic District buildings reflect the successes and struggles of a small town that has survived many obstacles over its 133 years of existence. Historic preservation of the District’s buildings may also be its path to a brighter economic future through the promotion of its “post-rock” history and increased tourism.

\[\text{\textsuperscript{14}}\text{ Ibid, p. 60}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{15}}\text{ Ibid, pp. 68}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{16}}\text{ Ibid, pp. 68-69}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{17}}\text{ Sylvan Historical Society, photo collection}\]
\[\text{\textsuperscript{18}}\text{ Lucas-Sylvan News, July 1, 1978}\]
9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

SENTINEL:  *Sylvan Grove Sentinel* Newspaper
ALERT:  *Sylvan Grove Alert* Newspaper
SGN:  *Sylvan Grove News* Newspaper
SEJ:  *Salina Evening Journal* Newspaper
SJ:  *Salina Journal* Newspaper
LB:  *Lincoln Beacon* Newspaper
LSN:  *Lucas-Sylvan News* Newspaper
BLC:  Bethlehem Lutheran Cemetery Records
FB:  Sylvan Fair Books, 1929-1982
IH:  International Harvester Dealers of the Past ([www.ihdealerspast.net](http://www.ihdealerspast.net))
Open Records for Kansas Appraisers [http://www.kansasgis.org/orka](http://www.kansasgis.org/orka), Lincoln County
Sigley, Helen L.B., 3-page *History of Sylvan Grove, Kansas*, submitted to State Historical Society, 8/27/1926
Sylvan Historical Society:  Masonic Lodge records; historic photo collection, phone and fair books
RD:  Register of Deeds, Sylvan Grove Business District Records, Lincoln County Courthouse
NR:  National Register of Historic Places Application, Sylvan Grove Union Pacific Railroad Depot, 2014

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  11.25

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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VERBAL BOUNDARY:

South Boundary: West from the southern border of Depot property across Main St. to the west end of elevator complex.
North Boundary: From Wilson Telephone alley east to 2nd & Main, then east across Main St. to Museum, then north across 2nd St. to include the Diers Oil Co. building, then east to the alley.
East Boundary: From eastern alley border of Diers Oil Company property south to southernmost Depot property line.
West Boundary: From alley west of Wilson Telephone Office at 2nd & Main, southward two blocks to include grain elevator complex.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)
This general boundary contains all properties identified through a field survey as being associated with Sylvan Grove's historic downtown commercial core. The boundary does not extend beyond to buildings that lack integrity or have little to no association with commerce and industry in the community.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Terry Lilak
organization Sylvan Historical Society date October 29, 2019
street & number P.O. Box 22 telephone 785 524-6034
city or town Sylvan Grove state KS zip code 67481
e-mail terrylilak@gmail.com

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Proposed Sylvan Grove Historic District
City or Vicinity: Sylvan Grove
County: Lincoln State: Kansas
Photographer: Terry Lilak
Date Photographed: October 5, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:
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<td>West</td>
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**Figures** Include GIS maps, figures, scanned images below.

Fig. 1 – Historic District Boundary map – see p. 35
Figure 2 “Drug Store Corner”

Figure 3 Frank Gatewood’s Garage dba Meyer Bros. Garage
Figure 4: Cross Grain Company Complex

Fig. 5 – West Elevator - Wunderlich’s “Pride of Sylvan” Roller Mill
Fig. 6 – Jensen Creamery sign on Foster Building (far left)

Fig. 7 – 1925 Fire, Stout Bakery survived (far left)
Figure 8: Topographic Map with Latitude/Longitude
Sylvan Grove Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Sylvan Grove, Lincoln County
City and County

Photo 1

Photo 1b

Photo 2

Photo 3
Sylvan Grove Downtown Historic District
Sylvan Grove, Lincoln County

Name of Property

City and County

Photo 8

Photo 9
Sylvan Grove Downtown Historic District
Sylvan Grove, Lincoln County

Name of Property              City and County

Photo 12

Photo 13a
Photo 15

Photo 16
Sylvan Grove Downtown Historic District
Sylvan Grove, Lincoln County

Name of Property: Photo 21
City and County: Photo 22
Sylvan Grove Downtown Historic District  
Name of Property

Photo 23

Photo 24
Sylvan Grove Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Sylvan Grove, Lincoln County
City and County

Photo 32