NPS Form 10-900
(Expires 5/31/12)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

72

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Uptown Cuba Historic District

other name/site number N/A

2. Location

street & town Portions of W. Main Avenue, N. and S. Smith Streets, S. Hickory Street, and W. Washington Blvd. N/A not for publication

city or town Cuba N/A vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Crawford code 055 zip code 65453

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Mark A. Miles JAN. 23, 2013

Signature of certifying official/Title Mark A. Miles/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Barbara Wyatt 3-13-13

Uptown Cuba Historic District
Name of Property

Crawford County, MO
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☒ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
- ☒ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
19	1	buildings
	2	sites
		structures
		objects
19	3	Total

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

Historic & Architectural Resources of Cuba, Missouri

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

none

6. Function or Use

Historic Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
GOVERNMENT/city hall
DOMESTIC/hotel
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Function
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
LANDSCAPE/parking lot

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

One-Part Commercial Block
Two-Part Commercial Block
Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls BRICK
STONE
STUCCO
METAL
roof ASPHALT
other METAL
WOOD

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

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property.

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1880-1963

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other Name of repository:

Crawford County Historical Society

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

Uptown Cuba Historic District
Name of Property

Crawford County, MO
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than ten acres

UTM References
(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 639737 4213877
Zone Easting Northing

2 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

3 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

4 / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Property Tax No.

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

☐ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal
organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. date July, 2012
street & number 9 Walnut Street telephone 814-648-4900
city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs: Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.
Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

name/title Multiple
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 2050.

Summary

The Uptown Cuba Historic District (Photos 1-11; Figs. 1-4) is a primarily commercial district of fewer than 10 acres located in the heart of the city of Cuba, which is located in the northwest quadrant of Benton Township, Crawford County, Missouri. The city itself occupies an area of three square miles and is located along historic Route 66, eight miles north of the county seat of Steelville and 84 miles southwest of St. Louis. The district as a whole along with its contributing components meets the registration requirements and thresholds for integrity set forth for Property Types II and III, *institutional architecture* and *commercial and industrial architecture*, as described in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of the City of Cuba, Missouri,"[1] which is incorporated by reference into this document.

This district contains a total of 22 resources including commercial properties, a historic municipal building, and one house historically used as a church. Of the 22 properties in the district 19 contribute to the character of the district and three are non-contributing elements. Contributing features are those which date from the c. 1880-1963 period of significance and retain integrity in its composite components of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. Non-contributing resources include two vacant lots and one property that has forfeited integrity due to the presence of incompatible alterations.

Elaboration

The district lies immediately north of West Main Avenue. Moving from east to west, North Smith and North Hickory Streets run northwest-to-southeast and West Main Avenue and Washington Boulevard run southwest-to-northeast and east-to-west. No alleys are present. The buildings in the commercial portion of the district are built flush with the sidewalk, typically without side-lot setback. In the northern reaches of the district detached buildings are set back from the street with front, side, and rear setback.

Most of the commercial buildings are modest in scale and detail, one and two stories in height, and are of the one- and two-part commercial block building type as described by Richard Longstreth in his *The Buildings of Main Street* (Photos 3, 4, 6, 7).[2] Brick is the favored building material, followed by stone. Some buildings are of tile and concrete block, with façades of brick. Several of the district's commercial buildings are finished in pressed metal, including one (Photo 8) retaining a maker's plaque from Mesker Brothers, a noted storefront manufacturer from St. Louis. The commercial buildings exhibit a traditional façade arrangement, with display windows and bulkheads

[1] David L. Taylor, "Historic and Architectural Resources of the City of Cuba, Missouri," Jefferson City, Missouri: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, 2012.
[2] Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street* (New York, NY: Alta Mira Press, 2000).

on the first story, along with an entrance. Some buildings retain historic transoms above the storefront. Depending on the height of the individual building, the upper façade may consist of a short solid plane followed by a parapet and cornice or, if of two stories, may incorporate a row of windows above which are the parapet and cornice. Most roofs are flat or slope slightly from front to rear and window forms include the flat-topped and segmental-arched. In some instances, historic chimneys have been retained but in most cases these features have been removed in the course of re-roofing and/or retrofitting of heating systems.

North of the business district across West Washington Boulevard, but geographically and functionally linked to the central business district, are the single-story 1948 Roberts-Judson Lumber Company building and the former Cuba City Hall/Fire Department (Photo10), along with the 1885 John M. Wallace house with its attached former Methodist chapel (Photo 9).

Resource Inventory

The following resources are found within the Uptown Cuba Historic District. The relative location of each is shown on the historic district map accompanying the nomination.

107 North Hickory Street; c. 1907; contributing; Photo 11
This is a 1-story wood frame dependency associated with the Cox Building (615 West Main Avenue, below). It is finished in shiplap siding and exhibits flat-topped windows with modest wood surrounds. A single-leaf entry door is on the façade and a brick furnace chimney penetrated the ridgeline of the roof. Earlier survey data indicates that it was said to have been constructed by Dr. W. S. Cox as a residence for his mother-in-law and brother-in-law. It later served as the office of the local Red Cross and as a residential rental unit.

100 North Smith Street; 1949; contributing
This single-story red brick commercial/industrial building was built for the Roberts-Judson Lumber Company. The lumber company was located on West Washington Street; this building served as its millwork shop. It is rectangular in form, with a flat roof and a 3-bay façade with a centered single-leaf entry door. The side elevations on the north and south are finished in stucco that is penetrated by a series of brick buttresses which divide the bays, each of which has a flat-topped 9-light steel frame window set on a sill of soldier-course brick. On the north side of the façade is an overhead garage door and on the south side of the façade is a display window with a painted mural depicting the historic function of the interior.

112 North Smith Street; 1934; contributing; Photo 10

This is the former Cuba City Hall and Fire Department, built as a New Deal project. It is one story in height and built of rock-faced native stone, with a gable-front roof, the pediment of which is finished in stucco. The municipal offices were located in the south section of the building and the fire company in the north. Each side is accessed by a single-leaf entry door with a transom. On the city hall side of the façade are paired 1/1 windows and on the first hall side is an oversized window with a 3-light transom. A date stone bearing the inscription"1934" is centered above the entries and name stones with "Cuba City Hall" and "Cuba Fire Dept." are above their respective sides. Two interconnected smooth-dressed concrete block garage additions with overhead doors (some of which have been altered) and shallow stepped parapet roofs are on the west end of the building. After being vacated by the city, the building served for a time as the community library.

103 South Smith Street; c. 1900; noncontributing
This 2-story gable-roofed commercial building has undergone major alterations to its finishes, fenestration, etc., resulting in a loss of integrity.

107 South Smith Street; c. 1880; contributing; Photo 7
This vernacular building is two stories in height with a 3-bay first story with a recessed entry having paired single-leaf doors, flanked by segmental-arched window openings with fixed-light sash. The second story is two bays in width, also with segmental-arched window openings and fixed-light sash. An exterior wood stair on the south elevation accesses the second story. The 1934 Sanborn map indicates it to have been of stone nogged construction; the exterior is presently finished in stucco. Earlier survey data indicates this to be among the oldest buildings in Cuba. The building has been used as a restaurant, a used furniture store, a barber shop, and a jewelry store. In 1924, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps indicate it to have housed a shoe repair business.

108 South Smith Street; c. 1930; contributing
Single-story mid-block commercial building finished in painted brick, with a storefront retaining large display windows and a 6-light transom. A single-leaf door is in each of the outer bays of the façade and the upper façade is unadorned, with flat coping. Earlier survey data indicates that this was constructed as the office of the Relfe Stephen Insurance Agency.

109 South Smith Street; c. 1930; contributing; Photo 7
Single-story one-part commercial block of brick construction whose exterior appears little altered from the original. Modest in its detailing, the building includes a single storefront with display windows and brick bulkheads flanking a center entry with a single-leaf wood door with an upper panel of clear glass. Extending above the storefront is a 7-part transom whose components include a 4-light unit over the main entry and 3-light units on either side, one of which has been removed to accommodate

an air conditioning unit. The upper façade is ornamented by a rectangular corbeled brick panel. Early uses include that of a drug store.

110 South Smith Street; c. 1900; contributing; Photos 4, 5
Two-story commercial building finished in painted rock-faced masonry, with a commercial space on the north section of the first story and a single-leaf entry door to the second story on the south side. The commercial space includes a recessed entry with replacement wood double-leaf doors with glazed upper panels. The upper façade is 4-bays in width and is asymmetrically massed, with 1/1 flat-topped windows set on extended lug sills and capped with smooth-dressed stone lintels. Beneath the parapet which caps the façade is a metal cornice with end brackets and a band of smaller modillions, dentils, and floral motifs within. Earlier uses include a bakery, the local telephone exchange, and an appliance store.

112 South Smith Street; c. 1940; contributing; Photo 4
Earlier survey materials indicate that this building was built for Randy Mace as the headquarters for his grocery store operations. One-story in height and of masonry construction, it has a flat roof and a painted brick façade. It is simply detailed, with an upper façade featuring a rectangular corbeled brick panel.

Vacant lot (c. 113 South Smith Street); non-contributing
Vacant lot formerly occupied by a building and now used for parking.

114 South Smith Street; c. 1950; contributing; Photo 4
This single-story masonry commercial building is flat-roofed with the exposed side elevations finished in stucco and the façade of painted brick. The storefront has a traditional window-to-wall ratio, with a recessed entry and brick bulkheads. The upper façade features a rectangular corbeled brick panel above which is a small brick dentil band at cornice height. Formerly a 5 & 10 cent store.

116 South Smith Street; c. 1960; contributing; Photo 4
This is a single-story mid-century gable-front commercial building, modest in its detailing, built of smooth-dressed concrete block with a façade of red brick. The building has a storefront of aluminum, with large display windows and a single-leaf centered entry door.

117 South Smith Street; c. 1896; contributing; Photos 7, 8
This one-part commercial block historically served as the Bank of Cuba. The institution was chartered in September 23, 1891, with capital stock of $10,000 and a surplus of $5,000, James E. Hollow president and Newton Jones vice-president, H.M. Ramsey cashier. The organization was acquired by the Peoples Bank in 1931. The façade of the building is finished primarily in pressed metal and a plaque has been retained

indicating it to be a Mesker Bros. storefront. The display window area was originally deeply recessed but has been remodeled with brick, retaining its traditional window-to-wall ratio and with a recessed entry door.

Vacant lot (c. 118 South Smith Street); non-contributing
Vacant lot formerly occupied by a building and now used for parking.

119 South Smith Street; c 1930; contributing
This one-part commercial block is of brick construction with two asymmetrical storefronts and a substantial unadorned upper façade capped with tile coping. The storefronts have been remodeled but retain their traditional window-to-wall ratio and portions of their transoms. Early uses include that of a Kroger grocery store.

607 West Main Avenue; c. 1885; contributing; Figs. 1, 2
Long known as Kinder's Big Store, this building housed a general store operated by James G. Kinder (b. 1863). The second story contained hotel rooms associated with the Hotel Grand, immediately to the west. It is of red brick, two stories in height, with single- and double-leaf entry doors and display windows on the façade and a row of four symmetrically-arranged segmental-arched windows on the upper façade. It occupies a corner lot and the east elevation has entry doors on the first story and four segmental-arched windows on the second. The cornice on the main façade features an arcaded corbel table of brick, capped with a metal cap which also extends over the Hotel Grand.

609 West Main Avenue; 1897; contributing; Photos 1, 2
This was the Hotel Grand, one of several hotels in Cuba. It was built for E. W. Hawkins at a cost of $10,000. In 1919, the hotel was purchased by Charles Birdell Belden. A native of New York, Belden moved to a farm near Cuba in 1913 and later relocated into town. He operated the hotel from 1919 to 1928. Two stories in height, the building features a five-bay façade with both single-leaf entry doors and windows on the first story and a row of five symmetrically-arranged windows on the upper façade. The main cornice is of stone, capped with a metal cap which extends eastward and also caps the Kinder Building immediately to the east.

615 West Main Avenue; 1907; contributing; Photo 1
This is a single-story red brick commercial building with a flat roof and a canopy extending over the five storefronts on the south elevation. The storefronts retain historic elements, including paneled bulkheads beneath the display windows, transoms above the display windows, and recessed entry doors. The building was built by Dr. Walter Sherman Cox (1867-1926), a leading local physician and mine operator who is also credited with the idea of the Crawford County Fair. Beginning in 1910, he also served as a director of the Peoples Bank, which was organized in 1901. He practiced medicine in Cuba from 1889 until his retirement in 1917.

510 West Washington Boulevard; c. 1950; contributing
This single-story one-part commercial block building is finished in polychrome glazed tile and has a flat roof. The building has two storefronts which retain much of their original character including recessed entry doors which flank large display windows. The upper façade incorporates a beltcourse of dark colored bricks inset within the tile surfaces. The exterior appears little altered from the original. Historic interior uses have included a series of restaurants and a dress shop.

600 West Washington Boulevard; 1886; contributing; Photo 6
A prominent late nineteenth-century corner commercial building of brick construction with an angled entry which addresses its corner siting. Storefronts have been remodeled to reflect office use. The upper façade exhibits segmental-arched openings with shortened replacement flat-topped 1/1 windows. A date stone is centered above the second-story windows on the N. Smith Street elevation. Early uses include various retail operations and the Peoples Bank, which moved here in 1915 under the leadership of A. J. Barnett (b. 1874), who was named the bank's president in 1922. The bank remained here until 1932. The post office was also located here and the second-floor space was occupied by the local Masons.

605 West Washington Boulevard; 1885; contributing; Photo 11
This house was built for Cuba business leader John M. Wallace who operated a general merchandise store, was among the city's first aldermen following incorporation in 1884, and served as president of the Bank of Cuba in the first decade of the twentieth century. It is a substantial 2½-story red brick house with a steeply-pitched hipped roof penetrated by a tall brick chimney on the east elevation and a gable dormer on the south elevation. A hip-roofed wrap-around veranda extends across the façade and a portion of the east elevation. In 1928, the local Methodist congregation acquired the house and built a connected sanctuary on the west elevation. This addition is still in place, although the bell-tower over the foyer has been removed and replaced with a gable roof. The church relocated in 1969.

606 West Washington Boulevard; c. 1920; contributing
This is a one-part commercial block building of masonry construction with a flat roof and a flat-topped "boomtown" front capping the façade. Storefront area includes display windows and transoms along with single-leaf entry doors accessing the interior. Merchant James Kinder (b. 1863) operated a store here late in his career.

Summary

The Uptown Cuba Historic District (Photos 1-11) is locally significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with the patterns of *commerce* in this southeastern Missouri community between c. 1880 and the early 1960s and also under Criterion C for *architecture* since it contains representative examples of architectural styles and vernacular property types reflective of the same period. The district is associated with four of the five historic contexts set forth in the aforementioned Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic and Architectural Resources of the City of Cuba, Missouri." These historic contexts are:

Railroads and Industry, 1866-1926	*Cuba and the Farm Economy, 1919-1940*
Route 66 and the Great Depression	*Cuba Since World War II 1946-1963*

As noted in Section 7, the district contains examples of Property Types II and III, *institutional architecture* and *commercial and industrial architecture* and meets the registration requirements for these property types as detailed in the MPDF. Most buildings in the district represent Property Type III, since the majority of the district's buildings are commercial in nature. As a governmental building, the City Hall/Fire Hall at 102 North Smith Street is an example of Property Type II. In the context of the community as a whole, the Property Type III buildings are the town's best examples of this particular property type.

The period of significance of the district begins c. 1880, the date corresponding to the approximate date of construction of the district's earliest buildings. The period of significance ends in 1963, corresponding to the National Register 50-year guideline and reflecting the unbroken span of commercial activity in the district throughout those decades.

Elaboration

A detailed description of the historical development of Cuba and the economic and cultural forces which accounted for the rise of the community is contained in the Cuba MPDF. With respect to this district, it contains the commercial and governmental core of the community. A variety of retailers, including grocers, farm implement vendors, taverns, hardware and general stores and pharmacies were within the district, along with financial institutions and governmental buildings.

Like most towns, early Cuba was built primarily of wood, subject to the threat of fire (Fig. 1). The faces of myriad nineteenth-century communities in Missouri and elsewhere have been shaped by fire and Cuba was no different. The community

experienced two such conflagrations, the first in 1878 and the second eight years later. The present character of much of the historic district reflects construction after these disasters. These later buildings were built primarily of masonry which provided a sense of stability to the built environment of the central business district.

The railroad tracks lie immediately south of the historic district and the passenger and freight depots were close to the historic business district (Fig. 1); no historic rail-related resources are extant. However, the presence of buildings such as the 1897 Hotel Grand (Photos 2, 3) and the c. 1886 Kinder store building (609 and 601 West Main Avenue, respectively; Photo 3; Figs. 2, 3), both of which were oriented to the tracks, attests to the railroad's importance as a shipper of both goods and people. Adjacent to the Hotel Grand and also facing the tracks is the 1907 Dr. W. S. Cox Building at 615 West Main Avenue (Photo 1), erected by a leading local entrepreneur Dr. Walter Sherman Cox (1867-1926). Cox served as the town doctor for 34 years and was also an alderman, served as mayor from 1914-1918, and was a miner of ore and fire clay. Each of these properties is associated with the historic context *Railroads and Industry, 1866-1926.*

Fraternal organizations were an important component of 19th- and early 20th-century social life, particularly in agrarian communities, and Cuba claimed its share of such groups. Most organizations held their meetings in the upper floors of commercial buildings, such as the Peoples Bank Building, at 600 West Washington Blvd.

The traveling public, primarily businessmen in the beginning but later tourists as well, required lodging, and hotels became one of Cuba's earliest and most enduring businesses. The success of the lodging industry in Cuba was at first attributable to the community's location on the railroad but later to its siting on a major federal highway, the legendary Route 66. Among the community's hotels was the aforementioned 1897 Hotel Grand (Photos 2, 3).

From its beginnings as a 19th-century railroad town, Cuba's economic fortunes ebbed and flowed in tune with the fortunes of its transportation networks and of its industries, many of which were based on the exploitation and extraction of the area's abundant natural resources. Both the mining industry and agriculture played important roles in the economics of the area and the merchants in uptown Cuba met the needs of those associated with these industries.

Shortly after the Civil War, the local orchard industry was born and by 1900, Cuba was the largest producer, processor, and distributor of apples in Missouri (Fig 1). Farmers, cattlemen, and orchardists alike depended on uptown Cuba as a regional base of commerce and they came to town to shop and to bank at the community's two

financial institutions, the Peoples Bank (Photo 6) and the Bank of Cuba (Photo 8), both of which occupied buildings in the historic district; they represent Property Type III buildings and are associated with all four of the historic contexts set forth in the MPDF.

Rail transportation was the mainstay of Cuba's economy for decades. With the rise in popularity and affordability of the automobile in the early decades of the twentieth century and the enactment of federal highway legislation in the 1920s, a substantial amount of Cuba's economic life drew its lifeblood from the highway system. This was particularly true after the designation of Route 66 which passed through Cuba and the historic district along Washington Boulevard.

The advent of the Great Depression in the 1930s, coupled with severe droughts, played havoc with the local economy. The New Deal employment programs of the decade did, however, provide opportunities in Cuba. A new city hall/fire department (Photo 10) was built in the historic district at 102 North Smith Street, as was an annex to the community's high school, outside the district.

Industrial development in Cuba was located outside the historic district but industries, particularly shoe manufacturers, found in Cuba a plentiful and willing work force content to work for wages lower than might have been paid in urban centers such as St. Louis. The Cuba Civic Club was founded in 1946 and in 1949 published a list of established Cuba industries in the *Cuba News and Review*.[3] These included a hardwood flooring factory, a stave mill, shoe factory, sash and door factory, shoe die factory, an amusement ride plant, and a lime crushing business. The industrial workers and managers alike accounted for a significant clientele for uptown Cuba.

The 1950s and 1960s saw Cuba remaining a reasonably steady small Midwestern town. Interstate 44 was completed in 1956, removing much of the traffic which had passed through Cuba on Route 66 for decades. With the loss of traffic on Route 66 the downtown economy suffered, a trend which only was exacerbated by the development of big box retail outlets at the edge of town. In recent years downtown revitalization effects have resulted in instances of rehabilitation and improvement within the historic district.

National Register Criteria

With respect to National Register Criterion A, the Uptown Cuba Historic District's local association with commerce is supported by its position as a regional center of commercial activity bolstered first by the railroad and later by extractive industries, agriculture, and the highway system. Its Criterion A significance is strengthened by the presence in the district of a strong and cohesive concentration of diverse commercial

[3] "Are You Looking for Opportunity," *Cuba News and Review*, July 14, 1949, p. 10.

buildings which served as general merchandise stores, grocers, hardware stores, specialty shops, drugstores, hotels, and offices throughout the period of significance of the district.

The district's Criterion C significance is established by the presence in the district of commercial and institutional buildings which reflect both formal architectural styles and vernacular building types in Cuba throughout the period of significance. Interspersed with these is a historic governmental building, not an uncommon occurrence in a district which developed at a time when most public architecture lay in close proximity to the downtown.

Most commercial buildings in the district are one- and two-part commercial blocks, which represent both vernacular building types and restrained examples of formal architectural styles. Specific examples of these building types and architectural styles are identified in the Resource Inventory in Section 7.

Of particular note is the presence in the district of several metal-front buildings, at least one of which was produced by Mesker Bros., a leading manufacturer of metal facades and storefronts. The Meskers were three brothers who competed with each other from factories operated in Evansville, Indiana and in St. Louis.[4] The c. 1896 building at 117 N. Smith Street (Photo 8) that was originally occupied by the Bank of Cuba bears a small original plaque identifying it as the work of Mesker's St. Louis factory.

Local stonemasons also left their mark on this historic district. During the Depression, a number of public and private buildings were erected by unemployed Cubans who were trained as stonecrafters and worked for the CWA, WPA, and the PWA. Outside the district are historic churches and fraternal buildings, as well as domestic architecture representing their work. Within the district is the 1934 City Hall/Fire Department, located at 112 North Smith Street. The 2007 *Historic Resource Survey Report* noted, "according to M.C. Reid, foreman on the project, the men were not skilled workers but were selected from those needing work and trained in the masonry work.[5]

Summarizing, the Uptown Cuba Historic District is locally significant and is associated with several of the historic contexts set forth in the Cuba MPDF and also conforms to the registration requirements for MPDF

[4] "Sibling Rivalry Good for Illinois Architecture: The Meskers' Sheet Metal Business." *Historic Illinois* 28:6 (April 2006), pp. 3-9.
[5] "New City Hall and Fire House Here Planned," *Cuba Review*, July 12, 1934, p. 1; "Work on New City Hall Started," Cuba Review, July 19, 1934, p. 1; and "New City Hall Ready About October 1," *Cuba Review*, August 16, 1934, p. 1. Quoted in Mitchell & Mitchell, op. cit.

Property Type II and III resources. In addition, the district retains integrity in its various component elements and meets National Register Criterion A for its association with commerce and Criterion C for architecture.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for this nomination are depicted on the historic district map which was prepared in association with this nomination. It is drawn to a scale of less than 1" = 200'.

Justification

The boundaries of this district reflect the only cohesive concentration of historic commercial resources in the community, with which are interspersed one historic residential property and one historic governmental property. The boundaries were drawn to exclude properties built outside the period of significance of the district and which fail to meet the registration requirements and thresholds for integrity set forth in the MPDF.

PHOTO LOG

Name of Property: Uptown Cuba Historic District
City or Vicinity: Cuba
County: Crawford **State:** MO
Photographer: David L. Taylor
Date Photographed: June, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 11	Streetscape, W. Main Street, looking east, with the Cox Building (615 W. Main Street) followed by the Hotel Grand and the Kinder Building (609 and 601 W. Main Street, respectively)
2 of 11	Hotel Grand (609 W. Main Street), looking north and showing stone finishes, fenestration, detail.
3 of 11	Streetscape, east side N. Smith Street, looking north with the former Kroger Store in the foreground, followed by the Bank of Cuba building with a Mesker Brothers metal front.
4 of 11	Streetscape, west side N. Smith Street looking north with
5 of 11	110 North Smith Street, façade, looking west and showing rock-faced masonry finish, overall form, fenestration, metal cornice, etc.
6 of 11	Streetscape, North Smith Street, looking south with the former Peoples Bank building, 600 West Washington Street, in the foreground
7 of 11	Streetscape, east side North Smith Street, looking south
8 of 11	Bank of Cuba building, 117 North Smith Street, façade, looking east and showing Mesker Bros. metal front.
9 of 11	Wallace House, façade, looking northwest showing Methodist Church addition.
10 of 11	City Hall/Fire Department, 102 North Smith Street, façade, looking west and showing stone finishes, façade massing, detail, etc.
11 of 11	Streetscape, east side N. Hickory Street, looking south with 105 North Hickory in the foreground, followed by the Cox building at 615 W. Main Street.

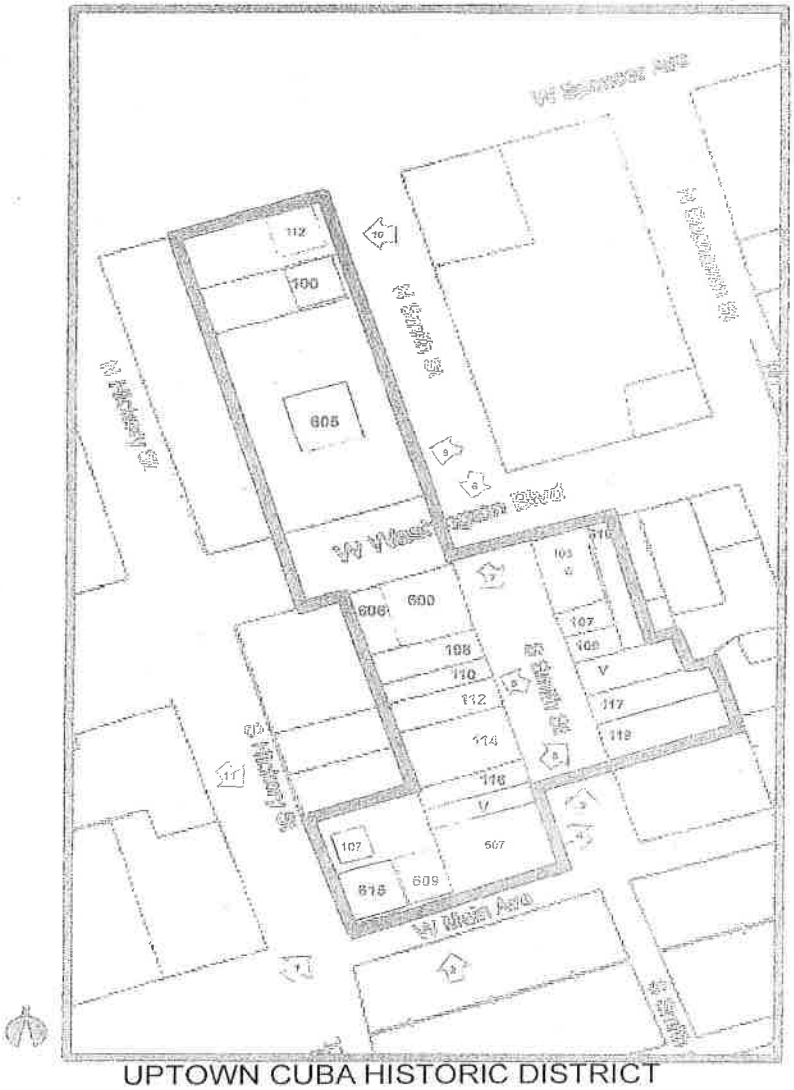
Figures:

1. c. 1890 Postcard
2. c. 1885 photo of Kinder Building
3. c. 1950s photo of S. Smith St.
4. District boundary map

Fig. 1 This early post card view shows the character of the community in the early 1890s, after the c. 1885 construction of the Kinder Building at 607 W. Main Avenue but prior to the 1897 construction of the Hotel Grand at 609 W. Main Avenue. One of the depots appears at the right and what appears to be an orchard is shown at the upper left, representative of Cuba's early agricultural history. No development is shown south of the railroad.

Fig. 2 This view along West Main Avenue looks across South Smith Street and show the c. 1885 Kinder Building on the corner but not the 1897 Hotel Grand which was eventually built beside it to the west. The railroad ties indicate that some manner of rail construction project was on-going at the time. [Crawford County Historical Society]

Fig. 3 This 1950s view of South Smith Street looks southward from West Washington Boulevard and shows the People's Bank/Masonic Hall on the right corner. [Crawford County Historical Society]



UPTOWN CUBA HISTORIC DISTRICT
Crawford County, Missouri
2012
District Map

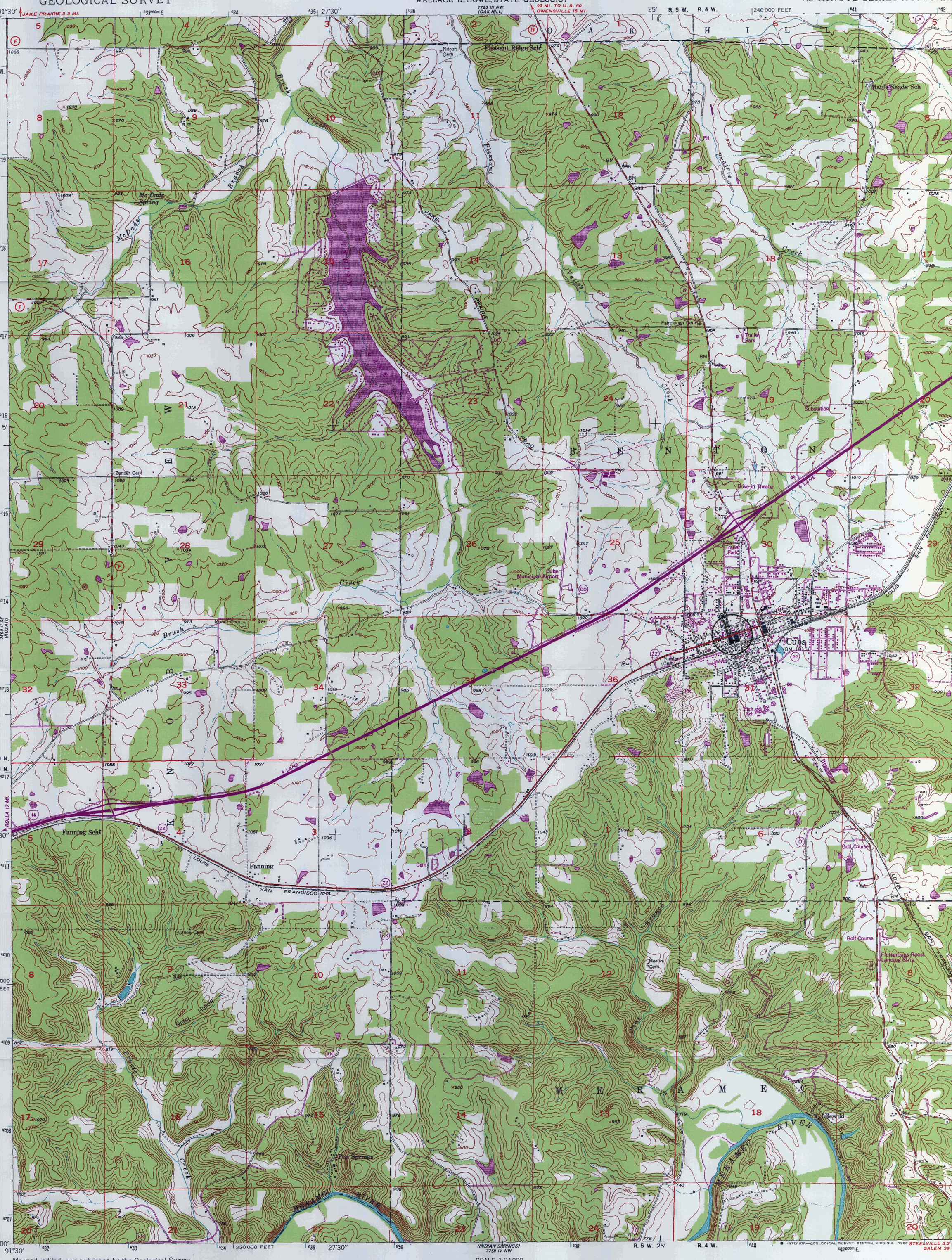
Legend:
Historic District Boundary
Numbers refer to addresses
Numbers within arrows are photo numbers and camera orientation
V: vacant lots (non-contributing sites)
* Non-contributing buildings

Figure 4

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
WALLACE B. HOWE, STATE GEOLOGIST

CUBA QUADRANGLE
MISSOURI–CRAWFORD CO
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRA



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1938
Topography by plane-table methods 1948

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10 000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, East zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 2 meters south and 12 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1978. Map edited 1980. This information not field checked

UTM GRID AND 1980 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND THE DIVISION OF GEOLOGY AND LAND SURVEY
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS
Heavy-duty — 4 LANE | 6 LANE
Medium-duty — 4 LANE | 6 LANE
Loose-surface or narrow hard-surface
U. S. Route
Interstate Route

DRY WEATHE
Improved dir
Unimproved dir
State Rou

CUBA
N3800—W

19
PHOTOREV
DMA 7760 III SW—S

Back in the Day
CAFE
OPEN
Back in the Day
CAFE

CUBA·CITY·HALL
1934
American Red Cross

US
66
BAKERY
&
CAFE

MAIN
STREET
BAKERY

STOP
FOODS

THE
OZARK
SOURCE
HUNTING FISHING CAMPING

For Rent
Century
WELCOME

CRAWFORD COUNTY
TITLE CO.
CRAWFORD COUNTY
TITLE CO.
TITLES
Open

FRISCO'S

SMITH
WASHINGTON