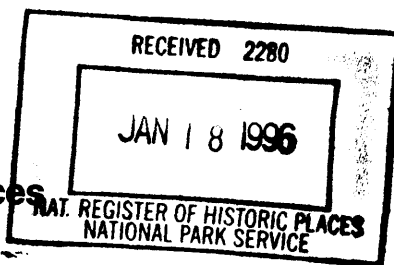


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



DEC 18 1995

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

Ala. Historical Commission

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 an 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 Marion Courthouse Square Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

Portions of Green, Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Franklin,
street & number Clements, Centreville and Monroe Streets N/A not for publication

city or town Marion N/A vicinity

state Alabama code AL county Perry code 105 zip code 36756

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.)

1/4/96

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

State of 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.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the
National Register

Date of Action

2/16/96

Name of Property

County and State

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)

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
72	38	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
74	38	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

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Domestic/secondary structure
- Domestic/hotel
- Commerce/Trade/professional
- Commerce/Trade/department store
- Government/courthouse
- Education/education related
- Religion/religious related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Domestic/secondary structure
- Commerce/Trade/professional
- Commerce/Trade/department store
- Government/courthouse
- Education/education related
- Religious/religious facility
- Funerary/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Greek Revival
- High Victorian Gothic
- Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation brick
- walls wood
- brick
- roof asphalt
- other concrete

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 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 # AL-766, AL-771
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Education
- Architecture
- Commerce
- Politics/Government
- Social History

Period of Significance

1836-1945

Significant Dates

1836
1856

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Parsons, B. F. (architect)
Didlake, James (builder)

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Alabama Historical Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 60 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>116</u>	<u>46981010</u>	<u>3611121710</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	<u>116</u>	<u>471021610</u>	<u>31611081510</u>

3	<u>116</u>	<u>471021715</u>	<u>361103410</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	<u>116</u>	<u>47100210</u>	<u>361101110</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 Jeff Mansell

organization Cahaba Trace Commission date August 1, 1994

street & number Route 1, Box 147 telephone (205) 665-7982

city or town Brierfield state AL zip code 35035

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 _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

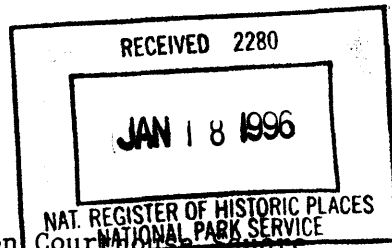
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 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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Marion Courthouse Square
Historic District
Perry County, Alabama

Section number 6,7,8, 10 Page 1

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions (cont'd)
Funerary/cemetery

Current Functions
Vacant/Not in use

7. Description
Architectural Classification (cont'd)
Bungalow/Craftsman
Queen Anne
Gothic Revival
Colonial Revival

8. Statement of Significance
Architect/Builder (cont'd)
Tarrant, L. Y. (builder)

10. Geographical Data
UTM References

5.	16	469705	3610760
	Zone	Easting	Northing

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Continuation SheetMarion Courthouse Square
Historic District
Perry County, AlabamaSection number 7 Page 2**Architectural Description**

The Marion Courthouse Square Historic District contains residential, educational, commercial, governmental and religious buildings and structures, and other resources associated with the development of the city of Marion and of Marion Female Seminary. Comprised of approximately 60 acres and located entirely within the city limits of Marion, the district contains the town's historic commercial and business area, as well as three historic church buildings, a collection of mid to late 19th and early 20th century residential architecture, and an educational complex which includes the Marion Female Seminary building (NRHP, 10/4/73). The focal point of the district is the courthouse square containing a c. 1855 Greek Revival courthouse, one of only four antebellum courthouses still in use as such in the state of Alabama. The square is bounded on the east and west by Pickens and Washington Streets and on the north and south by Green and Jefferson/Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, respectively. Washington Street, the western boundary of the square, is Marion's principal north-south thoroughfare. To the south of the courthouse square district lies the Judson College (NRHP, 2/3/93) and West Marion (NRHP, 4/22/93) Historic Districts and to the west lies the Green Street Historic District (NRHP, 5/30/79), which are mainly residential in nature. The Marion Courthouse Square Historic District clearly reflects the importance the early citizens of Marion placed on education and their commitment to providing an institution of higher learning for women. In addition, the district clearly reflects the economic, cultural, and architectural development of the city of Marion from its earliest period to the present.

Buildings and structures in the Marion Courthouse Square Historic District are located on streets with sidewalks and curbs which in some areas, are lined with a wealth of Southern flora, including varieties of pine, magnolia, oak and dogwood. The earliest major streets, Washington and Green Street, for example, are major thoroughfares which connect Marion with the nearest county seats of Centreville and Greensboro. These major thoroughfares are bisected by smaller cross streets such as Monroe, Clements and Jackson.

The older commercial structures are located along the southern block of Washington Street, the block just off the courthouse square, and along Jefferson/Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, the southern side of the square. This is traditionally recognized as the heart of the Marion commercial and business district. The 111-115 commercial block on Jefferson Street and the corner building known as the Thompson Agency are two of the oldest structures on the courthouse square, both date to approximately 1860. The western side of south Washington Street includes a series of buildings such as Caregivers, Western Auto, Raglands, and The Flower Pot which were constructed approximately 1870. Nathan Harris' Sons, Marion's main dry goods establishment, is located on the corner of Washington and Jefferson/Martin Luther King Blvd. in two buildings which date from the mid 19th century. All of these early buildings are typically rather plain in appearance with flat roofs hidden behind low brick parapets; they feature minimal decorative detailing such as dentil work along the cornice. The western side of the courthouse square is dominated by the Old King Hotel, a two story brick veneered structure and a series of buildings which were constructed in the late 19th and early 20th century.

The northern block of Washington Street, the one block north of the courthouse square, is lined on both sides by early 20th century commercial buildings, reflecting an upturn in the local economy during the early 1900s. These commercial buildings, such as Mickelboro's (ca. 1912) and

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Historic District
Perry County, AlabamaSection number 7 Page 3

the W. H. Mason blocks (ca. 1913), feature more exuberant brick veneered exteriors with curved parapets, recessed panels, and decorative pilasters, masonry panels, and stringcourses. The Fitts and Brown law office (ca. 1890), located on the northern side of the square, features Victorian detailing such as the decorative turned posts and banisters, the pressed tin roof, and the dominant front facing gable. The Marion Bank and Trust Company, ca. 1912, located at the northeast corner of Washington and Green, is perhaps the district's most outstanding example of commercial Neo-classical architecture with full height Ionic columns, a heavy denticulated and bracketed cornice, and decorative masonry cartouche. Both the Perry County Jail (ca. 1910) and the Marion City Post Office (ca. 1935) are Colonial Revival buildings. The square even contains one remaining residential building, Structure #95, ca. 1928, a bungalow in the Arts and Crafts style.

To the west of the courthouse square, located one block away, is the Perry County High School complex which contains Perry County's most outstanding Greek Revival building, the Marion Female Seminary building, ca. 1850 (NRHP, 10/4/ 73) as well as a Neo-classical gymnasium, a brick veneered Arts and Crafts building, and a large Academic Revival structure. After the Seminary closed in 1915, the building was purchased by the Perry County Board of Education for use as a high school. The surrounding buildings were constructed in the 1930s to form an educational complex.

In addition to the school buildings, the district contains the Marion Methodist Church, an outstanding example of High Victorian Gothic architecture, and the Mt. Zion Church, located on the southeast corner of the courthouse square, itself a good example of vernacular religious architecture. Located on Clements Street, just east of Washington Street and north of the courthouse square, is St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church, ca. 1908, of Carpenter Gothic architecture, a late example of a style prevalent in the Black Belt and popular for Episcopal churches in the antebellum period in Alabama.

The residential architecture found in the courthouse square historic district dates mainly from the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries, primarily Tudor Revival, Arts and Crafts, and pyramidal roofed cottages with Victorian detailing. The majority of late 19th and early 20th century architecture is found on north Centreville Street and along east Monroe and Clements Streets, just north of the courthouse square. Tudor Revival dwellings such as the T. O. Harris and the Miller House, both ca. 1925, are typically brick veneered dwellings with multiple gable roofs. Arts and Crafts bungalows such as the Moore House, the Episcopal Rectory, and 202 Pickens street and pyramidal roofed dwellings such as the Graves (ca. 1895) and Armstrong-Walker (1899) houses are of frame construction with hipped roofs, weatherboard exteriors, and porches with banisters, turned posts and decorative bargeboard and shinglework. The Scott-Hanna-Moore house (ca. 1834) on Monroe Street is perhaps the most exuberant Victorian dwelling with expanses of spindlework, turned posts, banisters, paired brackets, corbelled chimneys, and a porch gazebo. These dwellings reflect an economic recovery taking place in Marion in the early 1900s through the 1920s. There are three structures, however, which are significant examples of antebellum architecture including the Blackburn-Whitman house, ca. 1848, a Greek Revival cottage with Italianate detailing resting on a full basement; the Ballard-Haynie-Barnes home, ca. 1845, a double pile plan with sawnwork supports and banisters; and the Love-Logan house, ca. 1850, a cottage with a Greek Revival porch. The Blackburn-Whitman house is also a good example of an antebellum townhouse which retains two contributing outbuildings, a barn and servant's house, located on the property.

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Marion Courthouse Square
Historic District
Perry County, Alabama

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In addition to buildings and structures, the District also includes one object, a granite monument recognizing the contributions of artist Nicola Marschall who designed the "Stars and Bars" as well as the naval uniform for the Confederate States of America. The monument is located on the southeast corner of the courthouse square. Also, located within the district boundaries is St. Wilfrid's cemetery, adjacent to St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church and containing the graves of 77 Civil War soldiers. During the year 1873-74, the Ladies Memorial Association marked each grave with a marble headstone, inscribed with the soldier's name where identity could be determined. The giant redwood tree, considered to be the largest of its type in Eastern America, was brought from California by Mrs. Porter King and planted as a living memorial to those who died during the Civil War. Also buried in this cemetery is William Brooks, president of the Alabama Secession Convention of 1861. St. Wilfrid's Church and the cemetery are considered to be a contributing site.

The Marion Courthouse Square Historic District contains approximately 60 acres and 72 contributing buildings, 38 non-contributing buildings, 1 contributing site and 1 contributing object. Seven contributing buildings and 4 non-contributing buildings are typically outbuildings such as barns, sheds, smokehouses and garages. One building, the Marion Female Seminary, is already listed in the National Register and is not included in the total number of contributing buildings.

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of the Marion Courthouse Square Historic District, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property or district.

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Historic District
Perry County, AlabamaSection number 7 Page 5**Courthouse Square Historic District
Marion, Perry County, Alabama
Structure Inventory**

The inventory of the Marion Courthouse Square Historic District contains the listing of 74 contributing resources and 38 non-contributing resources. One building, the Marion Female Seminary, has been previously listed in the National Register and is therefore not included as a contributing resource. Contributing resources were those buildings, sites, structures and objects that retained a high degree of integrity in regard to design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and setting. Non-contributing resources refer to those buildings and structures which have suffered a loss of integrity in regard to design, materials, workmanship, and setting and do not contribute to the overall feeling of the district in regard to the period of significance. The term "typical storefront" used throughout this inventory refers to a commercial building with a facade consisting of a slightly recessed entrance flanked by large plate glass display windows. Contributing outbuildings included barns, smokehouses, and servant's houses which were contemporary with the principal building. These buildings are typically of frame construction and have simple gable or hip roofs. They are mainly utilitarian and feature very little decoration or detailing.

Washington Street

1. **Tri-County Eye Care** (c. 1910) 418 South Washington Street. Three story commercial building, masonry construction, simple shed roof with a stepped parapet on either side, exterior covered in stucco, first floor is covered with wooden veneer paneling, original facade arrangement obscured, replacement metal casement windows on second floor, wraparound porch with asbestos shingled roof supported by simple metal poles. (NC)
2. **Alabama Beverage Commission** (c. 1960) 423 South Washington Street. One story commercial structure, brick veneer exterior wall material, typical modern storefront. (NC)
3. **Marion Publishing Company** (c. 1910) 420 South Washington Street. Two story commercial building, brick construction, decorative bands of masonry and brick dentil work beneath and along cornice, first floor has been covered in stucco, three bays on first floor including central double leaf entrance, four bays on second floor featuring slightly arched window openings. (C)
4. **Caregivers** (c. 1870) 419 South Washington Street. Commercial building, one story, brick construction, older store with metal siding on the facade. (NC)

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Marion Courthouse Square
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5. **Western Auto** (c. 1870) 417 South Washington Street. Commercial building, one story, brick construction with typical multi-pane storefront, large asbestos shingled overhang runs across entire facade, formerly two stores combined into one, older store with modern facade. (NC)
6. **Turner Law Office/H & R Block** (c. 1910) 416 South Washington Street. One story brick commercial building which has been covered by modern unsympathetic metal facade. (NC)
7. **Betty's Beauty Salon** (c. 1870) 413 South Washington Street. Double commercial block, one story, brick construction, two typical storefronts, decorative brick stringcourses beneath cornice, double leafed entrances. (C)
8. **Lena's Sweet Kitchen Restaurant/Raglands** (c. 1870) 411 & 409 South Washington Street. Double commercial block, one story, brick construction, typical storefronts, brick dentil work along cornice, decorative brick recessed panels on each facade, metal awnings. (C)
9. **Barnes Law Office/Marion Times Standard Office** (c. 1910) 414 South Washington Street. Double commercial block, one story, brick construction, two typical storefronts. (C)
10. **The Flower Pot** (c. 1870) 407 South Washington Street. One story commercial building, brick construction, typical storefront, decorative brick cornice detail. (C)
11. 410 South Washington Street (c. 1860) Two story brick commercial building, front facing gable roof hidden behind stepped gable, three bay facade, central single leaf entrance, heavy masonry lintels. (C)
12. **Temple Lodge** (c. 1870) 405 South Washington Street. A one story commercial building facade obscured by modern unsympathetic renovation, modern brick veneered exterior wall material, single leaf entrance, columned porch. (NC)
13. **Nathan Harris' Sons** (c. 1870) 403 South Washington Street. Two story brick commercial building, decorative brick stringcourses on upper floor, typical storefront on first floor, two arched windows on upper floor. (C)
14. **Nathan Harris' Sons** (c. 1860) 401 South Washington Street. Older section of two store complex, once connected to hotel complex on next block by second floor walkway, two story brick building on southwest corner of courthouse square, corner of Washington and Jefferson Streets, decorative brick stringcourses along cornice, four bay second story, 6/6 double hung sash windows, first floor featured typical modern storefront and a double leafed entrance providing access to upper story. (C)

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15. **King Hotel/Old Hotel Antiques Mall** (c. 1921) 321 Washington Street. Two story structure resting on full basement. This building houses business on the first floor and an antique mall on the first and second. The hotel was converted into apartments in the mid-twentieth century (c. 1945) and it was at that time that the third floor was removed. Large two story brick veneered building with four typical storefronts on the first floor, nine bay facade of paired windows on the second floor. (C)
 16. **Bills Dollar Store/Cornerstone Assembly of God** (c.1910) 315 Washington Street. Aluminum store front obscures facade of turn-of-the century era building, two story modern storefront along first floor. (NC)
 17. **Wild Horse Western Wear/Maybelle Webb's Odds and Ends** (c. 1905) 313 Washington Street. Two story building which may be earlier structure (1880s) which underwent a renovation in 1905 which included the application of ceramic tile to the former brick facade. During the renovation, the ceiling of the first floor was opened to the second floor which became an oval shaped balcony. The facade features four window bays over a typical storefront. Windows have decorative hood moldings.(C)
 18. **College City Drugs** (c. 1950) 307 Washington Street. A modern storefront on what may be an earlier (late 19th/early 20th century) structure. (NC)
 19. **Radio Shack** (c. 1870) 303-301 Washington Street. Two story double commercial structure, originally two separate stores which have been joined, facade covered in brick c. 1925 renovation, decorative recessed brick panels, five bay upper story over two modern storefronts. (C)
 20. **Perry County Courthouse** (c. 1855) Principal facade on Washington Street, Courthouse Square bounded by Washington, Jefferson, Pickens, and Green streets. Designed by B. F. Parsons, built by James Didlake and L. Y. Tarrant. Courthouse occupies the entire block; it is the third courthouse to occupy this site. Greek Revival style structure with twin pedimented Ionic hexastyle porticoes on the East/West facades, brick construction with heavy stone lintels, full-length cast-iron balcony on west front with clock in tympanum above denticulated cornice, originally featured bowed pavilions midway on lateral walls to accomodate twin spiral stairways; central hall plan with cross hall on first floor, large courtroom on second floor. Altered and enlarged c. 1954 with the addition of two story wings on lateral walls, concealing semicircular bows. Originally unpainted until 1954 when building was painted white. HABS (C)
 21. **Marion Bank and Trust Building** (c. 1912) 210 Washington Street. Two story commercial structure, Neo-classical style, brick veneer exterior wall material, entrance set at an angle on street corner, entrance framed by two full height Ionic columns supporting a heavy denticulated and bracketed cornice wrapping around the entire building, decorative masonry cartouche resting atop brick parapet which surmounts the cornice, first floor features multi-pane windows containing glass

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Historic District
Perry County, AlabamaSection number 7 Page 8

- bricks, second floor features tripart windows, decorative stringcourses and diamond shaped brick work. (C)
22. **Clover Farm Building** (c. 1890) 211 Washington Street. One story commercial building, brick construction, originally two separate stores which were later joined, corner entrance added c. 1912 when bank across the street was built with a corner entrance, entrance later enclosed, first storefront is typical while second storefront features decorative recessed brick panels. (C)
23. 213 Washington Street (c. 1890) One story commercial building, recessed brick panels, denticulated brick cornice, multi-pane transom, typical storefront. (C)
24. **W. H. Mason Store** (c. 1913) 215 Washington Street. One story brick commercial building, masonry nameplate and date of construction resting above typical storefront. (C)
25. **Jimmy Cleveland, D. D. S.** (c. 1913) 235 Washington Street. One story brick commercial building, single entrance, multi-pane window. (C)
26. **Doziers'** (c. 1912) 237 Washington Street. One story double commercial block, parapet above masonry stringcourse, band of multi-pane transoms above twin storefronts. (C)
27. **Mickleboro's Inc.** (c. 1912) 212-214 Washington Street. One story double commercial structure, brick veneer exterior wall material, highly decorative brick work on corner and central pilasters, masonry nameplate, decorative brick panels, upper transom lights above twin storefronts have been covered. (C)
28. **A. J. Marshall Building** (c. 1914) 234-238 Washington Street. One story triple commercial building with a highly decorative Spanish styled brick parapet, recessed decorative brick panels and brick work on four attached pilasters, masonry nameplate, band of multi-pane transom lights visible on one storefront, enclosed on other two. (C)
29. **W. H. Mason Building/Garage-Service Station** (c.1914) 245 Washington Street. One story triple bay service station, the building is designed to resemble a triple commercial block, second and third bays are recessed at an angle to allow for the accessibility of automobiles, first bay is simple storefront, minimal detailing. (C)
30. **Marion-Perry County Library** (c. 1975) 232 Washington Street. One story frame, brick veneered structure, hipped roof of asbestos shingles, five bay facade, central single leaf entrance set in door surround with full transom and sidelights, central entrance with pedimented portico supported by paired Tuscan columns. (NC)

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31. **Marion United Methodist Church** (c. 1887) 120 Washington Street. Large two story brick building, gable front with four story tower with spire set at northwest corner, central double leaf entrance with flanking arched windows, triple windows set above primary entrance, secondary entrance at base of tower, decorative slate roof, triple grouped buttresses located at corners of main block. (C) modern sympathetic parish hall located to the rear. (NC)
32. **Methodist Church Parsonage** (c. 1940) 110 Washington Street. One story, Tudor Revival dwelling, side gable roof, interior and exterior chimneys, brick veneer exterior wall material, two gable roof dormer windows with diamond shaped panes, six bay facade with central single leaf entrance, entrance-width portico with end brick piers. (C) Modern garage (NC)
33. 108 Washington Street (c. 1935) One story, Tudor Revival style dwelling, side gable roof of asphalt shingles, interior end chimney, brick veneer exterior wall material, gable roof dormer, three bay facade, single leaf entrance in front projecting gable. (C)
34. 106 Washington Street -Corner of Clement and Washington Streets (c. 1880) One story frame T-cottage, cross gable roof of asphalt shingle with front facing projecting gable, full wraparound porch with shed roof supported by posts on low brick piers, entire porch is glassed-in, single leaf entrance with multipane transom and sidelights. (C) metal carport (NC)
35. **Jesse Ward House** (c. 1940) 107 Washington Street. One story Tudor Revival style dwelling with cross gable roof of asphalt shingles, five bay facade with paired windows, single leaf entrance in gable roof projections, interior chimneys. (C)
36. 105 Washington Street (c. 1940) One story Tudor Revival style dwelling, cross gable roof of tin shingles, interior chimney, single leaf entrance in gable roof projection. (C)
37. 103 Washington Street (c. 1970) One story ranch dwelling, five bay facade, single leaf entrance, shed roof entry porch. (NC) Concrete block garage. (NC)
38. 101 Washington Street (c. 1970) One story brick veneered ranch style dwelling. (NC)

Centreville Street

39. 311 Centerville Street (c. 1900) One story frame dwelling with gable on hip roof, pyramidal form, front decorative gable with vent, three bay facade, central single leaf entrance with full transom and sidelights, full width shed roof porch with six decorative supports. (C)

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40. **Love-Logan House** (c. 1850) 309 Centreville Street. One story frame Greek Revival cottage, reputedly partial log construction, side gable roof of asphalt shingles, central hall double pile plan, double exterior end chimneys, five bay facade, full width porch with four boxed supports on low brick piers connected by low brick balustrade, porch features central decorative gable, side porch across side wing. (C)
 41. **Armstrong-Walker House** (c. 1899) 302 Centreville Street. One and a half story frame dwelling with hip roof of asphalt shingles, central gable roof dormer with multipane light with flanking vents, three bay facade, boxed bay window in first bay, central single leaf entrance with full multi-pane transom and sidelights, paired windows with 30/1 double hung sash windows. (C) Frame garage (C) and shed building contemporary with the house. (C)
 42. 303 Centreville Street (c. 1940) One story frame dwelling, brick veneer exterior wall material, front facing gable roof, side chimney, three bay facade, central single leaf entrance, small gable roof entry porch supported by two tall brick piers. (C)
 43. 301 Centreville Street (c. 1940) One story frame bungalow, brick veneer exterior wall material, side gable roof with interior chimney, four bay facade, single leaf entrance, three quarter width porch supported by two brick piers, low brick balustrade. (C)
 44. **Edwards Used Cars** (c. 1980) 210 Centreville Street. One story metal building. (NC)
 45. 208 Centreville Street (c. 1970) One story brick veneered ranch style dwelling, hipped roof, four bay facade, single leaf entrance, resting on full basement. (NC)
 46. **Ballard-Haynie-Barnes House, "Jubilee"** (c. 1845) 209 Centreville Street. Two story frame dwelling, hipped roof with asphalt shingles, double pile central hall plan, three bay facade, single leaf entrance and sidelights, full height gallery with balcony, sawnwork pilasters, bannisters and arches, covered in aluminum siding. (C)
 47. 207 Centreville Street (c. 1925) One story Tudor Revival style dwelling, side gable roof with double front facing gables, interior chimney, four bay facade, single leaf arched entrance, former side porch now enclosed. (C)
 48. **Graves House** (c. 1895) 206 Centreville Street. One story frame dwelling, hip roof, interior chimney, central decorative gable roof dormer embellished with bargeboard, three bay facade, projecting bay window in first bay, central double leaf entrance with transom, full width shed roof porch with six decorative ironwork supports. Attached concrete block carport. (C)

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49. **T. O. Harris House** (c. 1925) 205 Centreville Street. One story Tudor Revival style bungalow, brick veneer exterior wall material, cross gable roof of asphalt shingles, four bay facade, single leaf entrance in front facing gable projection, paired windows, arched vent in front gable, side porch. (C)
 50. **Miller House** (c. 1925) 203 Centreville Street. One story, Tudor Revival style bungalow, cross gable roof of tin shingle material, exterior end chimney, three bay facade, central single leaf entrance in projecting gable, side porch with arched openings. (C) Frame garage. (C)
 51. 204 Centreville Street (c. 1920) One story frame bungalow, front facing gable roof, three bay facade, single leaf entrance, wraparound porch supported by tapered posts on low brick balustrade. (C)
 52. 107 Centreville Street. (c. 1962) One story, modern ranch style dwelling, side gable roof, four bay facade, central single leaf entrance. (NC)
 53. **Kirk Brown Funeral Home** (c. 1962) 105 Centreville Street. One story modern commercial building, steel and concrete construction, flat roof, multi-bay facade. (NC)
 54. **Blackburn-Whitman House** (c. 1848) 103 Centreville Street. Greek Revival raised cottage on full basement, cross-hipped roof of tin shingles, exterior end chimneys, five bay facade, central single leaf entrance, full multipane transom and sidelights, large 9/9 double hung sash windows, central pedimented portico with paired boxed supports, paired decorative brackets located along cornice. (C) Frame barn (C) and servants' dwelling (C), both contemporary with main house.
 55. 101 Centreville Street (c. 1928) One story, brick veneer Tudor Revival cottage with cross gable roof of tin shingle, interior chimney, three bay facade, single leaf entrance, projecting bay with arched entrance, paired windows. (C)
 56. 104 Centreville Street (c. 1960) One story brick veneer ranch house, side gable roof, single leaf entrance, small entry porch. (NC)
 57. **Church of Christ** (c. 1970) 102 Centreville Street. Modern one story brick veneered religious structure, front facing gable roof, plain facade. (NC)

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Perry County, AlabamaSection number 7 Page 12**Monroe Street**

58. **Marion High School Gymnasium** (c. 1935) 206 West Monroe Street. Neo-classical detailing. One story brick veneered gymnasium, hipped roof, three bay facade, central bay is comprised of triple double doors with transoms, bas-relief panels rest above each transom, triple entrance doors framed by classical pilasters supporting classical pediment, three-quarter width concrete steps, metal window casings. (C)
59. **Marion Female Seminary Building/Perry County High School** (c. 1851/ remodeled 1915) 202 West Monroe Street. Large rectangular brick building, hipped roof with full height portico supported by four Doric masonry columns covered with stucco. Originally the building was three stories in height but after acquisition by the Perry County Board of Education, the structure was remodelled into a two story building. Nine bay facade, central double leaf entrance. **HABS/NR**
60. **Perry County Board of Education/Perry County High School** (c. 1930) 201 West Monroe Street. One story Academic Revival educational building, brick veneer exterior wall material, five part plan, slightly projecting central block features a recessed entrance behind an arched opening and paired windows, flanking wings with bands of windows, attached to slightly projecting end pavilions with arched windows. (C)
61. **Perry County High School Annex** (c. 1930) 202 West Monroe Street. One story Craftsman bungalow, brick veneer exterior wall material, hipped roof with front facing projecting gable, three bay facade, central single leaf entrance, small gable roof entrance porch supported by paired posts. (C)
62. **Alabama Gas Company** (c. 1975) 108 West Monroe. One story masonry building, flat roof, large plate glass windows. (NC)
63. 109 West Monroe Street (c. 1980) One story frame, modern house, three bay, single leaf entrance, paired windows, central gable roof porch. (NC)
64. 107 West Monroe Street (c. 1980) One story frame, modern house, three bay, single leaf entrance, paired windows, central gable roof porch. (NC)
65. 104 West Monroe Street (c. 1970) One story Colonial Revival style dwelling, brick veneer exterior wall material, five bay facade, single leaf entrance. (NC)
66. 105 West Monroe Street (c. 1860) Sanborn maps indicate a structure similar in massing and form to this dwelling as early as 1884. The structure has been altered but may possibly be an antebellum dwelling. One story frame, hipped roof, partial width recessed porch supported by low brick piers, four bay facade, single leaf entrance. (C)

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67. 103 West Monroe Street (c. 1940) Two story apartment building, frame construction, hipped roof, covered in asbestos shingles, three over four bay facade, two single leaf entrances, 6/6 double hung sash windows on upper floor, 1/1 on lower floor. (C)
68. **Scott-Hanna-Moore House** (c. 1834) 102 West Monroe Street. Originally constructed near Scott Station by Samuel Madison Scott, dismantled in 1904 and brought by wagon train to Marion where it was reconstructed. Large two story frame dwelling, low pitched hipped roof, tin shingles, double interior end chimneys, central hall double pile plan, five bay first floor facade with central entrance with multipane transom and sidelights, 6/6 double hung sash windows, second floor is three bays wide with 2/2 double hung sash windows, full width wraparound porch with full height gable roof entrance portico, porch culminates in gazebo, extensive use of decorative spindlework, turned posts and bannisters, paired brackets, corbelled chimneys. The difference in the number of upper and lower bays on the facade and the window pane configuration infer that the house was originally one story when it was moved. The gazebo was also a later addition (1910) according to Sanborn maps. (C) Garage (C) and smokehouse (C) both c. 1904.
69. **Moore House** (c. 1925) 103 East Monroe Street. One and a half story frame dwelling with side gable roof of asphalt shingles, central hipped roof dormer, exterior end chimneys, decorative brackets, four bay facade with recessed first bay, single leaf entrance in third bay, paired windows, wraparound porch with engaged roof, tapered posts on low brick piers. (C)
70. 107 East Monroe Street (c. 1970) One story brick veneered modern dwelling, five bay facade, hipped roof. (NC)
71. 108 East Monroe Street (c. 1950) One story brick veneered ranch style dwelling, three bay facade, single leaf entrance. (NC)
72. 110 East Monroe Street (c. 1900) One story pyramidal form dwelling, hipped roof, central dormer, three bay facade, central single leaf entrance, paired windows, wraparound porch supported by tapered posts on low brick piers, tin shingle roof material. (C)

Clements Street

73. **St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church** (c. 1908) 502 Clement Street. Reminiscent of the Carpenter Gothic churches constructed in the antebellum Black Belt. One story frame religious structure, front facing gable roof, asphalt shingles, three bay facade, central projecting gable roof vestibule, double leaf entrance with arched transom, stained glass arched windows, rear sympathetic addition. Adjacent to church is historic cemetery which includes graves of 77 soldiers from the Civil War and Albert Brooks, president of Alabama Secession Convention, 1861. (One Contributing Site)

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74. **Episcopal Rectory** (c. 1928) 504 Clement Street. One story frame bungalow with cross gable on hip roof, asphalt shingles, interior chimney, six bay facade, central single leaf entrance with transom, paired 9/1 double hung sash windows, first three bays compose side wing with single leaf entrance, partial width porch with gable on hipped roof, porch supported by four tall brick piers. (C)
75. **Fitzgerald House** (c. 1890) 506 Clement Street. One story frame T-cottage, cross gable roof of standing seam metal, five bay facade, central single leaf entrance with transom, projecting bay, partial width porch with turned posts, decorative brackets and bannisters, interior chimneys. (C)

Pickens Street

76. 202 Pickens Street (c. 1920) One story frame Craftsman dwelling, front facing gable roof, asphalt shingles, three bay facade, single leaf entrance with transom, paired windows, full width engaged roof porch, end brick piers, multipane light in front gable, decorative stickwork and brackets. (C)
77. 204 Pickens Street (c. 1980) One story metal Butler building used by county and city services. (NC)
78. **Perry County Health Department** (c. 1960) 206 Pickens Street. One story brick veneer structure, front facing gable roof, slightly recessed entrance. (NC)
79. **Perry County Jail** (c. 1910) 210 Pickens Street. Two story brick veneered structure, hipped roof, seven bay facade, central single leaf entrance set in masonry, Colonial Revival door surround, masonry stringcourse. (C)
80. **Melton Body and Paint Building** (c. 1920) 302 Pickens Street. Large one story former automotive dealership and mechanic garage, brick and steel construction, brick parapet hiding arched roof configuration, three bay facade of double garage doors. (C)
81. **Marion Post Office** (c. 1935) 304 Pickens Street. Colonial Revival style - WPA project brick veneer exterior, flat roof, five bay facade, central double leaf entrance set in elaborate Colonial Revival door surround, decorative masonry stringcourse. (C)
82. **Zion United Methodist Church** (c. 1880) 306 Pickens Street. One story frame Victorian religious structure, brick veneer exterior wall material, front gable roof, side hipped roof over bay window near chancel area, Gothic arched pointed windows, projecting vestibule with gable roof capped by small steeple, central double leaf entrance and circular vent. (NC)

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Jefferson Street - Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Drive

83. **Marion City Hall Complex/City Hall Fire Department** (c.1968) 123 East Jefferson Street . One story modern city complex comprising city hall, fire and police departments, brick veneer exterior wall material, multi-bay facade, large aluminum garage door openings, plate glass windows. (NC)
84. 111-113-115 East Jefferson Street. (c. 1860) Triple brick commercial block, two story, 10 bay upper floor over triple storefronts, decorative brick dentil work along cornice, 6/6 double hung sash windows. (C)
85. **LeCroy's Furniture and Appliance** (c. 1930) 107 East Jefferson Street. One story commerical building, brick veneer exterior wall material, flat roof behind low brick parapet, four tall pilasters, twin entrances flanked by large expanses of plate glass. (C)
86. **Thompson Agency/Richardson Agency** (c. 1860) 103-105 East Jefferson Street. Two story brick commercial block, flat roof, eight bay facade, decorative brick string-course, multi-bay first floor, three single leaf entrances, plate glass windows.(C)
87. **Freeman's Barber and Style Shop** (c. 1940) 106 East Jefferson Street. Small, one story frame building, front facing gable roof, metal awning, plain post supports. (C)
88. **Freeman's Lounge** (c. 1927) 104 East Jefferson Street. One story brick commercial building with corner entrance, stepped gable roofline at corner, plate glass windows, side single leaf entrance. (C)

Green Street

89. **Gary's Service Station** (c. 1970) 110 W. Green Street. One story modern service station complex. (NC)
90. **Marion Builders Inc.** (c. 1970) 109 W. Green Street. Two story brick veneered commercial building, four bay facade, two single leaf entrances. (NC)
91. 107 W. Green Street (c. 1980). Abandoned concrete block building. (NC)
92. **South Central Bell Building** (c. 1980) 104 W. Green Street. Two connected buildings forming single complex, modern brick veneer exterior wall material. (NC)
93. **Coca-Cola Building** (c. 1970) 102 W. Green Street. Three bay shed covered in tin. (NC)
94. **Bank Office Building** (c. 1912) 103 E. Green Street. One story brick veneer dwelling with triple window, flat roof behind brick parapet, decorative finial. (C)

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95. 105 E. Green Street (c. 1925) One story brick office building, two bays wide, decorative brick dentil work along cornice, single leaf entrance. (C)
96. **Dollar General Store** (c. 1925) 107 E. Green Street. One story commercial building, brick veneer exterior wall material, two storefronts with large expanses of plate glass, metal awning. (C)
97. **Mason, Davis, Hobbs, and Hain Law Office** (c. 1863) 109 E. Green Street. Two story brick professional building, two bay upper story over first floor offices, 6/6 double hung sash windows, full transom on first floor over single leaf entrance and triple windows. (C)
98. **Fitts and Brown Law office/Perry County Home Health Agency** (c. 1890) 111 E. Green Street. Dentist's office recently restored, cross hip roof of tin shingle with central projecting gable bay, central single leaf entrance with multi-pane transom and sidelights, hip roof entrance bay porch, four decorative turned posts and brackets, flanking single bays. (C)
99. 113 E. Green Street (c. 1928) One story frame Craftsman dwelling, low hip roof of asphalt shingles, central gable roof dormer with tripart window, four bay facade with recessed third and fourth bays, single leaf entrance with transom in third bay, full width engaged roof porch, four tapered supports on low brick piers, low brick balustrade. (C)

Jackson Street

100. 104 Jackson Street (c. 1975) One story, concrete block building, flat roof, three bays wide. (NC)
101. **Marion Mission Holiness Church** (c. 1975) 102 Jackson Street. One story, concrete block building with brick veneer exterior wall material. (NC)

Courthouse Square

102. **Nicola Marschall Memorial** (ca.1935) Erected by the Andrew Berry Moore Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to commemorate the life of Nicola Marschall, artist and instructor at the Marion Female Seminary, credited with the design of the "Stars and Bars" and naval uniform for the Confederate States of America, singular block of rough granite with smooth facing, approximately 4' in height, 2' in width, 4' deep, bronze plaque located on west facing, monument located on the southwest corner of the square. (1 Contributing Object)

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Marion Courthouse Square Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture, education, commerce, politics/government and social history. The district contains an impressive assemblage of 19th and 20th century residential, commercial, and religious architecture reflecting a variety of styles, forms, and trends from the period of significance. The district also contains Marion Female Seminary (NRHP, 10/4/73) one of the region's earliest women's facilities for higher education, the historic business district, and the c. 1855 Greek Revival courthouse.

Criterion C (Architecture):

Marion Courthouse Square Historic District is significant for its collection of 19th and 20th century residential, commercial, educational, governmental and religious architecture, including interpretations and examples of Victorian Cottages and Greek Revival, Neo-classical, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, Craftsman, Victorian Gothic, and Carpenter Gothic styles. The two focal points of the district are the Marion Female Seminary building (NRHP) and the Perry County Courthouse (HABS). The Marion Female Seminary is a Greek Revival structure, with a full height portico supported by four Doric masonry columns. The Perry County Courthouse (c.1855) is one of the county's premier Greek Revival structures featuring twin hexastyle Ionic porticoes, heavy stone lintels, denticulated cornices, and flanking pilasters. The three earliest residential structures in the district also reflect a Greek Revival influence: the Love-Logan House (c. 1850), a side gable roofed cottage with Greek Revival porch, the Barnes House (c. 1845) with a double pile plan and hints of classical detailing; and the Blackburn-Whitman house (c. 1848) a raised cottage with a blend of Greek Revival and Italianate detailing. Early commercial buildings, mid to late 19th century, are typically masonry construction and characteristically plain with minimal detailing. The 111-115 commercial block on the southwestern corner of the courthouse square and the Mason, Davis, Hobbs and Hains law office on East Green Street (both c. 1860) are simple two story brick structures with denticulated cornices and 9/9 pane sash windows. The 400 block of Washington Street is lined with mid-19th century one story brick commercial blocks with denticulated cornices and typical storefronts. Nathan Harris' Sons (c. 1870) reflects more attention to detail for commercial structures with such detailing as arched windows with hood moldings and decorative stringcourses. Early 20th century commercial buildings such as the Mickelboro (c. 1912) and Marshall (c. 1914) buildings reflect the use of decorative brick parapets, recessed brick panels, masonry panels, and large expanses of plate glass and multi-pane transoms. The High Victorian Gothic architecture is represented in the district by the Marion Methodist Church while the Mt. Zion Methodist Church is itself a good example of vernacular religious architecture imitating the Victorian Gothic style. St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church is a good example of a late Carpenter Gothic structure, reflecting a style that was popular for Episcopal churches in the Black Belt in the antebellum era. A few Victorian cottages, with wraparound porches and decorative scrollwork, are located in the district, such as the Armstrong-Walker house (c. 1899), the Graves house (c.1895), and 110 East Monroe (c. 1900). The most prominent Victorian residence is the Scott-Hanna-Moore house (c 1834, remodeled 1904), an early

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cottage with exuberant bargeboard, spindlework, and a porch gazebo. The majority of residential architecture consists of Tudor Revival dwellings, such as the T. O. Harris and Miller houses (both c. 1920) with brick veneered exteriors, Tudoresque arches and some stucco work creating a half-timbering effect. The Craftsman style is best exemplified by the Episcopal Rectory, (c. 1928) and 202 Pickens Street (c. 1920), with their multi-pane lights, decorative stickwork and brackets, and porch piers. The Marion High School Gymnasium (c. 1935) and the Marion Bank and Trust Company (c. 1912) were built in the Neo-classical style with classical columns, bas-reliefs and bracketed and denticulated cornices. Both the Perry County Jail (c. 1910) and the Marion Post Office (c. 1935) are examples of the Colonial Revival style.

Criterion A

The Marion Courthouse Square Historic District is significant in the areas of education, commerce, politics/government and social history and includes the campus of the Marion Female Seminary, presently owned and maintained by the Perry County High School Alumni Association. Established in the spring of 1836, the constitution of the Marion Female Seminary stated that the school would be nonsectarian in "its instructions or influences" and that denominational connection "should neither qualify or disqualify an individual for the situation of Principal, or Teacher, in its Faculty of Instruction." In 1851, the present Seminary building, a large brick three story structure with an imposing portico supported by four Doric masonry columns, was constructed. The Female Seminary survived until 1908 when it was taken over by the Presbyterians of Alabama, but after a short time under their administration, the school failed. The Seminary closed its doors in 1915. In 1930, the school became the Perry County High School and around the old Greek Revival building, an educational complex was constructed including a Neo-classical styled gymnasium (c. 1935), an academic revival building (c. 1930), and a Craftsman classroom building. Although the complex is abandoned, the Marion Female Seminary is a significant resource in the Marion Courthouse Square Historic District. For more information on the significance of the Marion Female Seminary, please refer to the National Register nomination for the structure, listed in 10/4/73. In regard to the area of politics/government, the district also contains the 1854 Greek Revival Courthouse, one of only four antebellum courthouses still used for that purpose in the State of Alabama. The Courthouse Square has been the setting for local politics and government since the town of Marion was laid off in 1822. Since that time, the downtown square area has traditionally been the heart of the business district and therefore, the district is historically and currently significant in the field of commerce. This is reflected in the fine collection of 19th and early 20th century commercial architecture included in the historic district. Finally, the Marion Courthouse Square Historic District is significant in the area of social history. Encompassing educational, commercial, governmental and residential buildings, the historic district symbolizes how small-town Alabama society organized itself and carried on its activities in the period 1835 to 1945.

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Historic District
Perry County, AlabamaSection number 8 Page 19**Historical Summary**

The Marion Courthouse Square Historic District clearly reflects the evolution and development of the city of Marion, the downtown commercial district, Marion Female Seminary, and the Centreville Street residential neighborhood. The courthouse square has, since its creation, been the heart of business and commercial life in Marion. Too, since its founding in the early 19th century, Marion has been recognized for its citizens' commitment to education and religious institutions. The district contains the Marion Female Seminary (NRHP, 10/4/73) and three historic religious structures.

Founded on March 4, 1822, the city of Marion was originally known as Muckle's Ridge. By 1817, Michael Muckle had cleared an acre of land from a dense forest and constructed a cabin on the present site of the Perry County Jail (structure #79). Muckle later sold his improvements to Anderson West, then sheriff of Perry County. At the suggestion of Joseph Evans, a South Carolinian, the county commissioners, charged with finding a suitable location for the county seat of Perry County, changed the name of the town from Muckle's Ridge to Marion, honoring General Francis Marion, the "Swamp Fox" of Revolutionary War fame. After laying off the courthouse square and the surveying of streets, on May 22, 1822, lots were sold at public auction but due to heavy rains, prices for prime lots remained quite low. The early sale of lots included those adjacent to the courthouse square. (Townes, p. 185-190; Harris, p. 17-20; Johnson, p. 24-27.)

Marion grew slowly in the 1820s although by 1822, a courthouse, jail, two private residences, and three stores had been erected. From the earliest days of the establishment of the town, the area surrounding what was designated as the courthouse square, became the center of commercial life in Marion. The first three stores were all located on the west side of the square along what is today Washington Street. The first courthouse in Marion was erected by Samuel H. Nelms (who had come to Marion from Greene County, Georgia) and was described as a peculiar looking building, having the appearance of a smoke house with windows. It was thirty-six feet in length, contained two stories, and sat on wooden blocks which were three feet high. The jail, constructed at approximately the same time, was "a double pen cabin of hewn logs, covered with boards." By 1826, the town's population totaled only 144 and Samuel Townes, in his history of early Marion, noted that until 1828, the hamlet had the appearance of a private gentleman's country residence. Stumps were still to be seen on the major streets of Marion and one visitor described the town as a "dilapidated sleepy town, with dingy houses." After 1828, however, the town began to grow at a rapid pace and soon had the appearance of a thriving and bustling town. Marion's boom was the result of its strategic location. Direct commercial contact between Marion and Mobile, essential to the survival of the citizens, was made possible through the transportation of goods up the Alabama River from Mobile to Cahaba which were then hauled overland to Marion. Cultural improvements continued, the establishment in 1824 of the first school, for example, and the establishment of two religious congregations. By 1834, Marion was the terminus of two stage coach lines. (Johnson, p. 28; Townes, p. 193; Moore, p. 2)

In the 1830s, events occurred which further stimulated the growth of Perry County and, in particular, Marion. It was soon discovered that the soil of the adjacent Black Belt prairie was extraordinarily suitable for the cultivation of cotton, especially of an upland, blight proof variety. Hordes of farmers and planters swarmed into Perry County to take advantage of the cheap land

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and quickly established vast plantations. Marion, in particular, benefitted from the flush times, becoming a local trading center for some of the largest planters in Alabama. A new brick courthouse, replacing the one which resembled a smokehouse, was built in 1837. (Johnson, p. 34-35)

One of the most interesting cultural accomplishments in early Marion was the establishment of three institutions of higher learning, one of which was Marion Female Seminary. In the spring of 1836, a joint stock company was organized to establish the Marion Female Seminary, with General E. D. King, L. A. Weissinger, William Huntington, Captain E. F. King, Levi Langdon, Laurin Upson, and Colonel Henry C. Lea as the first board of directors. The constitution of this educational institution stated that the school would be nonsectarian in "its instructions or influences" and that denominational connections should neither qualify or disqualify an individual for the situation of Principal, or Teacher, in its Faculty of Instruction." Mark Cann, an Episcopalian, became the first principal in the autumn of 1837. He served for only a few months, being succeeded in the position by the Reverend S. R. Wright, a Presbyterian minister. In regard to accommodations at the school, a notice in the Marion Herald stated that the "Seminary is an elegant and spacious brick edifice, sufficiently large to accommodate a hundred boarders and 250 scholars." This building and a subsequent frame structure, occupied by the Seminary in 1850, were destroyed by fire. In 1851, the present Seminary building, a large brick three story structure with an imposing portico supported by four Doric columns, was constructed. Benjamin F. Parson, a Massachusetts born builder and architect, may have been the architect for the building as he advertised in the Alabama Baptist as having built most of the "impressive buildings found in Perry and nearby Greene (now Hale) counties." The Marion Female Seminary building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. (Johnson, p. 38; Townes, p. 227; Harris, p. 94-96.)

In addition to Marion Female Seminary, the town of Marion also boasted Judson Female Institute and Howard College, and therefore, the town was considered one of the leading educational centers in the state. The presence of these three colleges helped bring about a social advance in the city. Teachers from various sections of the United States and Europe moved to Marion bringing with them new ideas and concepts. The schools, therefore, were generally recognized as being responsible for the cultural growth of the town and region. In 1849, the Rev. William Augustus Stickney, attracted by the favorable educational climate, started a successful Episcopal school, St. Wilfrid's in Marion and erected the first Episcopal church building two blocks north of the courthouse square. Although Marion was recognized as a Baptist stronghold, the Episcopal church and school took hold. The present church building, constructed on the site of the original school, was built in 1908. (Harris, p. 80-91)

By 1844, the town comprised one square mile and had a population of 1,500. The growth in population attracted scores of merchants, businessmen, preachers, doctors, lawyers, carpenters, and especially, tavern-keepers, most of whom had their establishments on the courthouse square. Samuel Townes noted that in the 1840s, Marion had eight dry goods stores, two grocers, two confectioneries, two drug stores, two shoemakers shops, one tin manufactory, two saddler shops, four tailor shops, and two printing offices. These businesses were clustered along the western and southern side of the square and extended down each side of present day Washington Street. The

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eastern and northern side of the courthouse square (Green and Jackson Streets) had very few early establishments, possibly due to the location and close proximity of the county jail, situated on the northeast corner of the square. (Auburtin; Johnson, p. 36-40; Harris, 139-151)

On July 27, 1846, one half of the commercial and business district of Marion was destroyed by a fire and the following year, the town was wrecked by a tornado. Yet, by 1850, Marion was able to boast a population of 1,544 who witnessed what was undoubtedly the most prosperous decade for the thriving town and surrounding county, with the establishment of numerous general, grocery, and dry goods stores as well as furniture makers, apothecaries, jewelry and book stores. In the 1850s, Nicola Marschall, an instructor in art, music and languages at the Marion Female Seminary, advertised that he was available for "all those wishing to have life-like portraits painted." And after repeated attempts to construct a railway line, in 1858 the county finally received the benefits of rail transportation with the creation of the Marion, Cahaba, and Greensboro Railroad Company. (Harris, p. 153-173)

In 1860, Marion was a wealthy commercial and cultural center for the Black Belt and reflecting its importance was the new brick, Greek Revival courthouse, which had been erected ca. 1855. The architect for the courthouse was undoubtedly, Benjamin F. Parsons who in 1855, wrote the noted American architect, Richard Upjohn, soliciting advice on an appropriate fee to charge the county commission and a ratio for grouting material to use in the construction. The builders for the courthouse, however, were probably James Didlake and/or James Tarrant. Tarrant was a noted local builder who had worked on the classroom buildings of Marion Military Institute and Judson College. The courthouse, an imposing structure with twin hexastyle Ionic porticos on the east and west elevations, provided the city with a suitable building for the courthouse square and the surrounding commercial and business district. Today, a few of the buildings surrounding the courthouse, the block at the corner of Washington and Jefferson, and those located on the west side of lower Washington Street, date from the mid-to-late 19th centuries. Others on the square date to the early to mid 20th century. The courthouse itself underwent a renovation in the mid 1950s, including the addition of sympathetically designed side wings. (Gamble)

Following the Alabama Secession Convention in 1861, which was led by Marion's own Gov. Andrew B. Moore, Nicola Marschall, the instructor at the Marion Female Seminary, designed the "Stars and Bars" for the newly formed Confederate nation in the seminary building. Marion, however, was not of strategic military importance and therefore, emerged from the Civil War relatively unscathed. The dormitories and classrooms of all three colleges, including Marion Female Seminary, were used as Confederate hospitals. A number of those who died in the hospitals were originally buried behind Marion Military Institute but were re-interred in the cemetery at St. Wilfrid's Episcopal church, during 1872-1873, by the Ladies Memorial Association. This group marked each grave with a marble headstone, inscribed with the soldier's name where identity could be determined. In the 1860 census, Marion's population stood at 1,708 and while it grew to 2,646 in 1870, it fell to 2,000 in 1880. Many of those who left Marion, between 1870 and 1880, went to the infant city of Birmingham, where there were more opportunities in business and labor. (Auburtin; Harris, p. 245.)

Although Marion experienced an economic decline in the late 19th century, the Methodist congregation found enough money to build an imposing Victorian Gothic church on Washington Street just north of the courthouse square. The Methodist congregation had existed in Marion since

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the 1830s and had erected its first building in 1837, although the congregation was never large until the late 1900s. With the continuation of three major educational facilities in the town throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Marion continued to be recognized as a regional educational center. In 1908, however, the Marion Female Seminary was taken over by the Presbyterians of Alabama, but after a short time under their administration, the school failed. The Seminary closed its doors in 1915. In 1930, the school became the Perry County High School until the Academic Revival building, located across the street, was constructed. The old Seminary then became part of the Marion Elementary School. A gymnasium and a classroom building were soon added to the complex. (Harris, part 2, page 37)

Short-lived prosperity returned to Marion, as it did to most parts of the United States, in the 1910s and 1920s. The residential architecture found along Centreville and Monroe streets, for the most part, reflects the architectural styles popular in the early years of the 20th century, in particular, the Tudor Revival and the Arts and Crafts/Bungalow. Prior to the Civil War, most residential construction took place in west Marion along and south of Green street. The only three antebellum dwellings are located on north Centreville street, a major 19th century thoroughfare from Marion to Centreville. During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, new home construction moved into eastern Marion, near Judson College, and northern Marion, on north Centreville Street. Tudor Revival cottages and bungalows began to fill in the gaps between the three antebellum structures. In 1904 when the Scott-Hanna-Moore house was moved into Marion from rural Perry County, it was located on one of the few large lots left near the downtown commercial district, a corner lot on Washington and Monroe streets, across from the recently completed Marion Methodist Church.

New commercial buildings were constructed along north Washington Street, the block just north of the courthouse square and along east Greene and Pickens Streets, lots which up until this time, had remained vacant. Dominating the west side of the courthouse square was the new King Hotel, a modern three story brick veneered structure which replaced the old hotel which burned. The new hotel was attached to an annex (now Nathan Harris' sons) across Jefferson street by a covered walkway. A new county jail was constructed on the site of the original jail, ca. 1910, and a new Post Office was constructed in the center of the Pickens Street side of the square, opposite the east portico of the courthouse. In addition, it was during this time, the early 1900s, that many of the older commercial structures were updated with "newer" brick veneer facades. In the 1960s, during the turbulent days of the civil rights movement, the downtown historic district of Marion was the setting for voter registration attempts for African-Americans. It was during a civil rights demonstration in 1965, that Jimmy Lee Jackson was fatally wounded by Alabama State Troopers. Jackson's death spurred the momentous Selma to Montgomery march, which today is recognized as one of the pivotal events of the Civil Rights movement.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point in the middle of the intersection of Washington and Lafayette Streets, proceeding east on Lafayette approximately 200 feet to a point behind structure #1 (Tri-County Eye Care), making a 45 degree turn to the north, proceeding approximately 250 feet to a point directly behind structure # 11 (410 South Washington) turning 45 degrees and proceeding approximately 225 feet to Pickens Street, the line proceeds north on Pickens street to the intersection of Pickens and Jefferson, proceeds east on Jefferson Street approximately 200 feet to a point behind structure # 82 (Zion United Methodist Church), then the line proceeds due north approximately 1,225 feet to a point parallel to the eastern boundary line of St. Wilfrid's cemetery, the line then makes a 45 degree turn, proceeds west approximately 800 feet along the northern boundary line of the cemetery to a point just behind structure #45 (the Graves House), the line makes a 45 degree turn north approximately 325 feet to a point parallel to the boundary line of structure #39, the line turns 45 degrees and travels west approximately 300 feet to a point just due west of structure #39, the line turns 45 degrees and travels south approximately 700 feet to a point just behind structure #55 then turns and travels approximately 300 feet to a point just behind structure #58 (Perry County High School Gymnasium), then the line turns south approximately 300 feet to a point just beyond Structure #60 and adjacent to the boundary lines of the Green Street Historic District (NRHP) the line travels approximately 425 feet to Jackson Street and turns south along Jackson Street for approximately 600 feet to a point just beyond structure #13 (Nathan Harris' Sons) then the line travels due east approximately 80 feet to a point just behind structure #12, the line turns south 45 degrees and travels approximately 310 feet to Lafayette Street, proceeding approximately 200 feet to the original point at the intersection of Washington and Lafayette Streets.

Boundary Justification

The boundary lines were drawn to include all of the resources historically associated with the Marion courthouse square, the downtown commercial and residential area adjacent to the courthouse square, the resources associated with the Marion Female Seminary/Perry County High School complex and the Centreville Street neighborhood. The boundaries were drawn in such a way as to include as many contributing resources as appropriate and to exclude as many non-contributing resources as possible.

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Photographs

For photographs 1-24, items 1-5 are the same.

1. Marion Courthouse Square Historic District
2. Marion, Perry County, Alabama
3. Jeff Mansell, photographer
4. February 6, 1995
5. Negatives on file with Alabama Historical Commission

6. Perry County Courthouse, camera facing northeast
7. #1

6. Nicola Marschall monument, camera facing east
7. #2

6. Marion Bank and Trust Company, camera facing north
7. #3

6. Streetscape of north Washington Street, camera facing north
7. #4

6. Marion Methodist Church, camera facing east
7. #5

6. Scott-Hanna-Moore house, camera facing north
7. #6

6. Structure # 33, camera facing east
7. #7

6. St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church, camera facing north
7. #8

6. Perry County Jail, camera facing northeast
7. #9

6. Streetscape of east Green Street, Camera facing Northwest
7. #10

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- 6. Zion United Methodist Church
- 7. #11

- 6. Thompson Agency, camera facing southwest
- 7. #12

- 6. Nathan Harris' Sons, camera facing southwest
- 7. #13

- 6. Graves House, camera facing east
- 7. #14

- 6. Ballard-Haynie-Barnes House, camera facing west
- 7. #15

- 6. Love-Logan House, camera facing northwest
- 7. #16

- 6. Miller House, camera facing northwest
- 7. #17

- 6. Blackburn-Whitman House, camera facing southwest
- 7. #18

- 6. Perry County High School annex, camera facing northwest
- 7. #19

- 6. Marion Female Seminary, camera facing northwest
- 7. #20

- 6. Perry County High School gym, camera facing northwest
- 7. #21

- 6. Perry County Board of Education, Perry County High School, camera facing southeast
- 7. #22

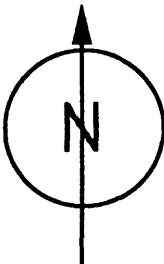
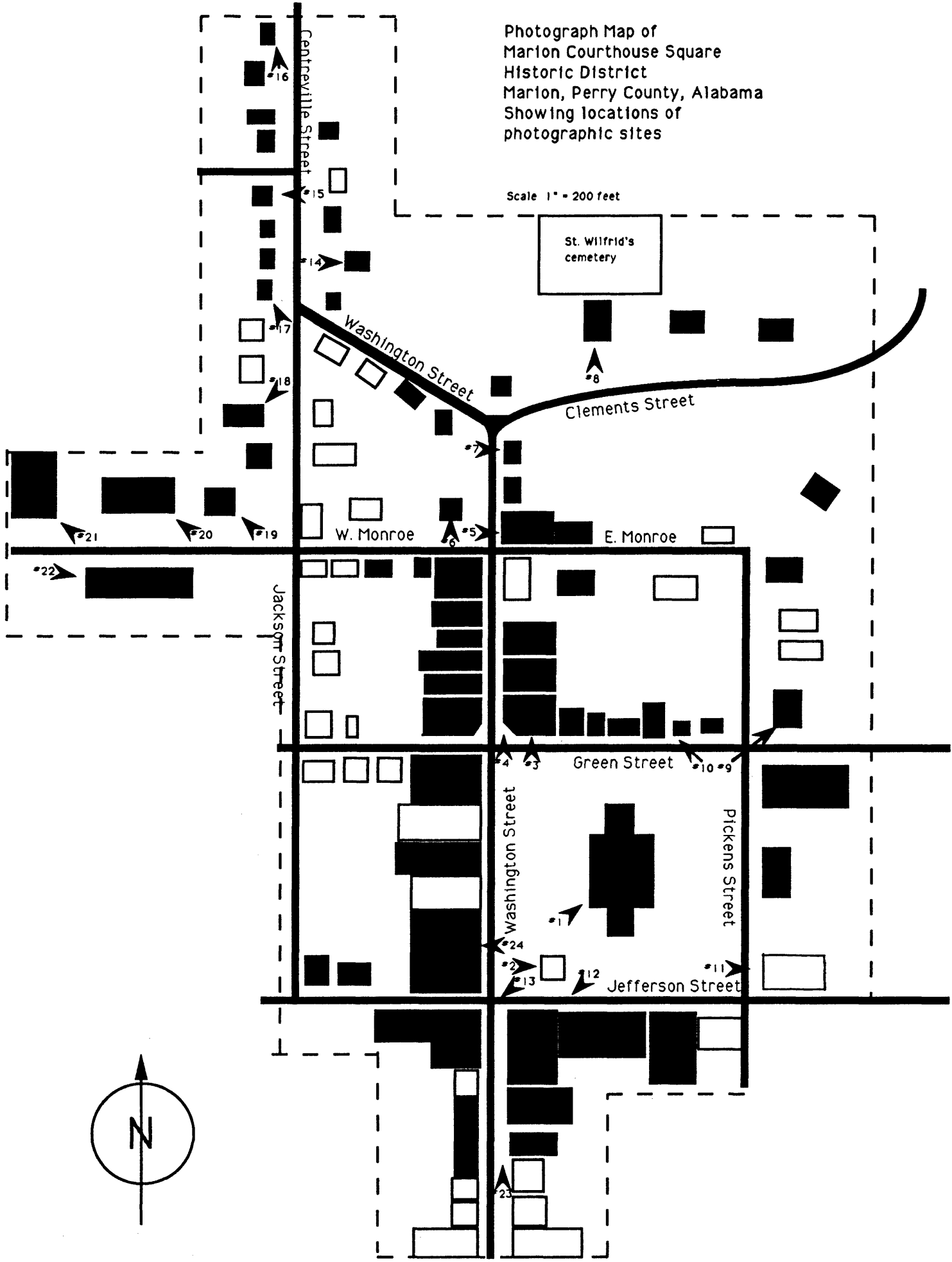
- 6. Streetscape of South Washington Street, camera facing north
- 7. #23

- 6. Old King Hotel, camera facing west
- 7. #24

Photograph Map of
Marion Courthouse Square
Historic District
Marion, Perry County, Alabama
Showing locations of
photographic sites

Scale 1" = 200 feet

St. Wilfrid's
cemetery



Map of
Marion Courthouse Square
Historic District
Marion, Perry County, Alabama

■ — Contributing Structures
□ — Non-contributing Structures

Scale 1" = 200 feet

