

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 06000620

Date Listed: July 20, 2006

Property Name: Crestview Commercial Historic District

County: Okaloosa

State: Florida

\_\_\_\_\_  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for Daniel J. Vivia*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

July 20, 2006  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 2. Location

The entry for the street and number of the property is hereby changed to: Roughly bounded by Industrial Dr., N. Ferdon Blvd., N. Wilson St., and Jones Lee Blvd.

[This change was made in consultation with and approved by the National Register staff of the Florida SHPO.]

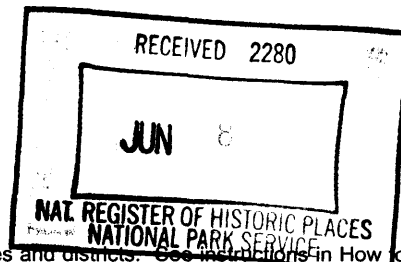
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The Florida State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

**National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



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 CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number various N/A  not for publication

city or town Crestview N/A  vicinity

state Florida code FL county Okealoosa code 091 zip code 32536

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara C. Mattick / DSHPO 6/6/2006  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Division of Historical Resources, Bureau of Historic Preservation  
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 certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register  See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

for Daniel J. Viana 7/20/06  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- buildings, district, site, structure, object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, total.

Name of related multiple property listings

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

"N/A"

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCIAL: business, financial institution, speciality store, department store, restaurant
SOCIAL: meeting hall
GOVERNMENT: post office
RECREATION & CULTURE: theater
INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility
HEALTH CARE: clinic

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCIAL: business, financial institution, speciality store, department store, restaurant, professional
RECREATION & CULTURE: theater
RELIGION: religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Art Moderne; Classical Revival; Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK/CONCRETE
walls BRICK/STUCCO
roof ASPHALT/BUILT-UP
other

Narrative Description

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

**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.)

Property is:

- 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 commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

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 36) 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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

COMMUNITY PLANNING &amp; DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1913-1955

**Significant Dates**

1918

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

# \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approx. 18.1

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	6	5	4	0	7	4	0	3	4	0	3	0	8	0
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
2	1	6	5	4	1	1	0	0	3	4	0	2	9	4	0

3	1	6	5	4	1	3	2	0	3	4	0	2	6	6	0
	Zone		Easting					Northing							
4	1	6	5	4	1	1	4	0	3	4	0	2	5	4	0

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 Bill Kilpatrick, Brenda Crosson/Robert O. Jones, Bureau of Historic Preservation

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date April 2006

street & number 500 South Brounough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state FL zip code 32399-0250

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name various

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 amend 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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

**CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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### SUMMARY

The Crestview Commercial Historic District encompasses seventy (70) buildings and one (1) site located in the downtown core of the City of Crestview, Okaloosa County, Florida. The district is approximately 18.1 acres in size and is mostly situated along both sides of the six blocks of North Main Street between U. S. Highway 90 West to the north, and the CSX Railroad tracks to the south. The district is primarily two blocks wide bounded on the east by State Highway 85 North (Ferdon Boulevard), and on the west by North Wilson Street. Included in the district are fifty-two (52) contributing buildings, eighteen (18) non-contributing buildings, and one (1) contributing site, a small passive park. The district contains mainly Commercial Vernacular buildings, and they were constructed between 1918 and 1955. The small park was platted in 1913. There is one Neo-Classical Revival and one Art Moderne Style buildings. Thirteen individual buildings notable for their history are discussed in this section as well as the one site/park.

### SETTING

The City of Crestview has a population of approximately 17,000 and is located in Okaloosa County in the northwestern part of state, in an area known as the Florida Panhandle. Another 15,000-20,000 residents are within a five to six mile radius of Crestview's municipal boundaries. Crestview is about fifty miles northeast of Pensacola, about 150 miles west of the state's capital city of Tallahassee, about thirty miles north of Fort Walton Beach on the Gulf of Mexico coastline, and twenty miles south of the Alabama-Florida State Line. United States Highway 90 is the principal east-west route through Crestview, and State Highway 85 is the principal north-south route through the community and the entire county. Interstate Highway 10 runs east/west and is located two miles south of downtown Crestview. The CSX Railroad Lines run east-west immediately south of the downtown area (Photos #1&2). The historic district occupies the center of the downtown commercial area on Main Street. Immediately to the northeast of the district is the major intersection of Highway 90 and Highway 85. State Highway 85 ran through the center of the downtown Crestview commercial district until the late 1970s when it was shifted one street to the east from Main Street. United States Highway 90 was at, and remains today, the northern boundary of the downtown commercial district. The Okaloosa County Courthouse and other governmental offices are also situated immediately to the northeast of the historic district. The current Crestview City Hall building on North Wilson Street between the railroad tracks and West Woodruff Avenue is outside the boundary of the district. In the city's early years the City Hall was within the historic district, and throughout the historic period, Crestview's downtown commercial core remained concentrated along Main Street. Surrounding the Crestview Commercial Historic District are large residential areas, some of which date from the 1910s and 1920s.

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### CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS DESCRIPTION

Contributing buildings within the district were constructed between 1918 and 1955. Most of the contributing buildings are of a vernacular construction known as one-and two-part commercial blocks with few decorative details. The commercial use of these buildings is defined by store fronts and entrances on the first story. Banks of windows on the second stories indicate residential, office, or professional uses on the upper floor. Most have low parapets or front gables. Most store buildings were built immediately adjacent to the sidewalks with fixed metal or fabric awnings that shaded the front entrances. Multiple entrances on the front façade of a single building often accommodated several small businesses or professional services providers. Most are of masonry construction (brick, hollow tile, or concrete block) and share connecting walls. Some historic surfaces have had stucco applied to them both historically and more recently. Siding has been applied over some buildings masking their historic character and making them ineligible as contributing resources.

Only two buildings have modest stylistic elements that identify them: an Art Moderne theater at 382 North Main Street (Photo #13), and a Neo-Classical Style office building at 114 East Cedar Avenue (Photo #15).

Thirteen of the contributing buildings with notable history and/or distinctive physical features are identified and described as follows:

1.) 172 East Woodruff Avenue, 1929 – (Photo #3)

This building is an excellent example of a one-part block commercial building. Located one-half block east of Main Street, the one-story yellow brick building's south elevation is divided into three bays. The bays include a display window and entry. One bay has only three modern windows. Above each bay is a large recessed marquee with brick cornice along the top. The flat roof has a straight parapet across the façade. The building's most remembered occupant was the United States Post Office from the 1940s through the 1960s.

2.) 153 West Woodruff Avenue, 1937 - (Photo #4)

The two-story industrial, brick vernacular building has a memorable history for the city. The initial primary occupant of this manufacturing plant building was the Smith-Johnson Garment Factory. It later operated as the Alatex Textiles Garment Factory. It is the only example of historical industrial architecture in Okaloosa County. The building is elegant in its simplicity and extensive use of large 25-light steel windows on all elevations that light the open inner areas. The first story main arched entrance faces north. The flat roof has straight parapets on all elevations that step up above the main entry and on the northeast and northwest corners. The interior is a vast open space with high ceilings and large square timber posts supporting the second floor and the roof. The building provided the first large-scale opportunity for employment in Crestview and assisted the area economy in pulling out of the post Depression era. It continued its impact on the area economy even into the

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1980s while operating as Rainbow Apparel Manufacturing. The plant produced various items including military clothing and provided significant military support in the years of preparation for and during World War II. It was built while the Choctawhatchee National Forest (just south of Crestview) was being converted to use as nine air and gunnery training fields now known as Eglin Air Force Base, the largest Air Force base in the world. In the late 1930s through the early 1940s, the building housed some city government offices in the first floor, northeast corner. During the mid-1940s the Red Cross had an office in the building. The building is now owned by the city and efforts are underway to restore it. The Florida Department of State, Historical Resources Division, recently awarded a grant to assist in re-roofing the building.

3.) 158 West Woodruff Avenue, 1946 – (Photo #5)

The metal Quonset hut has always been used as a commercial building. It has a stucco store front with stepped parapet front is architecturally unique within the downtown. The central recessed entrance is flanked by two display windows. The functionality of this type building led it to be adaptable to many kinds of use during World War II, and the years immediately following. From the late 1940s through the 1950s, this building's principal occupants were garden, seed, and farm supply establishments.

4.) 197 West Pine Avenue, 1930 – (Photo # 6)

This is a two-story stucco commercial building with a flat roof and straight parapets. The north façade has two doors and four windows on both the first and second stories. The windows on this elevation contain jalousie sashes. A one-story, shed roof, concrete block addition on the west elevation has lost its roof. Even though neglected it is structurally sound. Used successively as an office for a doctor, a justice of the peace, an insurance salesman, and bookkeeper, to occupancy by apartment dwellers and church goers, this building was a hub of activity from the 1930s through the 1950s.

5.) 102-104 North Main Street, 1925 - (Photo #7)

This brick, two-part commercial block building was a significant building in early Crestview history. Narrow arched windows filled with 12/8 single hung wooden sashes line the elevations. Straight parapets with coping obscure the roof. The façade at the first story contains modern glass and metal frame display windows. Situated immediately next to the train station, which was demolished in the 1970s, the New Central Café in the building from the 1930s-1980s was frequented by rail passengers and was the most popular café in Crestview during the early years. The Café shared the building with the Cox Grocery and Wallor Confectionery business when it was first built. The upstairs apartments accommodated visitors that arrived by train. A dentist's office was also located upstairs during the 1930s.

6.) 198 North Main Street, 1930 - (Photo #8)

This one-part commercial block building is located immediately east of the Smith-Johnson/Alatex Garment Factory. The one-story block and brick building has a front gable roof. The east façade has an off-center



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single glass entry flanked by display windows. The building's long time occupant was City Pharmacy which was one of only three pharmacies serving the Crestview area during the 1930s. It remained in business until the 1990's. A doctor's office was located at the rear of the building. Another commercial building on this site preceded the pharmacy.

7.) 146 West Woodruff Avenue, 1920 – (Photo #9)

This one-story frame vernacular residence is the only house within the historic district. A short front gable projection extends from the main front gabled building block. The projection is an enclosed porch with a fixed window. Double hung sash windows fill the other elevations of the house and the exterior is of horizontal siding. It served as a home until the Alatex Company began using it as an office. During the early history of Crestview, downtown properties had various uses, and many residential buildings remain on property immediately outside the historic district.

8.) 269 North Main Street, 1932 – (Photo #10)

The popular Eglin Theatre occupied this commercial building beginning in 1943, through the 1950's. The recessed central entry is flanked by display windows that span the first story. The marquee area above the entrance is a tall straight parapet that rises higher than the roof-lines of surrounding buildings. In 1949, actor Gregory Peck and other stars were in town for the nationwide premiering of the movie "Twelve O'Clock High," at both the Eglin and Fox Theatres on Main Street. The movie was made at nearby Eglin Air Force Base, Duke Field, an auxiliary field located immediately south of Crestview, with some scenes shot within the city. After the theatre went out of business in the 1950s, an adjoining department store expanded and used this building to provide additional retail service. Occupancy of the building between 1932 and 1943 is unknown.

9.) 296-298 North Main Street, 1935 - (Photo #11)

This is a combination one- and two-part commercial block building. It is also unusual for its clipped pediment roof and three circular vents within the pediment. This brick building with stucco finish has recessed, double, single entrances in both the two-story and one-story sections. Both have banks of display windows flanking the entrances and spanning the first-story elevations. The second story contains two broad windows filled with groups of four, 3/1 double-hung wooden sashes. Harris Department Store was the main historic occupant, and was an "upscale" dry goods establishment and a favorite place to shop for many area residents through the 1950s. The 5 and 10-cent store in the same building had more moderately priced items. During the 1940s through 1960s, the upstairs area was used variously as apartments, the USO, draft board offices, and other professional offices. In the 1920s, a church building was at this site.

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10.) 361 North Main Street, 1935 – (Photo #12)

Begun with the name Bank of Crestview, and later changed to First Bank of Crestview in 1969, this was the only bank in town through the mid 1950s. The one- and two-story masonry building with stucco exterior has windows and doors along the west, street elevation. The one-story portion has metal sash windows, a metal awning, a single door with awning, and a brick planter. There is also a large display window. The two-story 1960s addition has pilasters and a cornice at the roof line. A door, one window, and ATM are in the first story. Three windows with 6/6 double-hung sashes are in the second story. The bank was the financial hub of the city, with the loans that developed the city transacted here.

11.) 382 North Main Street, 1947 – (Photo #13)

The Fox Theater is housed in the only Art Moderne building in the historic district. The brick building is surfaced with stucco. The east façade rises two stories and has a metal marquee with diamond ornamentation spanning the elevation. A straight parapet rises above this second story roofline at the middle of the elevation. The recessed double-door entry flanked with fixed glass walls occupies half the elevation. The walls fronting the sidewalk curve into the entrance recess and have pairs of display windows on either side of the recess. A box office window is at the south corner. Three small windows are evenly arranged across the second story. The Fox Theatre was the most popular entertainment spot in Crestview in the late 1940s and 1950s, and very memorable to many of today's older Crestview residents. The Fox was a favorite for post World War II servicemen from nearby Eglin Air Force Base. In 1949, the movie "Twelve O'Clock High" had its nationwide premiering at both the Fox and Eglin Theatres on Main Street.

12.) 542-544 North Main Street, 1930 – (Photo #14)

Since construction in 1930, for unknown reasons the building has been titled the Professional Arts Building. It is a three-story brick building with a straight parapet and flat roof. The first story has a centrally located, recessed, double door entry flanked by display windows. A single door is toward the south corner. The second story has five short windows of glass block evenly arranged across the elevation. Five windows with steel sash and multi-lites and awnings at the third story. The upper stories are distinguished with artistic brick work. Decorative patterns consisting of alternating three soldier bricks, three stacked bricks, three soldier, three stacked, create bands around the windows on the second story, and form a horizontal band under the third story windows. Recessed marquees above the third story windows are filled with this decorative patterned brick. The early occupancy of this commercial building during the 1930s is unknown. An abstract company and a Western Auto retail store occupied the building during the 1940s and 1950s with insurance offices on the upper level.

13.) 114 East Cedar Avenue, 1950 – (Photo #15)

A two-story Neo-Classical Style Masonic Lodge building was constructed in 1950. The rectangular brick building has three bays on the gable end façade facing south. The three bays on the south elevation, and four

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bays on the west elevation fronting Main Street are separated by pilasters rising to the roof line. Windows are filled with pairs of 6/6 double-hung sashes, and they are symmetrically arranged, one in each bay on each story. The gable ends on the south and north elevations have pediments. A prominent cornice surrounds the building at the roof line. The building provided space for community events until the early 1990's. An engineering firm has been the occupant of the building since the late 1990s. This site previously had a lodge hall that provided a gathering place since the 1920s. A portion of the original lodge hall building had a casket-manufacturing firm into the 1940s.

There is one (1) contributing site, a small passive park within the historic district (Photo #16). It is located at the 600 block of North Main, at the northwest corner of the district. The park is owned and maintained by the City of Crestview. The grass covered park includes an oak tree and a bench for visitors. Parking for the area is provided on the east and west sides of the park. The park was platted in 1913 and recorded on the 1914 Second Addition to the Crestview map, making it the oldest historic resource within the district.

### ALTERATIONS

Over the years the majority of the buildings in the historic district have undergone interior and exterior alterations. Most of the historic buildings have been altered by store front repairs and modification, and window and door replacement. Despite these changes, the scale and most of the historic character, massing, and setbacks have been maintained. The historic district area retains its historic character, setting, feeling, and associations.

### NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

The non-contributing buildings include those built after 1955, and others built in 1955 or prior that no longer retain their historic architectural integrity. Eighteen (18) buildings are non-contributing resources. Of these, ten (10) were constructed during the 1918-1955 time period. The remaining eight (8) buildings were erected after 1955.

Of particular interest among the non-contributing buildings is the commercial history of 189-197 North Main Street, built in 1926 - (Photo #17). The two-story rectangular brick building is large to the degree that a pair of end-gable roofs are used to shelter it. They run parallel, north/south with a gutter down the middle of the building. The main façade fronting west onto Main Street has display windows and three entrances across it. The displays and entrances have changed as have the interior space. The numerous 4/1 double-hung sash windows have been enclosed and covered over on the west, north and south elevations, obscuring its previous use as a hotel. Because of significant alterations it is non-contributing to the district. This two-story

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commercial building is one of the most recognized landmarks in Crestview. Built as the Lamar Hotel, later the Hilton Hotel, it was situated conveniently between the county courthouse and the train station. Servicemen from nearby Eglin AFB would arrive to spend R & R (rest and relaxation) weekends at the hotel during World War II. A variety of goods and services were provided by retailers on the first floor of the building. Because of substantial alteration it is non-contributing.

**RESOURCE LIST – CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS**

<b>STREET ADDRESS</b>	<b>SITE FILE #</b>	<b>STYLE</b>	<b>C/N/C</b>	<b>BUILT</b>	<b>BUSINESS NAME/USE TODAY</b>
114 E. Cedar	ok1971	Neoclassical Revival	C	1950	Southern Engineering
176-178 E. Industrial	ok2004	Masonry Vernacular	C	1950	Shepherds Church
197 W. James Lee	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	C	1955	Commercial/Vacant
102-104 N. Main	ok2005	Masonry Vernacular	C	1925	Flynn Chiropractic/Spa
106-110 N. Main	ok2006	Masonry Vernacular	C	1925	Lisa's Nail Spa/Vacant
107 N. Main	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	C	1955	Coney Island Eatery
109 N. Main	ok2007	Masonry Vernacular	C	1946	Old Coney Island/Vacant
112-114 N. Main	ok2009	Masonry Vernacular	C	1940	BRB Gun & Pawn
190 N. Main	ok2011	Masonry Vernacular	C	1940	Mack Brooks Barber
192-194 N. Main	ok2012	Masonry Vernacular	C	1918	Coast Books/Annointed Church
196 N. Main	ok2013	Masonry Vernacular	C	1930	Rentz's Kettle
198 N. Main	ok2014	Masonry Vernacular	C	1930	Window Fashions
205-207 N. Main	ok2017	Masonry Vernacular	C	1925	Batson Optical/Vacant
209 N. Main	ok2018	Masonry Vernacular	C	1920	Batson Appliance
211-215 N. Main	ok2019	Masonry Vernacular	C	1920	Ron's Appliance & Antique
224 N. Main	ok2020	Masonry Vernacular	C	1949	Commercial/Vacant
265 N. Main	ok2021	Masonry Vernacular	C	1950	Katherine's Dance Studio
267 N. Main	ok2022	Masonry Vernacular	C	1935	Kitchen and Bath Store
269 N. Main	ok2023	Masonry Vernacular	C	1932	Mint Julep Store
284 N. Main	ok2024	Masonry Vernacular	C	1935	Hart's Printing
286 N. Main	ok2025	Masonry Vernacular	C	1930	Tropical Palm Restaurant
290 N. Main	ok2026	Masonry Vernacular	C	1950	Classic Menswear
296-298 N. Main	ok2027	Masonry Vernacular	C	1935	Harris 5&10/Vacant
297 N. Main	ok2028	Masonry Vernacular	C	1947	Crestview Plumb/Hardware
301 N. Main	ok2029	Masonry Vernacular	C	1920	Crestview News-Bulletin
307 N. Main	ok2030	Masonry Vernacular	C	1920	Peaden Appliance/Vacant
309-311 N. Main	ok2031	Masonry Vernacular	C	1930	Father Time/Merle Norman
321-335 N. Main	ok2033	Masonry Vernacular	C	1920	Banker Life/Church/Vacant
337 N. Main	ok2034	Masonry Vernacular	C	1924	Granny's Attic
361 N. Main	ok2035	Masonry Vernacular	C	1935	Bank of Crestview/Vacant
380 N. Main	ok2036	Masonry Vernacular	C	1947	Leon's Barbershop

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382 N. Main	ok2037	Art Moderne	C	1947	Old Fox Theater/Vacant
386 N. Main	ok2038	Masonry Vernacular	C	1947	Heavenly Stitches
388 N. Main	ok2039	Masonry Vernacular	C	1949	Pappy T's Antiques
432-440 N. Main	ok2040	Masonry Vernacular	C	1925	Dr.Carroll/Artco/Vacant
450-452 N. Main	ok2041	Masonry Vernacular	C	1926	Bakery/O'Malley Reporting
468-470 N. Main	ok2043	Masonry Vernacular	C	1926	PMI/Crestview Realtors
504-520 N. Main	ok2045	Masonry Vernacular	C	1936	Coast Transcriptions/Vacant
542-544 N. Main	ok2047	Masonry Vernacular	C	1930	Harvest Vineyard Church
594 N. Main	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	C	1954	Badcock Furniture
130 W. Oakdale	ok2160	Masonry Vernacular	C	1953	Christ Family Church
193 W. Oakdale	ok2061	Masonry Vernacular	C	1950	Christ Jesus Church
195-197 W. Oakdale	ok2162	Masonry Vernacular	C	1952	Brianco Pools
196 W. Pine	ok2166	Masonry Vernacular	C	1936	Harvest Vineyard Annex
197 W. Pine	ok2167	Masonry Vernacular	C	1930	Vacant
101 N. Wilson	ok2180	Masonry Vernacular	C	1951	Crestview Investment
172 E. Woodruff	ok2191	Masonry Vernacular	C	1929	Uptown Cafe
197 E. Woodruff	ok2192	Masonry Vernacular	C	1946	Wingard Apartments
120 W. Woodruff	ok2193	Masonry Vernacular	C	1935	Gulf Atlantic Publishing
146 W. Woodruff	ok2194	Frame Vernacular	C	1920	Alatex Office/Residence
153 W. Woodruff	ok2195	Masonry Vernacular	C	1937	Alatex Building/Vacant
158 W. Woodruff	ok2196	Masonry Vernacular	C	1946	Quick Print

**RESOURCE LIST – CONTRIBUTING SITE**

<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>TYPE/NAME</u>	<u>BUILT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION/USE TODAY</u>
600 Block of North Main Street	City Park (site)	1913	Park

**RESOURCE LIST – NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS**

<u>STREET ADDRESS</u>	<u>SITE FILE #</u>	<u>STYLE</u>	<u>C/NC</u>	<u>BUILT</u>	<u>BUSINESS NAME/USE TODAY</u>
111-113 N. Main	ok2008	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1938	Dent & Bent Grocery
188 N. Main	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1998	Accu Title
189-197 N. Main	ok2010	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1926	American Surplus/Desi's
201 N. Main	ok2015	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1930	Compassion Church
204 N. Main	ok2016	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1940	City Medical Warehouse
317 N. Main	ok3032	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1923	Scott Accounting Office
326 N. Main	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1997	Hide a Way Pizza
398 N. Main	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1956	Edward Jones Investment
402 N. Main	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1960	Okaloosa Title
422 N. Main	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1985	Powell Law Office
428 N. Main	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1970	Okaloosa Title Annex

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**CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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462 N. Main	ok2042	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1926	Better Bail Bonds
502 N. Main	ok2044	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1948	Professional Hearing
550 N. Main	ok2046	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1930	ABC Mortgage
127 W. Pine	ok2015	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1926	Elks Lodge
121 N. Wilson	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1999	CSX Railroad Office
148 E. Woodruff	ok2190	Masonry Vernacular	NC	1950	Old Gulf Power/Vacant
168 W. Woodruff	n/a	Masonry Vernacular	NC	2000	Holloway Insurance

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CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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### SUMMARY

The Crestview Commercial Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Community Planning and Development. The community's first plat was the Crestview Station map, drawn in 1881 by railroad surveyors.<sup>1</sup> By 1887, W.B. Wright, a wealthy sawmill operator, incorporated the Yellow River Railroad to build a logging railroad between Crestview and Florala, Alabama.<sup>2</sup> Once the railroad lines were complete, Crestview Station became a major trading hub that centered on the depot. In 1913 and 1914, plats established the layout of the city that guided development of the historic downtown. The train depot, crossroads location, and location of the seat of county government in 1917 prompted commercial expansion of the downtown that is reflected in the historic district.

### HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The State of Florida donated land to the Pensacola and Atlantic (P&A) Railroads, a land grant railroad owned by the Louisville & Nashville (L&N) Railroad, to allow the linking of West Florida to the Atlantic Ocean.<sup>3</sup> While mapping a route from Pensacola to Chattahoochee, surveyors for the railroad, Colonel W.D. Chipley, Major W.J. Van Kirk, and W.T. Wright, created a plat map in 1881 entitled Crestview Station, showing a depot and twenty blocks.

Crestview is located on high ground, and has been the location of intersecting Native-American trails and pioneer wagon roads. Today it is sometimes termed "The Hub City." With the building of the railroad in 1881, Crestview existed only as a train station. This railroad line was the first passenger and freight railroad track laid in Northwest Florida. In the winter of 1883-1884, the number of passengers transported by the train was in excess of 8,000. In 1887, a sawmill owner completed the Yellow River Railroad, another line from Crestview to Florala, Alabama.<sup>4</sup> With transportation now available for commercial export, the region became accessible to the timber industry, turpentine stills, and rosin (naval stores).<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>. Curenton, Betty, and Claudia Patten, Crestview: the Forkland, privately published, 2002, available from Mayor of Crestview's office, p. 30.

<sup>2</sup>. Ibid. p. 38.

<sup>3</sup>. Ibid. p. 38.

<sup>4</sup>. Curenton, Betty, and Claudia Patten, Crestview: the Forkland, privately published, 2002, available from Mayor of Crestview's office, p. 30.

<sup>5</sup>. Ibid. p. 39.

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CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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The 1881 plat of Crestview Station shows four structures that include three section houses and the station masters house.<sup>6</sup> A few settlers began coming to the area and homes were built near the station. In 1883 the Wardville Post Office north of Crestview Station was relocated to the train station and the new name Crestview Post Office was given. In 1883 the railroad completed the Pacific and Atlantic rail lines, and the post office served a population of 300, 50 of which were residents of Crestview Station. Hammer F. "Doc" Powell, the first resident of Crestview Station, was the postmaster and the stationmaster. He also constructed the stationmaster's house and later built the first hotel/boarding house named the Powell Hotel on the southeast corner of Woodruff Avenue and Main Street. The hotel, located at 189 - 197 N. Main, was replaced with the Lamar Hotel in 1926 and is now the site of Desi's Restaurant (see Photo #8). The hotel accommodated many railroad travelers. Mr. Powell also owned a livery stable at what is now 198 N. Main Street, which later became the location of the first City Pharmacy in 1928. If one individual could be considered founder of Crestview, it would be Hammer F. Powell<sup>7</sup>

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The coming of the railroad seemed to calm the fears of many would-be settlers who were afraid of the Native Americans, and by the late 1880s, the first big influx of population came to Northwest Florida. Many came in response to advertisements placed by the L&N Railroad in northern publications. The advertisements promoted the pleasurable climate and warm winters. Many came from Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina, and many arrived by ox cart. Attracted to the area were laborers for timber and naval store operations, cattlemen, herders, farmers, and merchants. As a consequence, most of the males in the early settlement worked either for the timber companies, stripping the land of its vast timbers, or for the railroad.<sup>8</sup> With the additional freight and passenger traffic the railroad generated, Crestview continued to grow, and by 1889 the census of the Crestview Station (Precinct 15) was 165 people. The 26.35 miles of Yellow River Railroad track between Crestview and Florala, Alabama, supported local timber operations. It was completed and opened in May of 1894 and was available to passenger and freight traffic.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Curenton, p. 30.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p. 31.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid., p. 32.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid. p. 38.



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CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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In 1890 the P&A railroad constructed a depot in Crestview and removed a boxcar that had been used as the station. A two-story building for use as a store and meeting room for the Farmer's Alliance was also constructed.<sup>10</sup> In response to the need for travelers' lodging and food, the Woodruff Café and Okaloosa Hotel were constructed on the northwest corner of the intersection of the railroad tracks and Pearl Street (now Ferdon Blvd./S.R. 85). These buildings were wood and brick construction and no longer exist. A bridge was constructed over the Shoal River three miles south of town that enabled train travelers to travel by ox and wagon to Camp Walton (Fort Walton Beach), and the beaches and summer dwellings in south Okaloosa County.<sup>11</sup>

Around 1900, in addition to the timber companies and sawmills, turpentine became a common business and remained a vital part of the area industry until about 1940. Housing communities were built around sawmills and their residents came to the Crestview Station commercial district to shop. The State of Florida built the Florida Midwest Highway that ran through Crestview Station on what is now Main Street. By 1912, the Crestview population had grown to 200 according to the R.L. Polk & Co. Florida Gazetteer and Business Directory.<sup>12</sup>

### HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

A second and third platting of the community were later recorded, the First Addition in 1913, and Second Addition in 1914, to Crestview (see attachment #1). Both were surveyed and platted by G.K. Grimes, engineer for The Crestview Land Company. H.J. Brett, C.B. Ferdon, and W.J. Rice formed the Crestview Land Company. They planned for a city by including in their plats a site for a courthouse and park areas. However, the parks were not dedicated to the public in the plats and the park designation is not included for Blocks 50, 51, 53, and E of a later plat surveyed by T.W. Coleman and recorded in 1929. The 1929 plat reflects the properties usages much as they are today and is referred to on most deeds within Section 17, as the "Original Town of Crestview."

Okaloosa County was created in 1915 after State Representative W.H. (Bill) Mapoles, with support from Senator B.H. Lindsey, submitted his bill creating Okaloosa County from parts of

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<sup>10</sup>. Ibid. p. 40.

<sup>11</sup>. Ibid. p. 44.

<sup>12</sup>. Ibid. p. 46-49.

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CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Santa Rosa and Walton Counties. Crestview was incorporated in 1916. The Okaloosa News Journal established its office in Crestview and began a campaign for Crestview to become the county seat. Crestview succeeded in winning the referendum vote against the towns of Baker and Milligan and became the County Seat in 1917.<sup>13</sup> The courthouse was built in 1920 on the 14-acre site designated as Block 60, "Civic Center" on the 1914 plat of Second Addition to Crestview.

The Crestview Land Company promoted the city by distributing pamphlets to entice people to move to Crestview. They touted the "pleasant climate, the right lands for cultivation, and the great source of lumber, fish, and game throughout the area." They pointed out that the city is the geographical center of the county with a railroad and highway center. They also noted the availability of a paved hard road to DeFuniak Springs (U.S. Highway 90), and a north/south road (State Road 85, formerly the Camp Walton Highway) to Camp Walton (later Fort Walton Beach) and Laurel Hill. They indicated that there was room for a thousand families, and that opportunities existed for "farming, stock raising, producing fruits, raising cane and making Florida syrup, for which there is unlimited demand at good prices." They added that the soil supported good sugar cane growth. They called the Crestview the "Hub City" for its crossroads location as the highest point on the Old Spanish Trail (U.S. Hwy. 90) between the Mississippi River and Atlantic Ocean.<sup>14</sup>

By 1918 the first Bank of Crestview established itself on Main Street. That building is gone but the steel vault remains in an attorney's office at 115 Courthouse Terrace. The first automobile dealership, a Ford dealership, was located on the corner of Main Street and Oakdale Avenue. This was a wooden building that no longer exists. In 1920 the American Legion Post was founded, and the first county jail was constructed on land designated as civic land on the plat of the First Addition to Crestview. This building no longer exists. The first movie house was constructed at Main Street and Oakdale Avenue (297 N. Main Street, now Crestview Plumbing and Hardware). Movies, then promoted as the "new marvel of the age," were shown using a Delco Light System battery.<sup>15</sup>

A number of early commercial buildings were constructed in the downtown during the 1910s-1920s. They housed a pecan packing company, a Farmer's Exchange, dry goods stores,

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<sup>13</sup>. Curenton, p. 64-67.

<sup>14</sup>. Ibid. p. 64-65.

<sup>15</sup>. Ibid. p. 83.

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CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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groceries, women's clothing, a mortuary, the Okaloosa News Journal newspaper, a barber shop and a drug store. By 1936, a postcard advertising the local Douglas Drug Company boasted that Crestview was a "fast growing, financially sound city of over 1,200." The card also stated that it is the county seat, has

modern convenience, natural 99½ per cent pure deep well water, accredited high school, three others in county; 5 churches, hospital, dentist, Kiwanis Club, American Legion, Masons, Garden and Woman's Clubs, Teachers Association, PTA; beautiful rustic community house fully equipped, fine dance floor, 2 newspapers, picture show, curb market, bank, 3 hotels, 2 boarding houses, 2 real estate dealers, 4 cafes, 3 beauty parlors, 1 shoe shop, 1 jewelry repair, 2 barber shops, 2 general hardware, 2 drug, 4 grocery and meat, 8 grocery, 6 dry goods and general merchandise stores, exclusive ladies dress and millinery shop, 2 pool rooms, 2 undertaking parlors, cleaning and dyeing plant, 2 auto sales and service stations, 4 garages, 3 wholesale gasoline plants, farmers and producers association, wholesale grocery and feed company, 1 sweeping compound and 1 insecticide factory, ice plant, novelty wood working shop, builders supply and planing mill, Blueberry canning plant and winery close by, Satsuma, pecans, cattle, finest beach resorts, add to county revenue.<sup>16</sup>

By 1935, the timberlands were stripped of a major portion of the harvestable timber. The naval stores and turpentine stills were producing less. The city fathers were looking to other sources of income for the citizens. Congressman Robert F. Sikes, a resident of the area, worked to direct various government appropriations for testing and development missions to Eglin Air Force Base in the south of Okaloosa County. With the onset of World War II, Eglin developed into a major armaments testing and training base. This had a great economic impact on Crestview and the communities to the south as well.<sup>17</sup>

An Authur Hodges moved to Crestview in 1900 with the Savage Turpentine Company and later became the mayor. He saw the decline in turpentine and lumber industries, and he began to seek other means of bringing employment to Crestview. He and the other city leaders saw the need for an industry in the community that would provide good paying jobs. They issued bonds in the amount of \$25,000 to construct a textile factory. The city's attorney and builder, Purl G. Adams, was the contractor for the project. The factory was completed and opened in 1937 with 200 employees beginning immediately, with the ability to expand employment to 600. The first tenant

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<sup>16</sup>. Curenton, p. 136.

<sup>17</sup>. Ibid., p. 168.

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CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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was Smith-Johnson, a garment company. The city also retained a portion of the building for City Hall, with the City Clerk's office being located in the northeast corner of the building. The city's fire horn still remains on the corner of the building as a reminder of when early warning systems were very different from today's. This two-story building with a 100-foot by 200-foot footprint was one of the largest single unit buildings for its time in the Florida Panhandle. To assist with lighting for the manufacturing, it contained 110 large windows. The opening of the factory and the new City Hall was a gala affair attended by local, county and state dignitaries.

Within the next two years the factory created approximately 400 additional jobs. This led to a housing shortage and the need for construction of affordable housing. Requests for local builders and property owners to construct affordable housing near the factory were met with enthusiasm. Even though Smith-Johnson, the original tenant of the factory building left after a couple of years, the Alalex Textile Company moved in soon thereafter and continued their operation until the 1980's. Rainbow Apparel then operated the factory until the mid 1990's. All occupants made a significant contribution to the financial stability of the citizens and businesses in and around the City of Crestview.<sup>18</sup> Mayor Hodges received state and federal aid for the City to pave 90 blocks of street and to improve the water and sewer system. With the construction of the factory site and the expansion of Eglin Air Force Base in the 1930's, Crestview had laid an economic foundation that carried it through the Twentieth Century. The Crestview Commercial Historic District still represents the economic heart and history of this small Florida Panhandle city.

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<sup>18</sup> Spann, Ann, "Okaloosa's First Factory Helped Develop Crestview," Baker Block Museum News, Vol. 1, Issue 4, 2002.

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CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The National Register boundary for the Crestview Commercial Historic District is roughly bounded on the south by Industrial Drive north of the railroad tracks, east by North Ferdon Boulevard (Hwy. 85), west by North Wilson Street, and north by James Lee Boulevard (Hwy. 90). (see scaled district map)

**BOUNDARIES JUSTIFICATION**

The historic commercial development occurred along the north/south corridor of Main Street. The boundary encompasses the concentration of commercial buildings historically associated with the City of Crestview.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

**CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC  
DISTRICT, CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA CO., FL**

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC LIST**

1. Crestview Commercial Historic District, Crestview
2. Okaloosa County, Florida
3. Dr. D. Godwin
4. 2003
5. City of Crestview, Mainstreet Program Office
6. View of Main Street from Industrial Drive, looking north
7. Photo #1 of 17

Items 1-5 are the same for the following photographs.

6. Main Street from Cedar Avenue, looking south
7. Photo #2 of 17

6. 172 Woodruff Ave., looking northwest
7. Photo #3 of 17

6. 153 Woodruff Ave., looking southeast
7. Photo #4 of 17

6. 158 Woodruff Ave., looking northeast
7. Photo #5 of 17

6. 179 Pine Ave., looking southeast
7. Photo #6 of 17

6. 102 Main St., looking west
7. Photo #7 of 17

6. 198 Main St., looking southwest
7. Photo #8 of 17

6. 146 Woodruff Ave., looking north
7. Photo #9 of 17

6. 269 Main St., looking east
7. Photo #10 of 17

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photo \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

**CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC  
DISTRICT, CRESTVIEW, OKALOOSA CO., FL**

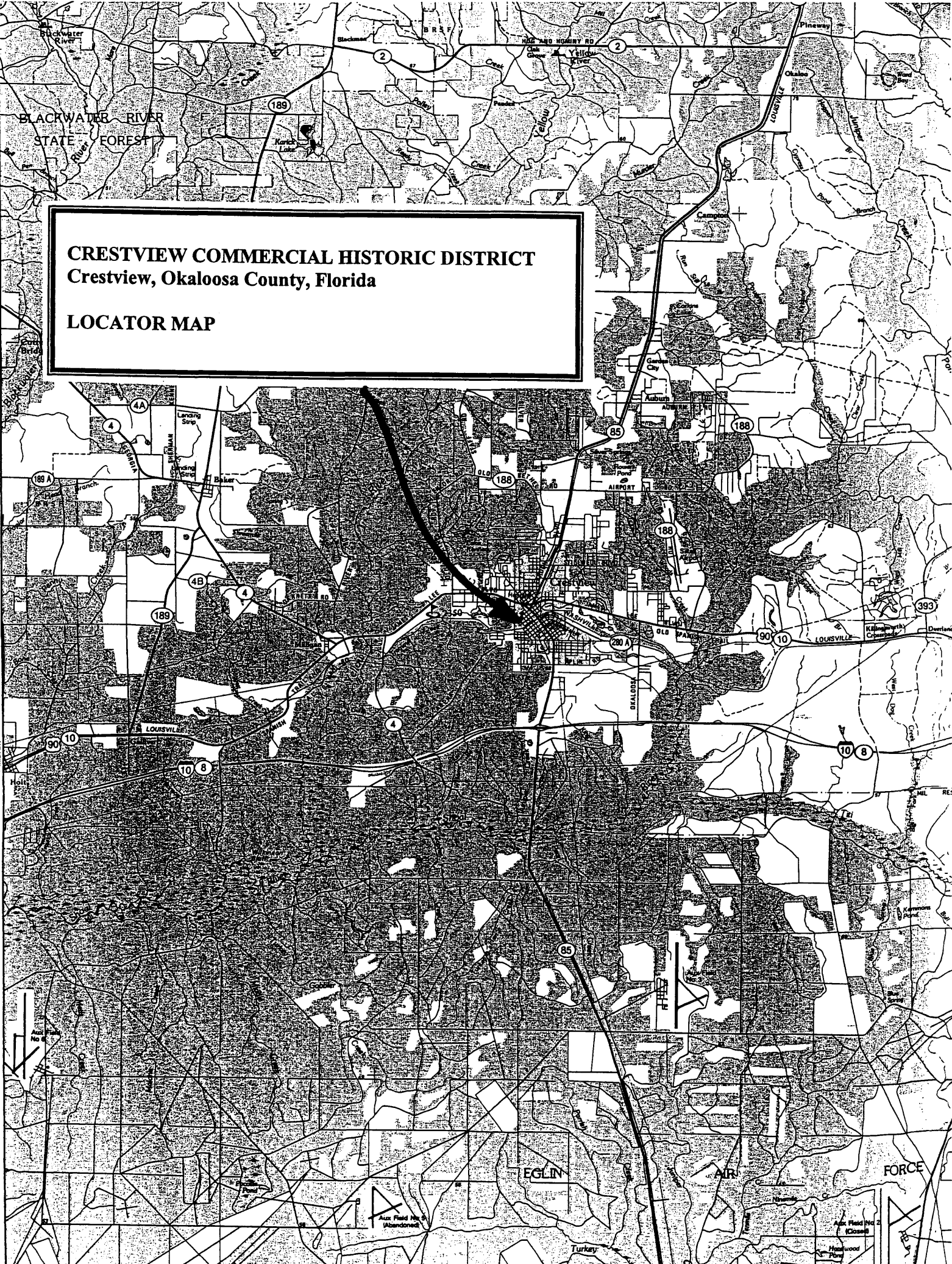
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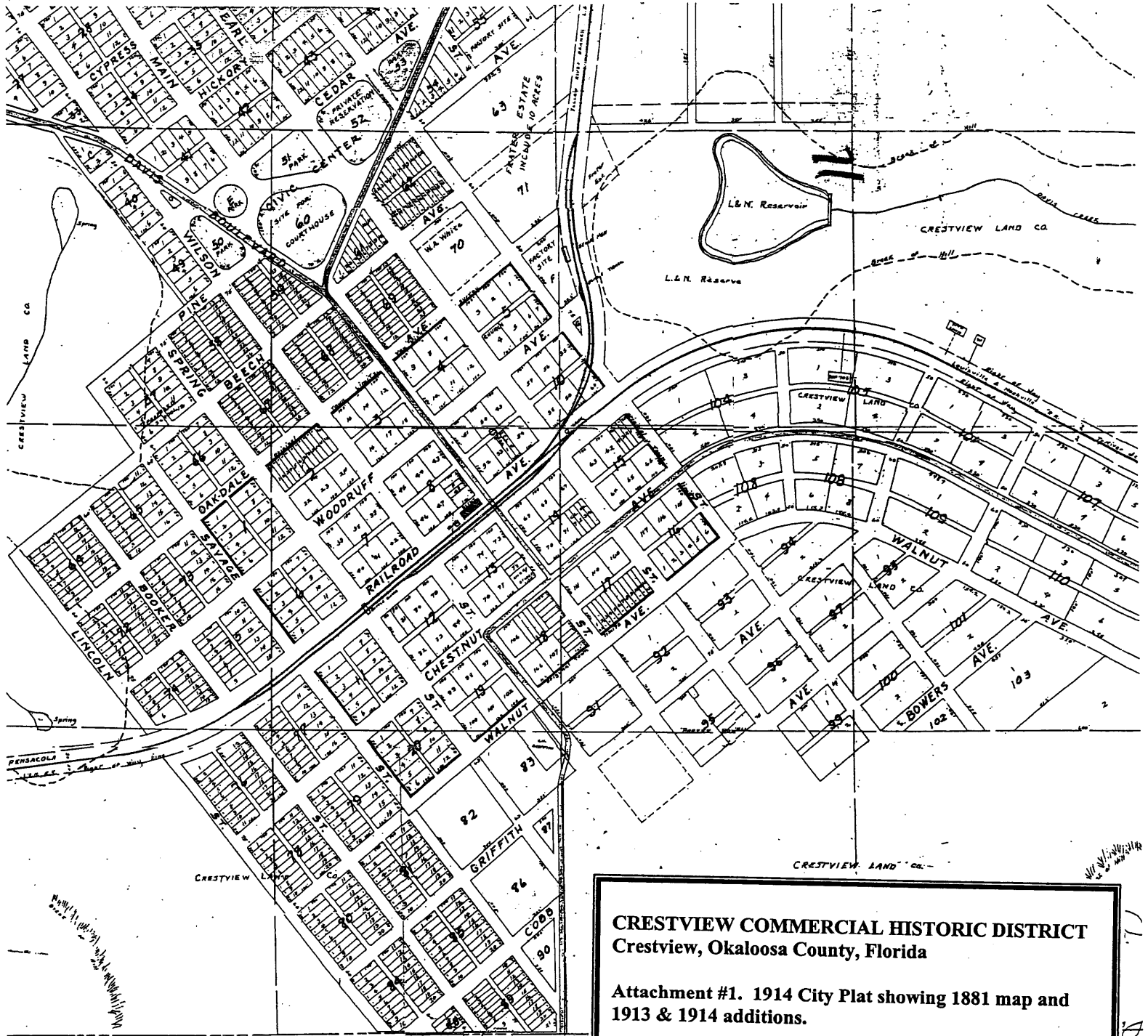
- 6. 296-298 Main St., looking west
- 7. Photo #11 of 17
  
- 6. 361 Main St., looking southeast
- 7. Photo #12 of 17
  
- 6. 382 Main St., looking west
- 7. Photo #13 of 17
  
- 6. 542 Main St., looking west
- 7. Photo #14 of 17
  
- 6. 114 Cedar Ave., looking northeast
- 7. Photo #15 of 17
  
- 6. Park, 600 block Main St., looking east
- 7. Photo #16 of 17
  
- 6. 189 Main St., non-contributing, looking northeast
- 7. Photo #17 of 17



**CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
**Crestview, Okaloosa County, Florida**

**LOCATOR MAP**





**CRESTVIEW COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
 Crestview, Okaloosa County, Florida

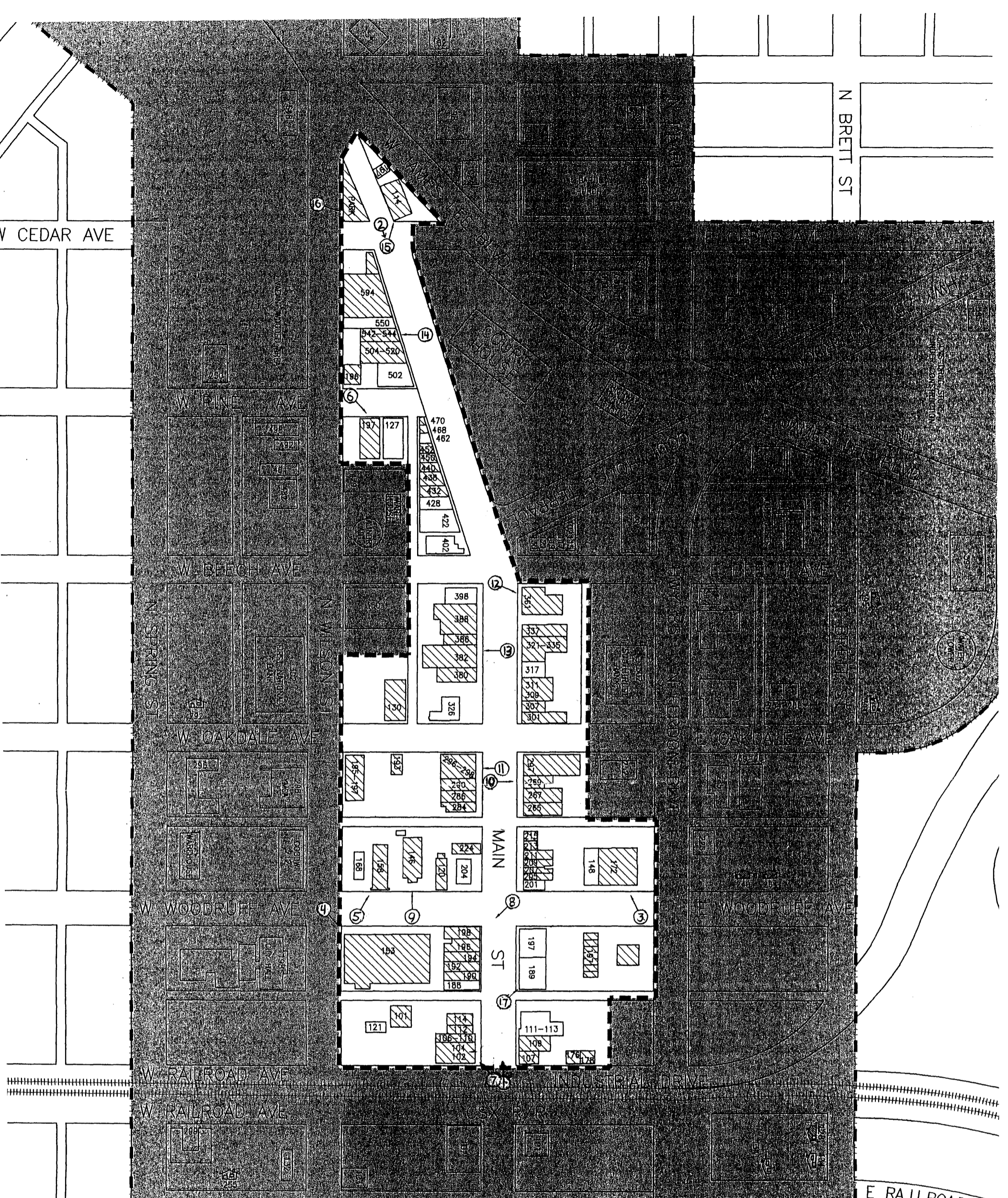
Attachment #1. 1914 City Plat showing 1881 map and 1913 & 1914 additions.







THE CRESTVIEW LAND COMPANY'S  
 Second Addition To Crestview  
 shown in red  
 MARCH 31, 1914. C.K. ARMES, E.I.G.R.

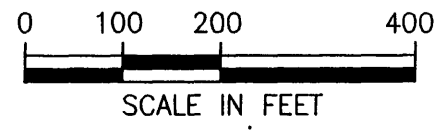
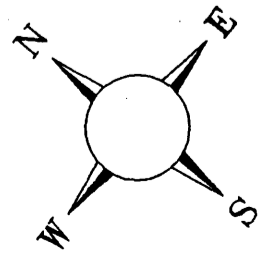
**MAP**  
 SHOWING  
 THE CRESTVIEW LAND COMPANY'S  
 FIRST ADDITION TO CRESTVIEW  
 THEIR ADJOINING PROPERTY IN SECTION 17.  
 AND VAN KIRK'S ORIGINAL PLAT OF CRESTVIEW  
 LOCATED IN SEC. 17 TP. 3 N. R. 23 W.  
 WALTON COUNTY FLORIDA.







-  HISTORIC DISTRICT LIMITS
-  HISTORIC SURVEY LIMITS
-  NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
-  CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
-  CONTRIBUTING BUILDING
-  PHOTO IDENTIFICATION NUMBER AND VIEW DIRECTION



CRESTVIEW HISTORIC  
BUSINESS DISTRICT  
THE CITY OF CRESTVIEW  
OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

JUNE 2005