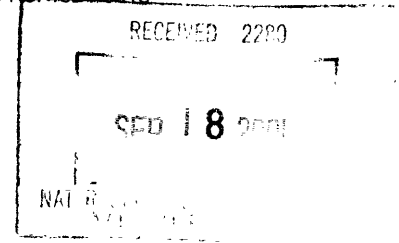


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1202



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Sharon Downtown Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number York Street (S.C. Hwy. 49) and Woodlawn Avenue not for publication _____
city or town Sharon vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county York code 091 zip code 29742

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Mary W. Edmonds 8/27/01
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register	Date of Action <u>11.2.01</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____		

Sharon Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

York County, South Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>9</u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>

buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: COMMERCE/TRADE
COMMERCE/TRADE
COMMERCE/TRADE
AGRICULTURE

Subcategory: Department Store
Specialty Store
Financial
Processing/Storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category: COMMERCE/TRADE
COMMERCE/TRADE
GOVERNMENT

Subcategory: Specialty Store
Financial
Town Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian
Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick, Stone
walls Brick, Stone

roof Synthetics
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Sharon Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

York County, South Carolina
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- a owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- b removed from its original location.
- c a birthplace or a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1908-1944

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
York County Public Library

Sharon Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

York County, South Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 <u>17 468806 3867529</u>	3 <u>17 468937 3867464</u>	5 <u>17 468767 3867340</u>
2 <u>17 468932 3867529</u>	4 <u>17 468850 3867333</u>	

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Gettys, Senior Planner
 organization Catawba Regional Council of Governments date 16 July 2001
 street & number P.O. Box 450 telephone (803) 327-9041
 city or town Rock Hill state SC zip code 29731

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple owners (see continuation sheets)
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7

Page 5

Sharon Downtown Historic District
Name of Property
York County, South Carolina
County and State

The Sharon Downtown Historic District includes nine contributing properties fronting on York Street (S.C. Highway 49) and Woodlawn Street in downtown Sharon, in western York County, South Carolina; the district includes no noncontributing properties. The district consists primarily of masonry commercial buildings built between 1908 and 1944 which historically housed a variety of businesses serving the developing town of Sharon in the first half of the twentieth century.

These properties contribute to the character of the Sharon Downtown Historic District:

1. **First National Bank of Sharon** (1909), 4028 Woodlawn Street: This one-story brick building with limestone features was built by contractor W.W. Blair for the First National Bank of Sharon. The one-part commercial block building features a corner entrance with arched openings to provide access to the recessed entrance from both Woodlawn and York Streets. The large arches have keystones and are supported by a single tapered column at the corner. The south side has a large tripartite window with transom and an arched surround with keystone. A smaller one-light window on the south side has a similar design. Above the windows are large vents with brick surrounds and decorative limestone blocks. The walls are capped by brick corbelling. The west side, which faces Woodlawn Street, has similar fenestration but with fewer decorative elements. To the east is a one-story brick addition. The building currently (2001) houses a branch of First Citizens Bank of South Carolina.
2. **Shannon Building** (ca. 1910), 4029 Woodlawn Street: This property is one of six commercial buildings in a block facing Woodlawn and York Streets. It was built about 1910 for H. Wesley Shannon and James D. Hope. The partnership went through several changes. In 1918, Mrs. J.A. Shannon and others taught business courses in the building. In the 1920s, it housed a dry goods and grocery store operated by George A. Plexico on the first floor and a millinery shop on the second floor was run by Mrs. D.A. Whisonant. A dress shop was operated in the 1930s by W.S. Gibson, and a furniture store in the 1940s was operated by Luther Hartness. The building currently (2001) houses a body shop and wrecker service. The two-story brick building is a two-part commercial block. The facade has brick corbelling at the cornice and three second-floor windows with brick arches above. A beltcourse divides the first and second levels. The first floor has a recessed center entrance with double door and transom. The storefront has plate-glass windows with the transoms covered with wood. The flat roof slopes to the rear, and the side walls have irregularly-placed windows and low parapets which step down to the rear.
3. **Plexico Building** (ca. 1910), 4027 Woodlawn Street: This one-story brick building was constructed for J.M. Plexico, who operated a general store and drugstore. It was later a grocery store, operated by J.L. Whitesides, John R. Cobb, and F.H. Youngblood. The building currently (2001) houses a video store. The one-part commercial block has a storefront with recessed panels above it. A beltcourse of vertical bricks set at an angle provides a decorative element. The center of the storefront has a brick column in front of the recessed central door.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Sharon Downtown Historic District
Name of Property
York County, South Carolina
County and State

-
4. **Love Building** (ca. 1910), 4025 Woodlawn Street: This one-story brick building was constructed for M.B. Love to house a furniture store. By 1918, a grocery store was being operated in the building by Walter B. Hayes. Before 1930, Dr. H.C. Floyd opened a drugstore here; it later housed a five-and-dime store run by the Jones sisters. The building is currently (2001) owned by the Town of Sharon and houses the Town Hall and a York County Sheriff substation. The one-part commercial block features corbelling near the cornice, recessed panels, and a beltcourse on its facade. The entrance is to the right, with a door and transom and a small window. The left section of the facade has a large four-light window with a brick hood.
 5. **Kennedy Building** (ca. 1910), 3725 York Street: This one-story brick building is very similar to the adjacent Love Building. Built for Christopher Kennedy as a mercantile store, it has seen various commercial uses through its history. It currently (2001) houses Storky's Arcade and Pizza. The facade features corbelling, a recessed panel, and a beltcourse. The central double door is flanked by two-over-two windows with arched openings and brick hoods.
 6. **Hope Building** (ca. 1910), 3723 York Street: This one-story brick building was built by John L. Rainey in what had been an alley between two buildings. S.A. "Sam" Hope, a cobbler, operated a business here, along with a grocery store. After Hope's death, W.A. Maloney purchased the building and business. Groceries were sold in the building by A.B. Good and Mrs. May Bell Kennedy. Because the building was built in a former alley, it narrows from front to rear. The one-part commercial block has simple corbelling at the cornice and narrow panels on the facade with corbelling. The central double door has a transom and an arched hood. The two-over-two windows flank the central entrance and have similar arched openings.
 7. **Sims-Hood Drug Store** (ca. 1908), 3721 York Street: This one-story brick building was built by John L. Rainey about 1908 and housed drug stores operated by the Sims and Hood families. It currently (2001) houses the Sharon Barber Shop. The one-part commercial block has a wood panel above the storefront. The central double door is recessed with windows on either side. The facade has recessed brick courses. The south wall is exposed, and shows evidence of a building having been attached to it at some earlier date.
 8. **John L. Rainey Cotton Gin and Seed House** (1944), York Street: The cotton gin is a one-story concrete block building featuring an entrance door and simple stepped parapet on the end gable and a standing-seam metal roof; the seed house is a one-story building with metal siding and a gable roof. A shed connects the cotton gin, seed house, and office.
 9. **John L. Rainey Office** (1944), York Street. This one-story concrete block building features an entrance door and simple stepped parapet on the end gable and a standing-seam metal roof.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Sharon Downtown Historic District
Name of Property
York County, South Carolina
County and State

The Sharon Downtown Historic District is a significant collection of commercial and industrial buildings which illustrate the development of the commercial core of the small community of Sharon since its beginnings in the late 1880s. The nine buildings contributing to the character of this historic district provide evidence of the establishment and growth of a small downtown through the various periods of the town's development from 1888 through 1945. The properties in the district, taken as a whole, possess architectural integrity and provide an important record of the development of commerce and industry in the community. The district is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because its properties illustrate a broad pattern of development over a nearly sixty-year period and under Criterion C because many of its buildings are excellent examples of commercial buildings typical of small towns in the South Carolina Piedmont of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The town of Sharon was established soon after the arrival of a railroad line in western York County in 1888.¹ The rail line, known as the "Three C's" (for the Charleston, Cincinnati, and Chicago Railroad) helped to create or enhance several communities in the South Carolina Piedmont. A depot was built here in close proximity to existing roads, on a lot donated by J.L. Rainey, and a village soon began to develop around the railroad stop. The town grew up on land donated by the Rainey and Gilfillin families, and was incorporated in 1889; it was named Sharon for Sharon Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, located nearby, which had been established in 1796.² Houses and stores began to be built along the Chesterville-Shelbyville Road, which followed the route of present-day S.C. Highway 49 into town from the south and passed out of town on present-day Woodlawn Street.³ The area around the intersection of this road and the York Road (present-day Woodlawn and York Streets) began to develop as the commercial and financial center of the town of Sharon by the first decade of the twentieth century.

The *Yorkville Enquirer* called Sharon an "Embryo City" in 1889 and predicted that it would grow as large as York.⁴ Although it served as a depot and trading center for the surrounding countryside, including most of western York County, Sharon never grew significantly. The nearby city of York, just to the east, boasted a more strategic geographical location and its status as the county seat. One writer has described the failure of many early merchants in Sharon and speculated that they lacked both experience and capital.⁵ The town, furthermore, failed to attract a textile mill, an industry which often spurred or strengthened the growth of small Southern towns. The lack of growth in the

¹ Walter A. Kennedy, "History of Sharon," unpublished paper, March 1954, in the possession of Paul Gettys, Catawba Regional Council of Governments, Rock Hill, S.C.

² Ella R. Saye, "History of Sharon," unpublished paper, February 1955, in the possession of Paul Gettys, Catawba Regional Council of Governments, Rock Hill, S.C.; *Centennial History of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 1803-1903* (Charleston: Walker, Evans and Cogswell, 1905), pp. 577-79.

³ Saye, p. 1.

⁴ Quoted in the *Herald* (Rock Hill, S.C.), 2 April 1889.

⁵ Kennedy, p. 2.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8, 9 Page 8

Sharon Downtown Historic District
Name of Property
York County, South Carolina
County and State

downtown area, however, has helped to preserve a significant collection of commercial buildings from the early twentieth century, offering such typical wares as dry goods, groceries, general merchandise, furniture, and drugs.⁶

Several properties related to the cotton industry also contribute to the significance of this historic district. The presence of the railroad enabled Sharon to thrive as a town where merchants received cotton from farmers in surrounding areas, stored it, processed it in gins, and shipped it to markets by rail. The John L. Rainey Cotton Gin, Seed House, and Office represent a late period in the cotton industry in the area. Other industries present in early twentieth century Sharon included a jug and jar factory, a woodworking and iron workshop, and several blacksmiths.

This collection of commercial and industrial buildings provides an important record of the development of a small Piedmont village. The properties within the Sharon Downtown Historic District are associated with the small business which characterized the community and helped to sustain it for many years.

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Centennial History of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 1802-1903. Charleston: Walter, Evans, & Cogswell Co., 1905.

The Herald (Rock Hill, S.C.), 2 April 1889.

Kennedy, Walter A. "History of Sharon." Unpublished paper, March 1954. In possession of Paul Gettys, Catawba Regional Planning Council, Rock Hill, S.C.

Saye, Ella R. "History of Sharon." Unpublished paper, February 1955. In possession of Paul Gettys, Catawba Regional Planning Council, Rock Hill, S.C.

⁶ Saye, p. 1.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

 Sharon Downtown Historic District
Name of Property
 York County, South Carolina
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as "Sharon Downtown Historic District" on the accompanying sketch map, drawn at a scale of 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is restricted to nine historic and contributing buildings clustered around the downtown core of Sharon.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 10

Sharon Downtown Historic District
Name of Property
York County, South Carolina
County and State

PROPERTY OWNERS

The property numbers correspond to the inventory and the historic district map.

	Property	Tax Parcel	Owner
1)	First National Bank of Sharon 4028 Woodlawn Street	60-1-4-23	First Citizens Bank P.O. Box 725 York, S.C. 29745
2)	Shannon Building 4029 Woodlawn Street	60-1-1-19	James F. Martin, Jr. Route 1, Box 143-A Sharon, S.C. 29742
3)	Plexico Building 4027 Woodlawn Street	60-1-1-18	Robert E. & Norma B. Mowles P.O. Box 383 Sharon, S.C. 29742
4)	Love Building 4025 Woodlawn Street	60-1-1-14	Town of Sharon P.O. Box 128 Sharon, S.C. 29742
5)	Kennedy Building 3725 York Street	60-1-1-13	J.W. Sowell 3725 York Street Sharon, S.C. 29742
6)	Hope Building 3723 York Street	60-1-1-11	Thomas L. Blackwood 5270 Highway 97 Hickory Grove, S.C. 29717
7)	Sims-Hood Drug Store 3721 York Street	60-1-1-10	Charles R. & Nancy V. Robinson 1399 Edgefield Road York, S.C. 29745
8)	John L. Rainey Cotton Gin and Seed House	60-1-1-8	Jay S. Gourley 3713 York Street Sharon, S.C. 29742

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

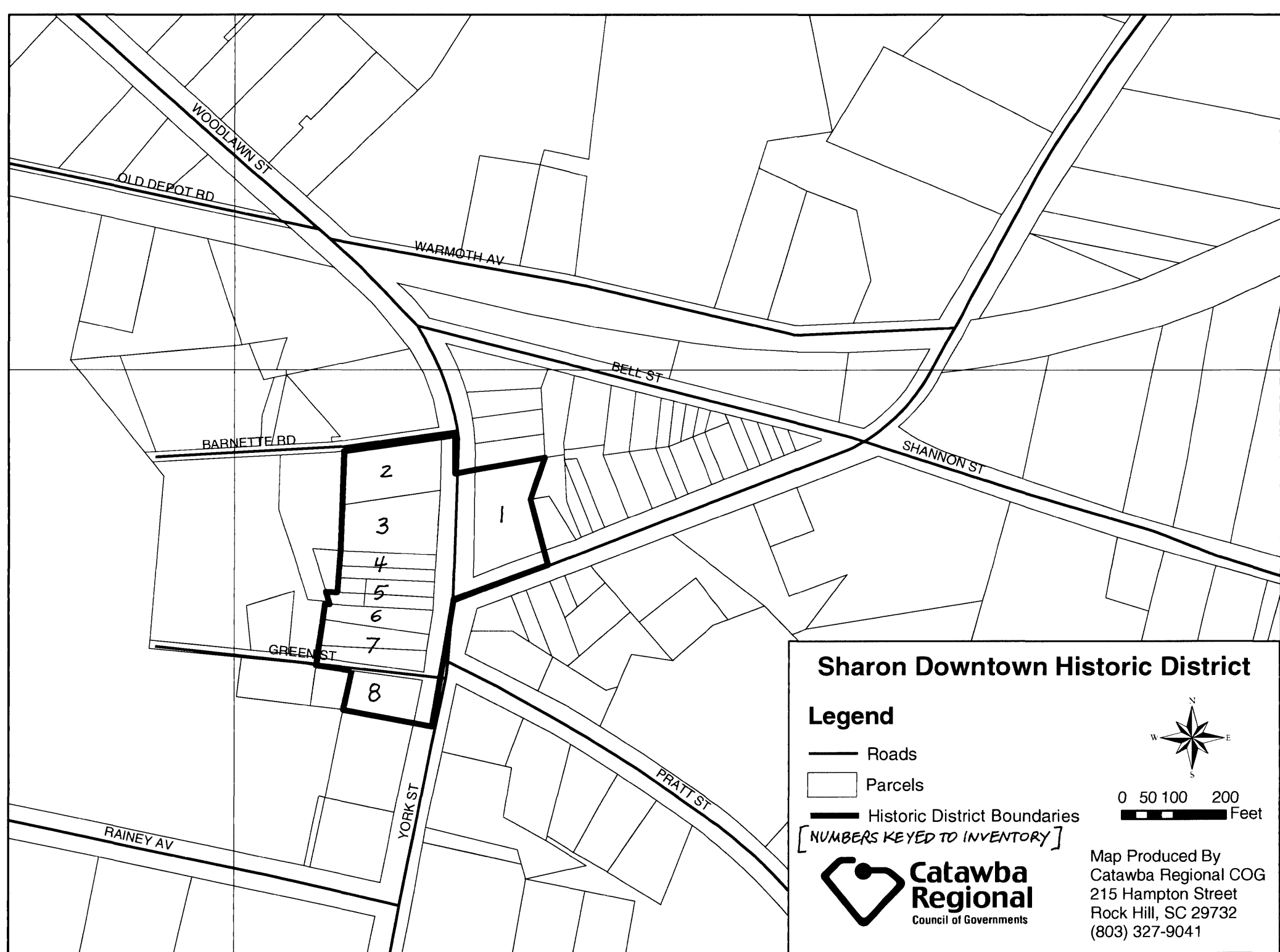
Section number Photographs Page 12 Sharon Downtown Historic District
Name of Property
York County, South Carolina
County and State

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Sharon Downtown Historic District
Location of Property: Sharon, York County, South Carolina

Name of Photographer: Paul M. Gettys
Date of Photographs: September 2000
Location of Original Negatives: Catawba Regional Council of Governments
215 Hampton Street
Rock Hill, S.C, 29731

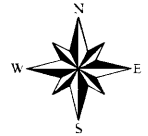
1. First National Bank of Sharon, 4028 Woodlawn St., south elevation
2. Shannon Building, 4029 Woodlawn St., and Plexico Building, 4027 Woodlawn St., facades
3. Love Building (Sharon Town Hall), 4025 Woodlawn St., and Kennedy Building, 3725 York St., facades
4. Hope Building, 3723 York St., and Sims-Hood Drug Store, 3721 York St., facades
5. Streetscape of commercial block along Woodlawn and York Streets
6. John L. Rainey Cotton Gin, Seed House, and Office, York St., facade and north elevation



Sharon Downtown Historic District

Legend

- Roads
- Parcels
- Historic District Boundaries
- [NUMBERS KEYED TO INVENTORY]



0 50 100 200 Feet



Map Produced By
Catawba Regional COG
215 Hampton Street
Rock Hill, SC 29732
(803) 327-9041