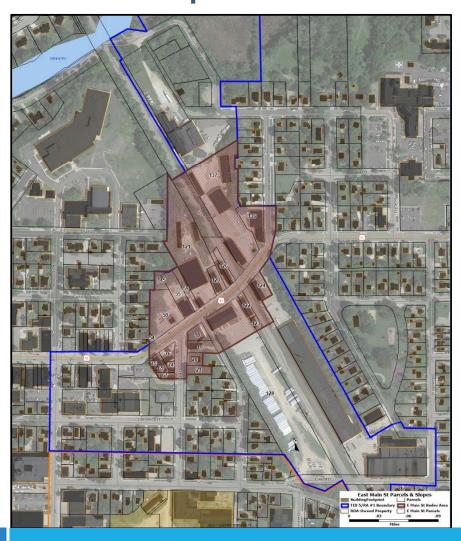


# Redevelopment Plan East Main Street Redevelopment Area



01/5/2022

Draft

The East Main Street Redevelopment Area is part of Redevelopment Area #1 and included in Tax Increment District #5. The Redevelopment Authority wishes to follow-up a plan for downtown Stoughton with a redevelopment plan focused on the east end of the downtown.

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Stoughton		
Redevelopment	Stoughton City Council	
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Insert copy of City Council resolution approving plan.

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# Redevelopment Project Plan

#### INTRODUCTION

The City of Stoughton has many under-utilized parcels within its jurisdiction. It is in the City's interest to see each parcel utilized to its fullest potential. This not only maximizes property tax revenue to the City and its overlying taxing jurisdictions; it also helps the local economy operate most effectively, helps to keep property tax rates under control and helps keep housing affordable.

This document outlines a plan of redevelopment for the eastern end of downtown Stoughton along the East Main Street corridor. If successful,

Stoughton Redevelopment Areas

ITID #8 Riverfront
ITID #S Riverfront
TID #S Riverfront
TID #S Rad #B Boundary
Redev Area #2
E Main St Redev Area

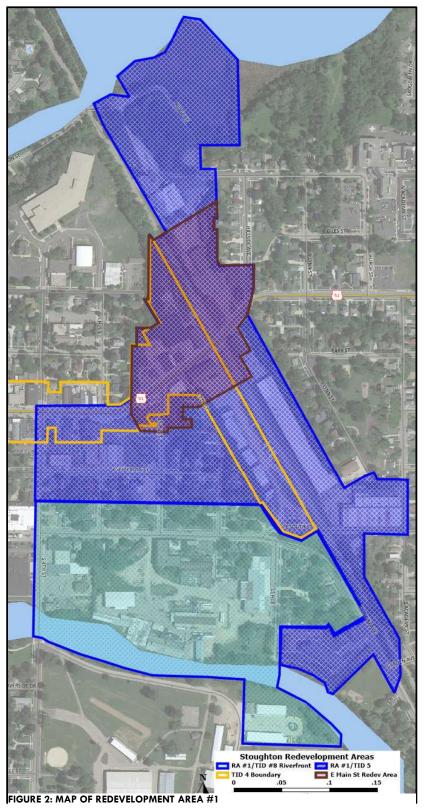
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FIGURE 1: OVERVIEW MAP OF CENTRAL STOUGHTON SHOWING LOCATIONS OF CITY REDEVELOPMENT AREAS.

implementation of this plan will bring improved housing opportunities, more residents to patronize downtown businesses and increased tax base.

This plan was prepared by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Stoughton (RDA).

# BOUNDARY MAP, REDEVELOPMENT AREA #1



## **Boundary Description**

The boundary of
Redevelopment Area #1 (RA
#1) is described in the RA #1
Plan. The East Main Street
redevelopment area is a subarea of RA #1 and does not
have a fixed boundary but
generally includes parcels
that front on East Main
Street from just east of the
Opera House east to Hillside
St. This area has property
lying in two Tax Increment
Districts – TID #4 and TID #5.

RA #1 is ¾ mile in length and less than ½ mile at its widest point, comprising about 92 acres of land. The East Main Street Redevelopment Area is 13 acres in size – ¼ mile north-to-south and 1/10 mile east-to-west.

Other sub-areas of RA #1 are the Riverfront, which is included in Tax Increment District #8, the residential area between East Main Street and East South Street, the IKI property on the north end and the Stoughton Trailers property along the Rail Corridor.

# Parcels Included in East Main Street Redevelopment Area

Donor anto Address	DARGEINO	Мар	0 2021	0 2000	Dista	Size	Land Value	Improv Value	Total Value	Land Value	Improve	Total Value
Property Address	PARCELNO	PIN	Owners 2021	Owners 2009	Blight	acres	2009	2009	2009	2021	Value 2021	2021
501 E Main St	051108112015	18	Grand Inspired	Chris K. Hull	Y	0.141	\$27,700	\$120,800	\$148,500	\$27,700	\$347,600	\$375,300
201 S Sixth St	051108112122	19	Lynn M Hull	Kris K. Hull	Y	0.202	\$39,400	\$95,100	\$134,500	\$39,400	\$85,300	\$124,700
209 S Sixth St	051108112239	20	Lynn M Hull	Chris Hull		0.125	\$24,400	\$75,600	\$100,000	\$24,400	\$68,800	\$93,200
209 S Sixth St	051108112444	21	Lynn M Hull	Kris K. Hull		0.133	\$26,100	\$0	\$26,100	\$26,100	\$0	\$26,100
217 S Fifth St	051108136802	54	Chris Gentilli	P Mayo & A Zanchetti	Υ	0.06	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$300
500 E Main St	051108137132	55	BC & EW Amundson	BC & EW AMUNDSON	Υ	0.394	\$61,600	\$60,600	\$122,200	\$61,600	\$54,900	\$116,500
480 E Main St	051108136900	58	David Melton	David Melton	Υ	0.582	\$91,000	\$15,600	\$106,600	\$91,000	\$7,000	\$98,000
508 E Main St	051108137230	59	Danny K Aaberg	Danny K Aaberg	Υ	0.199	\$31,200	\$215,100	\$246,300	\$31,200	\$179,300	\$210,500
300 S Sixth St	051108138480	67	JW King & MJ King	JW King & MJ King Phillip & Viki	Υ	0.084	\$16,300	\$49,000	\$65,300	\$16,300	\$49,000	\$65,300
421 E Main St	051108138695	69	Bryan Richgels	Elsing	Υ	0.093	\$27,300	\$99,500	\$126,800	\$27,300	\$95,300	\$122,600
210 S Sixth St	051108138533	74	Danny Naberg	Danny Naberg	Υ	0.04	\$5,200	\$63,000	\$68,200	\$5,200	\$57,200	\$62,400
419 E Main St	051108138631	75	Current Owner	R & G Lazarro		0.037	\$10,800	\$189,600	\$200,400	\$10,800	\$158,000	\$168,800
435 E Main St	051108138793	76	Melton Service LLC	Peterson's Service Inc	Υ	0.189	\$44,200	\$103,300	\$147,500	\$44,200	\$83,700	\$127,900
524 E Main St	051108181012	120	AO Arts Warehse	Lois L. Alm		0.188	\$29,400	\$188,000	\$217,400	\$29,400	\$145,600	\$175,000
516 E Main St	051108181101	121	Viking Warehse	Julia Mann Deyoung	Υ	2.17	\$75,600	\$185,400	\$261,000	\$75,600	\$168,300	\$243,900
529 E Main St	051108181601	122	JBST Stoughton	Clarence A Haase	Υ	0.112	\$9,800	\$29,700	\$39,500	\$9,800	\$54,500	\$64,300
529 E Main St #1	051108181709	123	JBST Stoughton	Clarence A Haase	Υ	0.056	\$4,900	\$40,100	\$45,000	\$4,900	\$44,600	\$49,500
567 E Main St	051108181902	124	Stoughton Trailers	Stoughton Trailers	Υ	0.194	\$3,300	\$96,100	\$99,400	\$16,900	\$166,100	\$183,000
532 E Main St	051108180997	126	Stoughton, City	Stoughton, City Of		0.1	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0_
515 E Main St	051108183207	128	Current Owner	STI Holdings	Υ	0.849	\$74,000	\$302,300	\$376,300	\$74,000	\$301,800	\$375,800
578 E Main St	051105470752	136	SE & DI Mckichan	SE & DI Mckichan	Υ	0.48	\$41,800	\$169,300	\$211,100	\$41,800	\$163,900	\$205,700
556 E Main St	051105470602	137	556 E Main St LLC	Whistlestop Developmnt	Υ	2.555	\$199,900	\$473,600	\$673,500	\$199,900	\$150,100	\$350,000
119 S Fifth St	051108135830	145	David Melton	David Melton		0.087	\$7,600	\$15,200	\$22,800	\$7,600	\$12,100	\$19,700
Total						9.07	\$851,800	\$2,586,900	\$3,438,700	\$865,400	\$2,393,100	\$3,258,500

**<sup>3 |</sup>** Page

Change in Total Value 2009 - 2021	-\$180,200
Change in Land Value 2009 - 2021	\$13,600
Change in Improvement Value 2009 - 2021	-\$193,800
Blighted Area	8.4
% Blighted	93%

#### **Historical Development**

The East Main Street Redevelopment Area can be characterized as the former logistics heart of the City and region due to the presence of the rail line and a rail depot. This area is highly significant to the history of Stoughton. The historic significance has been memorialized through application for the establishment of the Depot Hill Historic District with the Wisconsin State Historical Society (<a href="https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/NationalRegister/NR1627">https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/NationalRegister/NR1627</a>). Although the District was never formally established, the identification of buildings important to the history and culture of the City was an important step as we consider what the future might hold for this area. The proposed District contained 12 contributing buildings. One, a small building at the top of the East Main Street Hill, was removed, along with other buildings, to build the Fire Station, so only 11 of the identified buildings remain.



FIGURE 3: IMAGE OF THE VIROQUA
LEAF TOBACCO CO. LOOKING SOUTH
ALONG THE RAILROAD TRACKS FROM
E. MAIN STREET. THESE BUILDINGS HAVE
BEEN REPLACED BY THE STOUGHTON
TRAILERS FACILITY. SOURCE:
WISCONSIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORY
INVENTORY.

Much of the material that built the City, heated its homes, and ran the economy physically came through this area between 1853, when the railroad came to Stoughton and 1946. Most of the land area was dedicated to tobacco warehousing, and lumber and coal storage. Important support services were also here, including hotels, saloons, blacksmith, and wagon repair shops, not to mention the horse stables which were as ubiquitous then as car garages are today.

The following table of parcels within the East Main Street Redevelopment Area provides a summary of current and historical uses of each parcel as well as noting other property conditions relevant to an investigation of revitalization strategies. Shaded entries indicate properties that contribute to the Depot Hill Historic District or are locally designated landmarks. If there is a record of the property in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory, it is noted and relevant information from that record is provided A graphic under the street address indicates the location of the parcel. The Map PIN number relates to the parcel map and any other map that has parcels labeled with their Parcel Identification Number. The images are from Google Maps street view and were taken in 2019.

#### Parcel Land Use History Table

Map PIN Description History 75 419 E. Main St. minimi Current Use: Restaurant – Laz Bistro (downstairs), Art Studio – Richard Lazarro (upstairs). **Historic Uses:** This is a contributing building to the Depot Hill Historic District. The Wisconsin Historical Society has a record on this property (https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI5891). This property is not a designated local landmark. The building was constructed between 1887 and 1892 and is part of the Depot Hill Historic District. In 1898 the building was just a saloon, and in 1904 it was run by R. H. Robinson and John Zerwes. In 1912 the occupant is selling "soft drinks." Carl Ellingson operated a Cigar and Billiards establishment along with a saloon in 1915. In 1926, the building is listed as a store. This building seems to have historically served both commercial and residential needs. Prior to its current use, it was Roger & Sally's Bar. Canvas awnings were added, and the paint was refreshed around 2013. The building appears to be in good condition. 69 421 E. Main Current Use: In Transition – recently changed ownership Historic Uses: Grand Hotel. This is a contributing building to the Depot Hill Historic District and there is a record at the State Historical Society -

https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI5893. This property is not a designated local landmark.

In October 1891, the Stoughton Hub ran an article describing the Hanson House - a new hotel then being built by Gregor Hanson, brother of owner H. T. Hanson. It had a kitchen, bar room, laundry and servants' bedrooms in the basement, office, ladies' parlor and twelve bedrooms on the street level, and twenty-seven bedrooms on the second floor. In 1892, two story wood porches were located on the front and back of the brick building. In 1893 the name was changed to the Grand Hotel. The Diamond Laundry opened in the Grand Hotel in January of 1894. Carl Ellingson retired as proprietor of the hotel in February of 1901 and sold the property to Marshal and Bissell. By May of the same year, G. F. Carley purchased the hotel. H. T. Hanson was the proprietor of the hotel in 1904. It was then leased to Samuel Peterson in September of 1906. Mrs. Julia Thomson ran the hotel in 1915 and Mrs. Carl Bratvold ran it in 1928.

One of two originally in the immediate area (the Revere Hotel was across the street slightly to the east), this hotel building is indicative of the activity in Stoughton from the 1890s through the 1920s.

The Hanson House/Grand Hotel is a two-story commercial vernacular building with Italianate details. This imposing five bay, two story brick building anchors the west end of the industrial area of East Main Street. Shouldered segmental arch lintels cap the windows, which are also segmentally arched. A heavy brick denticulated and corbelled cornice breaks into a round arch in the center of the building. The first floor has been substantially altered. Various construction features of the former hotel building include a rectangular shaped plan configuration, a brick exterior, a brick trim, a flat roof, and a post 1926 addition or alteration. The building is in good condition. Source: Wisconsin Historical Society, Wisconsin Architecture and History Inventory

76

435 E. Main St.





Current Use: Auto Repair - Melton Auto Service

**Historic Uses:** Blacksmith, Painting, Auto Service. There is a record on this property at both the Wisconsin Historical Society -

https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI92077 as well as the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources list of brownfield sites. Although WHS has a record, the property does not contribute to the Depot Hill Historic District. The current structure was built in 1947, however there has been activity on this site since before 1884 when there was a blacksmith shop and painting shop on the property. It continued in this use for many decades – into the

1930's. In 1947 the Robert Van Etten gas station was constructed. Eventually it became Peterson's Service.

This property has a 2005 deed restriction related to contaminated soil and groundwater resulting from a leaking underground petroleum tank.

Additional testing and possible remediation will be required if this property is changed in any way. The property also has a continuing obligation to

74 210 S. Sixth St.





Current Use: 2-unit residential

**Historic Use:** Auto Repair/Storage. This property is not listed with the Wisconsin Historical Society. This property appeared to be part of PIN 76 and hosted wagon repair and painting services from 1884 until about 1900 when a storage building was constructed. It continued to be used for storage until about 1926 when the building was used for auto repair. In 1949 it was still shown as an auto repair use. More research is needed to learn when it stopped being used for commercial purposes.

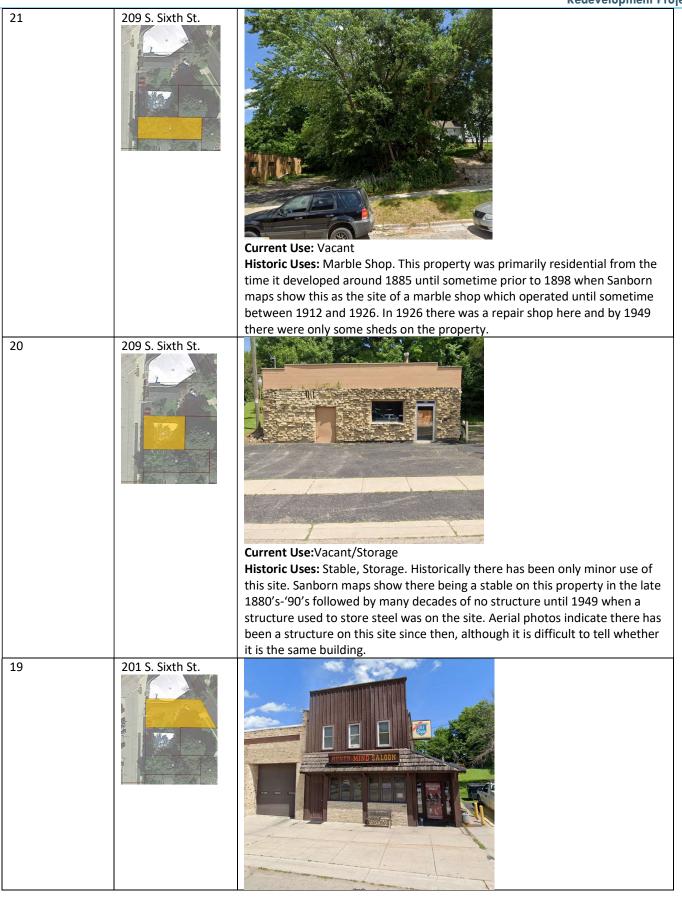
67 300 S. Sixth St.





Current Use: Storage

**Historic Uses:** Stable, Implement Dealer. Sanborn maps show the first development on this site in 1887 with a shed or stable. The site continued to be used as a stable for the Grand Hotel until sometime between 1904 and 1912 when a farm implement dealer operated from the property.



Current Use: Tavern – Never Mind Saloon

**Historic Uses:** Dwelling, Saloon, Laundry. This site has been developed since before 1884. The 1884 Sanborn map shows there being a 35' water tower on the site along with several sheds. This was just before public water service was provided to the area. By 1887 there was a residence on the property, and it continued to be a residence until sometime before 1949. There were often other uses in the lower level such as laundry, saloon, box ball alley, a store and back to a tavern in modern days. It appears that this same structure has been on the property since about 1890. It is not listed by the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory.

18

501 E. Main St.





**Current Use:** Grand Inspired Artisan Furniture Gallery; recently renovated. **Historic Uses:** Grocery/Dry Goods Store, Auto Services. This is a contributing property to the Depot Hill Historic District and listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory -

https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI68438. Known as Doughboy Feeds. This property has been the site of a grocery/dry goods store since the first Sanborn map was published in 1884. The site converted to auto-related services around 1925 when the current structure was built. Until nearly the mid-1900's this has also had a residential use. In more recent times the building has been the home of a septic tank cleaning and installation service (Honey Wagon Services). The building's architectural style is modern.

128

515 E. Main St.





**Current Use:** Event Center (Lagarete) and Church (Ezra Church)

**Historic Uses:** Tobacco Warehouse. This property is a contributing property to the Depot Hill Historic District and is in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory -

https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI5895. The building was constructed in 1885. This is also a locally designated landmark. This is one of only three remaining tobacco warehouses. At one time there were at least 15 in this area. The structure is in good condition and is essentially unchanged from its use as a tobacco warehouse. The structure sits on a large parcel that extends southeast along the railroad tracks to South St. – over

1,000 feet. Currently the rest of the site is vacant, but historically there have been many uses here, including up to six tobacco warehouses, grain and lime warehouses, coal storage, an icehouse, a brewery (Hausmann Brewing Co.), a grist mill, horse stables and auto garages. 122 529 E Main St. **Current Use: Woodworking Shop Historic Uses:** Railroad Depot. This is a contributing property to the Depot Hill Historic District. It is listed on the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI5897. This property is a designated local landmark. This building was constructed in 1861 and was the physical arrival point for most of the material that built, heated and ran the local economy for the first 75 years of the City's history. 124 567 E. Main St. Current Use: Youth Center **Historic Uses:** Tobacco Warehouse. This property contributes to the Depot Hill Historic District and is listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory. It is not a designated local landmark. A 'site file' titled "Lackenbroch Tobacco" exists for this property. It contains additional information such as correspondence, newspaper clippings, or historical information. It is a public record and may be viewed in person at the State Historical Society, Division of Historic Preservation. In 1884 a wood-frame passenger railroad depot was located on this site. The current structure was built in 1885 as a tobacco warehouse and continued in that use until the 1950's. The property is currently owned by Stoughton Trailers and leased to the City of Stoughton for use as a Youth Center. This warehouse gains importance as one of three remaining warehouses on East Main Street in Stoughton. While it is slightly simpler in architectural detail than its neighbors, the use of the keystones and corbelling in the window

lintels provides visual interest. The east most building of the concentration of transportation/agri-industrial - related buildings on East Main Street, it has

significance in defining the edge of the warehouse district from the residential neighborhood to the east. The dependence of the tobacco industry on the local railroad is clear from the proximity of the warehouse to the tracks and freight depot. The success of the tobacco industry is reflected in the architectural details and massive scale of this warehouse. 136 578 E. Main St. **Current Use: Storage** Historic Uses: Tobacco Warehouse, Dwelling, Cigar Factory. This property is listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI93706. It is not contributing to any historic district and is not a locally designated landmark. This property shows its first use on the 1898 Sanborn map with a tobacco warehouse and a dwelling on this corner. The 1949 Sanborn map still shows the use of this property as a tobacco warehouse. Eventually it was used by Stoughton Lumber for offices. It currently appears to be used for storage. This may be the same building that was originally constructed on the site, although further research is needed to know whether it is or not. 137 556 E. Main St. **Current Use: Construction Business** Historic Uses: Tobacco Warehouses, Lumber Storage, Coal Shed, Cement Warehouse. This property is listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI88605. This is not a contributing building to any historic district and is not a designated local landmark. This is a large 2.5-acre parcel that has been used intensively ever since the railroad was built. There was a large structure in the middle of the site that was used continuously for lumber storage since before 1904. At least half the structure appears to have been demolished and a concrete block wall installed to close in the remainder of the building which is currently on the site. A railroad track ran through the building to facilitate unloading of lumber. The rear of the site was used for many decades for coal storage. Railroad tracks cut across the back of the parcel to serve the condensed milk plant where IKI Manufacturing currently operates. The

course of the tracks can still be seen on aerial images of the site. There were three tobacco warehouses on this site along the railroad tracks for many decades. Around the turn of the century, there was a fire and the warehouse closest to East Main Street burned down. It was replaced by another warehouse and the 1904 Sanborn map shows this new warehouse used for wood products rather than tobacco. Various organizational forms of Stoughton Lumber owned this property for over 100 years – into the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

119 No address





**Current Use:** Railroad Tracks **Historic Uses:** Railroad Tracks

This parcel has been used for the railroad ever since the tracks were first laid around 1860.

126 532 E. Main St.





**Current Use:** Chamber of Commerce

Historic Uses: Railroad Passenger Depot. This property is contributing to the Depot Hill Historic District and is listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Depot Hill Historic District -

https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI5900. It is a designated local landmark. This structure was built in 1913 as a passenger depot for the Chicago Milwaukee Saint Paul and Pacific Railroad. The depot across Main Street became the freight depot, while this newer depot handled passenger traffic. As the third depot historically in Stoughton and making a total of two at the time of construction, this building reflects the importance of the railroad to the viability of the community. Unlike neighboring villages where the railroad did not stop, Stoughton had a healthy, growing economy from the 1880s to the 1920s. The railroad's presence made Stoughton a center for agriculture since products and people could be transported easily to and from the city. The surrounding concentration of transportation/agri-industrial - related buildings depended on the railroad for commercial support in customers and freight opportunities.

120

524 E. Main St.





Current Use: Able Art Gallery; recently renovated.

**Historic Uses:** Tobacco Warehouse. This property contributes to the Depot Hill Historic District and is listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory -

https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI5896. This property is not a designated local landmark. This building was constructed in 1891 as a tobacco warehouse. Prior to that the site was occupied by a grain elevator. This is one of three remaining tobacco warehouses in the area.

121

516 E. Main St.





Current Use: Stoughton Transit, Viking Warehouse

**Historic Uses:** Lumber Storage, Tobacco Warehouse, Scales, Coal Storage, Lime Storage, Carpentry. This property is listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory -

https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI88604. It does not contribute to any historic district and is not designated as a local landmark. The small building along East Main Street was built sometime between 1926 and 1949 to serve as the office for the Brittingham and Hixon Lumber Company. For a time, it was the home to Uncle Bud's Small Engine Sales. The larger concrete block warehouse building in back is of relatively recent construction, built between 1937 and 1955.







Current Use: Tavern - Whatever Bar

Historic Uses: Lumber Storage, Stable, Coal Storage, Lime Storage, Saloon, Warehouse, Concrete Block Factory, Implement Storage, Store. This property is listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory - <a href="https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI5894">https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI5894</a>. This property contributes to the Depot Hill Historic District. It is not designated as a local landmark. This building was built in 1902 as the Pabst Brewing Co. Saloon Prior to this, a planning mill was on the site from before 1884 until around 1890 when it burned.

55

500 E. Main St.





Current Use: Storage

**Historic Uses:** Planing Mill, Marble Shop, Restaurant, Auto Top Factory, Auto Repair, Auto Showroom. This property is listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory -

https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI88596. This building contributes to the Depot Hill Historic District. This building is not designated as a local landmark. This building was constructed around 1916 as a factory to make automobile tops. It remained in automotive-related uses as an auto repair and storage garage and ultimately a Buick car showroom.

58





Current Use: Used Car Lot – Melton Motors

Historic Uses: Hotel, Livery, Pump Shop, Dwelling, Laundry, Store, Bowling Alley, Restaurant, Gas Station. This property contributes to the Depot Hill Historic District and is listed in the Wisconsin Historical Society Architecture and History Inventory -

https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI88606. It is not a designated local landmark. This building was constructed in 1939 as a gas station and auto service shop. There were numerous other uses on this large site before this building was constructed – most notably the Revere Hotel. Prior recent uses included Peterson's Muffler Shop and Abe Holtan Service Station.

Building Intensity Over Time 1884 - Current			
Year	<b>Building Footprints</b>		

1884 - Current				
Year	Building Footprints			
1884	104,871 sf			
1887	128,692 sf			
1892	145,581 sf			
1898	165,988 sf			
1904	199,947 sf			
1912	206,567 sf			
1926	208,587 sf			
1949	207,515 sf			
2019	121,449			



FIGURE 4: BUILDINGS CONTRIBUTING TO THE PROPOSED, BUT UNAPPROVED DEPOT HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT. LOCALLY DESIGNATED LANDMARKS ARE STARRED.

Redevelopment Project Plan

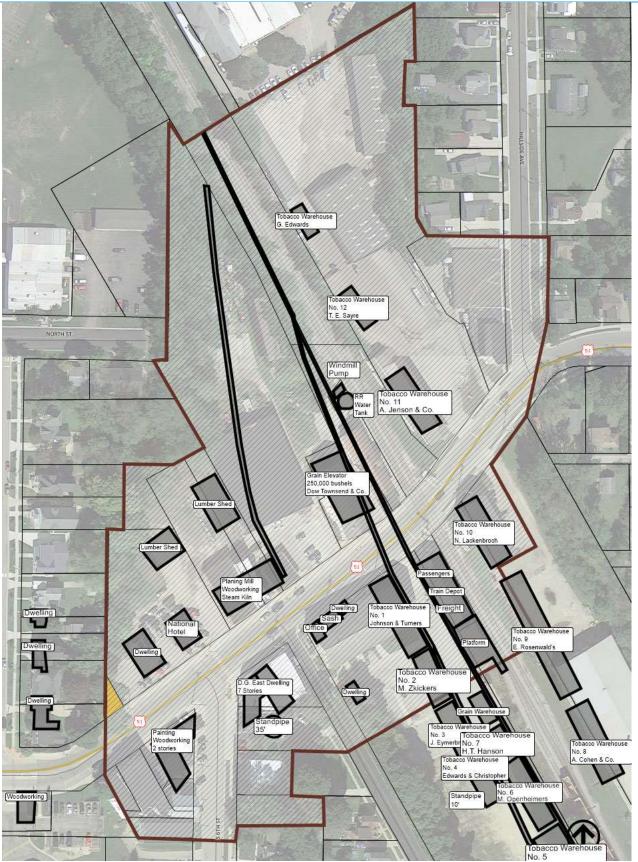


FIGURE 5: DEVELOPMENT OF EAST MAIN STREET REDEVELOPMENT AREA IN 1884 WITH CURRENT AERIAL PHOTO UNDERLAYING MAP.



FIGURE 6: DEVELOPMENT INTENSITY OF EAST MAIN STREET REDEVELOPMENT AREA OVER TIME. SOURCE: SANBORN MAPS 1882 - 1949, GWB PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

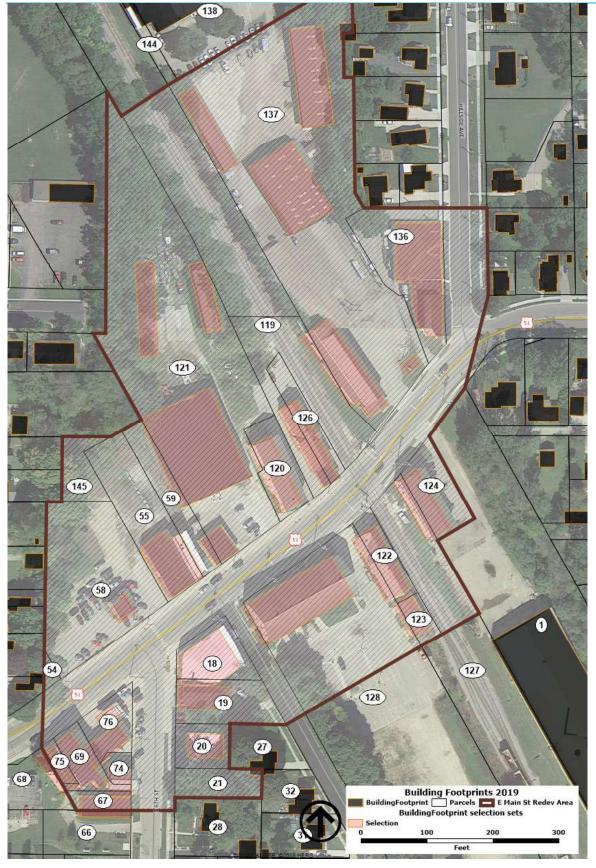


FIGURE 7: TODAY'S BUILDING INTENSITY IS 58% OF WHAT IT WAS AT ITS PEAK. SOURCE: DANE COUNTY INTERACTIVE MAP, GWB PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

### **Existing Conditions**

#### Context

The East Main Street Redevelopment Area is a subarea of RA #1 and lies at approximately the geographic center of RA #1 at the intersection of East Main Street and the railroad tracks (see Fig. 2: Map of Redevelopment Area #1). Redevelopment Area No. 1 (RA #1) is a large area in the center of the City of Stoughton, Dane County, Wisconsin. The



FIGURE 9: PARCELS FOUND TO BE BLIGHTED IN 2009.

area is the east edge of the downtown and primarily runs north and south along the railroad tracks that serve the City. Another aspect of RA #1

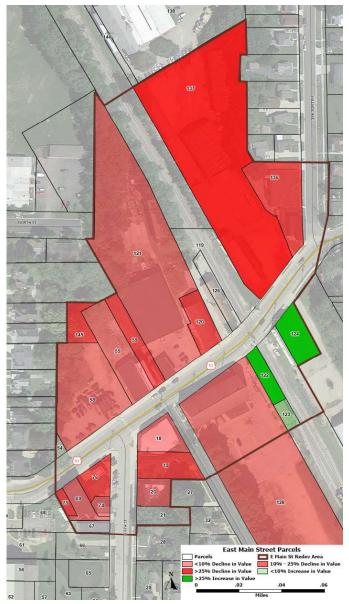


FIGURE 8: MUCH OF THE EAST MAIN STREET REDEVELOPMENT AREA HAS DECLINED IN VALUE SINCE 2009. THIS MAP SHOWS THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE CHANGE IN PROPERTY VALUES. THE LIGHTEST RED COLOR INDICATES LESS THAN 10% DECLINE, DARKEST RED >25% DROP.

is that it connects two sections of the Yahara River as it winds its way through the City.

#### **Topography**

The East Main Street Redevelopment Area covers a steep valley from bluff to bluff. The lowest elevation is the railroad tracks which are at 861 feet above sea level where they cross East Main St.. The highest elevation is along the school district

property line at 892 feet. The highest elevation on the other side of the valley, along Hillside St. is 880 feet. This 20' – 30' of elevation change presents both opportunities and challenges. In terms of connecting the east side neighborhood with River Bluff Middle School, this valley, along with the railroad tracks presents a barrier to accessing the school from the east side by bike or on foot. The change in elevation, however, is not so great that it cannot be overcome and is modest enough to present opportunities for creative redevelopment.

