

Downtown Corridor Enhancements

A lack of occupied downtown buildings and empty lots is a frustration for Tripoli residents. They feel this could be mitigated by creative window treatments in vacant buildings and dressing up the downtown according to the Iowa Main Street Program where possible. Tripoli owns one of the vacant lots and asked the design team to come up with a potential use and design for the space. The design team is proposing it be made an attractive event space to augment other venues during Tripoli Days. The proposal includes softening the space with trees, and creating privacy from the back to create a nicely shaded event space within. This venue will complement the new park proposed adjacent to the new welcome center and trailhead and aid in creating a more inviting downtown.

THE MAIN STREET ARCHITECTURAL TRADITION

This is the basic building block of Main Street—the traditional streetfront commercial facade. Although built in many sizes, shapes and styles, it was always essentially the same facade. Facades of this type lined Main Street on both sides. One next to another, they formed strong, solid blocks, marked by the rhythm of repeating parts. Because it was composed of similar facades, the block had a consistent, organized and coordinated appearance. Facades were related to each other through compatibility in height, width, setback, proportions of openings, composition and rhythm. With these blocks facing each other, the street took on a distinct character. Compared with the typical residential street, Main Street created a feeling of containment. The street became an outdoor room, filled with activity. The sidewalk (or the "pedestrian street") was a window-shopper's delight. One after another, the store windows formed a continuous display case of Main Street merchandise.

OUTDOOR ROOM
ROOM
CREATED BY
BUILDING
FACADES

THE STREET

STOREFRONTS LINE
THE PEDESTRIAN
STREET

Thus, the appearance of Main Street today is largely a result of a strong architectural tradition. Beginning with the early buildings of the 1800s and continuing through the 1930s, this tradition controlled how Main Street looked. The consistency of this building tradition brought about a unity that strengthened Main Street as a whole. If traditional business districts today are to benefit from this unity, changes to buildings must respect this tradition.

Source: Iowa Main Street Program



Existing vacant lot along the downtown corridor



Proposed pocket park event space



Existing vacant building facade



Proposed building facade in Main Street Architecture Tradition

Tripoli

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