

*H*astings' E. Second Street Historic District is one of the most intact historic Main Streets in Minnesota. Over twenty years of preservation effort by property owners and the City of Hastings is evident in the restored storefronts and attractive facades of the district. Today, downtown Hastings offers many types of retail, office and residential space in its historic buildings.

Most of the two- and three-story buildings in the district date from the 1860s to the 1920s. Each is unique, with a great variety of storefronts, window treatments, and rooflines found on each block. The parapet at the roofline received special attention from builders, with many

early business names inset in metal or stone. Behind the parapet the roof is usually flat and clad in asphalt.

At the upper stories, many windows are framed by ornate hoods. At the storefront level, display windows flank the main entry, which is often flanked by cast iron or wood columns. An entrance and stair to the upper story is often located at the street level next to the storefront.

Over time, some historic storefronts have been remodeled with layers of new materials that covered decorative details and blocked or reduced the size of windows or storefronts, resulting in a loss of historic character. In recent years, however, building owners have peeled away alterations to reveal the original facades. In addition to such restoration efforts, maintenance, new signage, and new construction constitute much of the ongoing work in the historic district.



The east side of E. Second Street, 1885.

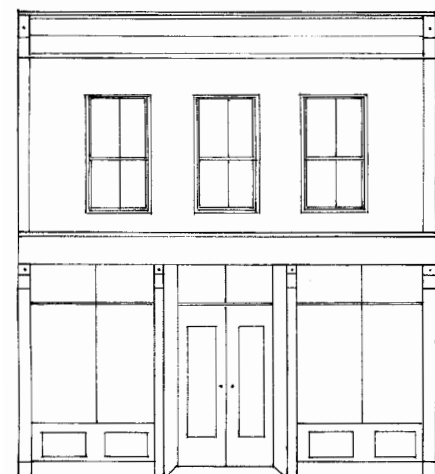


The east side of E. Second Street, 2002.

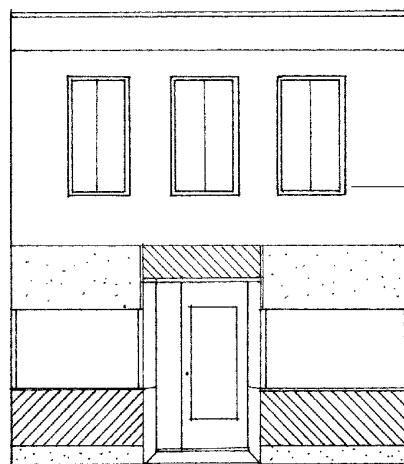
If possible, use historic photographs to guide exterior renovations. At right is the Reissner Building, 210 East Second Street. Cast iron columns divide the bays of the storefront; the top of the stepped sheet metal parapet is decorated with a metal urn. (Photo 1900; MHS.)



Historic Commercial Buildings



YES



NO

All historic features of the exterior should be restored and retained, and all changes and additions should be compatible with the historic design of the building.

Window sizes and sash should not be altered.

Retain all historic features of the storefront and avoid reducing the size of transoms, display windows, and entries.



Late nineteenth-century commercial facades and details in the E. Second Street Historic District.



Early twentieth-century buildings often had geometric ornament like that shown at left.

