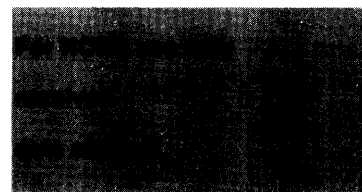


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic West Point Central City Historic District

and/or common same as above

2. Location

street & number Mississippi Hwy. 50 N/A not for publication

city, town West Point N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state Mississippi code 28 county Clay code 025

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" 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"/> N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk, Clay County Courthouse

street & number 205 Court Street

city, town West Point state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in the agricultural, Black Belt prairie region of northeast Mississippi, West Point is an industrial based town with a population of approximately 10,000. The West Point Central City Historic District occupies the heart of the city's oldest section, and, while primarily commercial-industrial in nature, it includes several government, ecclesiastical, civic, and residential structures as well. The district contains more than 80 architecturally and/or historically significant buildings, few of which have undergone major alteration, and conforms to boundaries established by the West Point Historic Preservation Commission and the City of West Point. These boundaries have been delineated primarily according to historical development and represent those areas of the central city deemed most important to the local community.

The proposed historic district possesses a high degree of continuity in both scale and architecture, and the majority of its buildings reflect architecturally the period of greatest growth for the downtown area--the years between 1870 and 1930. Brick is by far the most common building material employed, but a slight sprinkling of stone and frame construction can also be found. The original plan of the central city remains intact, illustrating how West Point's railroads dominated development of the downtown. Commerce Street, the business district's first major thoroughfare was constructed in an angular fashion parallel to the old Mobile & Ohio Railroad (now Illinois Central Gulf) tracks while other streets were laid out in a grid pattern with a true north-south or east-west orientation.

At first construction centered chiefly on Commerce Street but rapidly spread westward along Main Street with the coming of the Georgia-Pacific Railroad (now Columbus & Greenville Railway Co.) in 1889. Railroad tracks flank the central business district on the east and west and were responsible for location of early industries on land adjoining the business district on the north. These industrial buildings (with their arched openings, hood molds, corbeled cornices, etc.) are exemplary of the architectural tastes of the late-19th century which ornamented even the most functional of structures. The long rows of one-story and two-story buildings along Commerce and Main Streets primarily mirror the heyday of the Commercial Italianate period with the buildings which have been replaced, or remodeled illustrating interesting 20th century designs or compatible new construction. Dense construction began to line Court and Jordan Street in the 1870's following erection of the original Clay County Courthouse (demolished 1957) at 205 Court Street. Construction along the southern end of Commerce Street (since it was largely devoted to hostelrys such as the Henley House) and that along West Broad Street and South Division Street (where the business-civic area begins to mesh with the residential sector) was (and still is) much less dense than the areas closer to Main Street. Significant open spaces were created in the east-central section of the Central City District when Confederate Park (with the marble Clay County Confederate monument as its focal point) was established in 1907 and when the city cleared cattle pens from the area just east of the M & O tracks in 1915 for a city park.

Today's West Point's central business district is still the commercial center of the city. Several national chain stores, as well as locally owned businesses are located in the downtown, and the economic position of the area is quite viable. Despite new construction within the proposed district in recent years, the West Point Central City Historic District still possesses the ambience of a small, turn-of-the-century, Southern, railroad town--a quality which the city is now taking measures to preserve.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	N/A	Builder/Architect	N/A
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The West Point (Mississippi) Central City Historic District is a well preserved commercial/ industrial community with good examples of commercial architecture dating from the mid-19th through the early-20th centuries. An excellent illustration of how frontier settlements grew up along early transportation routes, the district visually traces the development of the city's business community, primarily reflecting its period of greatest growth from the 1870's to the 1920's. Although many buildings have been altered and new buildings constructed within the district, the West Point central city area still retains the nature, scale, and ambience of its turn-of-the-century character.

West Point had its beginning in 1857 when the Mobile & Ohio Railroad laid tracks through northeast Mississippi. At that time there was no settlement on the present site of West Point, but it did not take long for businesses to spring up around the depot which the railroad constructed to serve surrounding agricultural communities. Growth was rapid. Incorporation for the town came during the following year, and, according to local tradition, the name West Point was chosen since it was then located in the "western-most point" of Lowndes County (Grathan B. Christian, "The West Point Story" in The West Point Centennial, [West Point, Miss.: West Point Centennial Committee, 1958], pp. 17-18).

Almost immediately West Point became a chief cotton shipping center for area plantations. More than 22,500 bales were shipped in 1859, and claims were made that the amount was greater than that shipped from any other M & O station (Christian, pp. 17-18). This flourishing trade continued until military action during the Civil War virtually brought commercial activity to a standstill. The richness of Mississippi's Black Belt prairie brought numerous Union raids upon the area in an attempt to destroy its productivity. On February 20, 1864, Union General Soeey Smith moved on West Point, looting and burning several buildings, including the railroad depot. In the Battle of West Point which took place on the following day, Confederate General N. B. Forrest routed the Union forces and drove them northward to Memphis (Official Records of the War of the Rebellion[Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891] Series I, Vol. 32, Part I, pp. 174-175, 177, 181-182, 252-253, 350-351). Subsequent to his promotion to Lt. General in February 1865, Forrest transferred his headquarters to West Point (John A. Wyeth, That Devil Forrest New York: Harper, 1959, p. 514).

After the war the process of rebuilding brought growth and a resumption of commerce back to West Point. During the Reconstruction Era in 1872, land was taken from Lowndes, Oktibbeha, Chickasaw, and Monroe Counties to form a new county--Colfax County--named for the Indiana Republican senator, Schuyler Colfax. West Point was chosen as the seat for Colfax County, adding political importance to the town's commercial significance. In 1876, following the collapse of the state's "Carpetbagger" government, citizens of the new county voted to change its name to honor a southern statesman, Henry Clay (Christian, pp. 19-21).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Christian, Grathan B. "The West Point Story." The West Point Centennial West Point (Miss.): The West Point Centennial Committee, 1958.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 72

Quadrangle name West Point, MS

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

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

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at the Southeast corner of Lot Seven (7), Block Eight (8) of the Arthur L. Goodman Survey, runs thence North to the Northeast corner of said lot, thence runs West along the North line of Lots Seven (7), Six (6), and Five (5) of Block Eight (8)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth P'Pool, Architectural Historian

organization Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History date September, 1980

street & number P. O. Box W-239 Miss. Univ. for Women telephone (601) 328-0104

city or town Columbus

state Mississippi

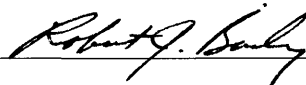
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 15, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 6/1/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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7 - DESCRIPTION

Inventory of Buildings in the District

The buildings within the historic district have been classified according to three categories—contributing, marginal, and intrusion. Contributing buildings are those which possess architectural and/or historical qualities that add to the significance of the district. Marginal buildings are those which do not add architectural or historical significance but have been designed in such a way as to be compatible with the older buildings, therefore, not detracting from the district's architectural integrity. Intrusions are those buildings which do detract in varying degrees from the district's architectural integrity.

Buildings Contributing to the Character of the District

1. Marginal (see below).
2. Dichiarara's Grocery, 411 East Main Street. Two-story, three bay, brick: storefront has clerestory windows and a cantilevered awning; ornamental voussoirs on second story windows; window sills formed by stone beltcourse. Ca. 1930.
3. Speed Queen Service Center, 405 East Main Street. One-story, six-by-one-bay, stuccoed masonry: hip roof; splayed walls; former railroad building. Ca. 1930.
4. West Point Printing and Office Supply and Barksdale Realty Company, 307 East Main Street. One-story brick: full-width storefront sheltered by cantilevered awning. Building Ca. 1900. Facade Ca. 1950.
5. Cabinet Shop, 305 East Main Street. One-story brick: modern storefront sheltered by a cantilevered awning; area above storefront covered by applied metal facade. Ca. 1900
6. Pearson Shoe Store, 303 East Main Street. One-story brick: full-width storefront; paneled parapet; mansard-type awning; building faced by modern field stone veneer; paneled parapet. Ca. 1895.
7. The Fabric Boutique, 301 East Main Street. One-story brick: full-width storefront; shed-type awning; paneled parapet. Ca. 1895.
8. Hill's Landing, 225 East Main Street. One-story, stuccoed masonry: modern glass and aluminum storefront; mansard-type awning. Ca. 1895.
9. West Point TV & Appliances, 223 East Main Street. One-story brick: storefront with chamfered entrance area; shed-type awning shelters storefront; corbeled cornice. Ca. 1895.
10. Moseley White Agency, Inc., 221 East Main Street. One-story two-bay stone: stone antas-type piers; entrance bay separated from window bay by a stone Doric column on a stone pedestal; quarry faced stone; belcast mansard roof awning shelters facade. 1905.

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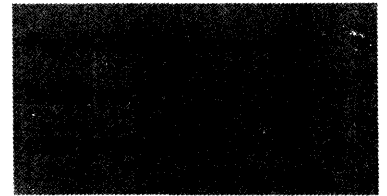
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11. Phyfer Furniture Company, 219 East Main Street. Two-story, three-bay, brick: bays defined by rusticated, vertical brick bands which terminate in dentiled arches; second story windows are round-arched with hood molds; storefront sheltered by shed-type awning. Ca. 1885.
12. Vacant, 215 East Main Street. Two-story, seven-bay, brick: modern recessed storefront; second story bays defined by vertical brick bands; round-arched windows with hood molds; corbeled cornice; old opera house; third story with stepped parapet removed. Ca. 1970. Constructed 1885.
13. Burton's Outlet, 211 East Main Street. Art Moderne. One-story, stuccoed brick: structural glass storefront with chamfered entrance; cantilevered awning shelters storefront; horizontal masonry bands ornament upper portion of facade. 1895.
14. McMurray's Shoes, 209 East Main Street. One-story brick: original cast iron storefront with chamfered entrance and clerestory windows; cantilevered awning; applied metal facade above storefront. 1885.
15. The Saturday Store, 205 East Main Street. One-story brick: modern storefront; modern applied facade covering original pressed metal facade over storefront. 1895.
16. Western Auto Store, 201 East Main Street. Two-story six-bay, brick: storefront has bracketed cast iron pilasters and a cantilevered canopy; flat-arched second story windows with ornamental terra-cotta panels under each; corbeled cornice; paneled brick parapet. 1895.
17. Moore's Amusement Company, 123 East Main Street. Two-story, three-bay, brick: three round-arched bays on first story; three segmental-arched windows with corbeled hood molds on second story; second story bays defined by vertical brick bands; corbeled cornice. 1889.
18. Wilson's Music Center, 119 East Main Street. Two-story, three-bay brick: three round-arched bays on first story; three segmental-arched windows with hood molds on second story; paneled wall surface with round attic vents above second story windows. 1889.
19. Shady Inn Cafe, 115 East Main Street. Two-story, three-bay, brick: modern brick, aluminum and glass storefront; three flat-arched windows on second story; windows separated by ornamental pressed metal panels; pressed metal cornice and ornamental frieze. Ca. 1895.
20. The Wooden Rocker, 113 East Main Street. One-story, brick: Art Moderne storefront; paneled upper wall surfaces; corbeled cornice. 1910-18.
21. Andrews TV & Radio Service, 111 East Main Street. One-story, two-bay brick: storefront sheltered by cantilevered awning; square attic vents; simple parapet. 1910-18.
22. Silver Threads, 109 East Main Street. One-story, two-bay, brick: storefront sheltered by shed-type awning; rectangular attic vent; simple parapet. 1910-18.

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23. Ramsey's Furniture and Hardware, 107 East Main Street. One-story, brick; stuccoed first story; modern storefront; brick upper portion with rectangular attic vents and simple parapet. 1910-18.
24. Harper Furniture and Appliances, 101 East Main Street. Two-story, four-bay, brick: full-width storefront sheltered by mansard-type awning; segmental-arched windows on second story; corbeled cornice; paneled parapet. 1910-18.
25. The Justice Company, 103 West Main Street. One-story, eight-bay, brick: four window bays have been bricked-up; corbeled cornice and paneled parapet. 1905-10.
26. Columbus & Greenville Railway Company, 129 West Main Street. Caboose parked next to railroad tracks.
27. Marginal (see below).
28. Intrusion (see below).
29. Intrusion (see below).
30. Show Barn, 210 East Main Street. One-story, brick: full-width storefront sheltered by shed-type awning; corbeled cornice. 1885-90.
31. McCollum Drug Store, 206 East Main Street. One-story, brick: full-width storefront with chamfered entrance; cantilevered awning; corbeled cornice. 1885-90.
32. Vacant, 204 East Main Street. One-story, brick: modern storefront; paneled upper wall surface; corbeled cornice. 1885-90.
33. Dyer's Furniture, 200 East Main Street. Two-story, three-bay brick: bays defined by vertical brick bands; central bay rises higher than flanking bays and contains a large round-arched entrance and bull's-eye window with hood mold; flanking bays have segmental arched second story windows; corbeled cornice; front now covered by applied metal facade. 1894.
34. Radio Shack, 120 East Main Street. One-story, stuccoed masonry: modern storefront. Ca. 1900.
35. Dyer's Furniture, 118 East Main Street. One-story, two-bay, brick: old West Point Motor Car Company; full-width storefront with clerestory windows; paneled upper wall surfaces; gabled parapet. Ca. 1920.
36. Gibson's Style Shop and Tim;s Barber Shop, 116 East Main Street. One-story, three-bay, stuccoed masonry: large round-arched central entrance bay flanked by segmental-arched window bays; bays defined by vertical masonry bands. Ca. 1895.
37. Lady Doris Beauty Salon, 114 East Main Street. One-story, three-bay, stuccoed masonry: triple arched entrance with double-leaf French-type doors and hood molds; corbeled cornice. 1905-10.

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38. Dichiarara's Grocery and Cash & Carry Cleaners, 106-108 East Main Street. One-story three-bay, stuccoed masonry: bays defined by vertical masonry bands; full-width storefront with clerestory windows; paneled upper wall surface; gabled parapet. Ca. 1920.
39. Vacant, 102 East Main Street. One-story, brick, former gas station: set at angle facing corner; hip-roof canopy supported by bracketed, Stick-Style post. Ca. 1920.
40. Marginal (see below).
41. Charles Senter Barber Shop, Orr's TV's, and West Point Optical Dispensary, 112-114 West Main Street. One-story, brick: two storefronts, one sheltered by shed-type awning, the other by a cantilevered awning; corbeled cornice. 1905-10.
42. Anthony's Grocery and Fashion Fabrics, 116-118 West Main Street. One-story, brick: two storefronts with clerestory windows sheltered by cantilevered awnings; stepped parapet. 1905-10.
43. Terry's Upholstery and Save-on Shoes, 120-122 West Main Street. One-story, brick: two storefronts sheltered by cantilevered awnings. 1905-10.
44. Vacant and Frank's Package Store, 124-126 West Main Street. One-story, brick: two storefronts with clerestory windows sheltered by cantilevered awnings; corbeled cornice. 1905-10.
45. City Pawn Shop, Grand Shoe Shop, and The Frame-up, 128-134 West Main Street. One-story, brick: four storefronts, two with clerestory windows and two sheltered by cantilevered awnings; corbeled cornice. 1905-10.
46. Montgomery's Flower Shop, 136 West Main Street. One-story, brick: wooden facade; storefront with clerestory windows; stepped wooden parapet. Ca. 1900.
47. Illinois Central Railroad Depot, railroad right-of-way south of West Main Street. One-story, four-by-three-bay, brick: hip-roof has wide overhang to shelter loading platforms; one brick and two frame ancillary buildings. 1894.
48. Wright's Business Services, 207 East Jordan Avenue. Three-story, three-bay, brick: full-width cast iron pilastered storefront, one bay of which has been bricked-up; second story has one round-arched window and a pair of three-unit windows; third story has three round-arched windows; corbeled cornice, 1904.
49. Marshall and Buck, Attorneys at Law, 203 East Jordan Avenue. Two-story, four-bay, brick: cast iron pilastered storefront with clerestory windows and recessed entrance; segmental-arched windows on second story level. 1904.
50. Thomas N. Braddock, M.D., 201 East Jordan Avenue. Two-story, three-bay, brick: two bays of storefront bricked-up; segmental-arched second story windows bricked-up. 1904.
51. Marginal (see below).

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52. Edward's and Story Law Offices, 129 East Jordan Avenue. One-story, two-bay, brick and stuccoed brick: modern brick storefront; paneled upper wall surfaces. Ca. 1900.
53. A. C. Topps, M.D., 127 East Jordan Avenue. One-story, stuccoed masonry: full-width storefront; shed-type awning; corbeled cornice. Ca. 1900.
54. Parker's Tin Shop, 123 East Jordan Avenue. Two-story, three-bay, brick: storefront; three second-story windows bricked-up. Ca. 1900.
55. Marginal (see below).
56. Douglas Building, 206-208 East Jordan Avenue. Two-story, four-bay, brick: storefront with recessed entrance; segmental-arched windows on second story; corbeled cornice. 1900.
57. Naugle Building, 202 East Jordan Avenue. Two-story, stuccoed brick: four bays along Jordan Avenue, three bays along Court Street; one-bay chamfered corner; cast iron columned storefronts; storefronts altered; segmental-arched windows on second story; corbeled cornice; paneled parapet. 1899.
58. J. D. Waide Law Office, 120 East Jordan Avenue. One-story, hip-roof, three-by-four-bay, stone and brick: quarry-faced stone wainscot; flat-arched windows with stone lintels; hip-roof dormer; cantilevered hip-roof porch. 1910-18.
59. Magnolia Apartments, 100 East Jordan Avenue. Jackobethan Revival. Two-story, sixteen-by-four-bay, brick: flat-arched windows with stone hood molds; stone cornice-type door heads with rusticated stone door surrounds; stone string course; pavilions with stone strapwork ornamentation. 1930's.
60. First Christian Church, 201 East Broad Street. Victorian Gothic. Gable-roof brick sanctuary: facade flanked by square towers of differing heights, one with pyramidal roof, the other with pinnacled spire; lancet-arched openings, with hood molds; central; bull's-eye window. 1893-95.
61. Marginal (see below).
62. Marginal (see below).
63. Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 103 West Broad Street. Gothic Revival. Gable-roof, brick sanctuary: lancet windows; bracketed gabled overdoor shelters main entrance; side and rear additions. 1887-88.
64. Clay County Chamber of Commerce, East Broad Street. One-story, flat-roof, five-by-three-bay, brick: former library; central entrance contained in a shallow pavilion; heavy modillioned cornice; low brick parapet. 1915.
65. Marginal (see below).
66. Police Station, 300 East Broad Street. Two-story, flat-roof; seven-by-four-bay, brick: former post office; central five-bay, arcaded loggia supported by fluted stone columns

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66. (cont.)... with composite capitals; loggia ceiling composed of intersecting barrel vaulting; first story windows have stone, cornice-type window heads, stone frieze, cornice, and parapet. 1910.
67. Intrusion (see below).
68. Kenwin Clothing Store and Alexander TV & Electronics, 104-106 Commerce Street. Two-story, seven-by-twelve-bay, brick: modern storefronts; double belt course divides first and second stories; segmental-arched second story windows; facade windows have corbeled hood molds with molded impost course; four bays of facade covered by applied metal facade; corbeled cornice. 1874.
69. Hill's Department Store, 108 Commerce Street. Two-story, six-bay, brick: modern storefront sheltered by mansard-type awning; segmental-arched second story windows with corbeled hood molds and molded impost course; round cast iron attic vents; corbeled cornice. Ca. 1875.
70. Marginal (see below).
71. Cato Women's Apparel, 114 Commerce Street. Two-story, three-bay, brick: modern storefront with canopy-roof awning; three round-arched second story windows now covered by applied metal facade. Ca. 1880.
72. Two's Company, Nix's Barber Shop, and Kellogg's Hardware, 116-120 Commerce Street. One-story, three-bay, stuccoed masonry: bays defined by vertical masonry bands; full-width storefronts sheltered by shed-type awning; upper portion of wall surface ornamented by three belt courses. Ca. 1880.
73. The General Store, 128 Commerce Street. Two-story, three-by-six-bay, brick: original storefront sheltered by shed-type awning; bays defined by vertical brick bands; facade bays composed of double-unit, flat-arched windows; side elevation has single-unit, round-arched windows with hood molds; corbeled cornice. Ca. 1880.
74. Personal Finance Company, 132 Commerce Street. One-story, brick: antas-type piers with pinnacled caps; storefront sheltered by shed-type awning; corbeled cornice. Ca. 1900.
75. Wilson TV & Stereo, 134 Commerce Street. Two-story, four-bay, brick: stuccoed first story; storefront sheltered by shed-type awning; belt course divides first and second stories; segmental-arched second story windows; corbeled cornice. 1905-10.
76. B & J Furniture & Appliance Company, 136 Commerce Street. Two-story, seven-bay, brick: full-width storefront sheltered by cantilevered awnings; segmental-arched second story windows; corbeled cornice. 1905-10.
77. City Hall, 204 Commerce Street. Two-story, three-by-ten-bay, brick: rusticated lower story and second story quoins; facade has small round-arched central bay flanked by large round-arched bays on both floor levels; each facade bay has stone hood mold with prominent keystone; heavy, modillioned metal cornice; central shaped parapet with urns; square clock tower with finialed pyramidal roof centered on facade; second story auditorium with coffered pressed metal ceiling. 1909.

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78. Clay County Confederate Monument, in park adjoining City Hall. Obelisk-type shaft flanked by figures of Confederate soldiers on a stepped base. 1907.
79. Marginal (see below).
80. Marginal (see below).
81. Marginal (see below).
82. Marginal (see below).
83. Marginal (see below).
84. Henley House Apartments, 440 Commerce Street. Two-story, stuccoed masonry, former hostelry: hip-roofed, three-by-two-bay main body with a two-story, hip-roofed side extension and a one-story rear ell; two-tiered galleries with Tudor arches and lattice-filled spandrels; jigsaw cut-out balustrades; paired cornice brackets. Ca. 1869-1873.
85. Marginal (see below).
86. Cox Drug Store, 111 Commerce Street. Art Deco. Two-story, seven-bay, brick and stone: original storefront with chamfered entrance and clerestory windows; cantilevered awning shelters storefront; stone, antas-type piers carved with low relief ornamentation; flat-arched windows on second story; stone parapet carved with low relief ornamentation. 1928.
87. Smith & Byars Men's Shoppe, 113 Commerce Street. Two-story, three-bay, brick: modern storefront sheltered by shed-type canopy; segmental-arched second story windows with corbeled hood molds; corbeled cornice; paneled parapet with diamond-shaped insets. Ca. 1875.
88. West Point Jewelry and Gift Shop, 115 Commerce Street. Two-story, three-bay, brick: modern storefront; three round-arched second story windows with corbeled hood mold; dentiled corbeled cornice; front now covered by applied metal facade. Ca. 1875.
89. Gulf Finance Corporation, 117 Commerce Street. Two-story, three-bay, brick: modern storefront; segmental-arched second story windows; corbeled cornice. Ca. 1875.
90. South Central Bell Telephone Office, 119 Commerce Street. Two-story, three-bay, brick: colonial-type storefront sheltered by a shed-roof awning; flat-arched second story windows with shutters; stepped parapet. Ca. 1930's.
91. The Ritz Theater, 125 Commerce Street. Spanish Colonial Revival. Two-story, three-bay, stuccoed masonry: cantilevered marquee; blank, round-arched second story windows with ornate carvings resembling balconies; central curvilinear gable; red tile roof. Ca. 1930's.

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92. Panetta's Clothing Store, 127 Commerce Street. One-story, brick: modern storefront sheltered by shed-roof awning; ornamental brick patterns in upper portion of facade wall. Ca. 1930's.
93. Henry Clay Hotel, 133 Commerce Street. Four-story, nine-by-thirteen-bay, brick: stuccoed ground floor; belt course divides ground floor from second story; entrance sheltered by cantilevered awning; storefronts sheltered by arched canopies; central facade bay has enriched classical stone, window surrounds and is flanked by stone urns on pedestals; chamfered corner; corbeled cornice; simple parapet. 1929-1930.
94. Hellen Buck's Jewelry and J. C. Penney's, 201-205 Commerce Street. Two-story, ten-by-twelve-bay, brick: entrance located in chamfered corner; modern storefronts; ornamental brick and stone patterns in wall surfaces. 1928.
95. The Looking Glass Beauty Salon, 207 Commerce Street. One-story, brick: storefront with chamfered entrance and clerestory windows; cast iron pilasters and cornice. Ca. 1890's.
96. Marginal (see below).
97. Marginal (see below).
98. Marginal (see below).
99. Dr. Charles Nail, Dentist, 221 Commerce Street. Two-story, four-bay, brick: storefront partially bricked-up; storefront sheltered by cantilevered awning; flat-arched second story windows, two of which have been bricked-up; ornamental brick attic vents. Ca. 1930's.
100. State Farm Insurance and Dr. H. H. Sears, Optometrist, 227 Commerce Street. Two-story, three-bay, brick: modern board-and-batten storefront with shed-roof awning; flat-arched second story windows; corbeled cornice; stepped parapet. Ca. 1895.
101. McClure Furniture Company, 235 Commerce Street. Two-story, stuccoed brick: cast iron pilastered storefront; corbeled cornice. Ca. 1880.
102. McClure Furniture Company, 235 Commerce Street. Two-story, stuccoed brick: cast iron columned storefront sheltered by shed-roof awning; chamfered corner. 1894.
103. Frances' Beauty Salon, 321 Commerce Street. Two-story, brick: modern storefront; three segmental-arched second story windows covered by applied metal facade. 1905-10.
104. West Point Community Antenna, 323 Commerce Street. Two-story, three-bay, brick: cast iron pilastered storefront; segmental-arched second story windows with corbeled voussoirs and molded impost course; corbeled cornice. Ca. 1905.
105. Mississippi State Job Service, 325 Commerce Street. One-story, three-bay, stuccoed masonry. 1905-10.

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106. Continental Trailways Bus Station and Carothers Service Station, 327 Commerce Street. One-story, stuccoed masonry: four-bay office; open drive-through area; shaped parapet. Ca. 1940.
107. American Legion Building, 515 East Westbrook Street. Bungaloid. One-story, jerkin-head gable-roof, five-by-eight-bay brick: hip-roof porch supported on brick piers. 1927.
108. Offices, 206 Court Street. Two-story, three-bay, stuccoed masonry: first story sheltered by cantilevered awning; second story scored in grid pattern. 1898.
109. Moseley & Lagrone Building, 212 Court Street. Two-story, seven-bay, cinder block: cinder blocks are quarry faced to resemble stone; modern storefront sheltered by shed-type awning; flat-arched second story windows. 1904-1905.
110. Tubb, Stevens, & Morrison, Attorneys at Law, 220 Court Street. Two-story, ten-bay, brick: corbeled horizontal banding divides the stories; vertical banding divides sections of bays; all openings are segmental-arched with hood molds; three round attic vents. 1890-94.
111. Marginal (see below).
112. Government offices, 219 Court Street. Two-story, nine-by-four-bay, stuccoed masonry: first story sheltered by cantilevered awning; flat-headed second story windows set in round-arched recesses; round cast iron attic vents; stepped parapet. 1885-90.
113. Marginal (see below).
114. West Point Vision Clinic, 233 Court Street. Two-story, hip-roof, three-by-five-bay, stuccoed brick: cantilevered awning shelters entrance stoop; flat-arched windows; stucco scored to resemble ashlar stone. Ca. 1905. Additions Ca. 1925.
115. 213 South Division Street. Bungaloid. One-story, gable-roof, brick residence: projecting gable-roof porch supported on brick piers echos roof of main building; gable facade orientation. Ca. 1930.
116. 222 South Division Street. One-and-a-half-story, multigable-roof, frame, residence: clapboard siding; gable facade orientation; undercut corner porch; gable-roof porte cochere. Ca. 1900.
117. 224 North Division Street. One-and-a-half story, multigable-roof, frame, residence: clapboard siding. Ca. 1900.
118. Marginal (see below).
119. Marginal (see below).
120. Crown Chemical & Mfg. Company, 412 North Division Street. One-story, gable-roof, one-by-four-bay, frame, office: clapboard siding; gable returns. Ca. 1905.

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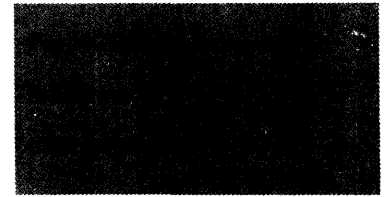
80. Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Warehouse, Commerce Street. One-story, cinder block: wooden loading platforms and sheds. Ca. 1940.
81. West Point Water and Light Department, 300 Commerce Street. One-story, three-by-five-bay, hip-roof, brick: round-arched windows; segmental-arched entrance. 1970's.
82. West Point-Clay County Public Library, 338 Commerce Street. One-story, eleven-by-seven-bay, flat-roof, brick: round-arched windows; bays defined by engaged brick pilasters which support a heavy entablature; principal elevations have porticoes with three round-arched bays. 1970's.
83. U. S. Post Office, 420 Commerce Street. One-story, flat-roof, five-by-five-bay, brick and prefabricated metal: contemporary design. 1970's.
85. First National Bank of West Point, 107 Commerce Street. Two-story, six-by-two-bay, brick and stone: massive brick pilasters with stone bases and capitals; fluted stone Doric columns flank original entrance; 1920's banking room preserved. 1977.
96. Offices, 209 Commerce Street. One-story, three-bay, brick: facade covered by aggregate stone panels. 1970's.
97. Watkins, Ward, & Stafford CPA's, 213 Commerce Street. One-story, four-bay, brick: brick faced storefront; remainder of facade covered by aggregate stone panels. 1970's.
98. Offices, 217-219 Commerce Street. Two-story, brick: brick faced storefronts; second story covered by stone panels. 1970's.
111. Clay County Courthouse, 205 Court Street. Two-story, flat-roof, nine-by-five-bay, brick: vertical strips of windows; stone cornice. 1957.
113. Daily Times Leader Office, 227 Court Street. Two-story, seven-bay, brick: flat-arched windows; one-story brick addition. Building 1890. Remodeled 1951.
118. 318 Division Street. One-story, hip-roof, frame residence: one-bay, shed-roof porch; undercut corner carport. Ca. 1950.
119. 326 Division Street. One-story, multigable-roof, frame, residence: single-bay, gable-roof porch; side carport. Ca. 1950.

Intrusions

28. B & S Dry Cleaners, East Main Street. One-story, gable-roof, prefabricated metal building. 1970's.
29. Main Street Chevron Station, East Main Street. One-story, flat-roof, cinder block: glass and aluminum front; canopy over gas pumps. 1970's.
67. H & R Block Tax Office, 109 East Street. One-story, gable-roof, prefabricated metal building. 1970's.

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121. Crown Chemical & Mfg. Company, 412 North Division Street. Two-story warehouse: brick end walls and frame side walls; full-length, shed-roof, side addition. Ca. 1900. Addition Ca. 1940.
122. (Old) West Point Ice Company, North Division Street. One-story, flat-roof, brick industrial building: two round-arched entrances with hood molds centered on facade; stepped parapet. Ca. 1900.
123. (Old) West Point Cotton Oil Company, North Division Street. Two-story, gable-roof, brick, gin building: central round-arched entrance with hood mold; segmental-arched windows; corbeled cornice; stepped parapet; one-story, brick, rear section with segmental-arched windows, corbeled cornice, and stepped parapet. Ca. 1900.
124. (Old) West Point Cotton Oil Company, North Division Street. One-story, flat-roof, three-by-three-bay, brick office: round-arched entrance with stone keystone; flat-arched windows with stone lintels; corbeled cornice. Ca. 1915.

Marginal Buildings

1. Depositors Savings, 417 East Main Street. One-story, gable-roof, brick: modern Colonial Revival. 1970's.
27. Quick Save Food Mart #2, 201 West Main Street. One-story, flat-roof, stuccoed masonry: former gas station. Ca. 1950's.
40. Sears, Roebuck & Co., 106 West Main Street. One-story, flat-roof, brick: store-front sheltered by cantilevered awning. Ca. 1960.
51. Kyle Chandler Insurance Agency, 131 East Jordan Avenue. One-story, four-bay, brick: entrance located in chamfered corner; mansard-type awning. 1969.
55. Ellis Clinic, 105 East Jordan Avenue. One-story, gable-roof, brick: L-plan; clere-story windows. Ca. 1970.
61. Calvert Funeral Home, Inc., 113 East Broad Street. Two-story, multigable-roof, frame: former residence; one-story brick front and side additions. Ca. 1890. Remodeled 1970's.
62. North Mississippi Industrial Development Association, 103 East Broad Street. One-story, gable-roof, brick: central, Tuscan columned, pedimented portico. 1970's.
65. Bank of Mississippi, 312 East Broad Street. Two-story, five-by-five-bay, stuccoed masonry: Doric columned portico; round-arched windows; heavy entablature. 1970's.
70. Clay County Bank & Trust Company, 112 Commerce Street. Two-story, stuccoed brick: round-arched entrance with brick surrounds; blank stuccoed wall with decorative scoring. 1970's.
79. Illinois Central Gulf Railroad Company, Commerce Street. One-story, two-bay, hip-roof, brick. 1970's.

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

During the 1870's and 1880's West Point's business district expanded along its main thoroughfare (Commerce Street), and many previous frame buildings were replaced by brick construction in the then fashionable Commercial Italianate Style. The majority of the buildings in the 100 block of Commerce Street were erected during this period, and construction also intensified along East Jordan and Court Streets across from the County Courthouse. Most of these buildings had arched windows with hood molds, corbeled brick cornices and ornamental parapets. The Henley House boarding house (ca. 1869-73), built adjoining the railroad, became one of the most stylish establishments of its type in the region, often hosting distinguished guests such as Thomas Watt Gregory, U.S. Attorney General under Woodrow Wilson. The city leased the second floor of the newly constructed brick building at the corner of Commerce and Main Streets (now Kenwin Clothing Store) for use as City Hall in 1874, and in 1885 the Opera House on Main Street (now 215 East Main Street) became the center of the community's social life.

The years between 1889 and 1910 were particularly prosperous for West Point. In 1889 the town saw the coming of its second railroad, the Georgia-Pacific Line (now Columbus & Greenville Railway Company), which intersected the M & O Line just north of the business district then angled to the southwest passing just west of the downtown. Again the railroad contributed significantly to the shaping of the business district as new commercial structures began to line Main Street westward in order to connect the old business area on Commerce Street with the new railroad. Many of these buildings sported cast iron facades, some of which remain today (such as at 209 East Main Street), that were produced by a local foundry (Christian, p. 24).

The 1890's brought city water and electric lights, telephones, paved and lighted streets, and sidewalks to West Point. A disastrous fire in the mid-1890's destroyed most of the block between Commerce and Court Streets bounded by East Jordan Avenue on the north and Broad Street on the south, but replacement structures began to be erected in 1899. A significant growth of industrialism came to the area about this time with construction of the West Point Cotton Oil Company and the West Point Ice Company. These and other local industries played a key role in maintaining the economic stability of West Point's business community in a region which until recently was dominated almost entirely by agricultural interests.

By the late 1890's West Point's population was about 5,000 and the town had sufficiently grown in prominence to merit the attention of national political figures. William Jennings Bryan included West Point in his Southern tour of 1898 and President William Howard Taft made a brief stop in the town in 1909 (Christian, pp. 25-27). Taft addressed citizens of the town from the observation platform of his train at the intersection of West Main Street with the Georgia-Pacific railroad tracks--on approximately the same site as the Columbus & Greenville Railway's caboose-office is today situated. Undoubtedly the crowning achievement of this period was construction of the new City Hall on Commerce Street in 1909 which has housed the city government ever since that time. Designed by architect, Burt Stuart, it featured a clock-tower and a second floor auditorium with deeply coffered pressed metal ceiling and originally accommodated the city fire department in half of its first story. Specifications for the building's rehabilitation are presently being developed.

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

The Progressive Era and the urban improvement it spawned also had its impact on West Point. By 1915 the Mayor and aldermen had ordered that the cattle pens east of the M & O tracks be moved out of town and that the grounds be cleaned up for a city park. At the same time civic groups interested in the cultural growth of the city were able to obtain funds for a library which was built in 1915 on the corner of Broad Street and East Street facing the new park. Creation of these public facilities transformed a former eyesore into an attractive civic center opposite the commercial area (Christian, pp. 28-39).

In the 1920's West Point's population stabilized at approximately 5,500, and construction in the business district slackened, since most of the choice commercial sites were already developed. However, signs of the time were evident in the construction of an interesting gas station on the corner of Main and Division Streets and in the Art Deco facade given Cox Drug Store (111 Commerce Street). The last of the great downtown buildings was the Henry Clay Hotel built in 1929 to replace the old Holt Hotel which was destroyed by fire. Constructed in the commercial Georgian style typical of the period, the Henry Clay was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and financed by local entrepreneurs (Christian, p. 32).

During the 1950's, 60's, and 70's, fronts of many of the buildings within the historic district were remodeled or covered by false metal facades. However, in 1979 the City of West Point established a local historic district and passed an historic district zoning ordinance which was aimed at preventing further destruction of features contributing to the historic character of the downtown area and at encouraging sympathetic and compatible new construction within the district. A modest storefront restoration program, initiated by merchants working in concert with the City Historic Preservation Commission and the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, has already produced excellent results. The city government is presently developing programs to help prevent the downtown from succumbing to pressures caused by strip development along U.S. Highway 45 Alternate and to help maintain the central business district as the vital commercial center of West Point it has been for more than a hundred years.

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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1910, 1918, 1925. New York: Sanborn Map Co. Originals located at Mississippi
State University Library, Special Collections, Mississippi State, Miss.

Williams, Mrs. Ruth White, local historian. Interviewed by Kenneth P'Pool, architectural
Historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Columbus, at
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10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal boundary description)

to the center of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad tracks, thence runs Northwest
along the center of said Illinois Central Gulf Railroad tracks to a point where
they intersect the center of East Morrow Street, thence runs West along the
center of East Morrow Street, to a point where said street intersects the center
of Division Street, thence run south down the center of Division Street to a point
which is in the center of the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad tracks, and proceeds
thence Southwestwardly along the center of said tracks 1500 feet, thence proceeds
Easterly to the Southwest corner of Block Seventy-three (73), thence Northeast
along the West side of Block Seventy-three (73) to the Northwest corner of Block
Five (5), thence South along the West line of Lot Nine (9), Block Five (5) to the
Southwest corner of said Lot and Block, proceeds thence Eastwardly along the South
line of Lots Nine (9), Eight (8), Seven (7), Six (6), Five (5), Four (4), Three (3),
Two (2), and One (1) of Block Five (5) to the Southeast corner of Lot One (1),
Block Five (5), proceeds thence South along the East line of Block Five (5) to
the Southeast corner of said Block, thence West along the South line of Block Five
(5) a distance of 96 feet, thence South to the Northwest corner of Lot Eight (8),
Block Ten (10), thence South along the West line of Lot Eight (8), Block Ten (10)
to the Southwest corner of said Lot, thence runs East along the South line of Lots
5, 6, 8, 9, 10 of Block Four (4) and Lots 13 and 12 of Block Three (3) to the
Southeast corner of Lot 12, Block 3, thence runs South across Broad Street to the
Northwest corner of Lot 2, Block 12, runs thence South along the West line of
Lots 2 and 3 of Block 12 to the Southwest corner of Lot 3, Block 12, thence runs

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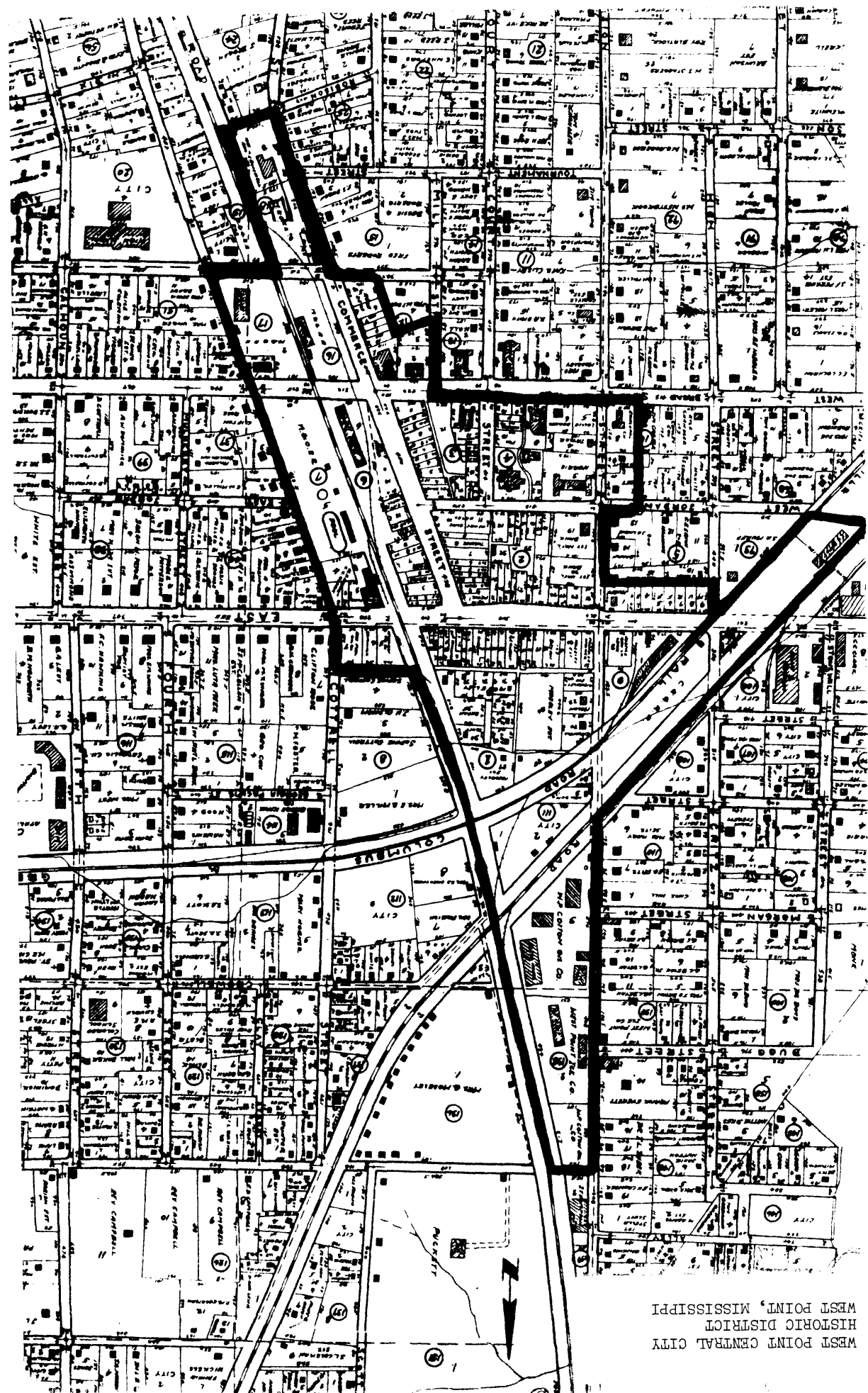
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Northeast along the South line of Lots 3 and 1 of Block 12 to the Northwest corner of Lot 10, Block 12, thence runs South along the West line of Lots 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5 of Block 12 to the Southwest corner of Lot 5, Block 12, thence runs East along the South line of Lot 5, Block 12 across Commerce Street to the Southwest corner of Block 16, from said point runs South across East Westbrook Street and along the West line of Block 18 to the Southwest corner of Lot 3, Block 18, thence runs East along the South line of Lot 3, Block 18 to the Southeast corner of Block 18, thence runs North along the East line of Block 18 to the Northeast corner of said block, thence runs East across the Illinois Central Gulf Railroad tracks and along the North line of Block 19 to the Northeast corner of Block 19, thence runs Northwesterly across East Westbrook Street to the Southeast corner of Block 17, thence runs Northwesterly along the East line of Block 12 and Block 7 to the Northeast corner of Block 7, thence runs Northwesterly across East Main Street to the Southeast corner of Lot 7, Block 8, which is the point of beginning, according to the A. L. Goodman Map and Survey of the City of West Point, Mississippi, as adopted by said city on the 11th day of January, 1938.



WEST POINT CENTRAL CITY
HISTORIC DISTRICT
WEST POINT, MISSISSIPPI