

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## DATA SHEET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 1 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 21 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**HISTORIC ~~City of~~ Sumter Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Sumter— NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
#5STATE  
South Carolina— VICINITY OF  
CODE  
045COUNTY  
SumterCODE  
085**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**NAME  
Miscellaneous

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

— VICINITY OF

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sumter County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

127 North Main

CITY, TOWN

Sumter

STATE  
South Carolina**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**TITLE  
Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina

DATE

1973

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

South Carolina Department of Archives &amp; History

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE  
South Carolina

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A settlement by 1785, Sumterville was named after General Thomas Sumter, South Carolina Revolutionary war hero. In 1798 the village was selected for the site of the courthouse of old Sumter District. With no access to waterway or railroad, development was slow until the Camden branch of the South Carolina Railroad extended into the town in 1843. Incorporated in 1845, Sumterville's name was eventually changed to Sumter. The town of Sumter was officially chartered in 1871.

Located in the central section of South Carolina, Sumter was a focal point for trade and marketing. Commercial structures were built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries which reflected this period of Sumter's growth and prosperity. Sumter Historic District, which primarily consists of Main & Liberty Streets, represents a key commercial area in both the 19th and 20th centuries.

This downtown district, consisting of approximately 84 structures, contains buildings dating from 1828 to the present. 21 structures can definitely be dated 1880-1912; many others can be tentatively dated in this period according to architectural style. Generally, others date prior to the 1930s. Three structures can be dated prior to 1880. There are approximately 11 intrusions. These are compatible in height but have incompatible front facades. Intrusions include: James, Inc. (1956) and adjoining law offices, Reed's Jeweler's and Provident Financial (1974), Love's, Edward's (1950s), Army-Navy Store (old structure, bricked over facade), Gentlemen's Corner, Belk's (old structure, completely new facade), and the Capitol. There are approximately 7 buildings constructed 1880-1912 which are covered by incompatible siding which can possibly be removed to reveal the original facades.

A 2 block area of the district (Main Street from Caldwell to Hampton) is to be included in a mall; a City of Sumter project now underway, with a "turn-of-the-century" theme. The mall's construction will allow for removal of wires and neons as well as construction of compatible street furniture. It is anticipated that modern facades will be removed and deteriorating facades restored.

Historic structures within the historic district include:

1. Sumter County Courthouse (127 North Main): 1907, Classic Revival, brick & steel, 2 stories with raised basement, ionic columns with scamozzi capitals-hexastyle in antis, 4 of which are paired in center of structure, balustraded parapet.
2. Shore Office (12 Law Range): 1828, 1 story frame structure with central chimney. Removal of side porch is only major alteration. Structure was moved in 1839 from southeast corner of Main & Law Range to present site. (Original site within district). Oldest structure within district.
3. Knight Brothers (103-107 N. Main): ca. 1890, Store has expanded to include two separate 2 story structures. North facade is brick with boxed cornice, brackets. South facade is believed to be of cut limestone, entablature decorated with rosettes. Both facades are original. No major alterations with exception of street level facade.

(see continuation sheet)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1828 to present BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally called Sumterville, the town was the county seat of Sumter District and later Sumter County. The town of Sumter's political, commercial, and cultural development is reflected in the architecture of the central business district which spans a time period from 1828 to the present.

ARCHITECTURE

Many of the buildings in the original commercial district of Sumter date from 1880 to 1912 and are typical of turn-of-the-century commercial buildings, using materials such as pressed tin, limestone, and brick. Detail work of buildings includes arches, columns, decorative brickwork and dentil work.

The downtown business district provided examples of other architectural styles spanning the decades from 1828 to the present. Notable buildings include the Shore Building (1828), white clapboard with front gable roof, the Bank of Sumter (1912), constructed in the Roman revival style, and White and Kennedy (1903), an eclectic building with denticulated central gable and Palladian style window. The massive Richardsonian romanesque Town Hall and Opera House (1893) is the visual anchor and focal point of the district.

COMMERCE

Sumter's original commercial business district was once the trade center for the surrounding Sumter District. The city is now the county seat and market center of Sumter County, a predominantly agricultural and lumber-producing area.

The latter part of the 19th Century was an active commercial period for Sumter. New railroad lines insured the town's position as a busy cotton market and shipping center during the years that cotton was the staple crop. Sumter's increased prominence as a transportation and trade center was accompanied by the construction of the new commercial buildings.

(see continuation sheet)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ewen, David. ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE OPERA. New York: Hill & Wang, Inc., 1955.

Gregorie, Anne King. HISTORY OF SUMTER COUNTY. Sumter, S.C.: Library Board of Sumter County, 1954.

(see continuation sheet)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY ca. 35 acres  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	56,019,8,0	3,715,3600	B	1,7	56,094,0	3,715,304,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,7	56,066,0	3,715,3060	D	1,7	56,070,0	3,715,362,0

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The City of Sumter Historic District extends from the Courthouse on Main Street, three blocks south to the Federal Building. Boundaries on the opposite side of Main begin with the property lines of Seaco Music Shop & extend 3 blocks south to the property lines of the University Shop. Also included: 1 block of the Law Range (ending with shore Office); 1 block of East Liberty bordered by Main & Harvin; 1 block of Caldwell (north side) bordered by Main & Harvin. The north

## LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE  
 Nenie Dixon, Mary Ann Eaddy--Historic Preservation Division (Ruth Rhyne)

ORGANIZATION  
 South Carolina Department of Archives & History

STREET & NUMBER  
 1430 Senate Street

CITY OR TOWN  
 Columbia

DATE  
 3/19/75

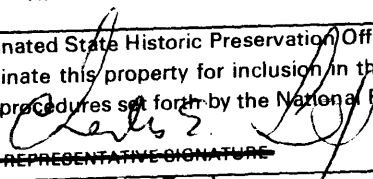
TELEPHONE  
 (803) 758-5816

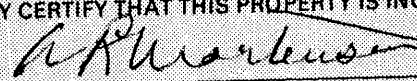

STATE  
 South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:  
 NATIONAL      STATE      LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE  
  
 TITLE: Charles E. Lee, State Historic Preservation Officer  
 DATE: 3/31/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST:   
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE: 4/3/75  
 DATE: 4.17.75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE One

4. Mingus Jewelry (101 N. Main): ca. 1868. 2 story structure. Facade alteration due to fire in 1913.
5. Newman Realty (132 N. Main): ca. 1890, 1 story brick. Originally office of Epperson's Livery Stable. Basic structure remains unchanged.
6. Lee & Moise Building (122 N. Main): ca. 1907, Romanesque Revival, 2 story brick structure. 4 rectangular 1st floor windows, 5 stilted-arch windows on 2nd story. Recessed entry-way. No major alterations.
7. Burns Hardware (35 N. Main): ca. 1890, Basic 2 story structure is original; however, facade was remodeled in 1927 and is now brick. 3 windows on 2nd story have lintels and lugsills. Parapet. Hardware store has been in same family since inception. One of oldest remaining stores in business district.
8. City Shoe Store (33 N. Main): 1882, 2 story structure. Central arched cornice, frieze, & brackets. Constructed for Bultman Brothers' Boots and Shoes. Owners, CFA & CFH Bultman, were natives of Hanover, who emigrated to U.S. Two brothers began selling shoes in Sumter in 1871 and by 1882 the volume of business prompted building a new store with a frontage of 28 ft. and depth of 96 ft. on Main Street. An almanac of 1884 described merchandise as "the largest & fullest line of shoes in the low country outside of Charleston valued at some \$12,000." According to sketch of 1884, upper level windows were originally shuttered & under the arched cornice were facsimiles of 2 boots on either side of a circle containing the insignia--"B&B" and the date "1882".
9. Town Hall/Opera House (21 N. Main): NR property, 1893, Richardsonian Romanesque. Fire destroyed original Town Hall/Opera House built on same site 1872. 4 stories. Cumberland buff stone, Ashler finish, laid with dark red cement. 100 feet high clock tower. Street level facade as well as interior remodeled in 1936.
10. Appliance & TV Center (12 N. Main): ca. 1890, modern facade constructed 1962; however, original front exists beneath present facade. Minor interior alterations.
11. Berger's (30 N. Main): ca. 1880, 2 story brick structure.
12. Bradham Real Estate (2 N. Main): 1912, Classic Revival. 2 stories. Pilasters and 2 engaged columns with ionic capitals. Denticulated cornice supporting stylized parapet. Entry surmounted by bracketed cornice. Site of 1st locally owned and operated bank in Sumter.

(continuation sheet)

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13. Barnett's (9 East Liberty): ca. 1880, 1 story structure, stone. Heart pine floor, cellar. Business owned and operated by the same family for over 75 years. Original store was on Main Street; business moved to present structure during Depression.
14. Sumter Dry Goods (3 South Main): 1868, 2 stories. Used for sale of dry goods since built by A.A. Solomon. Fire in 1974 burned much of interior; renovation in process.
15. Eleanor Shop (17 S. Main): 1905, 2 stories. Facade and awning are of shaped tin. No major alterations.
16. Home Bakery (33 S. Main): ca. 1900, 1 story structure with shaped tin facade. Structure once housed postal telegraph office (1907-1909).
17. Rowe's Pharmacy (47 S. Main): ca. 1912, 3 story brick structure, bracketed and denticulated cornice, pedimented parapet. Entrance remodeled 1965.
18. Kress (51 S. Main): 1912, 2 story brick structure. Facade alterations.
19. Federal Building (53 S. Main): 1907, 2 story, cut limestone. Roman doric columns (tetra style inantis). 8 sets of paired brackets support cornice (1 pair over each of 4 columns and 4 pilasters to each side.) Terra cotta hipped roof.
20. J.C. Penney (18 S. Main): originally constructed ca. 1889, burned and rebuilt 1916. 2 story brick. Modern facade; however, the original remains intact and bears the name O'Donnell.
21. White and Kennedy (22 S. Main): 1903. 2 story neo-classic-Palladian structure. Brick modillioned pediment and cornice, oculi. Acroterion at apex of pediment. No major alterations except street level facade.
22. Kimbrell Furniture (102 S. Main): ca. 1902. 3 story brick structure. Parapet. 2nd floor 6/6 lights. 3rd floor contemporary lights. Street level facade altered.
23. Henry P. Moses, Co. (122 S. Main): ca. 1890. 2 story brick structure. bracketed and denticulated cornice. Pedimented parapet. 4 6/6 windows on 2nd story. Exterior window molding. Decorated frieze.

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THEATRE/MUSIC

The first Sumter Opera House and Town Hall was constructed in 1872 and destroyed by fire in 1892. Another Town Hall and Opera House, which still stands, was erected in 1893 on the original opera house site. A number of traveling stage companies played at both the old and new Opera House. Performers included the Sumter native, Clara Louise Kellogg, an internationally known opera singer; Katie Putnam, and the Bijou Opera Company. In 1888 two lectures were given by Mrs. Belva Ann Lockwood, first woman admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court and first woman candidate for president of the United States.

POLITICAL

Sumter was one of the first cities in the nation to adopt the council-manager form of government, with a full-time professional city manager employed by an elected council. From the year of its charter in 1845, the town was governed by an elected council of five. The first city manager was hired in 1912. The center of the government was located within the district at Town Hall from 1872 until the mid-20th Century.

In the early 19th Century, Sumterville had a courthouse erected on the public square at the intersection of the only two streets, Liberty and Broad (now Main). Although moved several times, the county courthouse has always been located within the district.

SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN

Stores in Sumter which retain their original facades are visual reminders of a vibrant period of commercial growth in the South following recovery from the War-Between-the-States. Many of the shopowners came to Sumter from other sections of South Carolina or the United States or from Ireland or Germany. This increase in population, due to the influx of immigrants in the seventies, eighties, and nineties was a national trend, and for these men Sumter represented a new frontier for commercial activity.

Northern, Southern, Irish, German, Jewish and Roman Catholic shopowners in Sumter comprised a commercial population with a wide variety of nationalities and origins. The men had in common, however, ambition and enterprise which found expression in the architectural detail of their stores.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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ITEM NUMBER 9

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Manuscripts from Sumter County Archives: PEOPLES, PLACES, AND THINGS FROM THE PAST by Hubert D. Osteen; SOME HISTORY OF SUMTER COUNTY by H.L. Scarborough; SUMTERVILLE by Margaret Brunson; SOME LONG CONTINUED BUSINESS IN SUMTER COUNTY by Gerbert A. Moses; RECOLLECTIONS OF SUMTER IN THE EARLY 1880s by E.M. Hall; SUMTER FIFTY OR MORE YEARS AGO by H.G. Osteen; SUMTER MERCANTILES by John Mitchell; SUMTER'S OLDEST BUSINESS by Herbert A. Moses.

Personal Interviews with merchants. Ruth Rhyne, Historic Preservation Coordinator Santee-Wateree Regional Council, Student volunteers. January & February, 1975.

SOUTH CAROLINA, A GUIDE TO THE PALMETTO STATE compiled by Workers of the Writer's Program of the WPA. New York: Oxford University Press, 1941.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA GAZETTEER AND BUSINESS DIRECTORY FOR 1880-81.

SUMTER DAILY ITEM. Centennial Issues of 1950 and 1962.

EXPOSITION, Vol. I, No. 6. May, 1901.

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE REVIEW OF THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA. Vol. III, Charleston, S.C.: Empire Publishing Co., 1884.



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side of West Liberty is included within the district -- ending with the property line of 17 W. Liberty (Harry's Pawn Shop).

City of Sumter Historic District

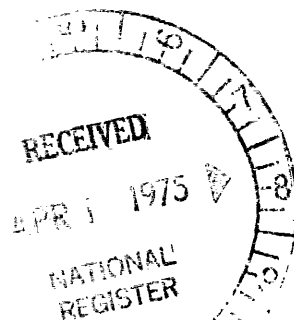
Selected structures within historic district:

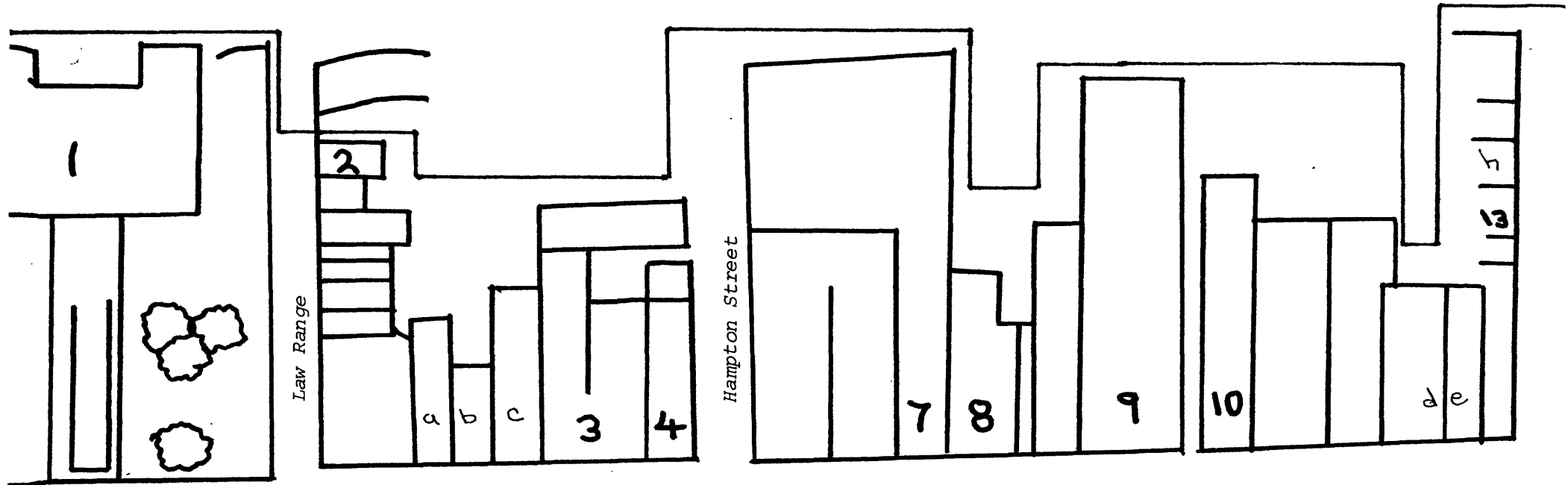
1. Sumter County Courthouse
2. Shore Office
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4. Mingus Jewelers
5. Newman Realty
6. Lee & Moise Building
7. Burns' Hardware
8. City Shoe Store
9. Town Hall - Opera House
10. Appliance & Television Center
11. Berger's
12. Bradham Real Estate
13. Barnett's
14. Sumter Dry goods
15. Eleanor's
16. Home Bakery
17. Rowe's Pharmacy
18. Kress
19. Federal Building
20. J.C. Penney
21. White & Kennedy
22. Kimbrell's
23. Henry P. Moses

The district also includes approximately 52 other structures which are historically and architecturally a part of the district but on which detailed information is not included.

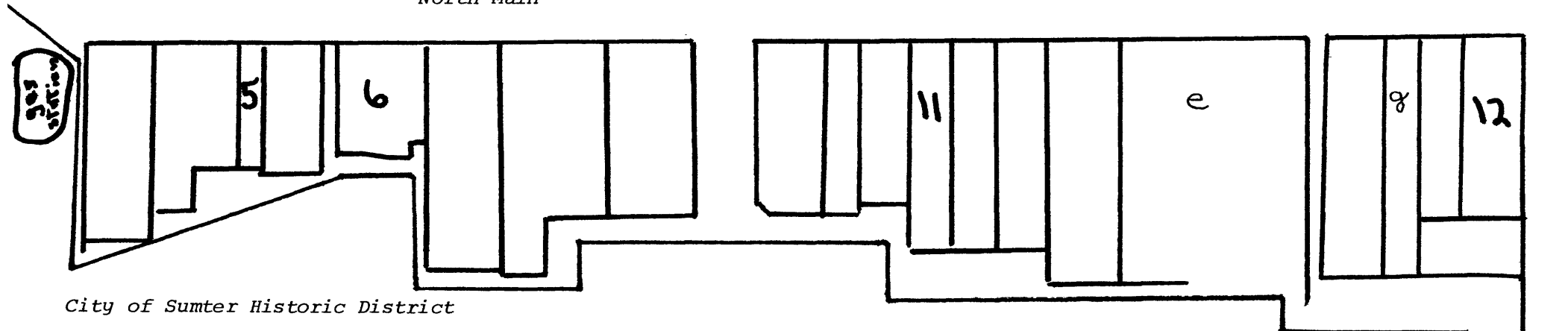
Intrusions:

- A. James, Inc.
- B. & C. Adjoining Law Offices
- D. & E. Reed's Jeweler's - Provident Financial
- F. Edward's
- G. Love's
- H. Army-Navy Store
- I. Belk's
- J. The Capitol
- K. Gentlemen's Corner, LTD.





North Main



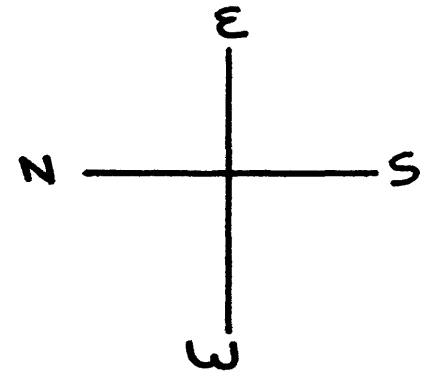
City of Sumter Historic District

— All property within this line is included in district. Property lines determine exact boundaries. Map is not to scale.

1-23 Selected structures within district

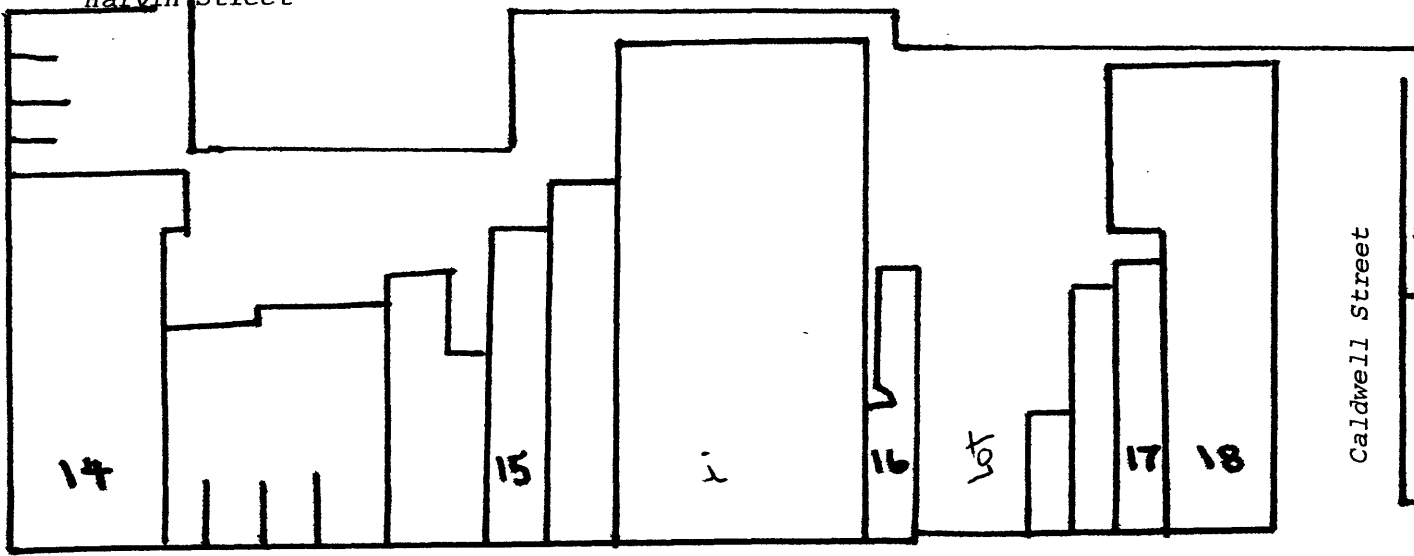
a-k Intrusions

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Harvin Street

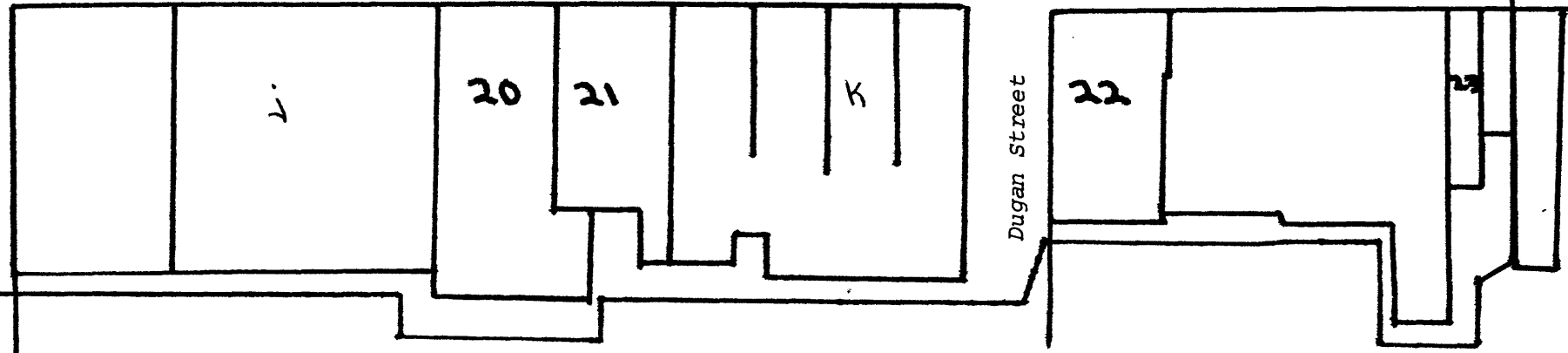
East Liberty



Caldwell Street

South Main

West Liberty



Dugan Street

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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

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**SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD**

NRIS Reference Number: 75001707

Property Name: Sumter Historic District

County: Sumter State: South Carolina

Multiple Name: N/A

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

  
Signature of the Keeper

May 4, 2006  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Sections 7 & 8:

The period of significance for the district is, hereby, changed from "1828 to present" to read "1828 to ca. 1940," to correspond with current practice and to recognize the intent of the original nomination to recognize the importance of properties constructed in the 1920s and 1930s. With this clarification, intact historic properties such as 106 N. Main St, the former Montgomery Ward and Company Building, which was built in 1928, are considered to contribute to the significance of the historic district.

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The South Carolina State Historic Preservation Office requested this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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