

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Poorbaugh, John M., BlockOther names/site number: Jasper Journal Building

Name of related multiple property listing:

n/a

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 102 E. Wall StreetCity or town: Jasper State: MN County: PipestoneNot For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a**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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D**Signature of certifying official/Title:****Date****State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:**Date****Title :****State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

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Name of Property

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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 ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
DOMESTIC/single dwelling
INDUSTRY/communications

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION & CULTURE/museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The John M. Poorbaugh Block is situated in Jasper, Minnesota, a small community (pop. 610) in the southwest corner of the state. Jasper's architecture is characterized by the number of late 19th century buildings constructed of jasper quartzite; their pink to rosy tones representative of the locally quarried building material. The predominant use of Sioux quartzite is indicative of southwestern Minnesota and its prevalent use in Jasper is the central, character-defining feature of the community, which connects the historic building stock to the historical aspect of the town's establishment and subsequent development.

The building is a two-story, stone commercial building on a stone foundation. The building, which was under construction in the summer of 1888 and completed in the spring of 1889, was among the first five business blocks constructed in the newly platted community; the building remains on its original site at the east end of the commercial area. The Late Victorian era building is defined by the use of jasper stone with decorative details executed in red pipestone. Although the storefront has been altered, the resource retains a generally good degree of historic integrity and remains an important built resource in the Jasper commercial area.

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The John M. Poorbaugh Block is sited at the east end of Jasper's primary commercial corridor; Wall Street begins at a level elevation on the west, then rises as the roadway moves to the east. The town's highest point is located at Wall Street's intersection with Hill Avenue just three blocks east of the downtown. The John M. Poorbaugh Block is located near the east end of the commercial area, at a point where the topography remains generally flat.

The building is located on the northeast corner of Wall Street and Sherman Avenue (Photograph 03). The commercial area extends from that point to the west, with commercial properties fronting Wall Street for two blocks (terminating at Railroad Avenue). Although multiple stone buildings have been lost or altered along its length, the commercial strip remains characterized by the dominance of stone as a building material. This is particularly true in the block between Sherman and Burr avenues (one block west of the Poorbaugh Block) where some ten stone buildings representing construction dates from 1889 through the early 20th century are retained. In addition, Bauman Hall is located west across Burr Avenue, representing the westernmost stone building in the commercial area. The two-plus block commercial strip is also characterized by vacant lots (typically due to demolitions), the alteration of facades (storefronts and upper story windows), and a general sense of deferred maintenance.

The Poorbaugh Block parcel is bounded by Wall Street on the south, Sherman Avenue on the west, a one-story, early 20th century residence on the east, and the property line on the north. Although the legal parcel extends to the alley on the north (all of Lot 13), the land at the rear of the building is now and was historically occupied by other, non-associated buildings. As a result, the proposed property boundary for the Poorbaugh Block extends just beyond the building footprint. The building site is generally flat, with vegetation confined to the rear of the building. A public sidewalk runs along the south and west sides of the block with a seeded boulevard between sidewalk and street.

Property Description

The Poorbaugh Block is a two-story, stone commercial building on a stone foundation. The building, which was under construction in the summer of 1888 and completed in the spring of 1889, was among the first five business blocks constructed in the newly platted community. The building is defined by the use of jasper stone with decorative details executed in red pipestone. Alteration of the storefront adversely impacts historic integrity of design, but retention of two original door openings and all original window openings, stone structure, and stone decorative elements results in a generally good level of historic integrity retained on the exterior. The interior has also been altered though the appearance of the original interior (both stories) remains undocumented. The first floor has an open floor plan which was common of retail businesses and the second floor retains a residential floor plan and finishes in keeping with the period of significance occupancy of that space. As a result, the interior also retains a generally good level of historic integrity.

Exterior

The two-story Poorbaugh Block is rectangular in form with a flat roof (Photographs 05-06). Sited on a corner lot, the building's façade faces south with the west elevation receiving detail and articulation worthy of the corner location. The north and east elevations are minimally fenestrated and lack the level of finish and

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detail of the corner-facing elevations. The building's stylistic character is based on medieval precedents, with stepped parapets and a heavy Roman arch pointing to the Romanesque. The mix of decorative elements is more indicative of the Victorian era in which it was constructed.

The overriding character of the Poorbaugh Block is its stone construction, particularly the combined use of pink jasper quartzite and red pipestone (Photographs 09-10). This combination appears on the primary elevations (south and west) where the body is of rock-faced pink jasper with rock-faced red pipestone trim and decorative detailing. The jasper is laid in a random ashlar bond, meaning that rectangular blocks of varying sizes are set without continuous joints.¹ A beaded joint is used (Photograph 11). The stone was professionally repointed in 1994. A description of the decorative brickwork is provided in the following breakdown by elevation.

In contrast to the highly finished primary elevations, those on the east and the north are roughly finished (Photograph 08). The historic character of the secondary elevations is difficult to discern because both have been poorly repointed. Regardless, it is clear they never had the refined character of the primary elevations.

The building's *façade (south)* is defined by a storefront (now altered from the original) on the ground floor, second level fenestration, and an elaborate cornice with raised parapet (Photographs 06 and 09).

First altered from the original in the 1940s, the present character of the *façade* at storefront level dates to the 1980 purchase of the building by the Jasper Historical Society. The *façade* is arranged in three bays: a center "storefront" flanked by entrances. Historic images (Figure 05) reveal that the east entrance opening, though altered by glass block infill of the transom, reflects the character of the original. The entrance (which provides access to the upper story) is elevated from grade, requiring three steps (the lower two steps are replacements). A single-leaf, wood door fills the opening (the door is recessed to align with the interior plane of the stone wall) with a stone course separating the door from the transom above. Glass blocks have replaced the original, decoratively paned transom window.

The remainder of the storefront level of the *façade* bears little resemblance to the original. Although the dimensions of the original opening remain discernible, the original storefront system, with its abundant glazing, has been replaced by a brick storefront system comprised of two brick columns, a brick bulkhead, brick storefront cornice, and narrow brick framing elements. Additional investigation may reveal original structural elements (e.g., iron columns) embedded in the masonry which would support the assertion that the current brick structural system exists within the original opening with minimum alteration of the opening. Such a discovery would also facilitate restoration of a storefront in keeping with the original, should that be desired.

A deeply recessed entrance is located in the west bay. Three steps from grade (all within the recess) provide access to a wide, single-leaf wood door leading to the first floor. A glass block transom surmounts the opening to the recessed entrance. The center portion of the storefront is infilled by wood panels set between the brick structural elements. A small fixed window is located on-center.

The upper story features three windows evenly located across the wall plane. The windows are rectangular in shape with the center window being wider than those that flank it. A horizontal band of red pipestone

¹ Cyril M. Harris, *American Architecture: An Illustrated Encyclopedia* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 1998) 272.

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provides the window sill and a wide course of jasper stone the headers. Red pipestone blocks are staggered along the outside edges of the window openings, reminiscent of quoining. The windows are currently steel frame, double-hung sash with a one-over-one light configuration. The openings appear to retain the original wood frames.

The façade cornice provides the building's greatest level of design character and establishes the character-defining use of contrasting stone that sets the Poorbaugh Block apart from the other commercial buildings in Jasper. The cornice is comprised of a checker board of red pipestone and jasper pink that extends from an archivolt over the center window (Photograph 09). The archivolt itself features alternating blocks of pipestone and jasper. The configuration of archivolt and check board is trimmed in red pipestone. A stepped parapet is likewise trimmed in red pipestone with a block pinnacle as the uppermost element. A red pipestone building plaque calls out the building name and construction date - "J.M. Poorbaugh 1889". The southeast corner of the building has a three course, of jasper and pipestone, square pinnacle with a pyramidal top, while the southwest corner (marking the junction of the primary elevations) features a five course, jasper and pipestone, round pinnacle that springs from lower in the wall plane.

The visual character of the *west elevation* also relies on the use of contrasting stone and design motif that is a simplified expression of the façade (Photograph 06). The elevation uses a red pipestone running band for the water table, roof coping, a belt-course, and a running sill at the upper story windows (Photograph 16). A stepped parapet with a checkboard-pattern frieze and pipestone quoining of the upper story windows are repeated from the façade (Photograph 10).

Fenestration on the west elevation is limited. A single window opening is located on the first floor, near the rear (north) of the elevation. The opening is rectangular in form with a red pipestone sill. The opening is currently filled with a metal sash with a one-over-one light configuration. It appears that the wood frame is retained. The upper story fenestration includes two sets of paired windows with one single window located on either side of the sets for a total of six windows. As noted, each window opening on this level incorporates the pipestone quoining (one block is missing on the third window from the south) and a pipestone running sill. The windows are metal, one-over-one sash set in what appears to be the original wood frames.

The character of both the *rear (north) and east elevations* is without decorative design elements and absent red pipestone. The north elevation features a door opening at both first and second levels; both are recessed in the wall plane, retain wood panel doors, and appear original to the building (Photograph 08). The ground floor entrance is raised two-steps from grade. Stone steps are retained (age unconfirmed). The upper story entrance is accessed by way of a non-historic, wood, switchback staircase. A single window is located on the first level, east of the doorway. The opening is rectangular with a stone still. The window is a metal insert with a one-over-one light configuration set in what appears to be the original wood frame. Similar windows flank the upper story doorway.

As noted, the *east elevation* lacks decorative detail (Photograph 08). A single opening is located on the upper story, near center; although smaller than those on the other elevations, its character is typical of the building.

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Interior – First Floor

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The first floor of the Poorbaugh Block was built for use by The Quarry Store, a general merchandise business run by Davies & Coombe. The Quarry opened in the storefront when the building was completed in July of 1889. No photographs or depictions of the interior have been identified. The first floor was renovated by the Jasper Area Historical Museum in 1981 and it is currently occupied by the artifacts and displays of the museum.

The first floor is characterized by its rectangular form, single open space, and high ceilings (Photo Key and Photographs 12-13). A section of the space near the south end bumps out to house stairs to the basement and to the upper story with a small vestibule just inside the second entrance. As noted in the description of the exterior, access to the space is made on the south by way of a single, recessed door near the west end of the elevation. Windows are limited to one, small fixed window on the south, one double-hung window on the west near the north end of the building, and one double-hung window on the north near the east end of the building. The primary space has gypsum board walls and ceilings and low pile carpet over wood. A bulkhead runs along the west, north, and east walls at ceiling height; likely constructed in 1981 to house mechanical ductwork. Millwork is limited to window trim, door trim with bullet corner blocks, a modest baseboard, a deep skirt with cove molding on the stairs to the upper story, wood steps (now carpeted) and a picture rail (all painted). There is no cornice, which suggests the possibility that, common to commercial interiors of the late Victorian era, the space originally had a pressed tin ceiling, which would have included a cornice.

Interior – Second Floor

The second floor was occupied by a family soon after the building was completed. Later news reports indicate use as an office space, but beginning in 1917 the editor of the *Jasper Journal* and his family lived in the apartment. The existing character reflects the period in which the family lived there. The upper story is divided into a landing, living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, two small bedrooms, and closets (Photographs 15-21). Today, the space retains an apartment character with some historic millwork and hardwood floors retained, though alterations impact both design character and materials. The upper floor is currently used to house museum displays.

As previously noted, the upper story is accessible from the exterior's east entrance. It can also be reached from the adjacent main store room. A small vestibule is located at the foot of a straight run of stairs to the second floor, with the exterior door on the south and the door into the main store room on the west (Photograph 14). The stairs are carpet over wood and feature a deep wood skirt with a cove molding; wood handrails (not original) are mounted on either side. The original railing consists of a four-foot balustrade with a newel post. A large landing is located at the top of the stairs providing entrance to the living room and the dining room. A small coat closet is also located off the landing. The various elements of the staircase and landing are consistent in design character with the construction era.

Although the floor plan appears to be intact, the majority of finishes (millwork, wallpaper, carpeting) are not original, but date to the period of significance and occupation by the *Journal* editor. Where exceptions to that statement exist, they are noted in the following description.

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The living room is located at the front (south) of the building. The large room has two windows on the south and a storage room/closet (with the third façade window) in the southeast corner. The room has a narrow baseboard, narrow door and trim, carpet over wood floors, and no crown molding. Walls are plaster or drywall (painted). A wide opening with a slightly curved arch opens to the adjacent dining room.

Likewise, the dining room features a narrow baseboard, narrow door and trim, carpet over wood floors, no crown molding, and walls are plaster or drywall (paper and paint). The room is lit by two large windows.

The east bedroom is carpet over wood, with wallpaper over plaster (likely). The room lacks a crown molding with baseboard and door trim being narrow.

The west bedroom retains the original, exposed hardwood floor, original window and door trim, and original 9-inch baseboard. The crown molding is not original, the ceiling has been covered with 6-inch, square fiberboard tiles, and the walls have been papered. Two large windows provide natural light to the space.

The large kitchen sports 1940s era wood cabinetry. The floor is covered in sheet vinyl that is also likely from the 1940s. The walls and ceiling are plaster or drywall, painted. Millwork is narrow. Windows on the west and the north provide abundant light. The windows are recessed in the stone wall, creating a deep sill. A small, cased opening is located on the south wall, connecting to the hallway. A flush panel door is located in the rear entrance/exit. A second door provides access to an adjoining storage room.

A small bathroom is located off the kitchen. The room has tiled and papered walls, a claw foot tub, toilet, wall-mounted sink, linoleum floor, and a narrow baseboard; all finishes and fixtures are not original to the building, but appear to date to the period of significance. There are no windows in the room.

Interior – Basement

Although historic news accounts note the use of the basement for both church services and as an office space, the existing character does not suggest such uses. The basement is largely utilitarian in character with concrete floors, exposed ceiling structure, exposed ductwork, failing plaster walls (perhaps a remnant of a more refined use such as an office), exposed stone foundation, and low ceilings. The basement is used for general storage.

Documented Alterations²

The original storefront was replaced in ca.1940.

In 1983 the flat roof was repaired, though the repair did not stem water infiltration.

² These alterations have been documented by the current occupant, the Jasper Area Historical Museum. The records can be accessed at the museum.

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The first floor was renovated by the Jasper Area Historical Museum in 1987-88. Due to significant interior damage caused by ongoing water infiltration, plaster was replaced by sheet rock and walls painted. New floor covering was added. A new furnace and air conditioning system was installed at that time and a bulkhead that runs along the west, north, and east walls at ceiling height of the first floor was constructed to house mechanical ductwork. New wiring was run with new light fixtures added. Partition walls were constructed in the northeast corner of the first floor for a small restroom. On the second-floor landing, a wall and second doorway were installed to connect directly from the landing to the living room.

In 1991 the water lines into the building were replaced (no impact to the structure).

A structural assessment was conducted in 1992 with particular attention paid to condition of the roof and damage being caused by ongoing leaks. Window replacement was also undertaken at this time.

The exterior stone was professionally repointed in 2000.

The rear staircase was replaced in 2011.³

Integrity Discussion

When considered through the filters of location, setting, association, materials, design, workmanship, and feeling, the Poorbaugh Block retains a sufficient historic integrity to convey significance under both criteria specific to the period of significance.

Specifically, because the Poorbaugh Block remains on its original site, the level of *integrity as it relates to location* is high.

Integrity of setting is considered very good. The 1889 Poorbaugh Block was constructed at the east end of the fledgling commercial sector, marking the transition to the developing residential neighborhood. The setting was historically and remains today one defined by the commercial properties in adjacency. Typical of commercial strips, the setting includes a wide street allowing for street parking and a lack of vegetation.

Integrity of association is considered good. The Poorbaugh Block has anchored the east end of the Jasper commercial area since it was placed in service in 1889. Although the integrity of the commercial area is diminished by loss and deterioration of the remaining resources, the Poorbaugh Block remains in its historic role at the end of the Wall Street commercial strip and in physical association with the other buildings.

Integrity of design is generally good. Specific to the building's exterior, the building retains its original rectangular form and flat roof without alteration. Retention of window openings and most door openings as well as retention of all decorative stone elements contribute significantly to retention of design integrity. The alteration of the storefront is the most significant breach related to design integrity on the exterior.

On the interior, the building retains the general floor plan at both first and second floors.

³ "New museum steps, deck completed," *Jasper Journal*, August, 2011.

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As it relates to *historic integrity of materials* specific to the building's exterior, most significant to retention of integrity of materials is retention of the quartzite stone, which stands as the dominant character-defining feature. The ca.1981 replacement of the storefront presents the most significant adverse impact to historic integrity of materials on the exterior.

On the interior, the building appears to retain most plaster walls, some millwork, wood strip flooring (now carpeted over), original window openings, and wood stairs with balustrade.

As it relates to *historic integrity of workmanship*, the condition of the building's masonry is testament to the skill of those who built it. The building stands as a representative of an era in which workmanship reflected the skills of an artisan, specific to working with jasper quartzite and red pipestone. Local writings that describe the difficult process of quarrying stone for use in building construction provide a notion of the challenges of the material that is used with such skill in the Poorbaugh Block.

The Poorbaugh Block retains a *good level of integrity as it relates to feeling*. Because the building retains a good level of integrity as it relates to location, setting, association, design, materials, and workmanship residents from the Period of Significance would readily recognize the resource today and experience it very much as they would have at the time of their individual experience there.

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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.)

- ☐ 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNICATIONS

Period of Significance

1889
1916-1972

Significant Dates

1889

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The John M. Poorbaugh Block is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The resource is locally significant in the area of communications. From 1917-1972, the building was occupied by the offices of the local newspaper, the *Jasper Journal* and the building draws significance from that longtime association. Established concurrent with founding of the town, the paper was the primary reporting mechanism for chronicling the establishment of businesses, building construction, work being undertaken to advance town interests, local social activities, and for bringing national and international news to Jasper residents. During the period in which the *Jasper Journal* operated from the first floor, the newspaper editor and his family occupied the second-floor apartment.

The John M. Poorbaugh Block is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. The resource is locally significant in the area of architecture, specifically as a distinctive example of construction using locally quarried Sioux quartzite stone. A building material native to southwest Minnesota, the stone provides the defining visual character of the community of Jasper, with the visual character of the Jasper commercial district remaining dominated by the stone buildings. As noted, only two of the five stone buildings placed in service in 1889 remain extant. Of those two, the John M. Poorbaugh Block stands as the best representative of a stone commercial building when considering both the quality of design character and the level of historic integrity retained. Additionally, although two commercial buildings in the Jasper downtown are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places, only one of the two (Bauman Hall) retains a level of historic integrity that conveys its original character; the other (Stordahl Building) was significantly altered after it was listed. Relative to Bauman Hall, the Poorbaugh Block is particularly notable for the use of pipestone red stone as decorative detailing against the Jasper quartzite stone of the body. Relative to Jasper's other remaining stone commercial buildings (all post-dating 1889), the Poorbaugh Block is the most ornately designed and executed stone building, with a good level of historic integrity retained.

The Periods of Significance are 1889 and 1916-1972. The first period marks the building's placed-in-service date and is therefore representative of the building's architectural significance. The second period embraces the years in which the building was home to the *Jasper Journal*. The Significant Date is 1889, the year in which the John M. Poorbaugh Block was placed in service.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Under construction just after the town was platted and placed in service in 1889, the John M. Poorbaugh Block was one of Jasper's first commercial buildings. After having been occupied by The Quarry Store for several years, the *Jasper Journal* became the primary occupant in 1916, remaining there until 1972.

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The John M. Poorbaugh Block is Jasper's best remaining example of a stone commercial building, with an elevated design character and a good level of historic integrity retained. As such the building is a particularly important representative of the defining visual character of the community of Jasper.

Historical Background

The history of Jasper is directly associated with the Sioux quartzite deposits of the southwest Minnesota county of Pipestone. Platted just months after the Jasper Quarry (aka the South Quarry) was established in 1887, the town remained actively associated with stone quarrying for more than 100 years. The impact of that long history was felt not only in economic terms, but, more obviously, in Jasper's architecture; Sioux quartzite houses, churches, the Jasper School (NRHP, 2019), and commercial buildings including the John M. Poorbaugh Block are the physical expression of that long association.

Pipestone County was established in 1857. Although many explorers passed through the area, permanent settlement by European-Americans was delayed by concerns related to ongoing conflict between native tribes – both the Sioux and the Ojibwa held title to the region – and the policies of the United States government. It wasn't until well after the Civil War (and a series of treaty arrangements and violent clashes that included the U.S.-Dakota War of 1862) that Pipestone County experienced the steady arrival of European-Americans.⁴

In ca.1887, Alex Rae struck out from Dell Rapids, South Dakota in search of quartzite deposits sufficient to establish a quarry. Having made just such a discovery near what would become the town of Jasper, Alex Rae and his four brothers (Andrew, William, Robert, and George, Jr.) founded the Jasper Stone Company.⁵ The five Rae brothers immigrated to the United States from Scotland in the early 1880s.⁶ Described in local accounts as "the primary organizers and promoters of the first stone quarry in Jasper", the brothers were highly skilled in the art of stone masonry, having learned the craft under the tutelage of their father. The brothers and their families settled in Dell Rapids, South Dakota, less than 20 miles west of Jasper, where George, Jr. was instrumental in the organization of Dell Rapids Cooperative Stone Company.⁷

Located far afoot from established markets, the early settlers in southwestern Pipestone and northwestern Rock counties anxiously awaited the arrival of rail service to provide ready access to goods and services. Although railroads had been constructed in other parts of both counties. Jasper was the last town in Rock and Pipestone counties connected to rail transportation.⁸ Grading for the Willmar & Sioux Falls railroad through the southwestern part of Pipestone County was not completed until 1887.⁹

In the early spring of 1888, with the construction of a rail line assured for later that year, the Jasper Improvement Company purchased 1,300-acres of land on the line, which included the land upon which the

⁴ "Pipestone County History," National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary.

<https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/pipestone/>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "The Ancient Art of Stonecutting Still Continues." Uncited newspaper clipping dated 1976.

⁷ Arthur P. Rose, An Illustrated History of the Counties of Rock and Pipestone, Minnesota (Luverne, MN: North History Publishing Co., 1911), 347.

⁸ Rose, 347.

⁹ Ibid., 348.

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town site would soon thereafter be platted and the quarry property.¹⁰ Alfred S. Tee, the Pipestone county surveyor, surveyed the Jasper town site on Section 32 of Eden Township on April 19, 1888. Well-situated on the gently sloping side of a rise that typifies the area, the town site was located fifteen miles southwest of Pipestone, in the extreme southwestern corner of Pipestone County adjacent to Split Rock Creek.¹¹ The Jasper town site was divided into twelve blocks marked by north-to-south running First, Wall, Second, Fourth and Sixth Streets and the east-to-west running Spicer, Sherman, Burr and Railroad Avenues.¹² Meanwhile, other parties were busy founding a town on land just south over the Rock County line. One week after platting Jasper in Pipestone County, the county surveyor completed the survey of a forty-acre tract on the farm of George Carnegie (Section 6, Rose Dell Township). The settlement was first known as Carnegie, but later as West Jasper. True rivalry between the two adjoining towns dissipated with the successful establishment of the commercial center in Jasper.¹³

Jasper was officially dedicated on May 4, 1888.¹⁴ By that time, the Jasper Improvement Company was executing plans for improving the community including recruiting new business and constructing buildings. On May 17, 1888 the first business opened - the general merchandise store of Christianson & Berdahl. The company struck a deal with the Rae brothers in which the Jasper Improvement Company agreed to a contract with the Rae brother's Dell Rapids Cooperative Stone Company to put 200 men from their quarry to work at the Jasper quarry with the Rae brothers to hold management positions in the company.¹⁵

The Jasper Improvement Company was officially incorporated in July, 1888. Registered as located in Pipestone, Minnesota with the primary principal place of business and the company office in Jasper, the new company reported a capital stock of \$100,000.¹⁶ The incorporating members included J.M. Poorbaugh, president; E.W. Davies, treasurer; T.A. Black, secretary; E.A. Sherman, P.F. Poorbaugh (brother of J.M.), and J.M. Spicer.¹⁷ According to the articles of incorporation, the company's primary business was "the quarrying of stone and other mineral substances, preparing for market and marketing the same, the buying, owning, improving, selling and dealing of lands, tenements, hereditaments, and for the doing of anything necessary or requisite in carrying on such business."¹⁸ In the coming years, members in this venture would appear in local histories and news accounts as business owners and/or partners in other ventures with John M. Poorbaugh and others.

As a result of the efforts made by the Jasper Improvement Company, Jasper grew rapidly and when the Willmar & Sioux Falls railroad (by 1911, the Great Northern) reached the town on October 5, 1888, Jasper

¹⁰ Ibid., quoting from the Pipestone County Star, 04/13/1888.

¹¹ Ibid., 347.

¹² Ibid., 348.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Worth noting, the original plat remained under dispute for years to come. It wasn't until 1894 that a final decision was rendered and the title and patent as issued to J.M. Poorbaugh was settled ("Decided by Smith," Minneapolis Star Tribune, April 01, 1894: 01).

¹⁵ *Illustrated Album of Biography of Southwestern Minnesota* (Chicago, IL: Occidental Publishing Co., 1889), 300.

¹⁶ "Annual Report of the Secretary of State of the Legislature of Minnesota" (St. Paul, MN: The Pioneer Press Co, 1888), 18 and Rose, 348.

¹⁷ *Illustrated Album of Biography of Southwestern Minnesota* (Chicago, IL: Occidental Publishing Co., 1889), 300 and Rose, 348.

¹⁸ Ibid.

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had a population of some 200 and boasted 25 business and residential buildings.¹⁹ Listed among the business improvements were a livery barn by builder/owner, P.F. Poorbaugh; an office for the *Jasper Journal*; Farmin & Miller, a hotel/furniture business; a store building by P.F. Poorbaugh; a lumber office and dry shed by J.H. Taylor & Co.; and a blacksmith shop by P.F. Poorbaugh. Construction of a number of residences was also underway including four cottages and a residence by the Jasper Improvement Company and a residence by J.M. Poorbaugh (likely the house known to have been constructed north of the Poorbaugh Block). Basements had also been completed for a number of buildings: one stone basement for a building by Smith & Poorbaugh; one basement for a stone building by J.M. Poorbaugh (the Poorbaugh Block); and a basement for a residence by J.M. Poorbaugh.²⁰

The first passenger train arrived in Jasper on October 21, 1888 and just a week later regular train service was established.²¹ Soon after the original town plat was completed, additions were made, expanding the townsite. Stilson's Addition was made by the Jasper Improvement Company and Simon F. Stilson on July 19, 1888; Prospect Addition by the Jasper Improvement Company on May 4, 1889; and Sherman's Addition was made by the Jasper Improvement Company on November 30, 1889.²² The Rose Dell Addition to Jasper was platted by the Jasper Improvement Company on the Rock County side of town on February 15, 1890.²³

In January of 1889, it was reported that stone was being quarried and cut for St. Augusta Cathedral (location unknown), a contract that ensured steady work for the quarry workers and a steady economy for the fledgling community. Local news reported that the Jasper Improvement Company was reviewing the progress of the preceding six months and developing a plan for work to be completed in the coming year. Understanding that the success of the community depended on the success of the quarry, the top priority was to ensure the quarries continued to expand output. Bids to provide stone for construction of the "new court house and city hall at Minneapolis" was one project the company had its sights set on, though ultimately their effort was unsuccessful. Supplying stone for the various buildings and basements in Jasper itself, kept the quarry busy. Improvements in town, specifically along Wall Street, were also on the company's docket, as were improvements of the park, planting of trees, construction of downtown sidewalks, and establishment of a water works and electric light plant. All of these investments relied on continued growth to justify and fund.²⁴

An unofficial census taken in late winter of 1889 recorded 235 people living in the territory. Of the 235 residents, 188 resided in Pipestone County (1,280-acres) and 44 lived on the east side of Jasper, within the boundaries of Rock County (800-acres). Jasper was officially incorporated after a special election held on May 9, 1889.²⁵ In that first year as an incorporated town, P.F. Poorbaugh served as the Jasper town president.²⁶ The 1889 Jasper business directory noted the businesses in operation that year. They included

¹⁹ Rose, 349.

²⁰ Rose, 349. Without addresses or even a vague indication of the location of this list of properties, it is difficult to be certain of where they were sited and which of this original group remain extant. However, the number of stone buildings and stone foundations retained in Jasper today is indicative of the early history.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Ibid., 348.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, January 04, 1889: 03.

²⁵ Rose, 351.

²⁶ Ibid.

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(among others), the Jasper Improvement Company; P.F. Poorbaugh, resident agent; a hotel operated by Farmin & Miller; the livery barn of P.F. Poorbaugh; a real estate business by P.F. Poorbaugh; contractor-builder, W.M. Cross; and Corbett & Sullivan. Building improvements that year exceeded \$55,000 and included the completed stone store building by Smith & Poorbaugh (\$8,000); the stone store building by J.M. Poorbaugh (\$5,000); and two residences and a barn by P.F. Poorbaugh.²⁷

For several years, clear title to the Jasper townsite was disputed. In 1889 H. Elofson brought action against Norman F. Phillips and J.M. Poorbaugh, arguing for possession of the site. The initial ruling was in favor of Phillips and Poorbaugh, but the decision was appealed. The final decision, a ruling against the claimant, cleared the title in April, 1894.²⁸ Although a lengthy affair, neither the dispute nor the ruling directly impacted the site of the Poorbaugh Block.

Jasper's growth progressed steadily in the years subsequent to its establishment. In 1890 the population was reported at 372. In 1892, the Rock Island Railroad was extended to Jasper having previously been extended from Trosky just as far as the pink quarries, some three miles from Jasper. Like rural communities across the state, the Panic of 1893 brought economic hardship to Jasper, particularly between 1893 and 1897. The quarries did not operate for a period during this time and the interruption in payroll impacted community prosperity across the board. By the late 1890s, production at the quarries was restored to normal and the town was back on a positive footing. Through this time, the commercial strip continued to develop in the blocks along Wall Street from Railroad Avenue on the west to Sherman Avenue on the east with few vacant lots remaining; along with the Poorbaugh Block, three additional commercial buildings stood on Wall Street just east of Sherman Avenue (Figure 06). While some of the commercial buildings were wood-framed and lap-sided, the number of stone constructions far exceeded those of wood.

In 1900 the population stood at 559, which rose to 619 by 1905. The census of 1910 recorded a population of 704; its increase in the preceding five years was greater than that of any other Pipestone county town.²⁹ Despite being one of the newest towns in Pipestone County, Jasper had grown quickly to become the county's second largest municipality.³⁰

Changes to the structure of the Jasper Improvement Co. were afoot in the spring of 1891. Establishment of the Sioux Valley Stone Co. occurred that April with advertisements appearing in the local paper in place of the long-running ads for the Jasper Improvement Co. The new ads noted the company as "proprietors of the Township and owners of the Jasper Quarries." Although the formal transition process remains unclear, it appears that Sioux Valley Stone Company was organized as the parent entity for quarries at Jasper, Pipestone, and Garretson. The firm functioned much as the Jasper Improvement Co. had, managing the quarries, selling town and agricultural property, and promoting new business and manufacturing for the betterment of the community. It is not clear whether the Jasper Improvement Co. was formally dissolved with establishment of the new firm.³¹ John Poorbaugh remained actively engaged in the operations of the Jasper Improvement Co. at this time, though the specifics of his role are not known.

²⁷ Rose, 350.

²⁸ Ibid., 348.

²⁹ Ibid., 352,

³⁰ Rose, 347.

³¹ "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, April 10, 1891: 03.

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In 1894, the property of the Sioux Valley Stone Company was transferred to the “new” Jasper Stone Company and the Rae brothers. The transfer conveyed all the quarry lands owned by the former company, as well as a large number of lots in the village of Jasper. The issue of delinquent taxes in the amount of \$1,216.16 held up completion of the official transfer of deed.³² Return of the Jasper Quarry and town holdings to the Rae brothers effectively ended the direct impact of John M. Poorbaugh, the Jasper Improvement Co., and its successor, the Sioux Valley Stone Co., on the community of Jasper.

The Rae brothers continued to own and operate the Jasper Stone Company until 1912, at which time they sold to C.F. Lytle of Sioux City, Iowa.³³ The Lytle family owned the south quarry for nearly 90 years. In August, 2001, the family sold the Jasper Stone Company quarry to L.G. Everist, Inc. of Dell Rapids, South Dakota.³⁴ Through those many decades, the quarry remained a significant component of the area’s economy and the visual character of the Jasper commercial district remained dominated by the buildings constructed during the era of Poorbaugh’s influence and the Sioux quartzite quarried under the direction of the Jasper Improvement Co.

The John M. Poorbaugh Block

The John M. Poorbaugh Block, which was placed in service in May of 1889, was one of the first stone commercial buildings completed in the Jasper commercial area concentrated along a two block stretch of Wall Street. The building was designed to house The Quarry Store (general merchandise store) on the first floor with the second-floor functioning first as an apartment and soon thereafter as an office. From 1916-1972, the first floor housed the local newspaper with the editor and his family living in the upstairs apartment. Among the other stone buildings rising along Wall Street (which include two National Register listed resources), the Poorbaugh Block was notable for the combined use of jasper quartzite and red pipestone, which resulted in an exterior with an elevated design style.

The Poorbaugh Block was constructed on the northeast corner of Wall Street and Sherman Avenue. Standing directly across Wall Street from the E.A. Sherman block (the two were under construction at the same time), the pair bookended the commercial strip on the east; moving east from the Poorbaugh Block, the property types quickly transition to residential. The foundation of the building was under construction in the fall of 1888. By the first of February, 1889, the stone to complete the building had been hauled to the site and, by the end of March, a team of stone cutters was busy dressing the stone. The local newspaper reported that the building was being constructed of “gray jasper trimmed with the Pipestone red rock”. The stone work was completed by George Rehm of Mason City with pointing done by A. Palm, who had recently moved to Jasper. Poorbaugh himself projected the building would be in service by May 1, 1889.

³² “A Big Deal in Stone,” *Argus-Leader* (Sioux Falls, South Dakota), February 21, 1894: 08.

³³ Geraldine Petersen. “C.F. Lytle, of Sioux City, Iowa Purchased the South Quarry from the Rae Brothers in 1912,” ca.2001, unpublished article for the Jasper Historical Society and Geraldine Petersen, “Liner block and grinding cubes,” undated and unpublished article for the Jasper Historical Society. Available at the Jasper Area Historical Museum.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

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Once completed, early retailers Davies & Coombe, moved their Quarry Store into the Poorbaugh Block; by mid-July the Quarry Store was in full operation in the building's first floor storefront.³⁵ E.W. Davies had established the Quarry Store in January of 1889, locating his stock of clothing and miscellaneous goods in an unknown building in the newly established town. Soon thereafter, the business was operated by Davies & Coombe. After relocating to the Poorbaugh Block in July of 1889, the Quarry Store remained in business at least through 1894.³⁶

Initially, the building's second floor served as an apartment and then later as offices. In August of 1889, Dr. Jenckes and family were occupying the rooms on the building's second floor. The building's basement was also used; in the fall of 1891, the Sioux Valley Stone Co. moved their office in to the basement.³⁷ In December of 1891, the company moved from the basement to the building's second floor, a "much more comfortable location".³⁸ The basement was in use for some time thereafter by Rev. A. Davis who held religious services there.³⁹ From 1917 to 1972 the John M. Poorbaugh Block served as the office of the *Jasper Journal* with the paper's editor and his family residing in the upstairs apartment.

The Jasper Journal

The *Journal* was established in 1888 and remained the town's only newspaper through 2020. During that 132-year history, the newspaper was the primary source of information for area residents. Originally located in a small main street storefront, the *Journal* moved into the Poorbaugh Block in 1917 where it remained until 1972 when it was relocated. In the earliest days of Jasper's existence, the weekly paper reported on the activities underway to construct buildings and start businesses. It was the *Journal* that kept track of the comings and goings of John M. Poorbaugh, reporting on construction phases of the Poorbaugh Block, production levels at the Jasper quarry, and various efforts led by town leaders to benefit the fledgling community. The *Jasper Journal* was also the primary source of information coming into the community with state, national, and international news reported in relatively equal measure. The paper was a source of advertising for businesses, allowing owners to promote their stock, inform customers of specialty items, and to compete with other businesses. The newspaper was also the source for disseminating important information regarding local issues such as elections, school bond issues, plans for public services, governmental meetings, and official publication of city ordinances. The role of the *Jasper Journal* was very significant to the everyday life of the community; for 55-years, the newspaper conducted that important business from the Poorbaugh Block.

The *Jasper Journal's* first issue was published on July 27, 1888. Under the first publisher-editor, Selah S. King, the paper appeared weekly as a four page seven column folio (meaning, full sheet) filled with a variety of local, regional, and national news. In its earliest form, the paper featured local news and advertising on

³⁵ "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, April 05, 1889: 03, "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, June 14, 1889: 01, "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, June 28, 1889: 03, and "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, July 05, 1889: 03.

³⁶ "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, August 23, 1889: 03.

³⁷ "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, September 04, 1891: 03.

³⁸ "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, December 18, 1891: 03.

³⁹ "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, May 19, 1892: 03.

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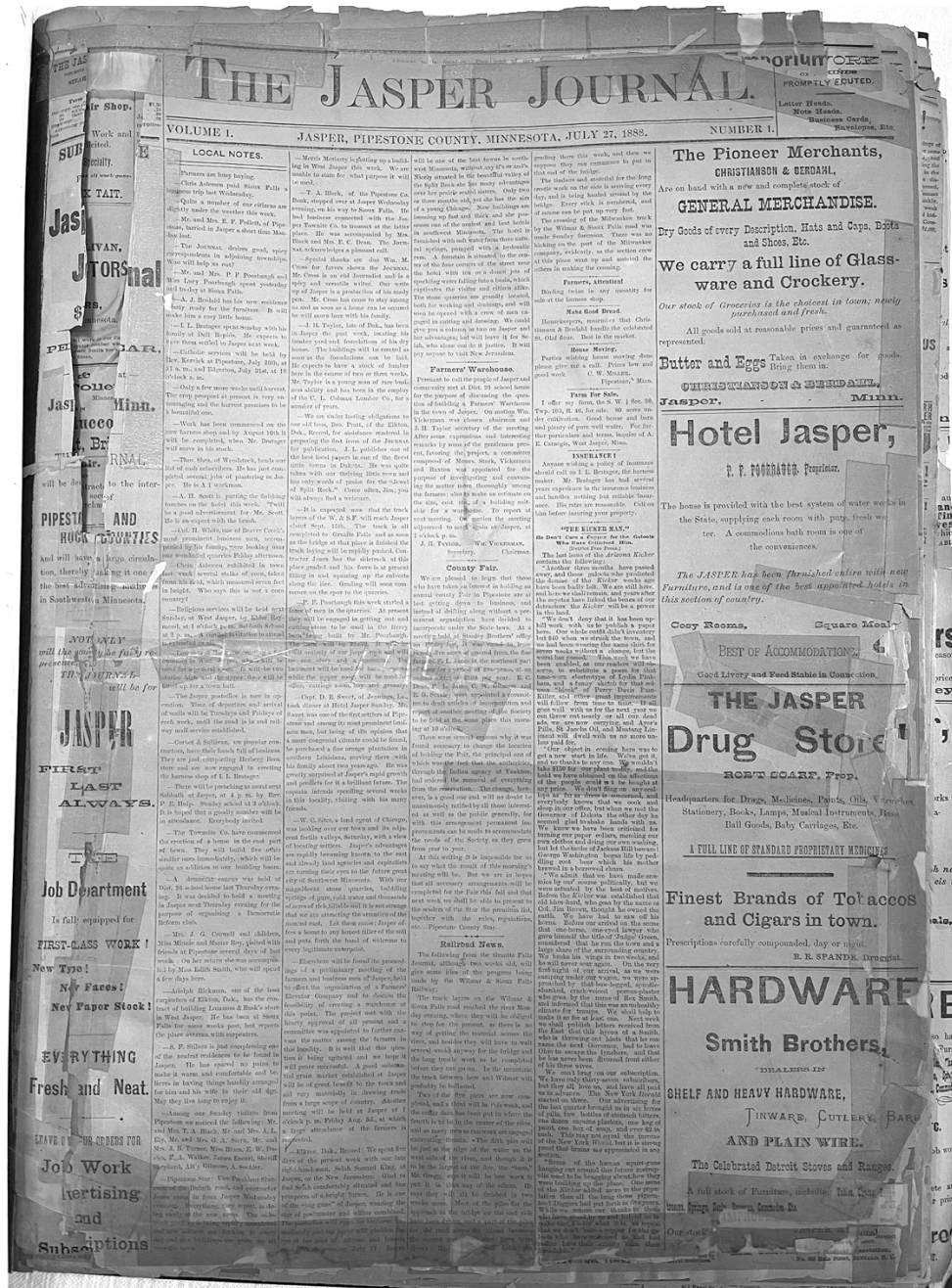
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page one; regional content on page two; local promotional content and local advertisers on page three; and national content on page four. Images were limited in number, at first produced as lithographs and often illustrating prominent men or appearing in advertisements.

Figure 01. First edition of the *Jasper Journal* – July 27, 1888 – Page One



(Source: Jasper Area Museum.)

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The front page local news took the form of two columns of "local notes" which chronicled the comings and goings of town residents as well as announcements addressing ongoing progress in town. Snippets announced the opening of the post office and new businesses, the establishment of political organizations, notification of church services, the status of the Jasper quarry, and reports of prospective businessmen coming to town to consider locating there. Railroad news figured prominently in reporting at this time, the construction of a line to connect Jasper (and the Jasper mines, in particular) to regional railroad service being central to assuring the young community's survival.

Page two regional news featured happenings in the adjoining states of North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Iowa.

The third page included advertisements for businesses in Jasper, West Jasper (which, at the time, remained a separate town), and the county seat of Pipestone. A header on page three featured the newspaper's mission which promised to "promote the common good without bias". In this first edition, the editor took the opportunity to include an article aimed at encouraging support for the growing community. The editorial, entitled "Jasper. What is now is; Its Past and Future. Some of the Reasons for the Faith That is in Us", covered more than two columns. The remaining two full columns were filled with local advertisements, including one large advertisement for The Jasper Improvement Company.

Page four included a variety of national news, including market reports, articles addressing social and cultural topics (e.g., the suffrage movement), and legal undertakings. Three adjoining columns held advertisements for nationally distributed products with a particular focus on "cures" for a variety of ailments.

Content of the paper fluctuated in the first few editions as, apparently, the editor settled into a format that worked best for the amount of content, advertising, and the format of the paper. Beginning with the fourth edition, the layout had gained continuity with local news settled on to page one, national news appearing on pages two and three, and page four featuring local news with some regional content. Some variation in the above occurred in response to the type of content available week to week. Success of the local newspaper was important to the young community. As noted by Rose in 1912, "In pioneer communities of the west the establishment of the first newspaper was always an item of great importance. A new settlement required a champion, and not until the settlement boasted a news journal was its permanency assured."⁴⁰

Over the coming decades, with limited variation, the *Journal* remained a seven column, four page folio through the 1890s. The layout of the paper evolved with local news remaining the primary focus, featured on page one. International news appeared by 1890 and was included on page two and three along with national news. State and regional news appeared on page four, along with local advertisements, the number of which increased as did the use of lithograph illustrations.

⁴⁰ Rose, 349.

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In August of 1899, the paper's format was changed to a five-column, eight page quarto (quarter-sized). That format was retained through January of 1912. Local and national news dominated the content, with national news focused on war coverage. Serials become a regular feature during this period; in January of 1905, the series "The Sea Scourge" occupied most of page seven, with advertisements filling the remainder of the page. Advertisements and stories about people using "cures" remained a topic of interest. Throughout 1905, entertainment content like the serials grew, the number and size of advertisements increased, and there were evermore lithograph images.

Figure 02. Jasper Journal – Quarto Format – 1905



(Source: Jasper Area Museum.)

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Figure 03. *Jasper Journal* - Early Use of Photographs - 1912



(Source: Jasper Area Museum.)

Up to 1911, the *Journal* had competition throughout Pipestone and Rock counties. In Pipestone County, approximately eighteen newspapers were established between 1879 and 1911. Of that number, only five newspapers remained in operation in 1911. In addition to the *Jasper Journal*, they included the *Pipestone County Star*, the *Edgerton Enterprise*, the *Farmers' Leader* (Pipestone), and the *Woodstock News*.⁴¹ Additionally, six newspapers were published in Rock County including the *Rock County Herald* (Luverne), the *Luverne Journal*, the *Magnolia Advance*, the *Beaver Creek Banner*, the *Hills Crescent*, and the *Hardwick Star*. This group of six newspapers were all that remained of some nineteen publications in existence in Rock County since 1873. While some papers operated for decades, others failed weeks after they were established.⁴²

⁴¹ Rose, 409.

⁴² Ibid., 223.

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As Arthur P. Rose, author of the 1912 county history noted at the time his tome was published, “[The *Journal*] has seen Jasper grow from a mere nothing to the second largest town in the county, and the *Journal* has certainly shared in the prosperity and advancement of the place, and today is enjoying the liberal patronage it deserves. If it were necessary to introduce any evidence to substantiate the statement that Mr. King’s conduct of the paper has been satisfactory to the people of Jasper, the fact that he has published one paper for nearly a quarter of a century without the appearance of a rival in the field might be set forth.”⁴³ The ongoing success and evolution of the paper reflects the changes in patronage, demand for specific information, and the priorities of the times.

In January of 1912, the scale of the paper returned to the original folio size, remaining at eight pages of five columns. A photograph appeared in the paper in that year (if not the first, one of the first; Figure 03). During this decade, the *Journal* continued to report local, regional, state, and national news. Page one remained focused on local news with some regional news and advertising also appearing on the page. Local news also appeared on page four and five, where school notifications, local advertisements, want ads, etc. appeared. The previous interest in “cures” was transitioning to information directed at nutrition and health with notes and articles about cooking dominating page six; though diminished in number, advertisements for “cures” continued to appear. Also notable during this period, was the increasing attention to the automobile, including advertisements.

As the decade proceeded, the paper continued as a weekly (Thursday), six-column folio with the number of pages varying by edition. A new publisher, Alex Sinclair, was at the helm by 1915. The inclusion of a year-end, expanded issue also appeared in that year. Generally, the paper continued to offer local and regional news (concentrated on page one with “local tidbits” appearing on a separate page), national and international news (spread across multiple pages), advertisements, and serials (a serial detective story, “The Gloved Hand” ran through most of the year). Notably, a political cartoon appeared with the international news and there was a significant increase in the number of photographs relative to the years prior.

By the 1930s, the use of graphics had become standard, comics were regular features, serials remained a favorite occupying several columns, and the move from “cure” ads to content directed at healthy eating was largely accomplished. Merrel J. Mitchell was the publisher and editor during this period. By January of 1940, John G. Davidson had replaced Mitchell as editor-publisher; Davidson remained the publisher through September, 1970. The paper remained generally consistent with the previous decade, with the use of photographs, the number of comics (by then a full page), and the use of graphics to illustrate the serials being typical throughout the 1940s.

Under Davidson’s direction (1940-1970), the paper’s layout and content shifted toward its local audience. During this period the *Journal* increased its focus on local reporting of events and activities important to the community with less content regarding national and international news. In the January 04, 1940 edition, the society calendar, a column called “Local News Notes”, and local or area feature articles filled the entire front page with a portion of page four-five and the last page (seven) also dedicated to local news. Serials, household news, and comic strips remained popular features with national and international news contained on the second page.

⁴³ Rose, 408.

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By 1950, the paper's banner had been redesigned, the form and style of which was less formal than it had been from the paper's conception. The content continued to be locally focused with an increasing number of features that were more entertainment based and less news based: the crossword puzzle appeared during this era; photographs were increasingly used along with text to impart the news and/or tell a story; event notifications such as public auctions, dances, and church gatherings increased in frequency and scale; advertisements for local businesses (professional services, movie theaters, and businesses) increased with a separate page that included want ads; comic strips remained; and a two column feature called "Main Street in Action" appeared on the back page adjacent to a photo series.

Figure 04. Jasper Journal - 1960



(Source: Jasper Area Museum.)

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The early 1960s saw editor, John G. Davidson increase the paper's sheet size and further tip the content balance away from national and international news. Local news and advertisements accounted for the majority of the content.

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John G. Davidson left his position as editor in September of 1970. The content of the paper during the first months of 1970 remained focused on local news and events and advertising, with no comic strips, no serials, no homemaking features, and a minimum of national news. Geraldine Peterson became the editor in October, the edition printed on October 15, 1970 being the first published under her watch. In the brief period between the official arrival of Davidson's replacement, the banner was modified; once again extending the full width of the first page in the more traditional form. Although Peterson made some modifications in the layout, the content remained locally focused.

The *Jasper Journal* moved from the Poorbaugh Block in 1972, remaining in business through 2020.

Figure 05. *Jasper Journal* - 1970



(Source: Jasper Area Museum.)

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The *Jasper Journal* occupied the Poorbaugh Block from 1917-1972 and the resource draws significance under Criterion A from that association. Established concurrent with founding of the town, the paper was, for 132-years, the primary reporting mechanism for chronicling the establishment of businesses, building construction, work being undertaken to advance town interests, local social activities, and for bringing national and international news to Jasper residents. During the period in which the *Jasper Journal* operated from the first floor, the newspaper editor and his family occupied the second-floor apartment.

Jasper Quartzite

The significance of Sioux quartzite as an indigenous building material – one that creates the defining visual character of the area in and around the communities where it is quarried – was established by the designation of the Pipestone commercial area as a State Historic District in 1971 and its registration on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. The predominant use of Sioux quartzite is not typical of construction across the state of Minnesota. Rather, the material is indicative of southwestern Minnesota and its prevalent use in Jasper is the central, character-defining feature that connects the historic building stock to the history of the community's establishment and subsequent development. The commercial district along Wall Street, with its dense concentration of stone buildings, best represents that character.

The significance of the Jasper Quarry (aka south quarry), specifically, was established by the National Register nomination of the Jasper Stone Company and Quarry (listed 1978). Founded coincidental to the platting of the town of Jasper and owned by the Jasper Improvement Co., under the leadership of John M. Poorbaugh, the quarry provided building blocks and pavers for the fledgling community. Jasper quartzite (much of it coming from the south quarry) was used to construct buildings of all types (commercial, religious, residential), including the John M. Poorbaugh Block. As a result, the town's architectural character remains defined by locally quarried Sioux quartzite with some 20 stone buildings of various property types and construction dates retained.

The commercial buildings along Wall Street represent the variety of quartzite quarried in the mines in Jasper and environs. With multiple quarries developed by John M. Poorbaugh and the Jasper Improvement Co. (later, the Sioux Valley Stone Co.), the buildings incorporate stone with a range of colors which allows for a variation in design expression. As the *Jasper Journal* explained the qualities inherent in jasper quartzite, "The stone procured here is superior in coloring, strength and durability to that of any other locality yet discovered. The color is a pinkish gray, while the rock is free from seams or fissures, and so hard as to withstand effectually the ravages of fire. The stone is alike adapted for use in buildings, pavements, monuments, and all ornamental work being susceptible of the highest polish. The jasper quartzite stone already enjoys an extended reputation, as it is used in nearly all the large cities of the country, with a constantly increasing demand."⁴⁴

Evidence of the growing demand for jasper stone is found in reports about visits to the quarries by groups of architects and contractors who came to the quarries to source stone for their building projects. Such visits were reported locally and promoted widely as part of Poorbaugh's marketing strategy. In July of 1891 a group of some 35 architects from Chicago and Iowa visited the Jasper quarries accompanied by press and a photographer. It was reported that, "all in the party expressed themselves as greatly surprised and

⁴⁴ "City Notes," *Jasper Journal*, September 21, 1891: 03.

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wonderfully pleased with the superiority of the building stone of this vicinity.” The *Journal* went on to underscore the importance of the visit to the area’s stone industry, “as all know that an architect’s recommendation carries great weight with contractors.”⁴⁵

One visit by the B. Edwards, editor of the prominent industry journal *American Contractor*, resulted in a report published in that journal noting, “.... adjoining Jasper, right near the edge of the village, are the Jasper quarries operated and owned by the Sioux Valley Stone Company, with offices at Jasper, Sioux City, Chicago, and this company has agencies in the different cities like Minneapolis, St. Paul, Kansas City, etc. Mr. J.M. Poorbaugh is the president ... the company owns several hundred acres of Jasper quarry lands. Going east from where the quarry land joins the town site there is ... along the banks of the creek are the best quarries”.⁴⁶

The completion of significant, architect-designed buildings in Minneapolis and Chicago are proof of the success of these efforts. The George W. VanDusen Mansion (extant, NRHP 1985) on LaSalle Avenue in Minneapolis was built from jasper quartzite. The \$125,000 residence, along with a stone barn, required approximately 100 train car loads of stone. VanDusen, his architect F.D. Orff, and contractors George H. Hoit and J.M. Sullivan came to the quarries to inspect the product before contracting for the order. So impressed was he with the quarries that, shortly thereafter, VanDusen not only contracted for materials for his residence, he asked for permission to arrange for an excursion from Minneapolis to the quarries for a group of capitalists, architects, and contractors.⁴⁷

Also in 1892, jasper stone was used in the Cass Gilbert designed residence for William Lightner in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The residence, sited on Summit Avenue amid a 4.5-mile length of the city’s most significant historic homes, was long heralded as one of Gilbert’s most important designs.⁴⁸

After visiting the Jasper quarries in February of 1892, Bjoerne Edwards (*American Contractor* editor) contracted for stone to construct his “elegant apartment house” in Chicago, Illinois. The large building, which was designed by architect Enock Hill Turnock, was under construction in 1893 and completed in 1896. The building features pink jasper cladding on a skeleton frame. The apartment building is known as Lincoln Park Place and otherwise known as Brewster Apartments. It became a Chicago Landmark in 1982.⁴⁹

While jasper stone, with its range of colors, beauty, and strength, was used in buildings far beyond southwestern Minnesota, its impact on the built environment is most strongly expressed in Jasper where the number and density of stone buildings creates the identity of the community.

Commercial Comparables

The Jasper commercial district was established along Wall Street in 1888 with the first five stone buildings completed in 1889. Over subsequent decades, stone and wood-frame commercial buildings extended

⁴⁵ “City Notes,” *Jasper Journal*, July 03, 1891: 03.

⁴⁶ *American Contractor*, republished in the *Jasper Journal* May 12, 1892.

⁴⁷ “City Notes,” *Jasper Journal*, June 03, 1891: 03.

⁴⁸ “City Notes,” *Jasper Journal*, May 05, 1892: 03.

⁴⁹ Wikipedia.org. Retrieved 10/23/2020.

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along the south and north sides of the street, stretching from the “bookends” of the Poorbaugh Block and the Sherman Block (sited across Wall Street from one another, just east of Sherman Avenue) to Railroad Avenue on the west. Historic images document the presence of stone buildings as part of the commercial streetscape along that full, two-plus block length.

Notably, one of the five stone buildings placed in service in 1889 was located on the north side of Wall Street, between Burr and Railroad avenues; it is non-extant. A second, the E.A. Sherman Block, which stood immediately south from the Poorbaugh Block to bookend the east end of the commercial district, collapsed in 1908; its stone was salvaged to construct the Gerber Hospital. The Poorbaugh Block and the Smith-Poorbaugh Block account for two more of the first five buildings constructed; the name and exact location of the fifth has not been identified, but it is non-extant.

Today, the Jasper commercial district remains concentrated along Wall Street from the Poorbaugh Block on the east to Railroad Avenue on the west, but no stone buildings are retained in the westernmost block (between Burr and Railroad). The commercial district retains a total of 10 stone buildings (including the Poorbaugh Block), down from a peak of approximately 15; the other remaining buildings are wood-frame dating to the late 20th century and after. The streetscape is further characterized by a general sense of decline, including storefront alterations, upper-story window infill, material deterioration, and the large number of vacant lots marking the sites of demolished commercial buildings. While no effort has been made to document the demolitions (either the circumstances that precipitated them or the dates in which they occurred), local residents point to a general lack of maintenance due in large part to the expense associated with upkeep of the stone buildings and a general decline in population and local economy.

It should be noted that the use of stone in building construction is not limited to the Jasper commercial buildings; residential properties, churches, and the high school are also built of jasper quartzite. Three non-commercial properties, the Jasper High School, the Gerber Hospital, and the Rowe House are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Table 01. Stone Commercial Buildings on Wall Street

Key Nbr.	Historic Name(s)	Built	Status
	Poorbaugh Block	1889	Extant
1	Bauman Hall	1891/1893	NRHP
2	Black & Davies Block/Farmers State Bank	1913	Extant
3	Stordahl Building	1894	NRHP
4	Commercial Building, 1-story; 1941: Jack Sprat Foods	ca.1898	Extant
5	Odegaard Block	1898	Extant
6	Smith-Poorbaugh Block/Bank-Smith Block/ Bank of Jasper/ A.P. Smith Hardware/G. Friedrich Hardware	1889/1910	Extant
7	Commercial Building, 1-story	1911	Extant
8	Commercial Building, 2-story	ca.1911	Extant
9	Commercial Building, 1-story	ca.1911	Extant

The overriding character of the Poorbaugh Block is its stone construction, particularly the combined use of pink jasper and red pipestone. This combination appears on the primary elevations (south and west) where

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the body is of rock-faced pink jasper with rock-faced red pipestone trim and decorative detailing. The façade cornice provides the building's best articulated design character and establishes the character-defining use of contrasting color that sets the Poorbaugh Block apart from the other commercial buildings in Jasper (Photographs 13-14). The cornice is comprised of a checker board of pipestone red and jasper pink that extends from an archivolt over the center window. The archivolt itself features alternating blocks of pipestone and jasper. The configuration of archivolt and checkboard is trimmed in red pipestone. A stepped parapet is likewise trimmed in red pipestone with a block pinnacle as the uppermost element. A red pipestone building plaque calls out the building name and construction date - "J.M. Poorbaugh 1889". The southeast corner of the building has a three course, of jasper and pipestone, square pinnacle with a pyramidal top, while the southwest corner (marking the junction of the primary elevations) features a five course, jasper and pipestone, round pinnacle that springs from lower in the wall plane. It is this level of design detail that sets the J.M. Poorbaugh Block apart from the other stone commercial buildings and establishes it as the best representative of the use of quartzite in the Jasper commercial district.

Bauman Hall (Figures 16-17) is a two-story, double-wide stone building situated on the southwest corner of Wall Street and Burr Avenue. Listed on the National Register in 1980 under Criterion A, Bauman Hall was built as a hotel in North Sioux Falls in 1891 and moved to the Jasper site in 1893 where it was used as a community meeting hall and gathering place. The building exterior retains a very good level of historic integrity with storefronts and upper story windows historically rehabilitated. In comparison with the Poorbaugh Block, although the building cornice incorporates contrasting stone details, on the whole the design character of the decorative elements is less elaborate than incorporated in the Poorbaugh Block and the impact of the contrasting stone less dramatic than the use of red stone from the Pipestone quarry created in the Poorbaugh Block. While Bauman Hall gained significance as part of the growth of the developing commercial district it post-dates the Poorbaugh Block and so does not represent Jasper's initial construction period.

The Black & Davies Block (Figures 18-19) is a two-story, one-bay stone building sited on the SE corner of Wall Street and Burr Avenue. The building's design character reflects the early 20th century tendency toward strength and austerity in the appearance of bank buildings. Stone details consist of horizontal banding and a simple cornice comprised of three courses of stacked banding. The exterior integrity has been adversely impacted by replacement of all original windows with glass-block infill; the primary entrance on the north has been similarly altered. Relative to the John M. Poorbaugh Block, the resource is not associated with the first commercial buildings, rather its construction represents a significantly later period in Jasper's commercial history. Additionally, the wholesale infill of openings significantly reduces the historic integrity of design.

The Stordahl Building rose on the south side of Wall Street between Burr and Sherman avenues in 1894 (Figure 20). The building was built as a two-story, single storefront with an arcaded first story providing a strong and unusual character (the adjoining one-story is a later addition to the Stordahl Building). The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 under Criteria A and C, but demolition of the rear section and the second-story in 2000 adversely impacts its ability to convey the original character and significance.

Building (4) is a one-story, single storefront building with stone and design character that matches the adjoining two-story (Figures 21-22). A historic image from 1941 documents the pair, the storefront of which

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appear fully autonomous; the matching facades may reflect the building/owner. In early spring, 2021, the cornice of the building collapse (see prior image); the fate of the building remains undetermined.

The resource lacks the use of contrasting stone seen at the Poorbaugh Block and its historic integrity has been adversely impacted by the complete replacement of the storefront and the addition the pent roof, fixed awning that extends to include the adjacent building. Therefore, relative to the Poorbaugh Block, the building lacks the degree of stylistic expression and its level of historic integrity is similar. Additionally, the resource is not representative of the initial construction period.

Building (5) is the two-story, single bay, stone Odegaard Block with a single, non-historic storefront and entrance to the upper story on the ground floor (Figures 21-22). A single color of stone is used, but the upper wall plane is well articulated with a cornice comprised of stepped dentil forms, alternating widths of courses, corner piers that rise above the parapet height, and a raised parapet with vertically oriented blocks alternating with voids.

Compared to the J.M. Poorbaugh Block, the building lacks the use of contrasting stone which, at the Poorbaugh Block, punctuates the decorative elements and elevates the overall design quality. However, the design detail seen here is well executed and visually appealing. Historic integrity has been adversely impacted by the complete replacement of the storefront, which includes a pent roof, fixed awning that extends to include the adjacent building. Additionally, the three upper story windows have been infilled with glass block. Additionally, the resource is not representative of the initial construction period and the recent collapse places both buildings at risk.

Summary of Significance

The John M. Poorbaugh Block is significant in association with its longtime occupant, the *Jasper Journal*. Established in 1888, the *Journal* remained the town's only newspaper through 2020. During that 132-year history, the newspaper was located in the Poorbaugh Block from 1917 through 1972. For the many years of its existence, the newspaper was the primary source of information for its community, first reporting on various efforts led by town leaders to benefit the fledgling community, then expanding to provide news of the broader world. The paper was a source of advertising for businesses as well as the mechanism for disseminating important information regarding local issues. The role of the *Jasper Journal* was very significant to the everyday life of the community; for 55-years, the newspaper conducted that important business from the Poorbaugh Block.

The Poorbaugh Block is also significant in the area of architecture, specifically as a distinctive example of construction using locally quarried Sioux quartzite stone. The John M. Poorbaugh Block stands as the best representative of a stone commercial building when considering both the quality of design character and the level of historic integrity retained.

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_____. "City Notes." August 16, 1889.

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_____. "City Notes." June 03, 1891.

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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 # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PP-JPC-012

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 43.850006 | Longitude: -93.397024 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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

The property boundary is marked by the footprint of the building, extending north seven-feet to include the rear staircase. On the west and the south, the building abuts the public sidewalk. On the east, the building abuts the parcel boundary. On the north, the building abuts a seeded yard.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property boundary is determined by existing physical and legal demarcations on all sides except the north. Because the legal parcel (the entirety of which is owned by the Jasper Historical Society) extends north to the alley, determination of the north boundary relies on the limited availability of historic images and maps that clearly document the north portion of the parcel. Without such evidence, the historical functional relationship between the Poorbaugh Block and the land cannot be determined.

What is known is that in 1916 a small outbuilding of unknown function was located at the far north end of the parcel. Today, the Christianson House (moved to the site in 1981) is located near the north end of the parcel. A rear staircase was located on the building by 1916.

Given these snippets of historical information and the absence of evidence connecting the function of the Poorbaugh Block to use of the land north of the building, the boundary on the north terminates at the north edge of the existing rear staircase (indicated by blue line as follows).

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Assessor's Parcel Map – 2021



(Source: <https://pipestone.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=bec2b5aa154c4774bbbfdc06df744541>. Retrieved 12/01/2021.)

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Alexa K. McDowell/Architectural Historian
organization: A.KAY Consulting
street & number: 526 40th Street
city or town: Des Moines state: IA zip code: 50312
e-mail akaymcd@hotmail.com
telephone: 515-491-5432
date: 09/03/2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

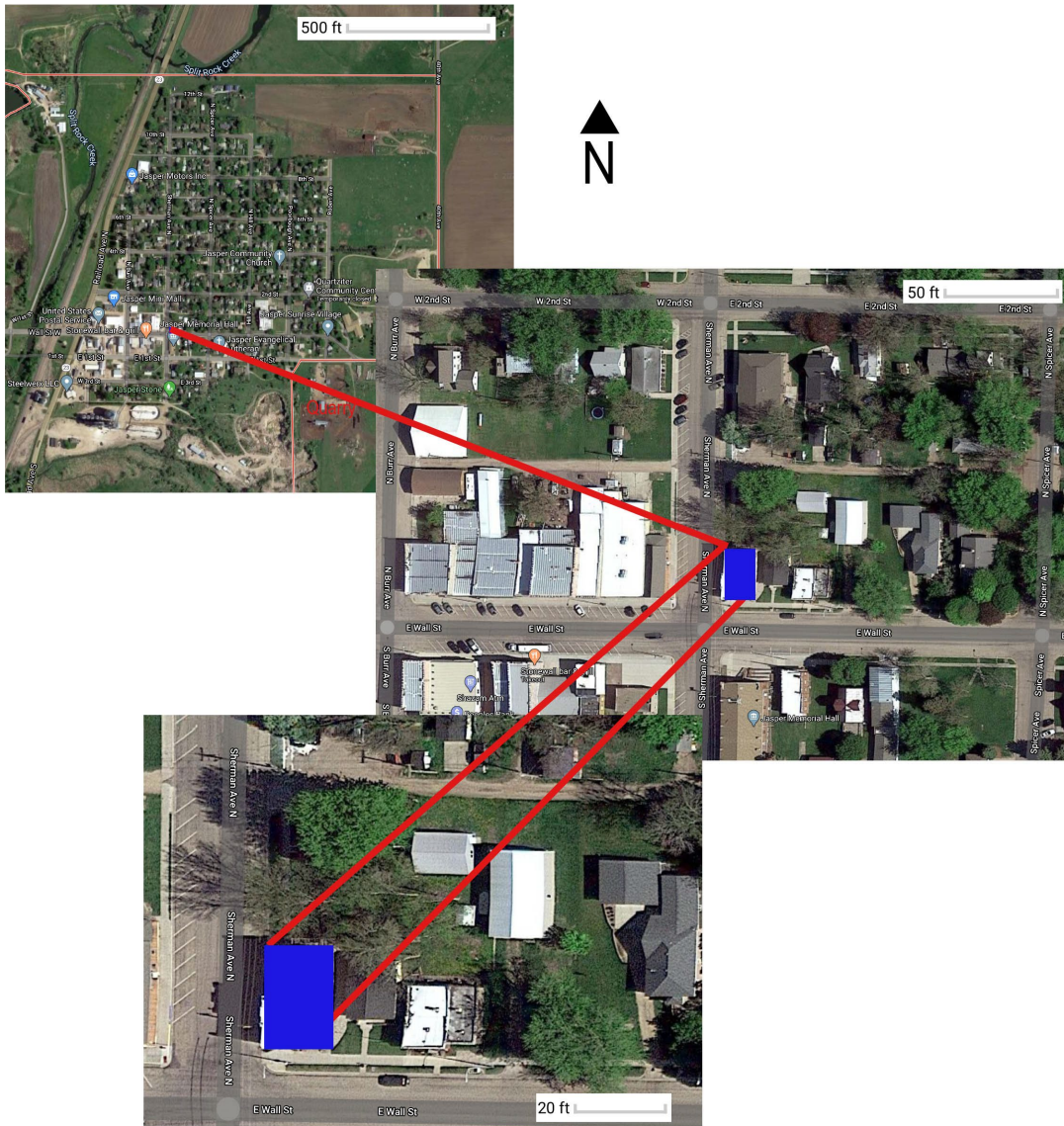
(Source: http://ims.er.usgs.gov/gda_services/download?item_id=5982996. Retrieved 11/25/2021.)

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Additional Documentation: Maps

Map 02. Locator Map – 2021



(SOURCE: <https://maps.google.com>. Last accessed 11/15/2021.)

Latitude/Longitude: 43.850006/-93.397024

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Map 03. Historic Plat Map – 1898



(Source: Plat Book of Pipestone County, Minnesota, 1898.)

The historic commercial area along Wall Street is outlined in blue with the location of the John M. Poorbaugh Block noted in red.

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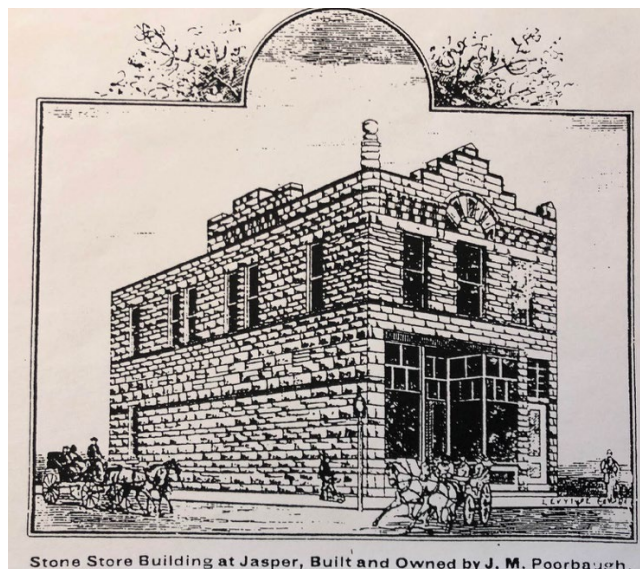
Image 01. Historic Image – ca.1900



(Source: Jasper Historical Museum.)

The location of the Poorbaugh Block is noted in this turn-of-the-century view looking northeast through Jasper.

Image 02. Historic Rendering – 1891



(Source: Jasper Historical Museum.)

The first-floor of the Poorbaugh Block was occupied by the Quarry Store from the time the building was placed in service in 1889 through at least 1894. The upper story was a single apartment.

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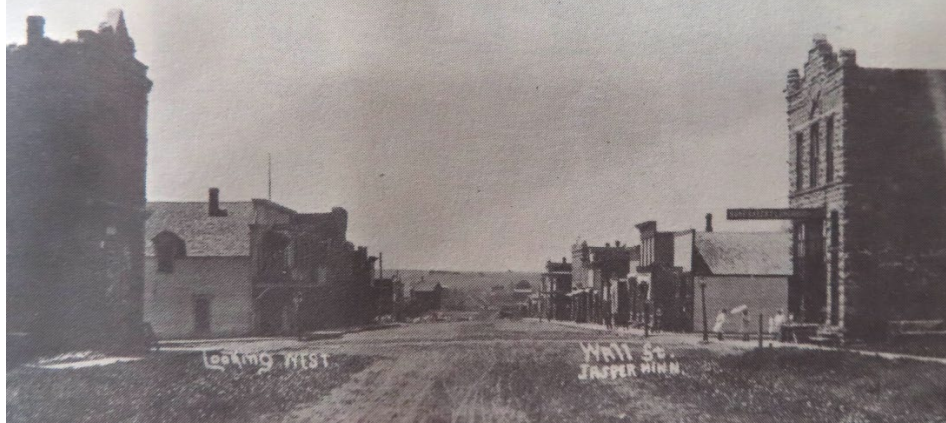
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Additional Documentation: Historical Documentation

Image 03. Historic Image – ca.1890



(Source: Jasper Historical Museum.)

In this view looking west along Wall Street, the Poorbaugh Block is in the foreground at right with its twin, the E.A. Sherman Block (non-extant 1908), immediately south across Wall Street.

Image 04. Historic Image – ca.1916



(Source: Jasper Historical Museum.)

By the time of this image, the *Jasper Journal* had assumed occupation of the Poorbaugh Block - see their sign mounted to the west elevation.

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Image 06. Historic Image – 1981



(Source: Jasper Historical Museum.)

Alteration of the storefront was completed in ca.1940 while still occupied by the *Jasper Journal*. This image documents the building the year after it was purchased by the Jasper Area Museum.

Image 07. Historic Image – ca.1898



(Source: Jasper Historical Museum.)

Looking east along Wall Street from Burr Avenue. The location of the Poorbaugh Block is indicated with the Smith-(P.F.) Poorbaugh Building is at far left.

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Image 08. Historic Image – 1913



(Source: Jasper Historical Museum.)

North side of Wall Street, looking east from Burr Avenue. The location of the Poorbaugh Block is indicated.

Image 09. Historic Image – 1923



(Source: Jasper Historical Museum.)

Looking east along Wall Street from Burr Avenue. The location of the Poorbaugh Block is indicated.

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Image 10. Historic Image – 1941

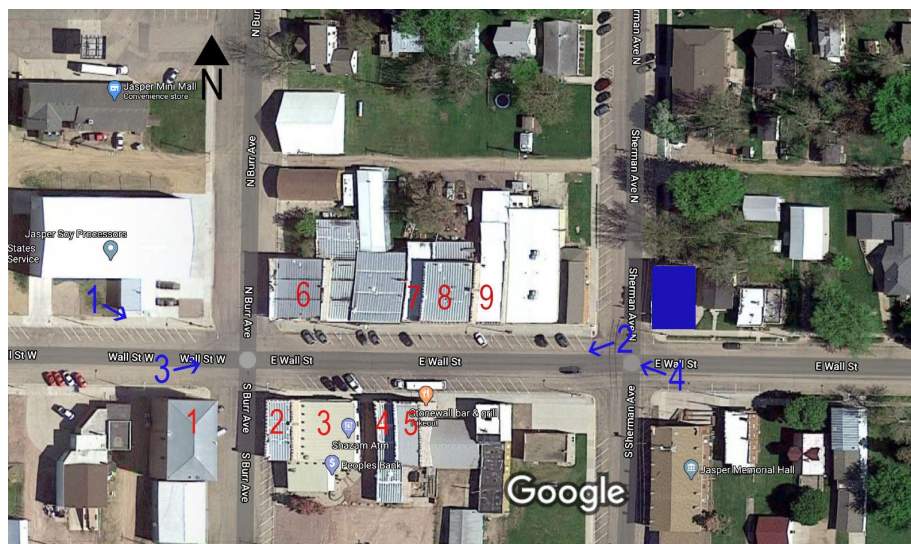


(Source: Jasper Historical Museum.)

North side of Wall Street, looking east from Burr Avenue. The location of the Poorbaugh Block is indicated.

Additional Documentation: Comparative Properties

01. Map of Stone Commercial Buildings on Wall Street



(Source: <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Jasper,+MN+56144>. Retrieved 02/13/2021)

The Poorbaugh Block is indicated in blue.

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Additional Documentation: Comparative Properties

02. View (1) - South streetscape, looking SE from just west of Burr Avenue



03. View (2) - South streetscape, looking SE from just west of Burr Avenue



04. Building (1): Bauman Hall - 1891/1893



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Additional Documentation: Comparative Properties

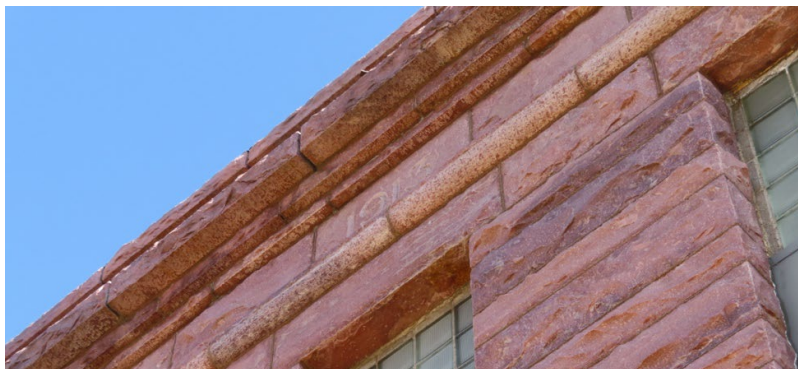
05. Building (1): Bauman Hall – Cornice Detail



06. Building (2): Black & Davies Block/Farmers' State Bank – 1913



07. Building (2): Black & Davies Block/Farmers' State Bank - Cornice Detail



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Additional Documentation: Comparative Properties

08. Building (3): Stordahl Building – 1894



09. Building (4) and (5): One-story commercial – ca.1898 and Odegard Block (1898) – 11/2021



10. Building (4): One-story commercial – Cornice Detail (prior to collapse)



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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch 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.

Photo Log

Name of Property: John M. Poorbaugh Block

City or Vicinity: Jasper

County: Pipestone

State: MN

Photographer: Alexa McDowell

Date Photographed: July 31, 2020

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 21. SITE VIEW: Looking NW along Wall St. commercial strip
- 2 of 21. SITE VIEW: Looking northeast across Wall St. from east of Sherman Avenue
- 3 of 21. SITE VIEW: Looking northwest across Wall St. and Sherman Avenue
- 4 of 21. SITE VIEW: Looking south along Sherman Avenue
- 5 of 21. EXTERIOR: View of the façade (south) and east elevations, looking NW
- 6 of 21. EXTERIOR: View of the façade (south) and east elevations, looking NW
- 7 of 21. EXTERIOR: View of the north and west elevations, looking SE
- 8 of 21. EXTERIOR: View of the rear (north) and east elevations, looking SW
- 9 of 21. EXTERIOR: Façade (south) stepped parapet, stone detail, and building name plate
- 10 of 21. EXTERIOR: West elevation, stone decorative detail
- 11 of 21. EXTERIOR: West elevation, stone and beaded joints
- 12 of 21. INTERIOR: First floor, looking north
- 13 of 21. INTERIOR: First floor, looking SE
- 14 of 21. INTERIOR: Stairs, looking from first to second floor
- 15 of 21. INTERIOR: Second floor living room, Looking SE
- 16 of 21. INTERIOR: Second floor living room, looking south
- 17 of 21. INTERIOR: Second floor dining room, looking NW
- 18 of 21. INTERIOR: Second floor dining room, looking south
- 19 of 21. INTERIOR: Second floor, former bedroom, looking SW
- 20 of 21. INTERIOR: Second floor kitchen, looking SW
- 21 of 21. INTERIOR: Second floor bathroom, looking east

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PHOTO KEY: Exterior

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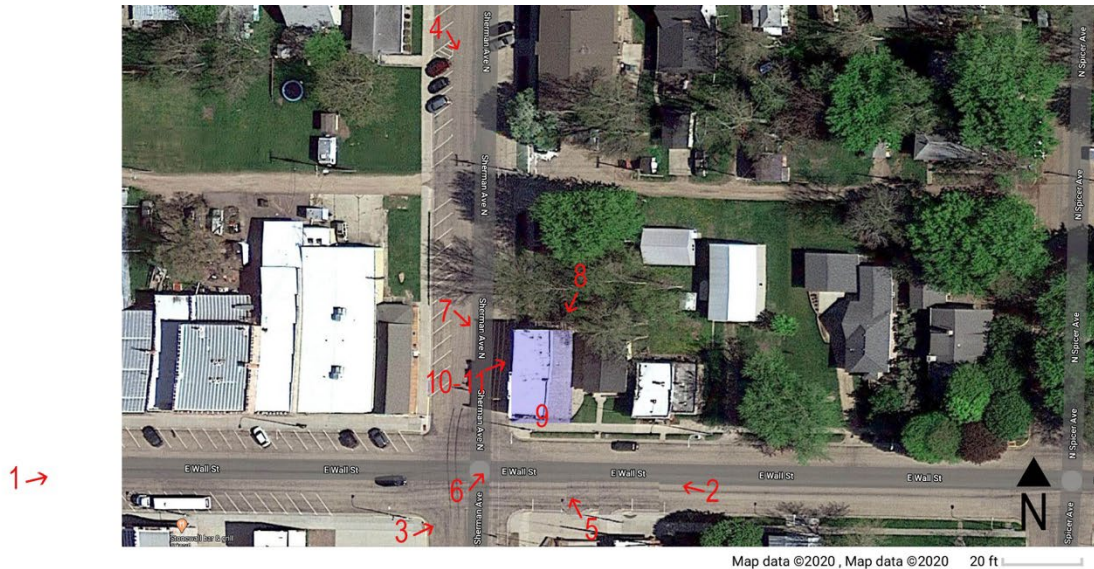
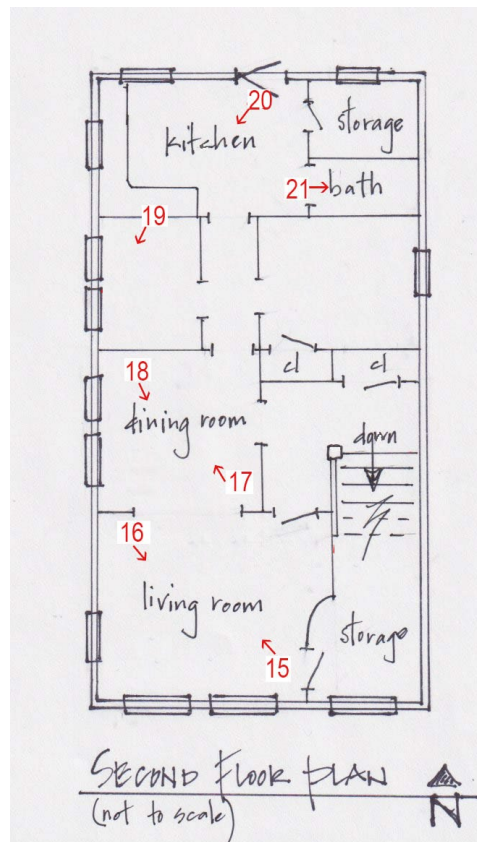
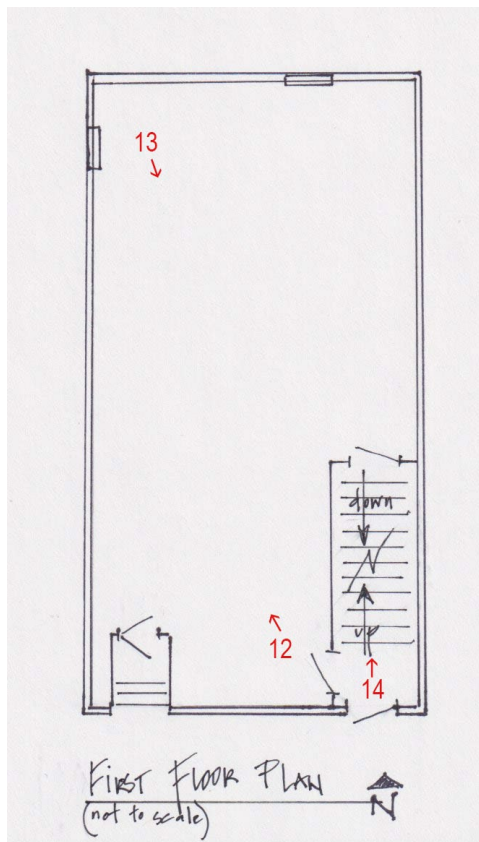


PHOTO KEY: Interior



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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

Tier 2 – 120 hours

Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.