

Excelsior Downtown Historic District: Contributing Structures

1) Port of Excelsior – 339 Lake Street



The Port of Excelsior was established by Charles Galpin in 1860 and became the homeport for nearly all commercial steamboats on Lake Minnetonka. Orpheus Gates and Tim Dunlap initiated a shift in what had been primarily a fishing equipment and boat rental industry clustered at the port when they began to offer food and confections at their newly constructed pavilion in 1879. Excelsior's lakeshore pavilions, including Stetson's Blue Line Pavilion, Gates' and Dunlap's Pavilion, La Paul's Red Line Boat Livery, and the Casino, eventually came to feature ballrooms, roller skating, bowling, and other tourist-oriented entertainment facilities. The Casino was demolished in 1922, and the last of the Excelsior pavilions, the Blue Line Pavilion, was destroyed by fire in 1958. The docks now serve recreational boating, situated alongside a small landscaped park with a brick pavilion sheltering a ticket booth from the streetcar boats, installed in 1997.

2) Tonka Theatre (Excelsior Dock Cinema) – 26 Water Street



This Art Moderne style building is marked by a curving façade with vertical ribs in concrete above the marquee. The Tonka Theatre was built in 1940 and severely damaged by fire in March of 1945. Given a wartime ban on new construction, reconstruction of the theater

required approval from the war production board. The Tonka Theater (later the Excelsior Theatre) reopened in July of 1945. The original structure was remodeled for the construction of Dock II in 1975. Another addition, Dock 111, was built in 1989 at the rear of the lot.

3) Hennessy Building (Waterfront Building) – 28-30 Water Street



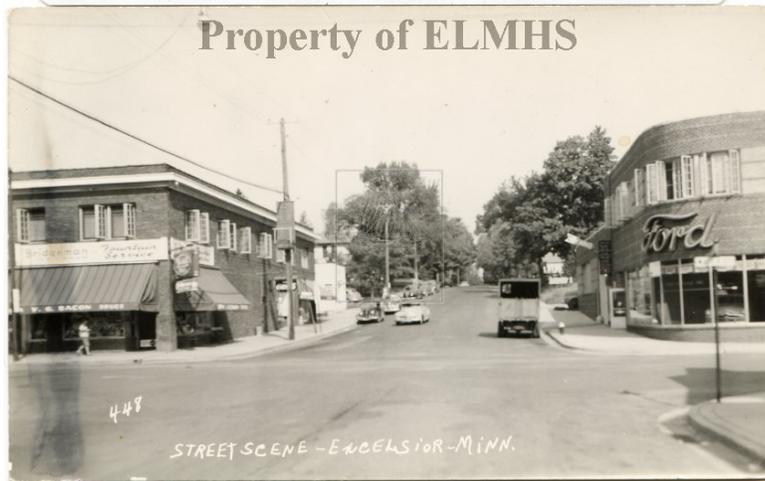
This building was constructed in 1955 for Roger Hennessy's insurance, real estate, and travel company, the Hennessy Agency, and also housed a partnership of doctors Berg, Oppen, Rollins, and Johns. The physician partnership broke up in 1963, and Twin Cities Federal bank opened a branch in the space. In 1964, the Minnetonka State Bank sold the insurance business it had once operated from its own offices to Hennessy. Hennessy Agency moved to its current address at 234 Water Street in 1969, and TCF moved to the west end of Water Street in 1974. Lago Tacos restaurant currently occupies the building.

4) 29, 31, 33 Water Street



Available records provide little information on the history of this building. According to Hennepin County property records, it was built in 1950. The first story of this building is used as Licks Unlimited, and the second story has been used as offices for a variety of businesses.

5) Tonka Ford (Tonka Building) – 34-50 Water Street



This two-story building occupies a prominent site at the intersection of Water Street and Second Street that is accentuated by its curving corner. The bands of red brick alternating with yellow-orange brick further accentuate the building's curvilinear Art Moderne form. The Tonka Building was constructed in 1945 on what had been the site of a small Phillips 66 gasoline filling station and a band shell, as well as a tree-lined entrance to the Excelsior Bay Hotel. The building then housed an auto sales business and service station with office space on its second story. L.R. Laramie purchased the building from Tonka Motors in 1949 and later expanded his business to include a new auto sale and service area on the corner of Lake and Water Streets. The Tonka Building ceased to house a car dealership when Laramie Ford moved down the street to 10 Water Street in 1957. Primp, a clothing store, currently occupies the space.

6) Bacon Drug – 205-207 Water Street



The present building is located on the site of the Beers Block, which was constructed in 1887. When Red Owl Foods moved into this building in 1930, it was remodeled. That building was severely damaged by a fire in 1941. Red Owl Foods completely rebuilt the structure and operated at the site until 1955. That year Victor Bacon purchased the building and moved his business, Bacon Drug, to this address from its previous location across the street. Bacon sold the business to Mike Arone and Bob Lower in 1973, but Bacon Drug, Excelsior's local gathering spot, remained in this location until 1993. Two different businesses, Chinese restaurant Ming Wok and gift shop Capers, occupied the building until restaurant Victor's on Water moved into the space in 2014 after combining the two previously separated spaces.

7) Sampson Building – 200-206 Water Street



This two-story building is prominently sited at the intersection of Water Street and Second Street, initially constructed by Isaac Wood in 1905 and gutted by fire on October 27, 1916. Charles Sampson opened a confectionery in the newly rebuilt structure in 1918. In the 1920s, it served as Earl Donovan's drug store before Vic Arnold purchased the business in 1926. The building also housed Bacon's Drug from 1939 to 1955. It was a Supervalu store between 1956 and 1975 and several other hardware stores, including Excelsior Ace Hardware, until it was severely damaged by fire in 1999. The Sampson Building was renovated to accommodate Jake O'Connor's Irish Pub and other businesses, including offices and shops.

8) Smith and Co. Store – 211-213 Water Street



Smith and Son operated a general feed store and mill at this location. In 1903, they received permission to construct a wood-frame addition at the rear of the lot to house a gasoline engine (presumably to operate the mill). A photograph of Water street, taken in 1892, shows a wood-frame building with a gabled roof on the site. This building is still depicted in a 1920 photograph. By about 1930, the feed store was succeeded by the Sampson and Smith Cash Grocery, probably at the same time the frame building was altered or replaced by the present brick-veneered building. This was then succeeded by a shoe store. Homer Smith sold his business, Excelsior Shoes, to Nelson Shoes Inc. in 1958. The company, which owned a chain of shoe stores, was still operating its Excelsior store until 1980 when Vic Bacon opened a Hallmark Thoughtfulness Shop at this location, adjacent to his drug store, both of which closed in 1993. The first floor of this building now houses the Water Street Gallery.

9) **Wheeler Building – 212 Water Street**



This one-story brick building is dominated by its storefronts, which have large fixed-pane show windows above brick bases and a recessed center entrance. Constructed in 1898 along with the building at 216 Water Street, the 212 Water Street building housed the Excelsior Gas Company in 1904, and served as an office for the Minnesota Power Company until 1911 when it began to serve the same function for the Northern States Power Company, which closed in 1948. A Ben Franklin Store, owned by John and Jackie Kilpatrick, operated from that time until the early 1980s. Since then, the space has served several retail businesses, including Martin's.

10) **Wheeler Building – 216 Water Street**

The 216 Water Street building was constructed along with the 212 Water Street building and served as the site of John Ermantraut's saloon and then housed the Citizens' State Bank from 1909 to about 1917. George B. Lane, founder of what came to be known as Piper Jaffrey, organized the bank at the urging of the Minnetonka State Bank's owner, Charles DuToit, who hoped to forestall other competition with his bank. The building is now used as a jewelry shop on the first floor and Re/Max Advantage Plus real estate offices on the second floor.

11) The Happy Hour – 217 Water Street



Happy
Theat
217 \



William Morse constructed this building for E.L. Newell and William and Fanni Watson in 1914 to house the Happy Hour Theatre, originally a nickelodeon. The theater, which held 270-300 people, operated for twenty-six years until the Tonka Theatre became Excelsior's primary theatre. After standing vacant during World War II, it was remodeled for Liberg's ladies Ready-To-Wear, which remained from 1945 to 1966 but was succeeded by the Aldritt sporting goods store through the 1980s. A nut and candy shop called Simply Nuts & More occupied the space until 2011, and now Yumi's Sushi Bar uses the building.

12) Apgar Building – 218, 220, 226 Water Street



Built in 1895 to house prominent local real estate agent Adrian E. Apgar's meat market, the business was operated by Paul Getzke after 1900. Oscar Teholm and George Schroeser, who succeeded Getske in 1935, opened the Minnetonka Meat Market at the site. Dick Chouinard was the last to operate a meat market in the building when he bought the Minnetonka Meat Market in 1964 and changed the name to Dick's Meat Market. His business closed in 1966, and since then the building has housed Hance's Our Own Hardware as well as numerous other businesses, including the present day business, Amore & Fede clothing store.

13) Hay Meat Market/Bullens General Store – 219, 223, 227 Water Street



A building known as the Wetmore Block existed on this site prior to 1890, when Charles Miller rebuilt it as two separate buildings around 1895. The buildings have been split into three stores, divided by party walls, and held by two different owners. The August Hay Meat Market operated out of the 219 Water Street building in 1907. That same year, H.F. Bullens' general store, considered the oldest in Excelsior, closed after operating for seventeen years. Part of the building was W.R. Frank's movie house from 1912 to 1915. The stores have been occupied by many businesses over the years, including a bowling alley, Bill's Café, the Marine Bar, the Skipper Café, clothing stores, a plumbing store, and a number of craft and antique shops. Parts of the building were destroyed by fire in 1942. The exterior brick facing and show windows may have been replaced after the fire, and a setback center section behind the parapet may have been removed after the fire. After its reconstruction ending in 2003, 223 Water Street housed Meridian Boutique, and 227 Water Street has held two different restaurants—Biella, up until 2013, and Coalition, the current business.

14) Apgar Real Estate Office – 228 Water Street



The building was built on a former “cart way” as a small annex to the larger Apgar Building. It served as a real estate office for Louis Apgar in 1901, and then housed Joslin Brothers Hardware beginning in about 1905. The structure was also the original site for the Excelo Bakery from 1934 to 1937. Since then, a number of businesses have used the space, including the current occupant, Excelsior Eye Care.

15) Welter Building – 229-231 Water Street



Mary J. Welter constructed this building in 1902, then, in 1903, leased it to Fred Hawkins, who also purchased her adjoining lot and built 235-237 Water Street with a door in the side wall connecting the two structures. Between 1903 and 1913, when he was forced to leave town for selling alcohol illegally, Hawkins operated a pool hall in the Welter building and a saloon/café in his own building. The Hoo Café occupied the building in the 1930s until John Welter renovated it in 1942 and moved a branch of the post office into the space. The Welter Building housed Watt's Homecraft until 1978, and Area Wide Cycle until 2001. Along with second-story apartments, Big Island Swim & Surf Company occupies the first story.

16) Miller Block – 232, 234, 238 Water Street



This building originally housed DeGroot hardware, operated by Oscar C. DeGroot and then his son, Reuben, until his death in 1937. Lincoln Aldritt purchased the hardware store in that year and operated it until 1953, when he moved the business to 239 Water Street. In 1969, Roger Hennessy, owner of Hennessy Travel, bought the building and installed a new façade. The building's original façade was restored in 1991. Three tenants, Capers gift shop, Hennessy Travel, and Baker Electric, now occupy the building.

17) Fred Hawkins Building/Gluek Building – 235-237 Water Street



Charles Miller built this building in 1904 for Fred Hawkins, who ran a saloon interconnected through a doorway in the side wall leading to his pool hall in the adjoining Welter Building. Excelsior had been “dry” for forty ears until February 1897, when the town narrowly approved a measure legalizing the sale of intoxicating liquor. However, Hawkins’ conviction for selling alcohol to minors in 1905, following an arrest for selling liquor on a Sunday, caused the town to vote to go “dry” again. Hawkins continued to sell liquor illegally and was

forced to leave town in 1913. W.L. Hardy, who ran Hardy's Café from this site for several years, was one of the few persons of color to operate a business in Excelsior. Ned's Café was located her for thirty years until 1975 when Excelsior Appliance, the current tenant, moved to the site.

18) J.D. Jamieson Grocery – 239 Water Street



The J.D. Jamieson Grocery was built in 1904 to replace the H.B. Elliott Grocery that had burned down, and operated until Jamieson's death in 1918. It then became Ed and Ralph Tharalson's grocery store in 1920, Trig Torkelson's grocery store in 1937, and the Excelsior Farm Store. Lincoln Aldritt moved his hardware business to this site from its location in the Miller Building in 1955. Darel and LaVerna Leipold have operated their antique and gift shop in the J.D. Jamieson Grocery building since 1971.

19) 240 Water Street





H.B. Elliott moved his meat market to this building from across the street in 1901 and remained until 1910. After World War II, Duane and Warren Daily ran a food market in the building, and a Gambles store occupied the space in the 1950s and '60s. Since the early 1980s, The Country Look in Antiques has occupied the building.

20) Tony's Barber Shop – 243 Water Street



Constructed by H.B. Elliott for Tony Zembrycki as a barbershop around 1946, Tony's Barber Shop is still operated by his son, Edward A. Zembrycki. The business, located next to the Masonic Alley, has been a social gathering place for men since the World War-II era.

21) Miller's Excelo Bakery – 244 Water Street



George Pfeiffer's Excelsior Bakery and Confectionary business suffered through two fires, one in 1894 and another in 1905, after which the building was reconstructed. By 1910, the building housed E.L. Newell's Bazaar Café. Frank Ulman operated the Green Lantern Café from this site during the 1920s and 1930s until Gene Miller moved the Excelo Bakery here in 1937. His son, Don, took over the business around 1967 and ran it until 1982. Que Será interior design occupies the first story of this building, while Spirit of the Lake Yoga and Joy Aesthetics spa occupy the second story.

22) Excelsior Masonic Temple – 249 Water Street



This building of Georgian Revival-inspired design, faced with Flemish-bond brickwork, is two stories above a high basement marked by a stone band course. The recessed central entrance is set behind an arch marked by rusticated blocks and a stone shield rising above the keystone. Excelsior Masonic Lodge #113 AF & AM was organized in 1875. The lodge met at a number of different locations over the years, usually in the second story of Excelsior business buildings. The Excelsior lodge, like Masonic lodges in towns throughout the United States, provided important social and business connections. The lodge constructed this building in 1926, which is still occupied by the Masons and its women's auxiliary, the Order of the Eastern Star.

23) IOOF Temple/Morse Dry Goods/Olds Dry Goods – 250-252 Water Street





The IOOF building, constructed for the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows (IOOF) in 1897 after a fire had destroyed their previous meeting place, both fits into the commercial character of the street, while using its architectural character to assert the importance of the IOOF organization. The Odd Fellows, like the Masons across the street, played an important role in the social and business life of the community. The building's first floor was planned as commercial space, while the second story was used for IOOF activities. A.T. Morse moved his dry goods business into the new building in 1897. Clifton Olds purchased the business in October 1929 and started Olds Dry Goods, which remained in business until 1995. Minnetonka Music now occupies the first story, and the Odd Fellows use the second story for their activities.

24) 254-256 Water Street



This building housed Willard Dillman's Minnetonka Record newspaper shortly after 1900. By the 1920s, it was converted into the Excelsior Cash and Carry Grocery. Around 1963, Muriel Reid opened the Tonka Tot Shop in the first story, with the second story used for apartments. Brightwater Clothing and Gear moved into the space in 2010.

25) 260 Water Street



In 1934, Lars Erickson operated a shoe repair business on this site. The building was Dick Hutmaker's barbershop from 1953 until 1980. It remains in commercial use as David Douglas Jewelers.

26) 261 Water Street





Constructed in 1899, this building has housed a variety of retail and service businesses. It is currently a gift and stationary shop called Fleurish LLP.

27) 264 Water Street





This is now an independent section of a larger building (264, 266, 270, and 274 Water Street) that was originally constructed by Charles Miller in 1915. The section of the building at 264 Water Street was split off as a separate entity and rebuilt in the 1970s for the Law Office of James G. Penberthy/Hartley M La Joy, D.D.S.

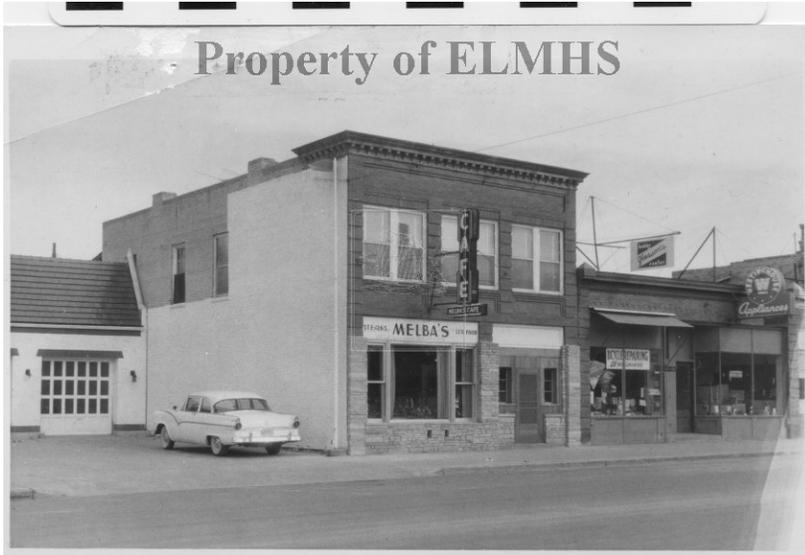
28) 266 Water Street

An independent part of the larger structure at 264, 266, 270, and 274 Water St. built by Charles Miller in 1915, this building first housed A.B. Lyman and Wendelin Grimm's winter alfalfa seed store. From 1945 to 1972, Vern Abel operated Abel Heating in the space. The current occupant is a gift shop.

29) 274 Water Street

This building is also an independent section of the 264, 266, 270, and 274 Water St. building. Its first business was Minnetonka Record, and later Charles Miller ran a secondhand shop in the space during the 1920s and '30s. The space is currently used as a gift shop.

30) 278 Water Street



Charles B. Ice rebuilt his blacksmith shop in 1912 after a fire had destroyed the original. By 1919 the building was vacant, but Melba's Café occupied the space from 1933 to 1960. Stan's Color Center used the Water Street side of the building in 1966, while Melba's Antique Shop utilized the back of the building. Brick from the building's upper façade above the second-

story windows was removed in 1978 and filled in with concrete. There are apartments on the second story and a consignment boutique on the first story.

31) Pure Oil – 284 Water Street



Pure Oil constructed a portion of this building as a gas station around 1932, but due to competition with three other gas stations at the intersection, the station was closed in 1951. Before moving in, Hazel's Cleaners and Launderers added onto and remodeled the building in 1961. In 1998, the Color Center relocated to the Pure Oil building from 278 Water Street. The Patisserie Margo now occupies half of the space.

32) Excelsior Depot – 305 Water Street



Railroad access has been crucial to Excelsior's history, as it facilitated transportation between the Lake Minnetonka area and the Twin Cities (and beyond). The depot of the Minneapolis and Saint Louis Railroad existed where the Excelsior Depot now stands. Passenger service was discontinued in the early 1970s, when the Depot was turned over to the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society in 1982 and has been run as a museum since that time.

33) Lyman Lumber Company – 337 Water Street



Arthur H. Lyman began to construct a lumber shed for his business near this site in 1903. By 1910 the company completed its move from the hill behind the northeast corner of Third and Water Streets (421 Third Street) to its new facilities along Water Street, south of the railroad tracks. The Lyman Lumber Company remained in business at this site until the company moved its retail operations to Chanhassen and demolished its Water Street retail store building in 1993. This section of the property facing Water Street was leased to the City

of Excelsior in 1994 and landscaped for use as a small park, called Lyman Park. In 2014, the Excelsior Library was moved to this location.

34) J.E. Hennessy Lumber Co./Lampert Lumber Co. – 340 Water Street



In 1906, J.E. Hennessy, a resident of Janesville, Minnesota, bought the Minnetonka Lumber Company and erected a lumber shed on Water Street. In 1910 and 1923 the J.E. Hennessy Lumber Company made two more additions to the building. Jacob Lampert purchased the structure in 1938 and operated Lampert Yards Inc. from the site until the facility closed in 1983. Diane and Bob Bolles renovated the building in 1984 to accommodate antique and specialty gift shops, while replicating some of the pre-1960 details.

35) Knapp Radio and TV – 344 Water Street



This building's front section was constructed in 1946 when Dick Knapp first opened Knapp Radio, with a second section built between 1951 and 1959. When Dick Knapp sold his first television in 1948, he was one of the first twelve television dealers in the greater Minneapolis area. Lowell Johnson bought the business from Knapp in 1986. Since then, it has been fixed up and now houses a bike shop. MORE INFO ON RENOVATION- YEAR?

36) Leach Home Builders – 345-347 Water Street



Maurice Leach constructed this building in 1920 for his Leach Home Builders Store. In 1925, he built his residence on the adjacent lot at 353 Water Street. In 1976, Walter Scott, owner of Scott's Upholstery, completed a large addition to the south side of the building, doubling the size and redoing the front. The building now has two tenants, Artworks and Lakeside Yarn.

37) W.P. McDonald House – 350-354 Water Street



This house was constructed around 1890 for Willard P. McDonald, an early attorney in Excelsior. He maintained an office in Ball Block, which stood at 300 Water Street. Nellie McGrath owned the house in 1900, and Anna Apgar owned it in 1920. Ekate + Golden Rule now use the house as a shop.

38) 356 Water Street



This building appears to have been constructed around 1900 as an outbuilding to the larger W.P. McDonald House at 350-354 Water Street. When the larger house was modified and converted in 1979, this building was also modified (or possibly rebuilt). Ivivva currently uses the space as a shop.

39) Leach House – 353 Water Street



This one-and-a-half-story bungalow was built in 1925 to serve as the home of Maurice Leach, who owned Leach Home Builders Store across the street at 345-347 Water Street. His home served as an example of the kind of work his business offered. Leach lived in his house until 1967. The house is still a residence.

40) Elliot/Scheid House – 366 Water Street



H.B. McConnel purchased this lot in 1887, but nothing was built until Frank J. Lyman constructed a house around 1900. In 1903, Lyman sold the house to Herbert B. Elliot, who maintained it as a rental property. Arthur J. Pegler, the father of Westbrook Pegler and later a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, leased the house in 1903. The building was the home of Lawrence Scheid from 1927 until his death in 1979. This house was greatly expanded in size from what had been a fairly modest one-and-a-half-story cottage in the mid-1990s. Several businesses have been located here since its expansion, including GRAY Home + Lifestyle, the current occupant.

41) Texaco Gas Station – 370 Water Street



This one-story building built in 1930 retains the characteristic forms and details that were popular for Texaco stations of the period, including curvilinear roof parapets and the projecting section that would have sheltered automobiles on the Water Street front. By 1958 it was called Stan's Mileage Station. Barbara Korzenauski purchased the building in 1979 as a commercial space for her business, the Antique Station. The structure housed a retail business, Custom Frame, and an insurance office, but now the space is used as a vapor shop.

42) James Harvey Clark House – 371 Water Street



The Clark family constructed one section of this house in 1858 before leaving for Illinois in 1860. They returned to Excelsior in 1867, moving back into their old house. Around 1875, John Clark moved another house onto the property and attached it to his original structure,

remodeling both to create a more unified appearance. The family began to advertise the building as a boarding house in 1876; an 1883 advertisement claims that the Clark house had room for thirty boarders. Clark family descendants sold the house to Mark Knowlton in 1921, and J.E. Aldritt purchased the building in 1948. Local real estate agent Carolyn McClure purchased the house in 1993 and restored many of the original features. The house is now a bed and breakfast establishment, called the Bird House Inn.

43) Dillman Building/Minnetonka Record – 350-354 Second Street



This building, constructed in 1900, originally housed the first telephone exchange in the South Shore area, and soon after, the office of the Minnetonka Record. In 1966, the Credit Bureau of Lake Minnetonka purchased and remodeled the property. A tanning salon opened at the 352 Second Street location in 1982, and the current owners opened Paris Tailors in 1988.

44) Stemmer Company – 402-406 Second Street



In 1936, Ray Stemmer and Paul Barnett opened Radio Sales and Service in this building, originally constructed in 1920. In the early 1960s, the business became known as the Stemmer Company. Ray Stemmer was the first state-licensed electrician in the Excelsior area. A business named M'Lady of M'Tonka operated at this site until Collette McAlpine, Donna Peterson, and Betty Marks purchased the building in 1973 and opened their business named 2nd Tyme Round. Currently, the space is used as office space.

45) Minnetonka State Bank – 409 Second Street





Charles Miller built the Minnetonka State Bank as a one-story structure in 1899 after the bank's previous office building burned down. Both the bank and the post office shared the building until 1912, when the bank moved to 234 Water Street. In 1904, a second story was added to the structure to serve as laboratory space for the Saint Paul Remedy Company. In 1962, Minnetonka State Banks sold the building to Everett Nygren and also moved to a Water Street location. Nygren added the one-story wing to the west (35 Water Street) and operated a clothing store here until 1990, when the building was sold to First State Bank. In 1998, First State Bank restored the building to approximate its early twentieth-century appearance. Alerus (formerly Beacon Bank) now occupies the building.

46) Phillips Garage – 420 Second Street



Built by William Morse for Arthur E. Phillips in 1915, this structure was the first auto body shop in Excelsior. The garage contained Excelsior's first hydraulic lift, the first visible gas pump, and, in 1932, the first electric door opener. Arthur Phillips's son, Harvey, took over

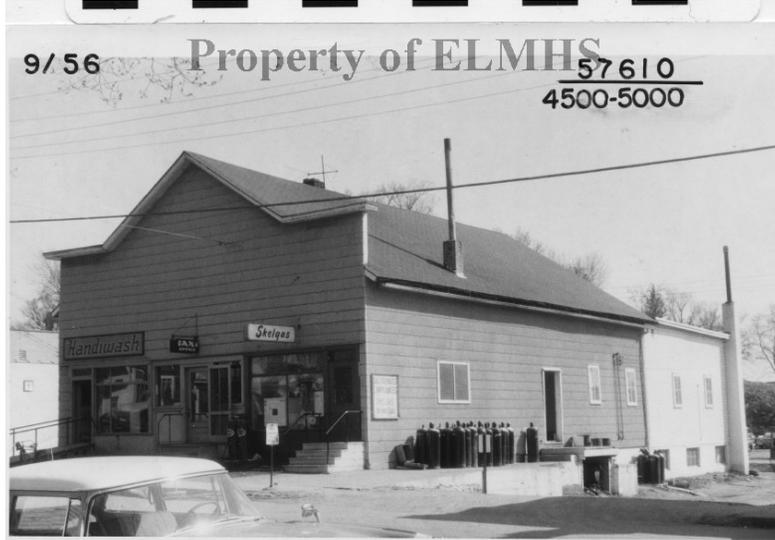
the business in 1921 and operated a Chevrolet dealership, body shop, and filling station at the site until 1970. George Holasek and Mike Winship, the owners of M&M Auto Body Rebuilders, purchased the property in 1971.

47) Bardwell House – 429 Second Street



This building was constructed in 1879 by the Simpson family to house guests from their nearby hotel, the White House, when the main hotel was full. The house originally occupied part of the lot where the Minnetonka Bank/Nygren's clothing store building now stands, but was moved down the street in the late 1890s to accommodate the new bank building. The house later became the residence of the White House's managers, Frank and Alice Bardwell, daughter and son-in-law of the Simpsons. Both Frank Bardwell and his son, Elmer, served as mayors of Excelsior. The Bardwell family lived in the house until 1970, during which time the structure was also used as an office for Elmer's funeral business. In 1972 the building became the Yarn House, and in 1976 it became the Antiquity Rose Antiques and Tea Room. This is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Excelsior's downtown and one of the few that recalls the hotels of the city's summer resort era.

48) Bennett Brothers Livery Stable – 432, 436, 438 Second Street



Brothers Melvin W. and Harley Bennett constructed this one-and-a-half story building in 1899 as a livery stable to accommodate horse boarding, wagon storage, and a variety of delivery services. The brothers were also agents for N.F. Warner, the local undertaker. By 1915 the Bennetts had installed a gasoline filling tank and began to sell King cars. Ray and Frank Mason purchased the building in 1922 and operated a gas station and repair service. They also sold Durant and Willys Overland automobiles. Four years later they became Chrysler dealers. The business moved in 1946, and the Handiwash Laundromat began operations the following year. Two story extensions were added to the building in the 1970s by then-owner, Jerry Johnson. The west section of the building has also housed a variety of antique and handicraft shops. Now a variety of businesses and offices occupy the house.

49) Maple Inn – 441 Second Street



This building was originally constructed around 1885 as a single-family house, which was enlarged around 1900 with a two-story section at the western end. By 1901, William and Mary Fairley ran a boarding house called the Maple Inn in the enlarged building. In 1906, the owners sold the Maple Inn to Theodore Getzke. Fred Getzke, Theodore's son, managed the boarding house until the end of the 1912 tourist season. Margie Schlinz, Fred Getzke's granddaughter, occupied the house until her death in 1996. Currently two businesses use the house as office space.

50) 444 Second Street





This modest commercial structure dates from about 1955. In a 1956 photograph of the building taken for tax assessment purposes, it is identified as “Hopkins Parts Co. Auto Parts.” By 1964, it was occupied by the law firm of Grathwol and Ploetz. O’Neil Grathwol was an incumbent judge in the Excelsior area in 1964. The building was expanded at the rear into the city parking lot in that year. W.F. Denny of the accounting firm by that name owned the building by 1983. It currently houses Vantage Financial offices.

51) A.H. Smith House – 449 Second Street



The house was built for A.H. Smith, who moved an earlier structure from the site to a new location at 434 East Lake Street. A 1959 municipal license permitted a taxicab service to be run from this address. The 1978 brick-and-concrete block addition to the front of the house

has contained a number of businesses over the years, including several beauty salons, coin dealerships, antique shops, and a barbershop.

52) Shrodes/Lyman House – 463 Second Street



Dr. George H. Shrodes came to Excelsior from Aberdeen, South Dakota, in 1896 and opened up an office in the second story of the Apgar Block at 226 Water Street. He built a house for his family one year later at 322 Second Street, which was subsequently moved further up Second Street. The house at 463 Second Street, built in 1902, was designed for Dr. Schrodes by Frank Birdwell Long, a prominent Minneapolis architect and partner in the firm of Long and Long. Dr. Schrodes left the Excelsior area in 1903 to market his invention, the Shrodes Driving Lamp, and sold the house to Dr. George McLain. Arthur Lyman purchased the house in 1921. With his two brothers, he established the Lyman Lumber Company in 1894, and Arthur also ran a feed and implement business in downtown Excelsior during which time he helped Wendelin Grimm develop a winter-hardy variety of alfalfa. The building is now a duplex.

53) 464 Second Street



Available records do not present a clear picture of the history of this building. Hennepin County property records give a construction date of 1957. It has recently been used as office space.

54) Lyman House – 474 Second Street



Albert H. Lyman built this house in 1906 or 1907. Clara and Jess Sweeney then owned it from the late 1930s until 1979. The structure was used as a teen center in 1981 and called the Second Street Station. Darrel and Charleen Mortenson purchased the house in 1897 from the Patio Homes Corp. The house was a clothing store from 1995 to 1998. The house is now used as a beauty salon called Bella On the Bay.

55) 478 Second Street



Dr. E. R. Perkins seems to have been the first resident of this house, prior to his move to 322 Second Street. J.R. Taylor, the owner, sold this house to Albert H. Lyman in March of 1902. The structure was described as “one lot with modern house and is one of the finest residential properties in Excelsior.” Lyman may have lived her until he bought a house next door at 474 Second Street in 1906 or 1907. He sold 478 Second Street to a Mr. Winslow in 1906. Charles E. Sampson, son of the proprietor of the Sampson House and later the owner, leased the property at 478 Second Street from Winslow in September of 1914. A family named Holden lived in the house from 1925 to 1930. West Suburban Teen Clinic, Inc. purchased the property in January of 1977, the current occupant.

56) Wistrand Motor Company/Phillips Motor Company – 421 Third Street





Wistrand Motor Company built this one-story structure for use as a Ford dealership and filling station in 1922. Harvey S. Phillips moved part of his Chevrolet business into the building in 1944, building a large addition to the structure in 1959. The Lakeland Motor Co. purchased the building around 1976, and it has housed a variety of businesses since that time. Excelsior Brewing Company has occupied the building since 2012.

57) 361 George Street



This modified Colonial Revival style house was built in about 1900. It has undergone significant remodeling including a two-story rear addition built in 1985, and other changes to accommodate the present commercial use, Union Place interior design.

58) DeGroodt House – 369 George Street



This two-story Victorian house was constructed in 1899, but the owner, Ansel P. Lyman, who had purchased the site the previous year, died before he could live in it. His widow Amy married Reuben K. DeGroodt in 1900, and they lived here until around 1923. Mr. DeGroodt owned a hardware store and was prominent in civic affairs and elective office. In the 1940s the house became a duplex, and it was converted for business use in 1989.