

**1. White Eagle Station**  
**506 27th Street**  
 Built 1937 by the Socony Vacuum Oil Company (now Mobil) for \$7,000. Fred Kyner was the first manager. It has served as a grain elevator office, a tire repair shop, and (currently) the Wilson Chamber of Commerce.

**2. Soukup Grain Elevator**  
**2620 Avenue E**  
 This three-building complex dates from 1900 and includes the office, the grain elevator, and the distinctive "Sunflower Coal" storage building.

**3. Klema IGA Building**  
**2566 Avenue E**  
 Built 1947 by James Klema and his son, Gerald, as Klema's IGA, now Wilson Family Foods. Three other buildings are in the complex: 1900 era Schwarz Building, 1899 era Gustafson Jewelry, and 1932 Gregor's Store.

**4. Valelor Cleaners Building**  
**2530 Avenue E**  
 Initially a two-story frame structure built in 1878, owners built the present block construction inside the old wood frame to convert it for dry cleaning.

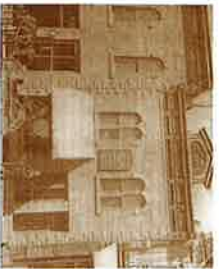
**5. Water Tower/Jail Behind 2528 Avenue E**  
 Built 1907 by the City Council for fire protection of nearby businesses and for street sprinkling. A frost-proof water tank was installed above a gasoline engine that kept the tank filled from the water well, located beneath the tower. After 1935, the lower part of the tower was know as the City Jail.

**6. Tobias Building**  
**2520-2528 Avenue E**  
 Two connected buildings appear as one. In 1899, W.B. Power and J.F. Tobias built the north building. In 1900, J.F. Tobias purchased the 1878 Windsor Hotel, to the south and connected the two stone buildings, adding a front brick facade. Along with many tenants, the Post Office was here from 1909 to 1964. The City Council, Masonic Lodge, and school classes used the meeting rooms upstairs. Remodeled in 1917, the upstairs rooms were converted to apartments.

**7. IOOF Latta Drug Building**  
**2512, 2514, Avenue E**  
 was known as Uncle Jim's Drug Store in 1917.

**8. Bank of Wilson Building**

**2508 Avenue E**  
 Constructed of native stone in 1882, this is among the earliest of Wilson's permanent structures. Wilson merchants "were shocked" when its doors closed and payments were suspended after only six years.



**9. Shermanhorn Building**

**No Longer Visible**  
 Building was demolished in June 2022. Stamped metal in its architecture, this building stands out. Built in 1893, E.D. Shermanhorn ran a dry goods store here from 1879-1932, when it burned. It later housed several hardware stores and an antique mall.



**10. Olds Motor Company**

**2418 Avenue E**  
 Built 1880, by W.R. Russell as a dry goods store, the older structure gained an addition in 1921 for a new car showroom. The property housed the Olds Motor Company for over 80 years.

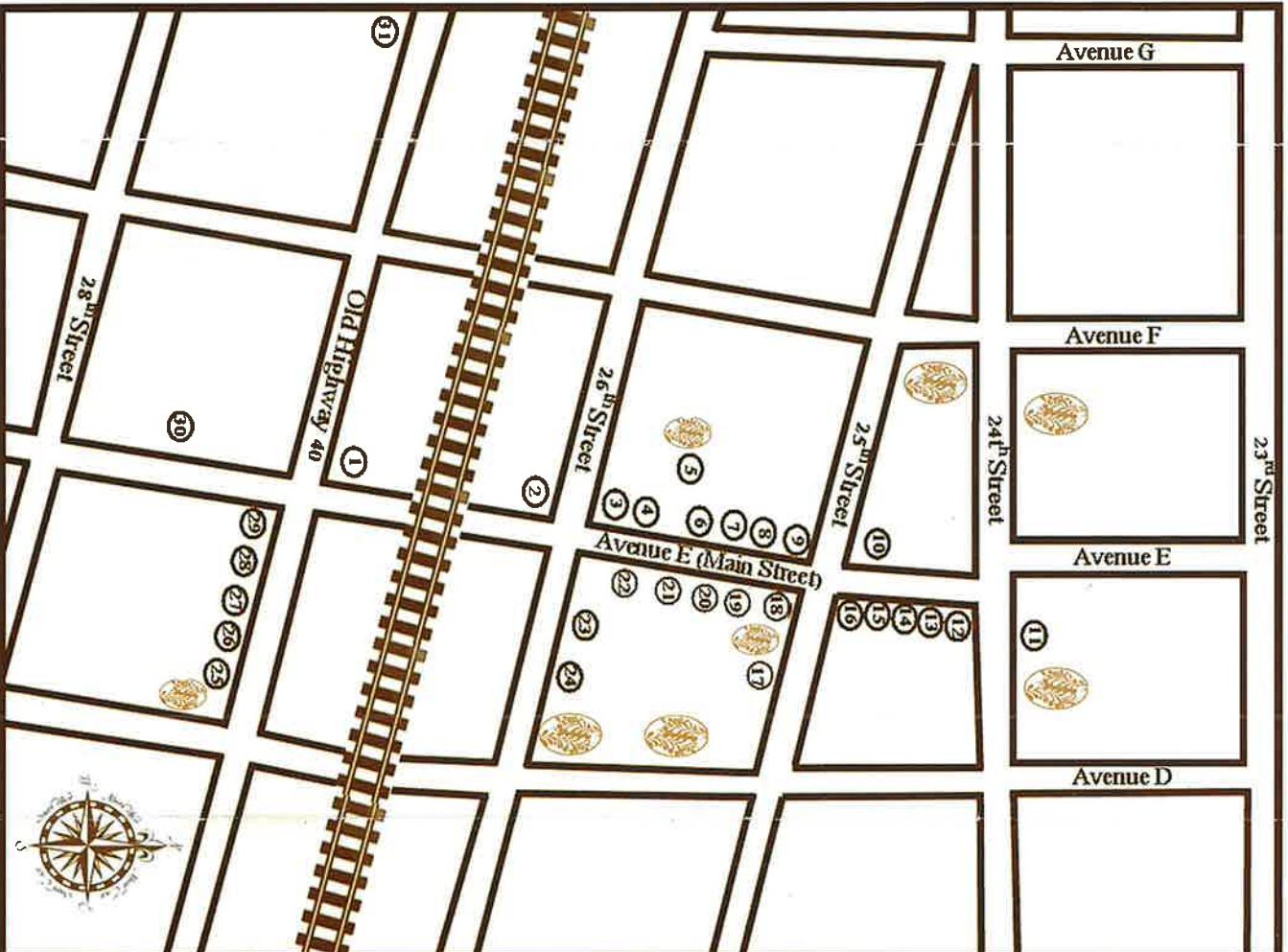


**11. Wilson Grade School**

**420 24th Street**  
 This school, built in 1916, featured an auditorium, a library, and a gym.

**12. Wilson Heritage Museum**

**Address??**  
 Built 1906 by C.H. Seaver, the Wilson Echo owner and editor. Seaver replaced the former Wilson Echo newspaper editor, C.S. Hutchinson, who was fatally shot in 1905 by the City Marshal. The tragic event occurred in the former Wilson Echo building, one door south. This new building housed the newspaper office and print shop in the basement with a residence on the main floor, heated by a hot water plant. The Wilson Echo newspaper was renamed the Wilson World in 1913 and was



published until 2002. This building is now the home of the Wilson Heritage Museum, following the 2009 Opera House that destroyed the previous museum collection.

**12. City Garage**

**411 24th Street**  
 Built 1889 by A.A. Jellison after the previous D.R. Hindman Grocery Store had burned down on this same location in the 1888 Fire.

In 1894, the Wilson Echo newspaper relocated here. In 1905, the Wilson City Marshal fatally shot the Echo newspaper editor, C.S. Hutchinson here while he was sitting at his desk. By the next year, the Echo newspaper had moved to the new building just to the north. Later businesses were a movie showhouse, a car showroom, and a plumbing shop. Currently the building is the City Garage for the City of Wilson.

**13. City Hall (Current)**

**2407 Avenue E**  
 Built 1890, the S.E. Barton Tin Shop was rebuilt after the previous Barton Tin Shop burned to the ground in the 1888 Fire. In 1903, the City of Wilson purchased the building for the Fire House and City Council room. In 1935, the front brick facade was added. A late night fire damaged the contents of City Hall in 1955.

**14. Somer Hardware Building**

**2411 Avenue E**  
 Built 1899 by Dr. M.H. Alderson, with old lumber from a Kanopolis store, to replace the Alderson Drug and Music Store that had burned to the ground in the 1888 Fire. In 1900, S.P. Himes bought the building, renamed Himes Hardware. In 1900-1902, J.J. Rice ran a bakery in the Himes Hardware's basement. The brick oven is still visible. In 1905, Charles and James Phillips with Tony Somer purchased the store renamed, Phillips Bros & Somer. By 1920, Tony Somer was the sole owner. The Somer family sold the store in 1973. Later businesses were another hardware store and a quit shop.

**15. Mortuary Building**

**Address???**  
 Built in 1902, by C.L. Danner for retail rental. Phillips and Himes Hardware Store leased the building for their carriage showroom. In 1912, W.H. Gamber bought the building for his auction house and was known as the Gamber Building and remodeled the wall between the two buildings to create one large showroom. The undertaking equipment was moved to an upstairs room in this building. In 1947, J.L. Stiles and Roy Bruce purchased the business

and building. By 1950, J.L. Stiles was the sole owner and the business was renamed, Stiles Funeral Home.

**15.5 Himes/Nesmith Building**

**2419 Avenue E**  
 Built 1885 by W.L. Nesmith as a grocery, farm supply, and undertaking supply store. W.L. Nesmith also conducted funeral services. In 1908, R.W. Nesmith and Dr. W.E. Kendall purchased the business. When Dr. Kendall left in 1919, the store was renamed Nesmith's Furniture and Undertaking. In 1920, R.W. Nesmith leased the Gamber Building to the north, remodeling the wall between the two buildings to create a larger showroom. In 1947, J.L. Stiles and Roy Bruce purchased the business and building. By 1950, J.L. Stiles was the sole owner and the business was renamed, Stiles Home Furnishings.

**16. Nesmith/Himes Building**

**2419 Avenue E**  
 Built in 1880 by W.L. Nesmith & Son, as a grocery and hardware store. In 1886, S.P. Himes purchased the store. In 1903 F.J. Hoch bought the store. By 1908, W.D. McKittrick had joined Hoch & McKittrick Grocery. In 1912, J.L. McKittrick bought out Hoch, forming McKittrick Brothers Grocery. In 1947, Tony Ververka bought the store and his tenants added a bowling alley. The store was later a tavern, a cafe, and a residence.



**17. Levitt Department Store**

**417 25th Street**  
 Built in 1886 to house City Hall upstairs and Levitt's downstairs, this community hall/opera house hosted events like "Blind Boone" (1887) singing with the Troubadours and stomp dancing.

**18. Wilson State Bank Building**

**2505 Avenue E**  
 Reported to be the oldest bank in Ellsworth County, the Wilson State Bank building was constructed in 1886 at a cost of \$8,300, and served as the bank's home for nearly 100 years.

**19. Skalicky Building**

**Address???**  
 Built 1923 by Ernest Skalicky for Skalicky's Tire and Vulcanizing Shop. The building is currently used as a medical office.

**20. Novak Building**

**2515 Avenue E**  
 Built 1929 and home for Wanhoff Motor Co., this edifice housed everything from car

dealerships to meat markets. One of Wilson's most famous Czech heritage supporters, LaVange Shioky, opened LaShiro's Boutique in 1976 and ran it for decades.

**21. Sula Meat Market**  
**2519 Avenue E**  
 Constructed of native stone around 1890, then bricked over in the '40s, it probably first housed a saddle/leather shop. Anton Sula, St. purchased it in 1923 for a meat market.

**22. A.F. Cross Building**

**2523 Avenue E**  
 Built in 1910, by A.F. Cross for his telephone company. The Wilson Men's Club met in the basement. Dr. F.A. Diabal had his medical practice here from 1948 to 1982. Later, the building was a gift shop. The building is currently a private residence.

**23. Peppy Joe Vocasek Barber Shop**

**418 26th Street**  
 After immigrating from Bohemia in 1911, Joseph, Sr. built this barbershop/home in 1929 passing the business to son "Peppy Joe" in 1969. Vocasek name is thought to be the longest in continuing barber service in Kansas, from 1927 - 2000.

**24. Midland Railroad Hotel**

**414 26th Street**  
 Opening as the Hotel Power in 1899, this well-known stop on the UPRR was recognized from KC to Denver for hospitality and good food. After gutting by fire, it was rebuilt by a local rancher with community support, and renamed the Midland. Merchants rode in on the RR and displayed/sold wares in the Sample Room downstairs. The hotel served as a set for the 1970s movie *Paper Moon*.



**25. Wilson Czech Opera House**

**415 27th Street**  
 Built in 1901 by Frank Kasnicka and 14 others, using stone from the Hay Canyon Rd. (n. of Wilson), this building was designed as a home to several Czech Lodges. A basement gym provided a Cech gymnastics practice area, a cultural hall upstairs included a ballroom, stage, and (in 1912) a movie machine. The building burned in 2009, but still serves as the symbol of Czech heritage in Wilson.



**26. American Legion**

**419 27th Street**  
 Built 1906 by J.F. Tampier as the Daylight Dry Goods Store. In 1950, Dolezal & Kaspar Clothing Store was here when the American Legion Post #262 purchased the building. The Legion Hall was dedicated on Armistice Day 1952.

**27. Tampier Building**

**423 27th Street**  
 Joseph Tampier built this two-story native stone structure in 1887 to sell groceries and queensware.

**28. F. Zeman Building**

**427 27th Street**  
 Frank Zeman built the Southside Pharmacy in 1893. It stayed in the family for 80 years, and boasted a soda fountain added in 1909.

**29. Weber Peirano Building & Cobb Ford Garage**

**2711-15 Main Street**  
 Built in 1904 as a hardware/implement dealership, the storeroom for its freight elevator/lift served as a temporary office for the newly formed Farmers State Bank (now defunct). The Cobb Ford Agency garage was added in 1938.

**30. Sekavec Building**

**Address???**  
 Built 1887 by W.F. Sekavec as a dry goods store, with groceries added later. Lodges and political groups met upstairs in Sekavec Hall. In 1917, the store closed. Later, the building was used for a windmill/plumbing shop and several farm equipment shops.

**31. Tower**

**615 27th Street**  
 Early settlers built foot-thick limestone walls with carved woodwork in 1886. The tower (late '20s) provided water for the 16-room home.

913  
 1077  
 6399