1. Name of Property

historic name  Mangan Building

other names/site number ______

2. Location

street & number  131 S. Main Street
city or town  Elkader
Legal Description: (If Rural) Township Name _______ Township No. _______ Range No. _______ Section _______ Quarter of Quarter _______

(If Urban) Subdivision Original Town _______ Block(s) See addend _______ Lot(s) _______

3. State/Federal Agency Certification [Skip this Section]

4. National Park Service Certification [Skip this Section]

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)  Number of Resources within Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>district</th>
<th>Non-Eligible Property</th>
<th>Eligible Property, enter number of:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name of related project report or multiple property study (Enter “N/A” if the property is not part of a multiple property examination).

Title  Arch. & Hist. Resources of the Elkader Downtown Historic District MPD  22-030

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)  Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

02A01 Business Office  02B04 Insurance Office

01A03 Single Residence w/ attached garage

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)  Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

09D01 Flat Roof  foundation  10A Concrete Block

walls  10A Concrete Block; 03 Brick (veneer)

roof  05F

other

Narrative Description (SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS, WHICH MUST BE COMPLETED)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark “x” representing your opinion of eligibility after applying relevant National Register criteria)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>☑ No</th>
<th>More Research Recommended</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>☑ No</td>
<td>A  Property is associated with significant events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>☑ No</td>
<td>B  Property is associated with the lives of significant persons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>☑ No</td>
<td>C  Property has distinctive architectural characteristics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>☑ No</td>
<td>D  Property yields significant information in archaeology or history.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**County**: Clayton  
**City**: Elkader  
**Address**: 131 S. Main Street  
**Site Number**: 22-01336  
**District Number**: 22-01381

---

### Criteria Considerations
- [ ] **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 commemoratory property.
- [ ] **G** Less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

---

### Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

---

### Significant Dates

- **Construction date**: 1976
- [ ] check if circa or estimated date

### Significant Person
(Complete if National Register Criterion B is marked above)

---

### Architect/Builder

---

### Narrative Statement of Significance
(See continuation sheets, which must be completed)

---

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

---

### 10. Geographic Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Easting</th>
<th>Northing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[ ] See continuation sheet for additional UTM references or comments

---

### 11. Form Prepared By

**name/title**: Marlys Svendsen, Svendsen Tyler, Inc.  
**organization**: City of Elkader  
**date**: 7/2011  
**street & number**: N3834 Deep Lake Road  
**telephone**: 715/469-3300  
**city or town**: Sarona  
**state**: WI  
**zip code**: 54870

---

### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
(Submit the following items with the completed form)

#### FOR ALL PROPERTIES
1. **Map**: showing the property’s location in a town/city or township.
2. **Site plan**: showing position of buildings and structures on the site in relation to public road(s).
3. **Photographs**: representative black and white photos. If the photos are taken as part of a survey for which the Society is to be curator of the negatives or color slides, a photo/catalog sheet needs to be included with the negatives/slides and the following needs to be provided below on this particular inventory site:
   - Roll/slide sheet #  
   - Frame/slot #  
   - Date Taken

[ ] See continuation sheet or attached photo & slide catalog sheet for list of photo roll or slide entries.

#### FOR CERTAIN KINDS OF PROPERTIES, INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING AS WELL
1. **Farmstead & District**: (List of structures and buildings, known or estimated year built, and contributing or non-contributing status)
2. **Barn**:
   a. A sketch of the frame/truss configuration in the form of drawing a typical middle bent of the barn.
   b. A photograph of the loft showing the frame configuration along one side.
   c. A sketch floor plan of the interior space arrangements along with the barn’s exterior dimensions in feet.

---

### State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Use Only Below This Line

Concur with above survey opinion on National Register eligibility: [ ] Yes [ ] No [ ] More Research Recommended

[ ] This is a locally designated property or part of a locally designated district.

**Comments**: 

---

**Evaluated by (name/title):**  
**Date:**
### 7. Description

This 1-story commercial building has been estimated to have been built in ca. 1976 by the Clayton County Assessor. The current property owners date the building in 1978.

This 1-story commercial building has approximately 1,500 square feet of space divided into an office area on the street level and residential living quarters in the lower level overlooking the Turkey River. The front façade has a brick veneer finish consisting of mottled red, brown and gray brick laid in a running bond pattern on the main wall with a soldier course along the cornice with several rows of header brick across the parapet edge. Rear walls are constructed of concrete block and metal panels. The building has a garage in the lower level facing the river as well. Openings in the front façade include a single plate glass and bronze finish metal door offset in the north half and a pair of single light sash in the south half in lieu of a shop window. A projecting internally light sign extends over the sidewalk with a second sign above the entrance.

### 8. Significance

The Mangan Building is an example of a small-scale, late 20th century commercial block built as infill within the Elkader Downtown Historic District. This city block was damaged extensively during the tornado that hit the south end of the business district in November 1958. Because the building is less than 50 years old it is considered noncontributing.

---

**Elkader Historical Background**

The town of Elkader was laid out in 1846 along the banks of the Turkey River approximately 16 miles upstream from the Turkey River’s confluence with the Mississippi River. The town was surveyed and laid out in 1846 with the Original Town Plat filed in June 22, 1846 by Timothy Davis, Chester Sage and John Thompson, friends and business partners, who began operating a sawmill on North Front (Main) Street in 1845 before the town was even platted. By 1849 they had a successful flour mill in operation. The new town was named for Abd el-Kader, an Algerian freedom fighter and world figure who was admired by Davis. The principal building stimulating development in the 1840s and 1850s was the Elkader Mill. After 1860 when the Clayton County voters selected Elkader as the permanent county seat, the downtown saw a variety of merchants set up shops, several hotels open, a number of newspapers begin publication, and small manufacturing concerns get underway in the city center. Elkader numbered 440 residents in 1860.

The new county court house saw its first section completed in 1869 opposite the downtown. New limestone buildings were erected along both North and South Main Street with public halls frequently located on upper floors. During the 1870s and 1880s 2-story brick buildings began replacing frame business houses. A permanent railroad connection was completed by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul RR in 1886 but service remained poor as Elkader was located at the end of a spur rather than along a main line route. A more important transportation improvement during the 1880s was the completion of the Keystone Bridge across the Turkey River in 1880. Its completion prompted a period of economic vitality and community investment. The community was officially incorporated two years later in 1891 and a new waterworks system and city well were completed in 1896. Electricity was rejected by locals until the end of the decade in 1900, however. In the meantime, new churches were

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mangan Building</th>
<th>Clayton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of Property</td>
<td>County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>131 S. Main</td>
<td>Elkader</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address</td>
<td>City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mangan Building
Name of Property: Clayton
Address: 131 S. Main
City: Elkader
County: Clayton

Built in 1897 for the Congregationalists on the east side of the river and in 1897-1899 for the Catholics on the west side of the river. Coupled with a series of major fires during the 1890s, the downtown saw a period of rebuilding with a new hotel and bank at the entrance to the business district at the turn of the century. The new opera house was completed on North Main Street while other 2 and 3-story brick blocks appeared both north and south of Bridge Street.

By 1900, Elkader’s population stood at its peak of 1,321 – an increase of 77 percent during the decade of the 1890s. Development continued in the downtown before and after World War I but at a much slower pace. Floods and fires damaged the Elkader Mill in 1902, 1906 and 1908, but it was nevertheless rebuilt by Schmidt Brothers & Co., retaining a key employer and anchor for Elkader’s downtown. The business district began to extend to the west before and after the war with the principal changes seen along West Bridge Street. Here livery stables and wagon shops were replaced by automobile dealerships, implement companies and filling stations. Five stations eventually located along West Bridge with a sixth one block to the south along First Street SW. The national economic depression of the 1930s was coupled by the closing of the Elkader Mill in 1939 following a major fire. Natural disasters after World War I included major floods in 1922, 1947, and 1958 with a tornado destroying section of South Main Street in 1958 as well.

Despite these natural and human made disasters, Elkader saw steady but modest population growth from 1,223 in 1920 to 1,526 in 1960. The impact of the automobile was seen in traffic patterns, parking patterns, and traffic signs and the introduction of electricity saw several generations of street lighting come and go. The popularity of the opera house waned and the first floor became the municipal fire station while two movie houses came and one stayed in the downtown drawing evening crowds for entertainment and shopping. As many as 130 people resided in downtown flats during this period. A good system of inter and intra-state highways connected Elkader and its downtown to other parts of the state and country in a way that railroads had never served the community. By 1960, downtown Elkader was well-established as one of several geographically dispersed retail centers serving Clayton County. Virtually every storefront was filled with start-up businesses or multi-generational family stores as Elkader’s downtown achieved a stable and healthy status for local and countywide residents.

Historical Background for 131 South Main Street

The Mangan Building was built to house Robert Mangan’s real estate business – “Mangan Real Estate” – in ca. 1976. The business operated for nearly 30 years including approximately two decades spent at this location. In ca. 1996 the building was sold to David and Darlene Bahls. The couple operate an insurance agency from this location and reside in the rear portion of the building that overlooks the Turkey River.

9. Major Sources:


Mangan Building  
Name of Property  
131 S. Main  
Address  
Clayton  
County  
Elkader  
City


Elkader Historical Society/Carter House Museum research file for 103/105 North Main Street; files focusing on downtown Elkader buildings, businesses, civic leaders and related information. Compiled by Marge Costigan and other museum volunteers. Research files contain hundreds of historic photos, newspaper articles, publication transcriptions, property ownership records, and information from interviews. Digital copies of some research files were loaned to Marlys Svendsen, October 2010 and others were made available in March 2011 for duplication.

*Census of State of Iowa* for the years 1856, 1867, 1875, 1885, 1895, 1905, 1915, and 1925 as printed by various State Printers.

*Clayton County, Iowa, Memories & Heritage from the Photo Albums of Clayton County*. Elkader, Iowa: The Clayton County Register, 1997.

Downtown Building Survey (73 surveyed buildings) records including survey questionnaires, draft Iowa Site Inventory Forms and digital photographs. Main Street Elkader, 2009.


Downtown Elkader Individual Property Site Maps compiled by Eli Garms, Clayton County GIS, Engineer’s Office, Elkader, November 2010.


*Plat Book of Clayton County, Iowa,* Minneapolis: Warner & Foote, 1886.

“Plat of Elkader, June 22, 1846.” Recorder’s Office, Clayton County, Court House, Elkader, Iowa.


Property Transfer Records for Blocks 3 – 10 and Fractional Blocks 3-6 in Town of Elkader, Clayton County Auditor’s Office and Recorder’s Office, Clayton County Court House, Elkader, Iowa.


United States Census, 1850-2010, provided by State Library of Iowa and the City of Elkader.
### Additional Information:

Legal Description: North 22.5’ of SE 45’ Lot 9 in Fractional Block 5
Mangan Building
Name of Property
131 S. Main
Address

Clayton
County
Elkader
City

Photographs: 131 S. Main Street, looking east, October 29, 2010, Marlys Svendsen, photographer
Mangan Building               Clayton County
Name of Property              Elkader City
131 S. Main                   
Address                       