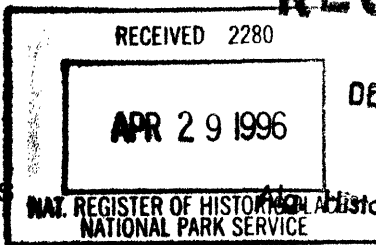


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Alabama 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 Parham Apothecary Building

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 401 60th Street N/A not for publication

city or town Fairfield N/A vicinity

state Alabama code AL county Jefferson code 073 zip code 35064

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.)

[Signature] 4/18/96  
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): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Patrick Andrews Date of Action 6/13/96

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- X private
[] public-local
[] public-State
[] public-Federal

- X building(s)
[] district
[] site
[] structure
[] object

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

Name of related multiple property listing (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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- Commerce/Trade Business
Restaurant
Health Care Medical Business/Office
Government Post Office
Education Library

Vacant/Not IN Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other Steel

Narrative Description

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

Narrative Description Of Area

The Parham Apothecary Building stands on the southeast corner of 60th Street and Avenue D in Fairfield, Alabama (Figure 1). The apothecary building is part of an African American commercial district contained within a multi-block residential community of Fairfield. Fairfield is located southwest of Birmingham.

The greater Birmingham area, which includes Fairfield and many other outlying towns and communities, falls within a geographic region designated as the Valley and Ridge Province. A series of ridges created by the tail end of the Appalachian Mountains and valleys constitute this region (Clay, et al. 1989).

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.)

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

X 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.

X G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Health/Medicine

Ethnic Heritage/Black

Social History

Period of Significance

1947 - 1964

Significant Dates

1947

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Parham, Dr. Glover Patrick

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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): N/A

[ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

[ ] previously listed in the National Register

[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register

[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark

[ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

[ ] State Historic Preservation Office

[ ] Other State agency

[ ] Federal agency

[ ] Local government

[ ] University

X Other

Name of repository:

Groesbeck P. Parham

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Acreage less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,6	50,80,5,0	3,40,71,2,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

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 Gene A. Ford ; AHC Reviewer

organization Private Consultant date January 20, 1995

street & number #10 Lakeview telephone (205) 752-4599

city or town Tuscaloosa state Alabama zip code 35401

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 Groesbeck P. Parham

street & number 401 60th Street telephone (205) 923-9995

city or town Fairfield state Alabama zip code 35604

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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Fairfield lies within one of these valleys. This valley features a rolling topography consisting of numerous small hills and vales.

Fairfield's built environment features a variety of buildings. Situated along the western edge of town, the United States Steel (U. S. Steel) tubular products and pipe mill plant occupies numerous acres. Office space, large metal hangars and warehouses, furnaces, smoke stacks, transportation rails, and sundry other buildings and structures are counted among the steel manufacturer's Fairfield property. Across Interstate 20 and 59 from the steel plant stands the Flintridge Building atop a hill (Figure 2). U. S. Steel moved its headquarters from downtown Birmingham to the Flintridge Building in 1951 (White 1981). Designed by the Chicago firm of Holabird, Root and Burgee, the International style building features brick and stainless steel construction, a central section that rises to a height of five stories, flanking sections that rise to a height of four stories, a fourth story multi-bay projection, horizontal window bands, and a tripartite entry bay flanked by stainless steel columns.

Located south of the Flintridge Building is a sprawl mall, a series of one-story, commercial buildings linked end-to-end, that was constructed within the past five years. East of the mall and Flintridge Building are situated numerous duplexes governed by the Fairfield Housing Authority, wood frame bungalows and modern side gable roof houses, wood frame and brick religious buildings, the Parham Apothecary Building and its associated commercial district, and the Miles Memorial College Historic District. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, the historic district consists of six (four contributing and two noncontributing) buildings on the African American college campus (National Park Service 1966-93). Downtown Fairfield with its one and two-story, brick commercial buildings occupies an area a number of blocks north of Miles College.

Between the Flintridge Building and Miles College, 60th Street stretches in an east/west direction atop a small hill. Seven commercial buildings, including the Parham Apothecary Building, are situated along Avenue D between 59th and 60th Streets (Figure 3).

Only one of the seven buildings still stands on the west side of Avenue D. The one -story, brick commercial edifice, constructed ca. 1947, which serves as a Fairfield Police station, features a two bay facade with a single leaf, plate glass, entry bay flanked by a large, plate glass bay (Figure 4). Conforming to the slope of the terrain, the building steps down in three sections from its east side to its west side. Shrubbery grows in a bed adjacent to the south side of the police station. 60th Street runs parallel to this side. An asphalt parking lot, the south side of which is bounded by

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wood frame bungalows that are located on the north side of 60th Street and south side of 59th Street, wraps around the west and north side of the station, and stretches to the south side of 59th Street (Figure 5). Katherine Parham, the daughter-in-law of the Parham Apothecary Building namesake, Dr. Glover Patrick Parham, stated that the police station once housed a shoe repair shop, laundromat, and other services (Personal Communication 1994).

At the southwest corner of 60th Street and Avenue D, an open lot occupies an area where once stood a commercial building which was only recently demolished (Figure 6). The commercial building once housed a cleaners service and other shops (Personal Communication 1994). West of the lot are bungalows that are positioned on the south side of 60th Street (Figure 7). South of the lot is a modern, one-story, brick education building located on the west side of Avenue D (Figure 8).

The Parham Apothecary Building, the facade of which faces north, is located across the street from the open lot (Figure 9). Another open lot exists between the south side of the commercial building and a row of bungalows that are located on the east side of Avenue D. Adjacent to the east side of the Parham Apothecary Building is a row of bungalows (Figure 10). They are positioned along the south side of 60th Street. A row of modern side gable roof houses and bungalows stretch eastward along the north side of 60th Street (Figure 11).

A one-story, brick commercial building occupies the northeast corner of Avenue D and 60th Street (Figure 12). The building, presently owned by the Fairfield Alumni Association, features one west side bay with plate glass and an awning. Additionally, it has a canted southwest corner with a plate glass, single leaf, entry bay with a sidelight and transom. The south side features four plate glass bays, one of which is a single leaf entry bay, with awnings.

A 1940 photograph shows that this commercial building was once the Parham Apothecary Building (Figure 13). It was the second building to accommodate the apothecary (Parham 1994). With the exception of several signage panels, the 1940 appearance of the one-story, commercial building closely resembles its present condition. A set of photographs dating to the same time period indicate that the building also served as a gas station (Figure 14). A two-story residence stood on the north side of the edifice where now stands the commercial block.

Another set of photographs displayed in a 1940s business directory feature additional views of the one-story apothecary (Figure 15). The exterior view reveals the removal of two signage panels. The interior view indicates that the building also

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functioned as a small cafe and confectionery. Both views offer a study in 1940s consumer products.

Adjacent to this corner building is a block of one-story commercial buildings, constructed ca. 1947, that is subdivided into four compartments (Figure 16). The southernmost compartment has a central, plate glass, single leaf entry bay with a transom flanked on either side by a plate glass bay (Figure 17); it accommodated a barber shop and a television repair shop.

Its northern neighbor, the Avenue D Grocery Store, is similarly designed (Figure 17); however, it has a projecting signage board.

The northern neighbor of the Avenue D Grocery Store is also designed in this fashion (Figure 18). The bays of this commercial building are covered with plywood. An air conditioner rests atop the entry bay in the place of the transom. Above the bays, a signage panel is attached to the facade.

The northernmost compartment is larger than the other three (Figure 19). It features a three bay facade. Plywood covers the bays.

Running parallel to the north side of the northernmost compartment is an alley. A two-story, brick education building stands between the alley and the south side of 59th Street (Figure 20). The building is the gymnasium of what once was the Fairfield Industrial High School (Personal Communication 1994). African Americans attended this school before integration. The rest of this school no longer stands. An open lot and an African American Baptist church of recent construction occupy the northeast and northwest corners of Avenue D and 59th Street, respectively.

A photograph (date unknown) shows the commercial block at a time when the bays were not covered with plywood (Figure 21). The three look-alike sections once served as a hardware store, which Dr. Parham owned, dress shop, cleaners, and later, a flower shop (Parham 1994). The northernmost section once housed Tony's Supermarket. It closed in the 1970s (Personal Communication 1994).

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Section number 7 Page 4**Narrative Description of The Parham Apothecary Building**

Built in 1947, the Parham Apothecary Building rises to a height of three stories; it has a flat roof; it features a symmetric four-over-four-over-three bay facade. The building is constructed of brick and rests on a concrete foundation.

The roof of the building is flat. Tar and gravel make up the roof materials. A parapet with tile coping fronts the roof.

The second and third story bays contain six-over-six, double hung sash windows. Glass is missing from many of the panes. On the first floor, plywood covers the three bays. The central, first floor, entry bay is recessed and flanked by canted sections. A recessed name panel is situated above the entry bay between two, interior, second floor bays. The west side features two bays with double hung sash windows on the third level, three similar bays on the second, and two bays on the first. One of these bays has been covered with plywood. The other bay has a three panel door. The south side has three bays with double hung sash windows on the third floor, four similar bays on the second, and four bays on the first. Two of these bays once featured doors, but are now enclosed with concrete blocks. The bays on the east side of the building are similar in type and arrangement to those of the west side. The building has been condemned; consequently, the interior was not available for inspection.

The bricks on the exterior of the building are arranged in a common bond pattern; however, they are not fixed in a typical five or seven stretcher sequence, but in an atypical six stretcher pattern.

The total square feet of the building is 5,188.

A photograph (date unknown) reveals that the Parham Apothecary Building has not changed much over time (Figure 23). In the photograph, an American flag stands atop the the northeast corner of the edifice. Glass is in place in the panes instead of plywood. The inscription in the recessed name panel reads "Parham Apothecary Building 1947". Featured in the central, first floor bay is a double leaf, plate glass, entry flanked on either side by canted plate glass. The two flanking bays are subdivided into multiple panes. According to Ms. Katherine Parham, the Parham Apothecary and restaurant was on the first floor, the library on the second, and professional offices on the third.



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## Statement of Significance

### Criterion A:

The Parham Apothecary Building, built in 1947, is significant under Criterion A with the areas of significance being Commerce, Health/Medicine, Social History, and Ethnic Heritage: Black. The Parham Apothecary Building was a prominent landmark in Fairfield's black commercial district not only because of its size and scale but also because of the many vital services it provided. In addition to Parham's pharmacy, the building housed medical offices, a library, a post office, a restaurant, and a gas station. Many of these services were not available to African Americans anywhere else in Fairfield. Jim Crow laws segregated African Americans from whites in educational, religious, governmental, medical, commercial, and public facilities in the greater Birmingham area. The Parham Apothecary quintessentially represents how African Americans overcame Jim Crow's laws and segregation by building their own communities and developing their own resources. Despite some deterioration, the Parham Apothecary Building maintains a high degree of architectural integrity.

The Parham Apothecary Building is of exceptional importance within the local context of Fairfield. In 1918, when the black community of Interurban Heights was annexed by Fairfield, native born whites owned most of the residences and Italian immigrants owned the stores. Dr. Glover Patrick Parham opened his first pharmacy here in 1937. As he became successful, Parham built other buildings in the commercial district and leased them to black entrepreneurs. The Parham Apothecary Building was the focal point of this thriving, mid-twentieth century, African American commercial district. The development of this black commercial district reflects the character of other black commercial districts that developed earlier in the greater Birmingham area and are already listed on the National Register, such as the Fourth Avenue Historic District in Birmingham, listed in 1982. However, Parham is solely responsible for the evolution of the Interurban Heights business community whereas numerous individuals participated in the rise of the other historic districts.

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## Criterion B:

The Parham Apothecary Building also meets the requirements of significance under Criterion B for its association with Dr. Glover Patrick Parham. Dr. Parham, whose career began in 1937 and ended with his retirement in 1978, was a prominent African American businessman, civic leader, philanthropist, and educator. Parham built and operated a pharmacy in Fairfield as well as owned adjacent commercial property which he leased to black entrepreneurs. Accolades followed Parham's meritorious achievements. The City of Fairfield proclaimed Parham as its Most Outstanding Citizen in 1955 (Matney, ed. 1976). Dr. Parham earned Most Outstanding Sigma in 1964 and Most Outstanding Sigma in business in 1973 honors (Parham 1994). The Fairfield pharmacist's greatest recognition came when the inaugural edition of *Who's Who Among Black Americans* (Matney, ed. 1976) championed him as one of a number of black Americans whose achievements touched American progress and culture.

Other extant buildings in Fairfield that are associated with Dr. Parham are his second apothecary building and his brick, ranch style house, which was built in the 1950s. The third apothecary building located at 401 60th Street best represents Parham's contributions to the community. It was in this building that Parham operated his pharmacy and managed his numerous commercial interests from 1947 to 1978. It was also in this building that Parham ameliorated the hardships of segregation by providing a full-range of goods and services and educational opportunities to the African Americans of Fairfield. Many of these services were not available to blacks elsewhere in Fairfield. Parham's second pharmacy building located across the street from the third and last apothecary building only housed his business from 1940 to 1947. Parham's greatest success came after this period. His home, while representing his success as a businessman, was not the focal, social, and commercial center of the Interurban Heights commercial district. The Parham Apothecary Building fully represents Dr. Glover Patrick Parham's significance within the local context of Fairfield.

## Criterion Consideration G

Although the Parham Apothecary Building was built less than fifty years ago, it is of exceptional significance within the local context of Fairfield based on its association with Dr. Glover Patrick Parham, the development of African American commercial centers, and segregation. The Parham Apothecary Building's period of significance, 1947-1964, coincides with a growing momentum in national civil rights legislation that ended segregation in the mid 1960s. Thus, the Parham Apothecary

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Building illustrates one of the last, necessary and positive responses to segregation by the black community of Fairfield.

Segregation officially began in 1896 with the United States Supreme Court ruling on the *Plessy vs. Ferguson* case which upheld the "separate but equal" doctrine. This decision paved the way for many Jim Crow laws. These laws prohibited blacks from entering "white only" facilities. Segregation posed many hardships for blacks in Birmingham. Martin Luther King, Jr. declared Birmingham the "most segregated city in America" (Wexler 1993). Efforts by African Americans to end their disenfranchisement were met with bitter resistance during the 1950s and 1960s.

Fortunately, institutions like the Parham Apothecary Building assuaged the hardships of segregation by providing blacks with vital goods and services. Through the development of his third building in 1947, Parham established the black community in Fairfield as essentially self-contained and independent. The Parham Apothecary Building served as the focal point of this community through the 1950s and 1960s.

The Civil Rights ACT of 1964 officially ended segregation. Ten previously white-only restaurants desegregated in Birmingham the day after the act was passed (Sobel 1967). Other businesses soon complied with the civil rights legislation. Ironically, integration meant the end of many African American institutions as the captive audience that supported them took their business elsewhere. However, these institutions are recognized for their association with a pivotal chapter in African American history.

### Historical Summary

The Parham Apothecary Building and Dr. Glover Patrick Parham played a vital role in the history of Fairfield. In order to better understand the significance of this role, it is necessary to place Parham's accomplishments within the framework of a historical context. Parham is associated with the rise of African American middle and upper classes in Fairfield in the mid- twentieth century.

The dissolution of the plantation system and the abolition of slavery after the Civil War resulted in a new chapter in African American history. For the first time in the history of America, blacks were free to leave the places of their enslavement. Attracted by better prospects, millions of blacks migrated from the South to the North, and for those who remained in the South, from the country to the city (Cashman 1989).

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Many African Americans moved to Birmingham in the late nineteenth century. Several favorable conditions facilitated this migration. Incorporated in 1871, Birmingham was the byproduct of Reconstruction when "norms governing relations between blacks and whites were in transition" (Wilson 1975). The newly exploited mineral resources of the region attracted many immigrants of various ethnicity (White 1981). As Birmingham was in its infancy, many neighborhoods and commercial districts as yet had not assumed clearly defined racial boundaries. All of these conditions provided Birmingham blacks a heretofore unknown degree of latitude with which to define their own destiny.

Emancipation further promoted the rise of a cadre of black business people, doctors, lawyers, writers, scientists, politicians, clergymen, artists, and entertainers (Frazier 1957). Often trained and educated at black institutions of higher learning, such as Morehouse in Atlanta, Tuskegee near Montgomery, and Miles College in the suburb of Fairfield, these professionals and entrepreneurs settled in Birmingham in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Among these pioneers were architect Wallace A. Rayfield (1870-1941), who designed numerous residences and commercial buildings for prominent black clients; T. C. Windham (1880-1940), founder of the Windham Construction Company in 1895 and noted for building many of the black owned buildings; Dr. Arthur Mckimmon Brown (1875-1934), who founded the Children's Home Hospital; Attorneys E. A. Brown and L. L. Chambliss; Oscar W. Adams, president of the Colored Citizens League of Birmingham; and many other notable men and women (Birmingham Historical Society [BHM] 1982 and 1985). Their success paved the way for a second generation of African American leaders in all fields.

At first, well educated and trained and not so well educated and trained African Americans settled in areas of Birmingham where industries and businesses were located. According to city directories, black businesses were intermixed with those of native born whites and immigrants in the commercial core from 1883 to 1900 (Wilson 1975). They took up residency in such areas as what is now the Fourth Avenue Historic District, a collection of early to mid twentieth century, African American, commercial and civic buildings located just northwest of the present downtown core; various sections of Smithfield, a suburb located just west of Birmingham by which it was annexed in 1909 and now recognized as a historic district composed of early twentieth century, African American residences; and Interurban Heights, a community adjacent to what would become the Miles College Campus in 1908 (BHM 1982 and 1985; White 1981). For a time, prospects appeared promising for African Americans in Birmingham.

Unfortunately, the social and political rights gained by black Americans during Reconstruction (1865-1877) were short lived. What the Fifteenth Amendment (1869-1870) guaranteed, Jim Crow laws denied. In the late nineteenth century, Southern states began instituting Jim Crow (the name of an 1830 minstrel song that depicted blacks as inferior) laws that segregated blacks from whites (Cashman 1989). In the

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early 1920s an ordinance was passed in Birmingham prohibiting the two races from sharing any room, hall, theater, picture house, auditorium, yard, court, ball park, or other indoor or outdoor place (Corley 1979). Subsequent laws segregated taxicabs, busses, and trains. A 1926 ordinance designated racial zones (Brownell 1972). What were once transitional and heterogeneous neighborhoods and commercial districts became clearly defined.

African Americans were not without resources with which to weather the hardships of segregation. Prior to the 1920s, African Americans had already established all important social, political, educational, religious, and commercial infrastructures in the Birmingham area: they established successful schools, such as Miles College and Tuggles Institute, through which to educate and train future leaders; built thriving businesses and the means through which to finance them, the Alabama Penny Savings Bank, which was the second largest black bank in the country in 1907; constructed their own churches, such as the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church; and founded such organizations as the Colored Citizens League through which to advocate their causes. To these infrastructures, blacks added many businesses and services that were no longer available to them in other parts of the city. The 1920s witnessed a flurry of construction activity in black sections of Birmingham. Barber and beauty shops, restaurants, mortuaries, theaters, entertainment clubs, and medical offices sprang up in existing buildings or in those of recent construction (BHM 1982). African Americans established independence through the development of their own resources.

Dr. Glover Patrick Parham and the Parham Apothecary Building and their association with Interurban Heights and Fairfield rose out of this historical context of Birmingham segregation. As the background of Fairfield and Interurban Heights is critical to the understanding of Parham's significance, a brief discussion of what were once two separate communities is in order.

In the first decade of the twentieth century U. S. Steel made plans to build a plant and housing for its employees several miles west of Birmingham. Designed in 1910, Fairfield, as the steel plant and residences were later designated, was as much a product of industrial housing developments as it was of segregation. With its parks, playgrounds, sites for churches, schools, and public buildings, attractive bungalows, and over a million dollars worth of landscaping, Fairfield was recognized as a model industrial community, a "showplace," a "city beautiful of the South" (White 1981). Much effort went into making native born white workers and their families comfortable in their surroundings. Black steel workers and their families were relegated to living in the adjacent communities of Annisburg and Englewood, both of which were developed by U. S. Steel, Westfield, and Interurban Heights (Parham and Robinson 1980).

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Many African American employees of the Fairfield plant settled in Interurban Heights. Interurban Heights evolved prior to and contemporaneous with Fairfield. Originally, Tennessee Coal and Iron (TCI) owned the land and had intended to build a housing community in what was a sparsely populated area (White 1989). However, discovery of coal on Miles College property in Booker City prompted TCI to exchange its Interurban Heights land for the coal deposits. In 1908 Miles College reopened in Interurban Heights. Several hundred residences and a few stores were constructed in the area over the next two decades. During this time, many African Americans moved into Interurban Heights, attracted by the elementary, secondary, and college education and teacher and minister preparation programs offered by Miles College, the proximity of U. S. Steel and other industrial mills, and a streetcar line. Although blacks constituted ninety percent of the Interurban Heights population in 1918, native born whites owned the majority of the houses and Italian immigrants owned the stores (White 1981). Fairfield annexed Interurban Heights and the other black communities in 1918.

Glover Patrick Parham, who would graduate from Miles College in 1929, later changed the nature of ownership in the black section of Fairfield. Parham's story began in 1900. In that year he was born; he grew up near Tuscaloosa, Alabama which is forty-five miles southwest of Fairfield (Matney, ed. 1976). Eventually, he gravitated to Fairfield. In Fairfield Parham worked as a butler for Dr. Groesbeck Walsh, an internationally renowned pediatrician at Lloyd Nolan Hospital, a chauffeur for Dr. Lloyd Nolan, and a laborer in the the U. S. Steel plant (Parham 1994).

Through hard work and determination, Parham earned an education. He enrolled in and graduated from Miles College in 1929; afterwards, he trained as a pharmacist at Meharry Medical College (Matney, ed. 1976). He then prepared for the pharmacy license examination. In 1937 he scored the highest grade on the state examination, and became one of only a small number of licensed African American pharmacist in Alabama at that time (Parham 1994).

On March 10, 1937 Dr. Parham opened his pharmacy in Fairfield. The apothecary's beginning was quite modest. To start the business, Parham borrowed \$50.00 and operated out of a one-story, wood frame building (demolished) with twenty-four square feet of space (*Birmingham News* date unknown) (Figure 23). However, the hard-working pharmacist expanded his operation. In 1940 he built a one-story, brick building at the northeast corner of Avenue D and 60th Street for his thriving pharmacy. The building also functioned as a gas station and restaurant (*Birmingham News* date unknown). By 1943 Parham had parleyed the borrowed \$50.00 into \$50,000.00 according to Dun and Bradstreet, Inc. (1943), a New York based financial analyst and credit rating institution.

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Parham built other buildings next to the pharmacy on Avenue D or across the street. He then leased them to other black entrepreneurs (Personal Communication 1994). This arrangement provided community members with such goods and services as a grocery store, hardware store, flower shop, and a laundromat. The commercial district became a vital center in the African American community in the 1940s.

During World War II, Dr. Parham contributed to the war cause by buying war bonds. He initially purchased a \$500.00 bond and purchased many more (*Birmingham News* date unknown).

In 1947 Dr. Parham moved into his third and final building. Located across the street from the second apothecary, the three-story brick building housed his pharmacy, service station, and restaurant as well as a federal post office, library developed because Blacks were prohibited from using the Fairfield City Library which was reserved for "whites only", and professional offices that were occupied by doctors, dentists, and an insurance agent (Parham 1994). Parham's other commercial enterprises, which were located in buildings adjacent to his second apothecary, included a television repair shop, barber shop, upholstery repair shop, cleaners, and shoe repair shop (Matney, ed. 1976).

The Parham Apothecary Building did not succumb to the fate of other black businesses at the end of segregation. Parham continued to operate his pharmacy and other interests until his retirement in 1978.

Parham's professional affiliations and civic offices were many. He was a member of the Alabama and Jefferson County Pharmaceutical Associations, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, and the Dwight David Eisenhower Republican Club in Fairfield, which he organized (Parham 1994). He served as Chairman for the Trustees Board of Miles College and Trustee Board Chairman and treasurer for Miles Chapel C. M. E. Church (Matney, ed. 1976). Parham was dedicated to politics. He became the first African American to be elected to attend the Republican Party Convention from Alabama in nearly one hundred years (Parham 1994). He met Presidents Eisenhower and Nixon.

Above all, Parham was a humanitarian with the quality of other peoples' lives foremost on his mind. Realizing the importance of work and education, Parham offered jobs to people and financially supported youths in their educational endeavors (Parham 1994). It was his concern that people, whether they were in school or not, have access to knowledge, so he assembled the first library for African Americans in Fairfield.

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Ms. Katherine Parham, Dr. Parham's daughter-in-law, sums up the significance of the library in these words : "It was the first library for African Americans in Fairfield. A number of youths, including myself, studied at the library. Our lives were improved through its use" (Personal Communication 1994).

Parham believed that people were entitled to live an independent, dignified, and content life; consequently, he provided his community with the medical, commercial, professional, and social means necessary to live such an existence. In other words, Dr. Glover Patrick Parham was determined to share his success with others and assist them in their attempts to achieve the American Dream.

Dr. Glover Patrick Parham died in 1981; but his Parham Apothecary Building stands as a testimony to his dedication to mankind.



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## Verbal Boundary Description

The verbal boundary description is defined as Lot 12, Block 2 of the Fairfield Village subdivision as recorded by the City of Fairfield tax map. The lot starts at the southeast corner of Avenue D and 60th Street and thence one hundred thirty-three feet south; thence fifty feet east; thence one hundred thirty-three feet north; and thence fifty feet west to its starting point.

## Boundary Justification

These are the boundaries historically and currently associated with the property.

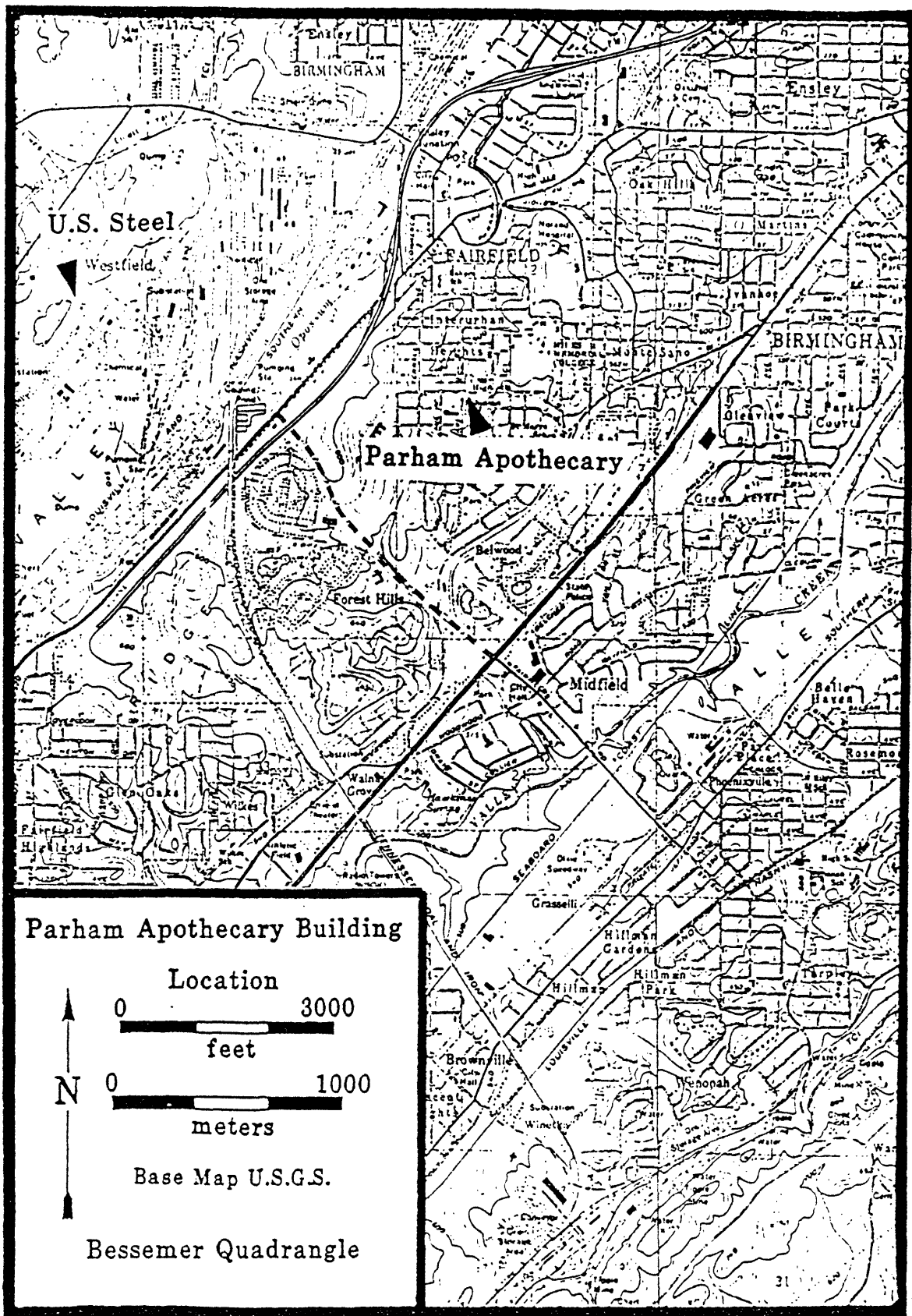


Figure 1. Location of the Parham Apothecary Building.

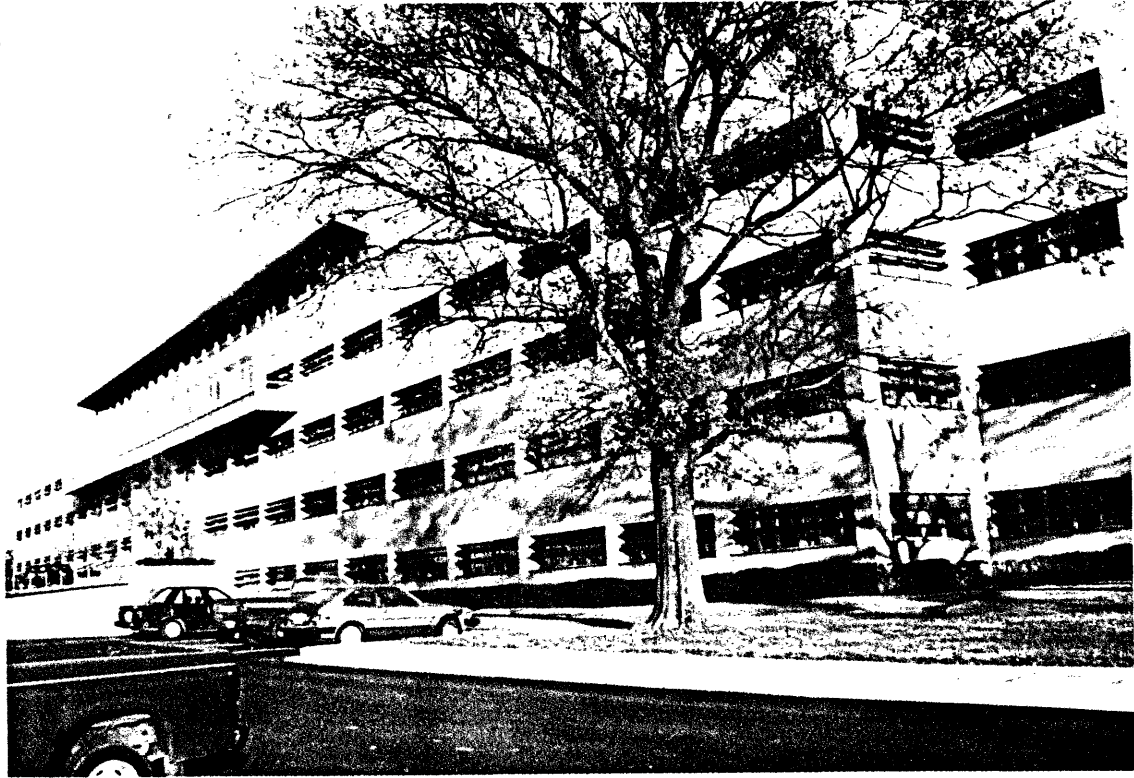
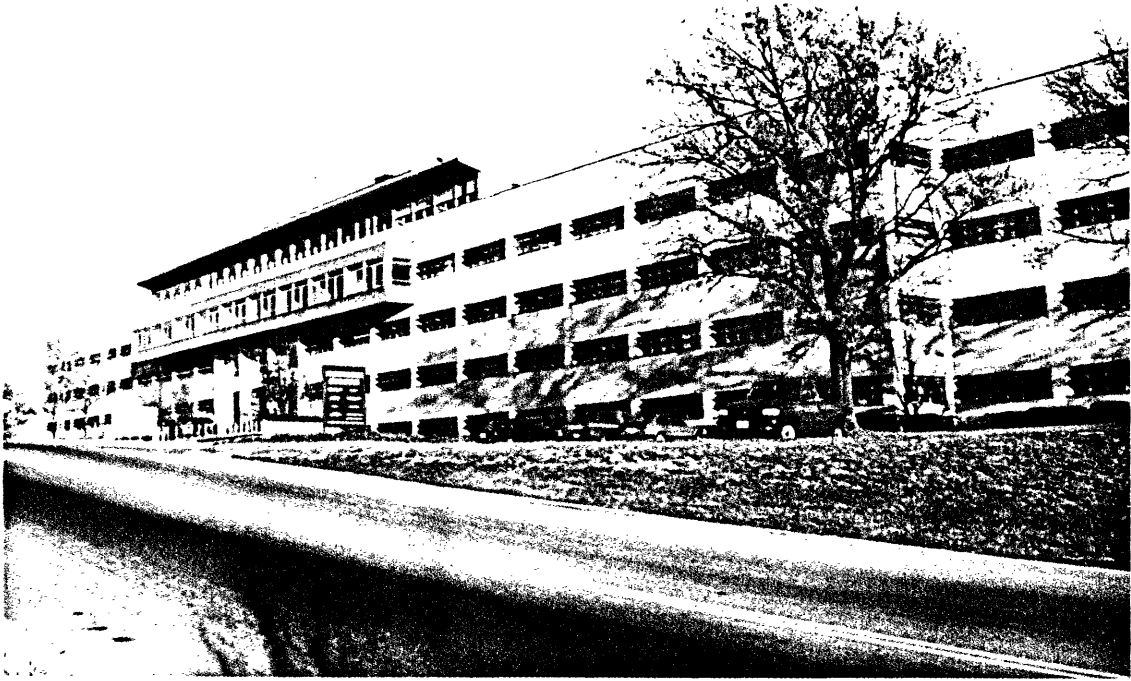


Figure 2. Flintridge Building.

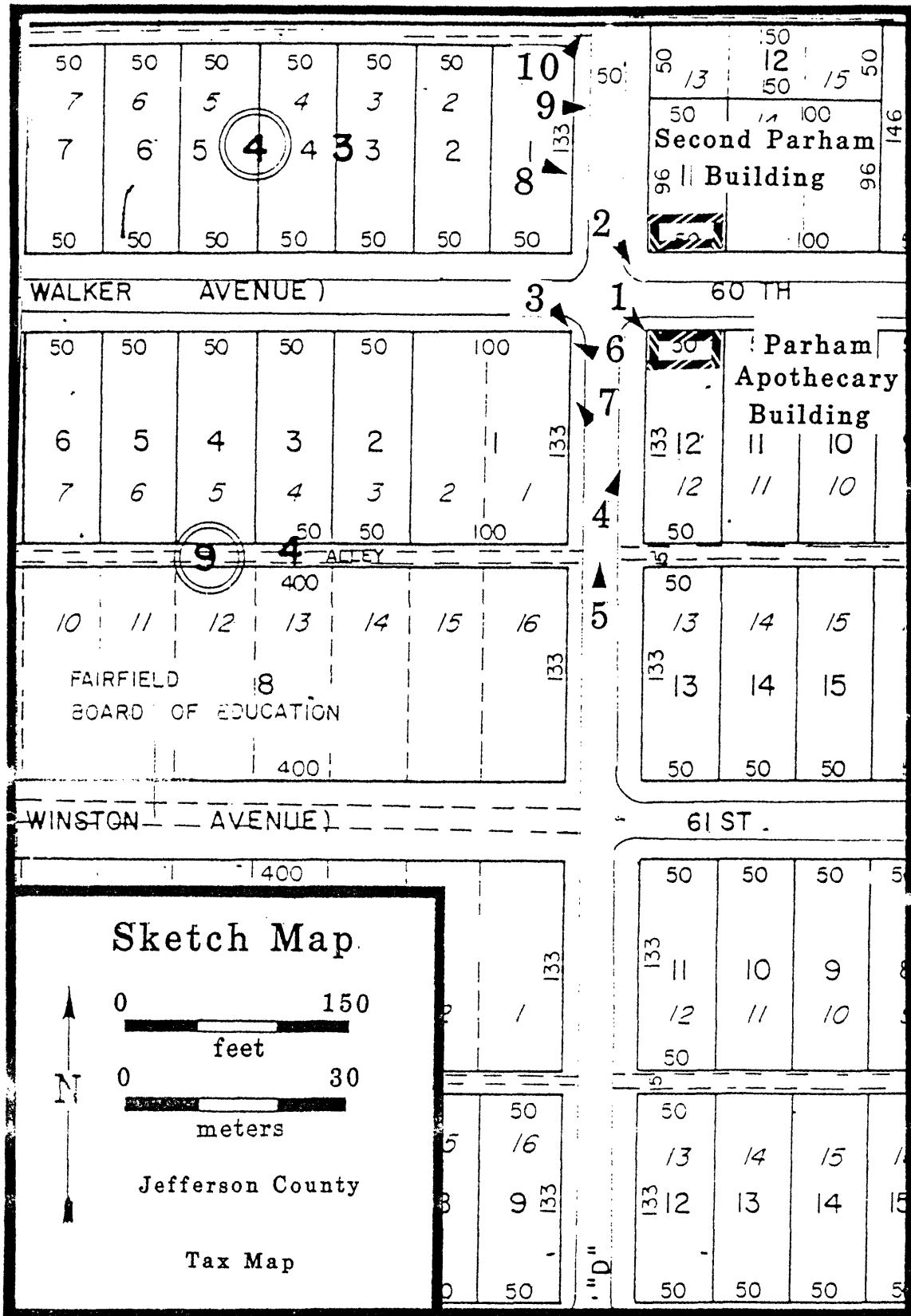
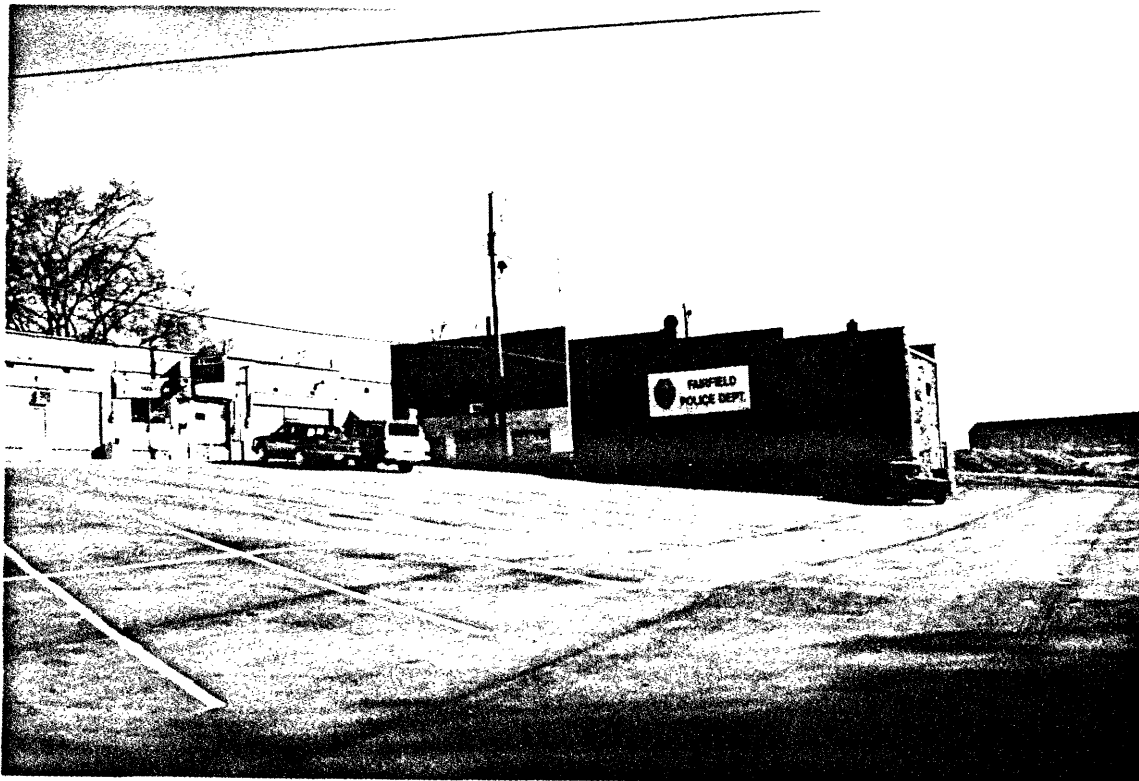
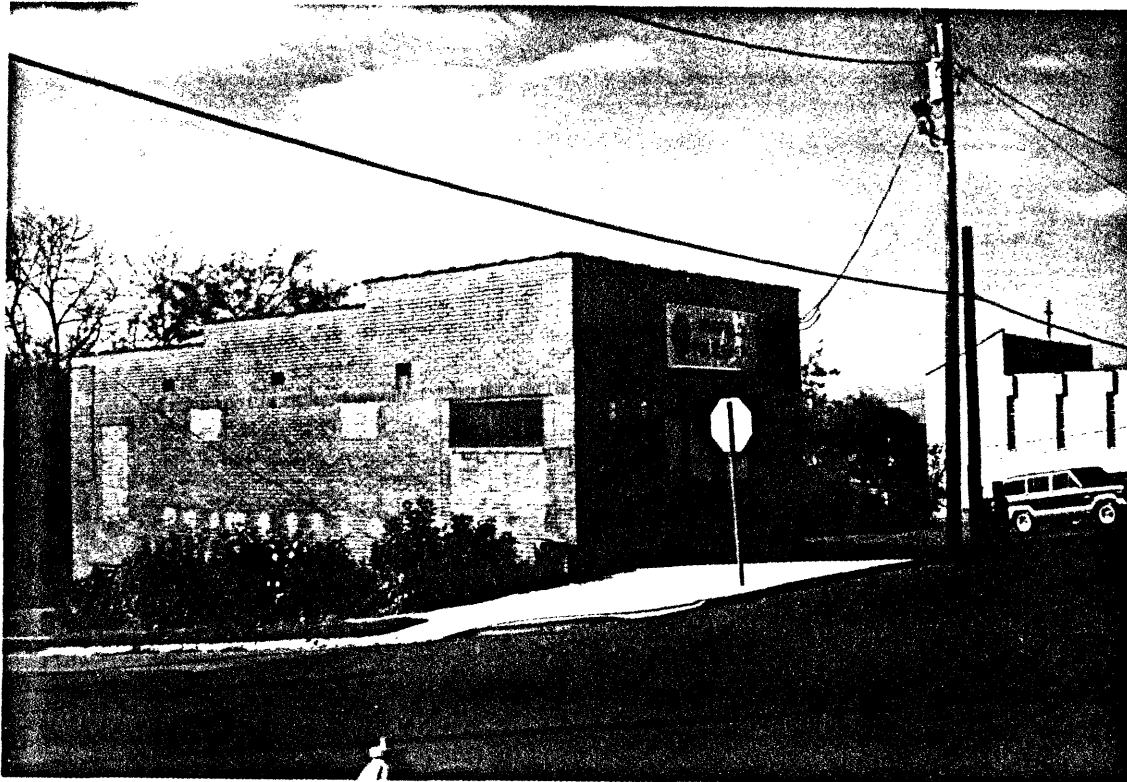


Figure 3. Sketch Map of the Parham Apothecary Building and Commercial District.



Figures 4 and 5. Fairfield Police Station (T) and Parking Lot (B).

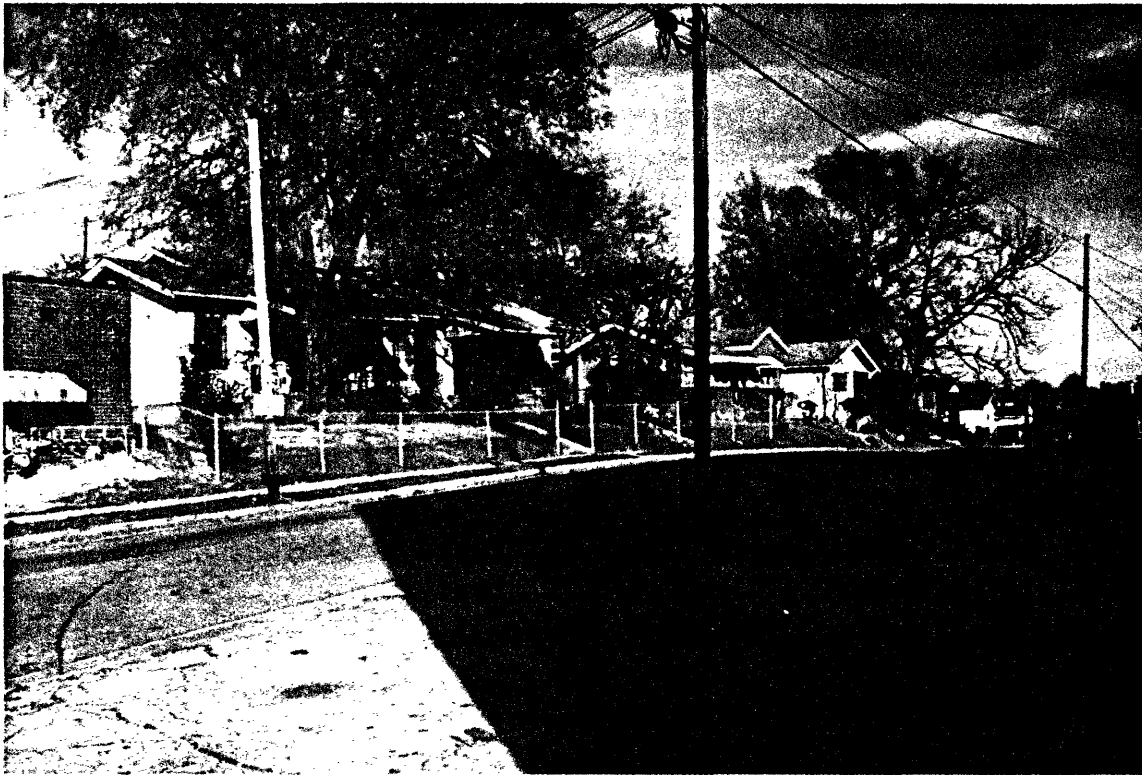
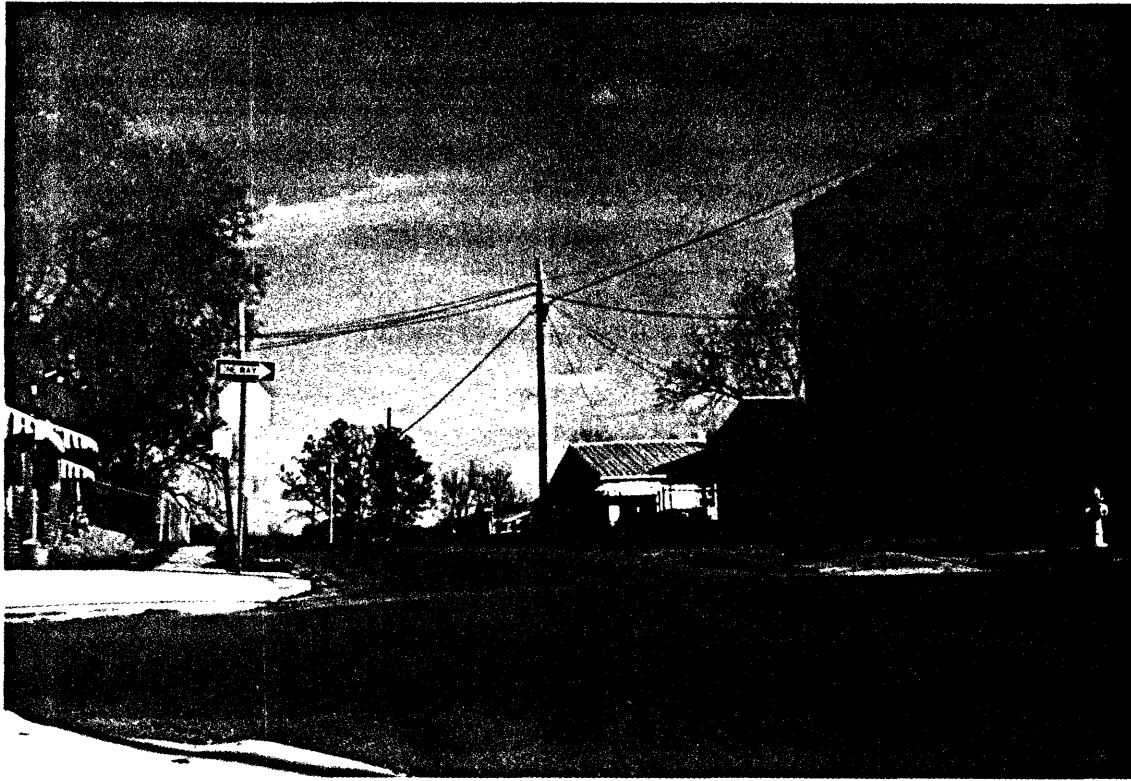


Figures 6 and 7. An Open Lot (T) and Bungalows (B).

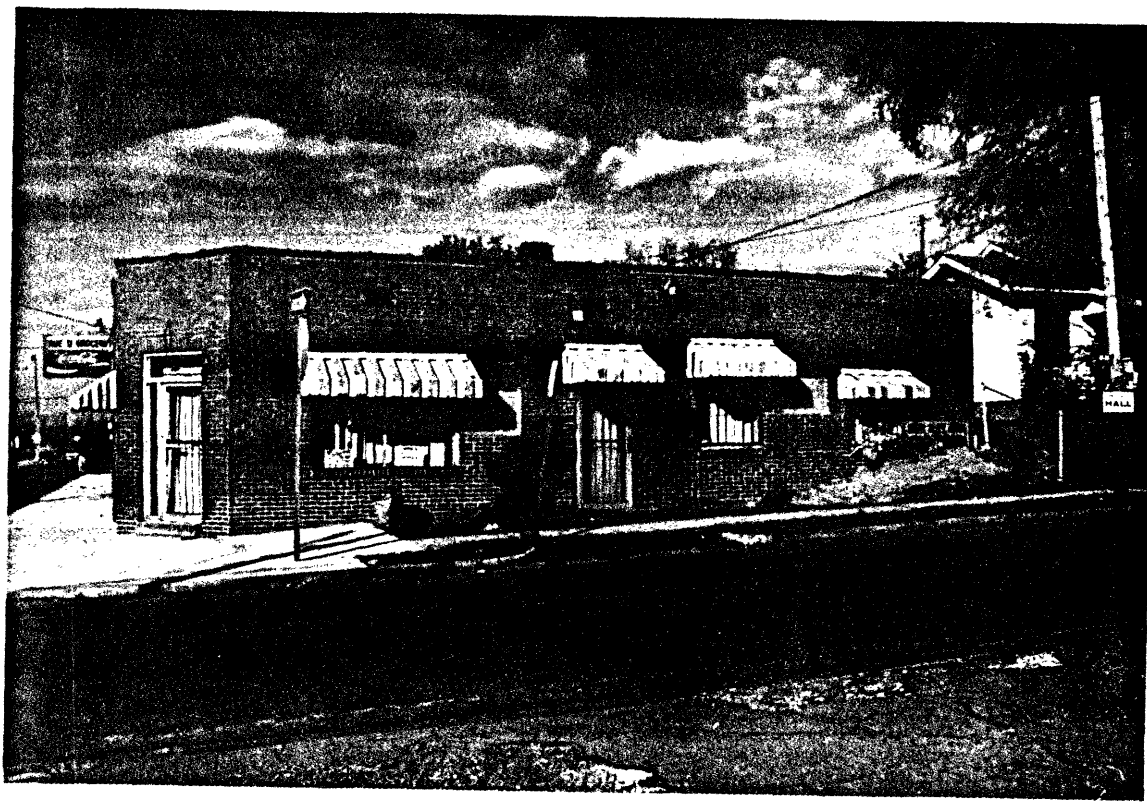




Figures 8 and 9. Education Building (T) and Parham Apothecary Building (B).



Figures 10 and 11. Row of Bungalows (T) and Bungalows and Modern Side Gable Roof Houses (B).



## The second Home of Parham's Apothecary in 1940

Figures 12 and 13. Second Parham Building (T) and 1940 Photo of Second Parham Building (B).



## Parham's Drug Store & Gasoline Station

Figure 14. Views of Second Parham Building.

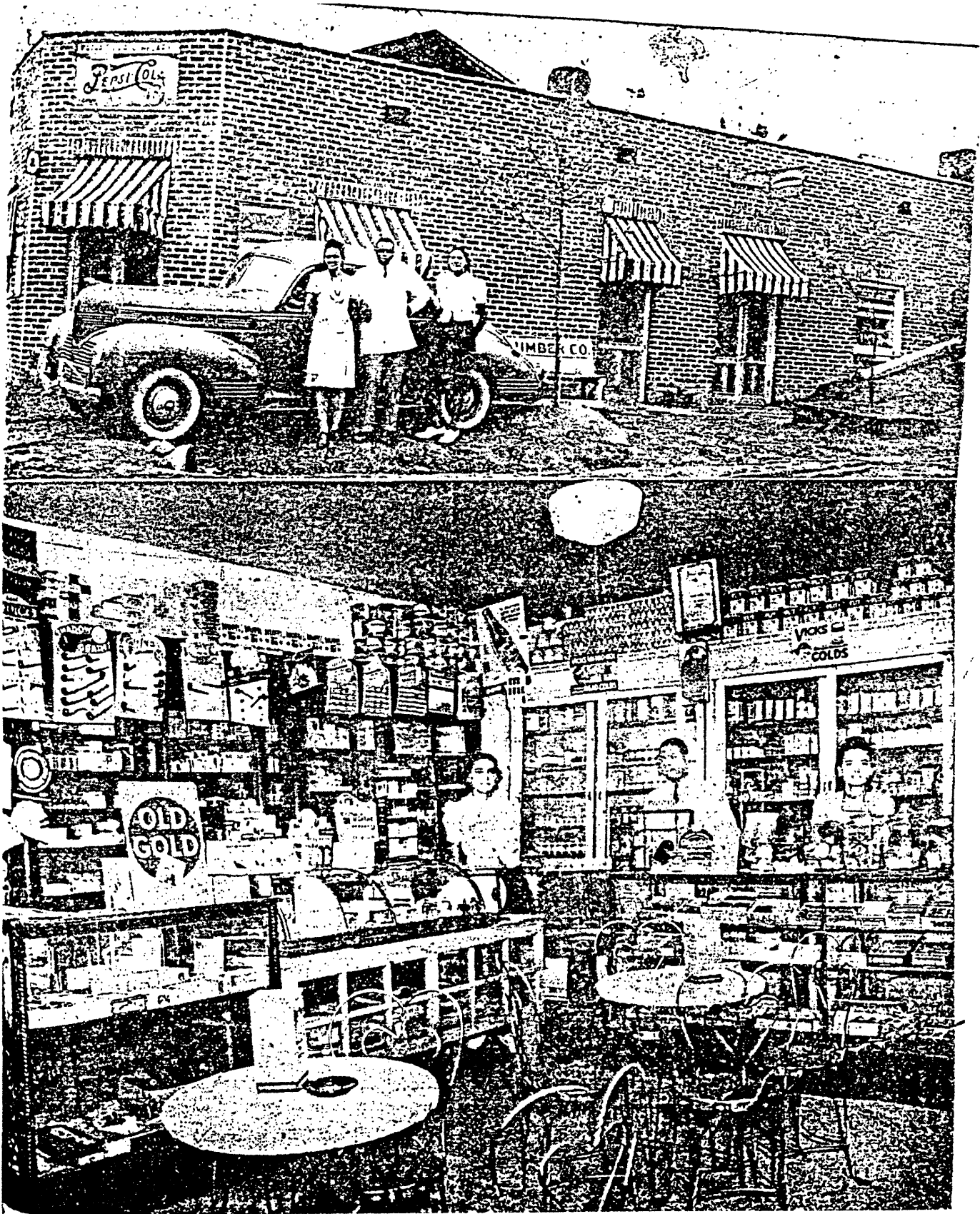
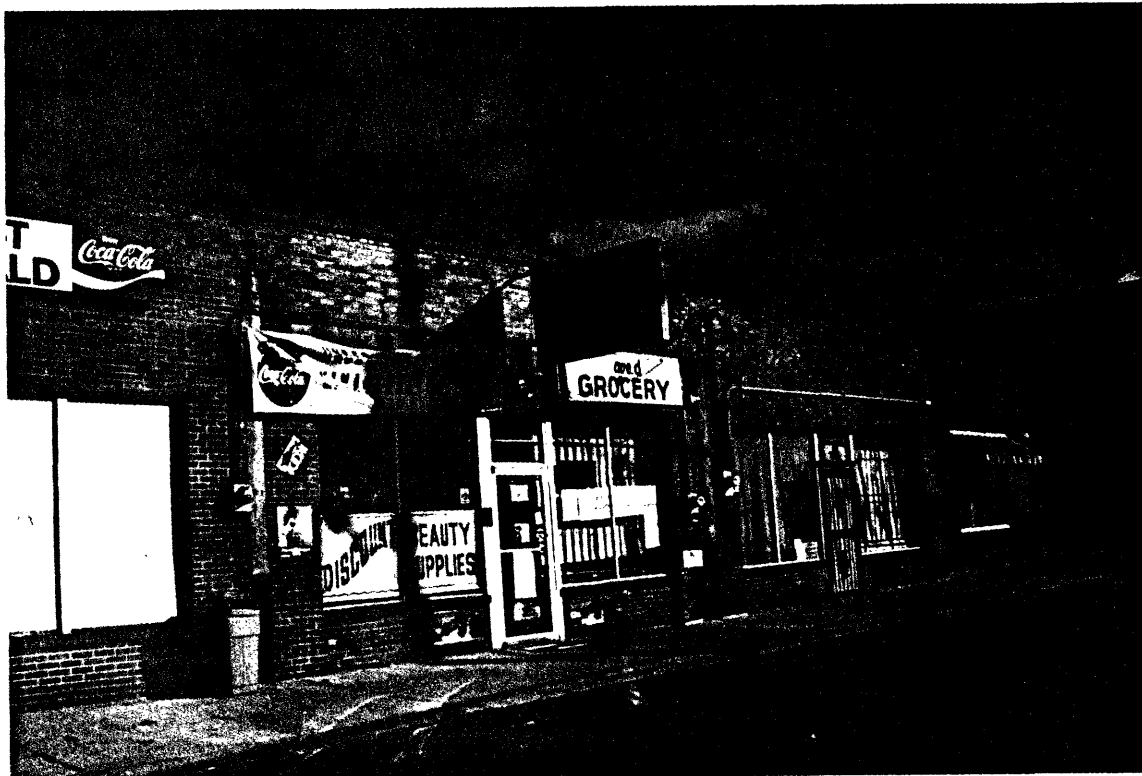
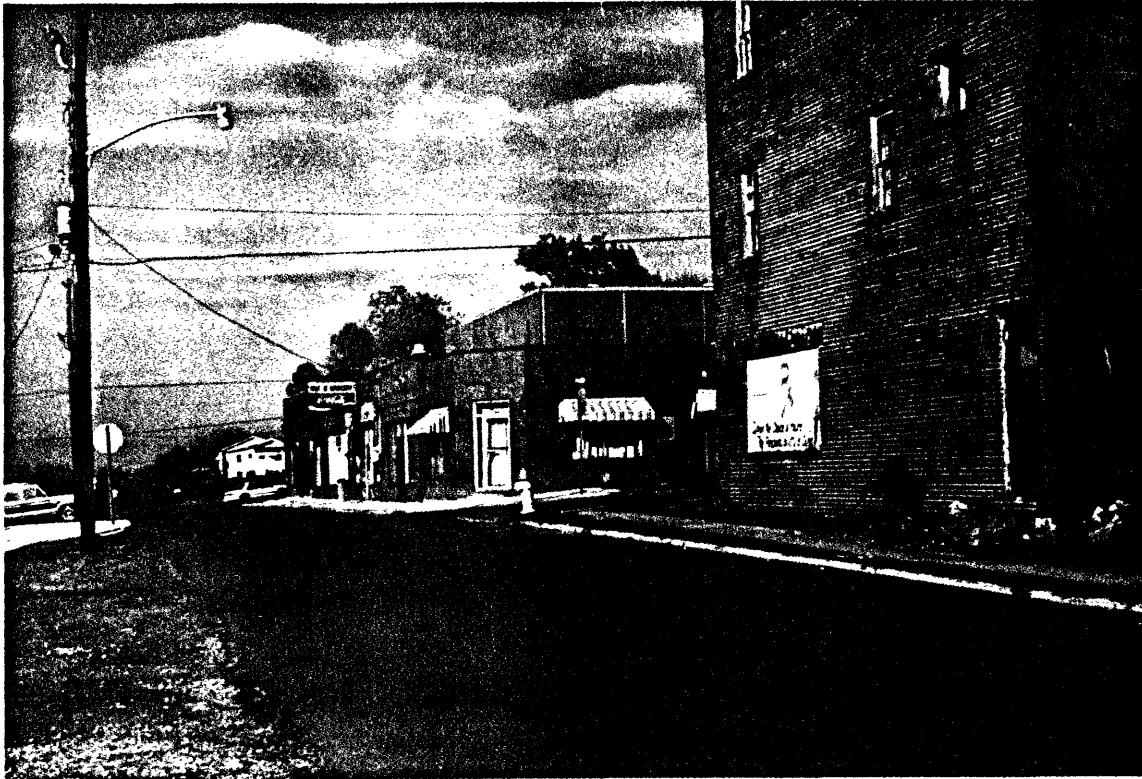
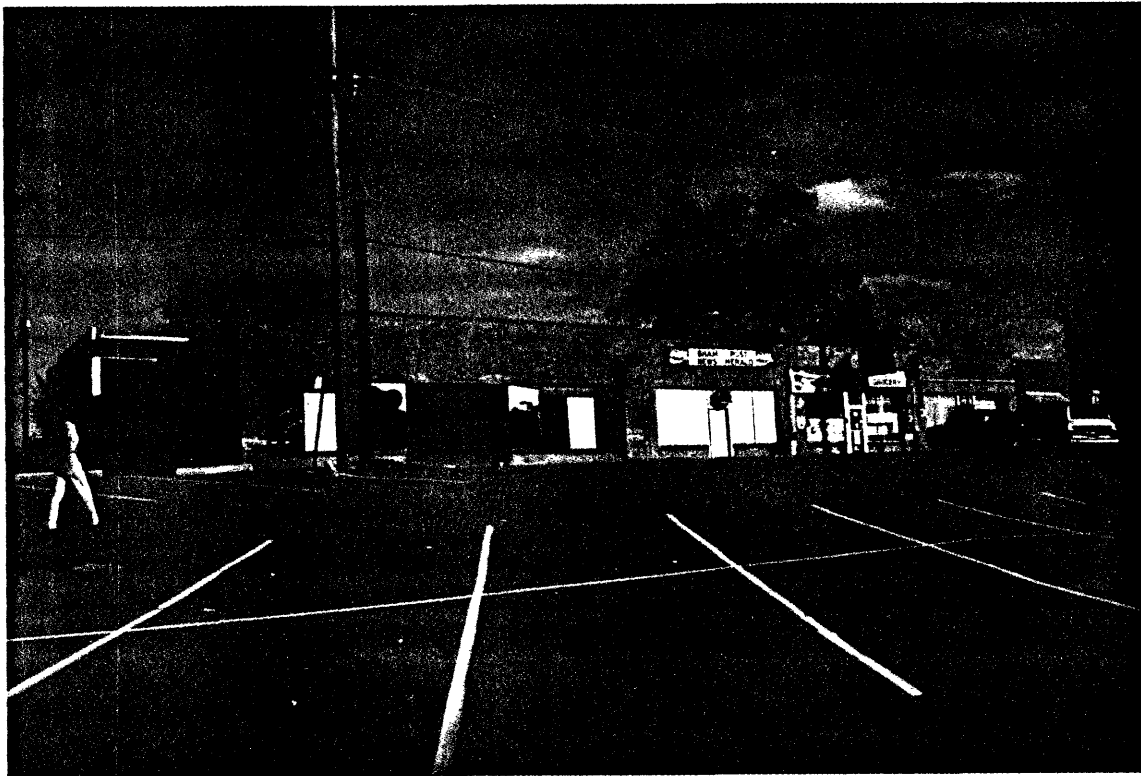


Figure 15. Exterior (T) and Interior (T) Views of Second Parham Building.

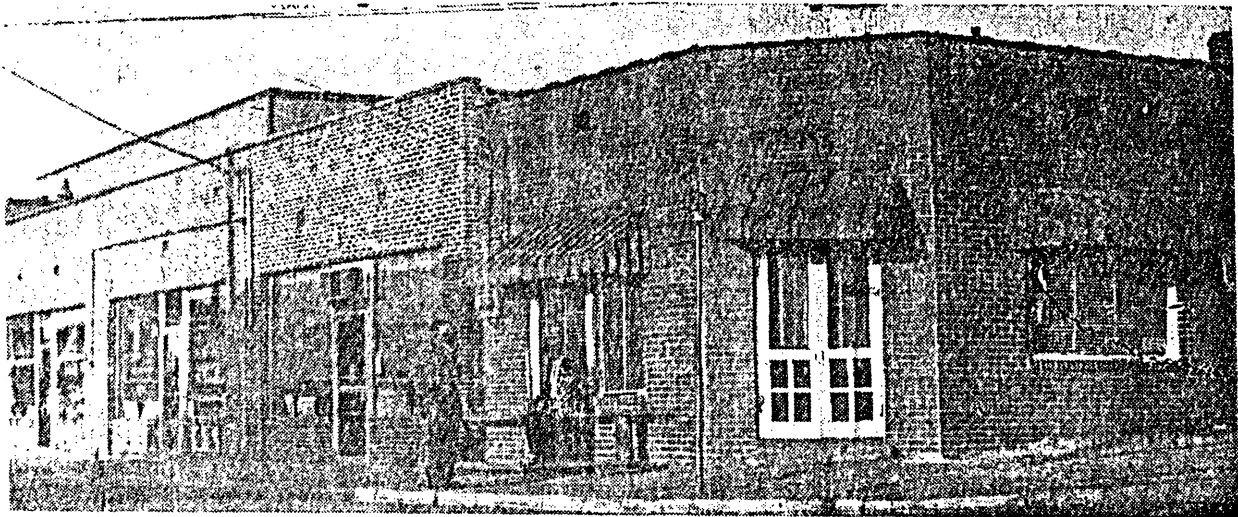


Figures 16 and 17. Commercial Block (T) and Avenue D Grocery Store and its neighbor (B).





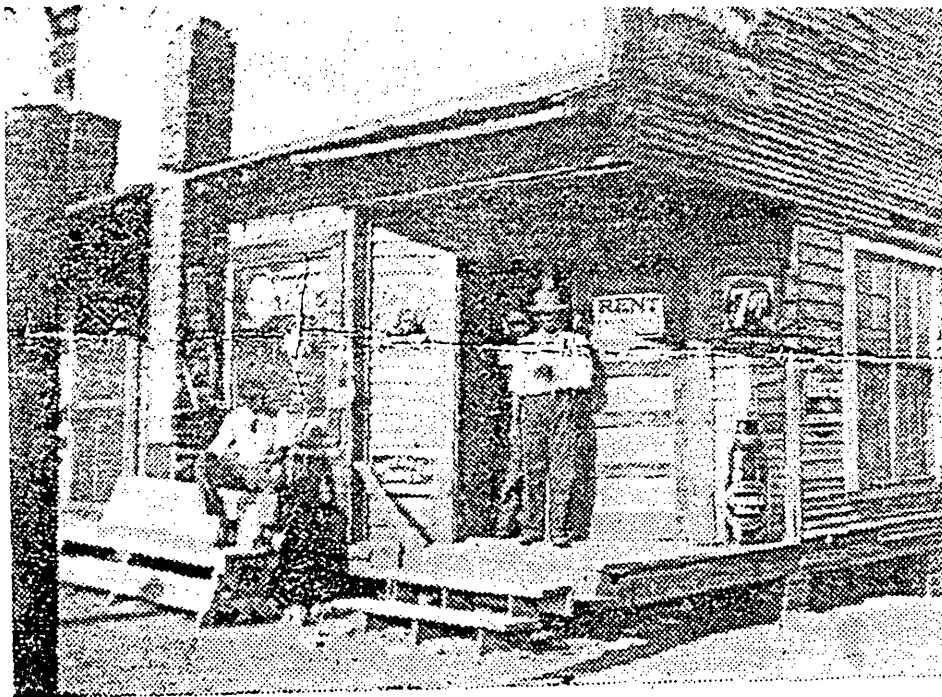
Figures 18 and 19. Third of look-alike Buildings (T) and Former Supermarket Building (B).



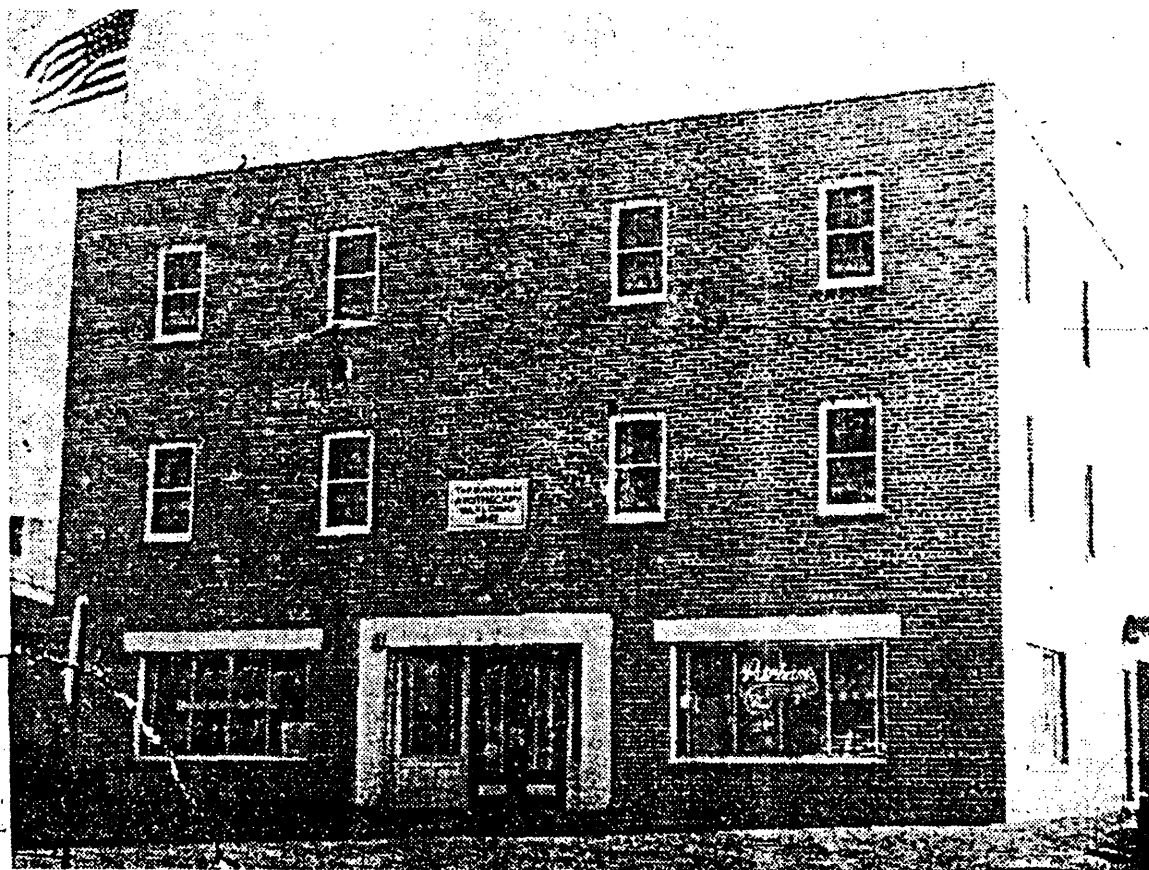
resc Buildings House The Television Shop, Dress Shop, Cleaners, and Shoe Shop

Figures 20 and 21. Education Building (T) and Historic View of Commercial Block (B).





The Original Home of Parham's  
Apothecary 1937



Figures 22 and 23. Historic View of Parham Apothecary Building and First Parham Building.