

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 80002826

Date Listed: 6/19/1980

Property Name: Rocky Mount Central City Historic District

County: Edgecombe

State: NC

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

2-20-2018

Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 7: Inventory

The buildings identified at 129 NE Main Street and 126 N Washington Street were mis-identified as separate resources. Further research indicates that they are now, and historically have been, a single building consisting of a c. 1896 building with a c. 1905 addition. Despite alteration to the Main Street façade, the building as a whole contributes to the district as a single contributing building.

Further information can be found in tax project file #38091.

The North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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

Rocky Mount Central City Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

*Roughly bounded by Roberson and Atlantic
Aves., Holly and Franklin Sts.*
See attached map

CITY, TOWN

Rocky Mount

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

North Carolina

CODE
037

COUNTY

Nash

CODE

127

Edgecombe

065

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Owners--See attached list

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Edgecombe County Courthouse/Nash County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Tarboro/Nashville

STATE

North Carolina

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Central City Historic Buildings Inventory

DATE

1979

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

N. C. Division of Archives and History--Survey and Planning Branch

CITY, TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

North Carolina

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The proposed historic district is located at the geographical center of the City of Rocky Mount. The topography of Rocky Mount, particularly the Central Business District, is flat, forming a geographical extension of the eastern North Carolina Coastal Plain.

Although the initial settlement of Rocky Mount was centered around the Falls of the Tar River, the completion of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in 1840 opened up the area around the railroad tracks for development. The establishment of a depot was closely followed by the growth of a commercial and retail area facing the tracks.

The bulk of the buildings in this area were constructed for commercial purposes and stood along an axis formed by the parallel lines on Main Street and the railroad tracks. The earliest commercial buildings were probably simple frame structures. None of these mid-nineteenth century structures had survived, but their successors, built in the 1890s and early twentieth century, are very much in evidence. It is this group of well preserved late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings that gives Rocky Mount's Central City Area its unique character.

The major commercial arteries of Main and Washington Streets are the most cohesive and best preserved of the architectural resources in the Central City. The long, broad expanse of Main Street with its central railroad creates one of eastern North Carolina's most important downtown streetscapes. Anchoring the street on the south end is the Atlantic Coast Line Passenger Station, and on the north, the low, skylight-studded roof lines of the tobacco warehouses. Washington Street, the flanking commercial area to the east, retains structures of quality equal to the ones on Main Street. The first National Bank Building on South Washington Street begins a remarkably consistent block of early twentieth century commercial buildings. Less prosperous than Main Street, Washington Street boasts handsome facades that remain little altered. Particularly interesting are the well preserved lower facades - a rare survival in the state.

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Although Main and Washington Streets form the spine of the commercial district, the side streets of Sunset and Western Avenues and Nash, Marigold, Hill, Tarboro, Thomas, Howard and Goldleaf Streets also are an integral part of the character of the district. Although these streets are less imposing than Washington and Main Streets, the bulk of the buildings are consistent with the early twentieth century character of the main streets. The buildings on these cross streets are generally of the brick commercial block type, and most do not exceed one story. The atmosphere of these streets is more intimate and more humanly scaled than the broad monumental corridor formed by Main Street.

There are few intrusions and / or gapsites within the proposed district. The most obvious intrusions are clustered together on North Main Street. The former Municipal Building site is now filled by a parking lot and the Planter's National Bank parking lot forms a large gap in the continuity of the commercial buildings on N. W. Main Street. To the east of these two sites is the large surfaced parking lot of the Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company on the corner of N. Washington and W. Thomas Streets. The largest single intrusion is the Carleton House Motel complex and the adjoining Coastal Texaco Station on the corner of N. Church and W. Thomas Streets. Across Church Street, in the tobacco warehouse area, are two smaller intrusions, the service station / cafe attached to the warehouse at 210 N. Church Street and the parking lot on the west side of the 200 block of N. Church Street. Other intrusions also in the tobacco warehouse area include the filling station on the corner of Falls Road and N. Church Street and the Pemberton Building at 277 N. E. Main Street. A few smaller gapsites in the form of surface parking lots are found south of Sunset Avenue / Tarboro Streets; one at 127 - 135 Sunset Avenue, one at the corner of Tarboro and Washington Streets, one at 218 - 220 Tarboro Street, one at 201-217 Rose Street, one at 135 - 139 S. Washington Street, one at 228 - 230 S. Washington Street and at 235 - 239 S. Washington Street, one at 239 - 245 S. E. Main Street and one at 122 - 128 Coastline Street. Two intrusive buildings are also located in this area; one at 200 S. Washington Street, and one at 101 Marigold Street.

Rocky Mount experienced an incredible amount of building activity between 1890 and 1925. Most buildings in the Central City today are products of this thirty - five year span of dynamic growth. The streetscapes of the Central City thus vividly recall a period when Rocky Mount realized its greatest growth to date.

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Masonry construction is used almost exclusively in the proposed district and red brick is the most common material used. The structures within the proposed district are organized into orderly blocks within the articulated grid pattern of the streets. The bulk of the buildings are low rise, few exceeding three stories in height. The presence of the railroad tracks gives Main Street a wonderfully spacious feeling. Air and light bathe the building facades, and Main Street contrasts with the narrower and more intimate side streets and alleyways.

The earliest commercial buildings, dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, consistently reflect standard commercial building forms which achieved nationwide popularity. Elaborate raised brick designs and molded metal cornices were the most common forms of ornament used during the period prior to 1930. The brick mason's art reached great heights in Rocky Mount at this time, the brickwork creating complex geometric and classical motifs adding a unique texture to the facade. There are also several outstanding examples of cast metal facades. The firm of Mesker Brothers produced two of the finest facades intact in the Central Business District - those of the Kyser Drug Store at 135 S. E. Main Street and the Gay and Arrington Store at 114 S. W. Main Street.

Around the turn of the century the Classical Revival had a strong influence on the design of such major buildings as the Philips Building at 126 N. W. Main Street designed by influential Rocky Mount architect John Christie Stout in c. 1907, the commercial building at 125 N. E. Main Street and the Planter's Bank Building designed by H. W. Simpson of New Bern c. 1906.

The construction in 1903 of the Romanesque Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Station played a key role in confirming the importance of the railroad to Rocky Mount. In the same year other major industrial buildings were also under construction. The Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain and Ireland constructed a large three-story processing plant at the intersection of McDonald Street in 1903. This building, one of the most monumental industrial structures in the Central City, is marked by a prominent square tower and smokestack.

The tobacco warehouse and processing area boast a group of twelve extant structures. They date between 1892 and 1940, the earliest being the American Tobacco Company built by K. W. Coghill. These tobacco-related buildings are grouped north of Thomas Street, on both sides of the railroad tracks along N. E. Main Street, and E. Goldleaf Street, Falls Road and N. Church Street. This important group of historic buildings provides a visual anchor on the north end of railroad / commercial corridor of Main Street.

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In general the design of major structures in the Central City built before 1930 continued to reflect interpretations of Classical architecture. In 1921 the First National Bank was constructed. Designed by John Christie Stout, the design is stylistically related to his earlier design for the Philips Building.

The design of the Rocky Mount Sanitarium, constructed in 1913, however, was not in the classical mold. This large handsome hospital incorporates a variation of the Tudoresque style in its composition. The building is sheathed in stucco and picturesque gothic ornaments emphasize the dramatically raked gables.

The last major structure to be built in the Central City before World War I was the ~~Beaux~~ Arts United States Post Office on the corner of Tarboro and Rose Streets, designed by Oscar Wenderoth and built by Rocky Mount contractor D. J. Rose in 1914.

After the war the building trades flourished once more resulting in some of Rocky Mount's most monumental buildings. Among these was the Rocky Mount National Bank, designed by the influential Washington D. C. firm of Millburn and Heister and built by D. J. Rose in 1918. This building design was influenced by the work of Louis Sullivan. Six stories in height, it was for many years the tallest as well as the most ornate building in the Central City.

More exotic styles gained popularity in the Central City in the late teens and 1920's. The Sexton and Son Store, built c. 1919 by D. J. Rose recalls the Mediterranean Revival style. The patterning of the brick and the recessed arcaded porch on the second floor is of particular interest.

The decade of the 1920's was one of intensive building activity, and one of the most popular types of commercial structures constructed at this time was the brick block. In this genre the Douglas Building, with its seventeen windows linked by a geometric band, and the stores at 200-210 E. Thomas Street sheathed in stucco and ornamented with geometric tile motifs are notable.

Theatre construction also flourished in the 1920's and the Central City boasts several fine theatres dating c. 1925. Of these theatres the most outstanding are the Booker-T and the Center Theatres.

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Another important structure built during the 1920's is the Rocky Mount Savings and Trust Company. Like the Rocky Mount National Bank, it was also designed by Millburn and Heister. The Rocky Mount Savings and Trust Company, in contrast with the earlier bank, is smaller in scale and relies on simple but elegant classical ornaments.

Because of the hardships brought upon the city during the Depression Years, little of the construction in the Central City dates after 1930. Two major renovations in the late 1930's gave stylish Art Deco facades to two early twentieth century structures; the Masonic Temple and Opera House was remodelled and used as the Rocky Mount Municipal Building, and the Rosenbloom-Levy Store was renovated by Harry Harles after a damaging fire.

Few major construction projects have taken place in the Central City since the 1930's, and this factor, combined with a low level of remodelling activity in the years following World War II, has protected the early twentieth century character of the commercial core.

The consistent height and the use of continuous cornices unifies the streetscape creating on Main and Washington Streets two of the longest and most cohesive early twentieth century streetscapes in the state.

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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rocky Mount's central city encompasses a cohesive collection of commercial and industrial buildings reflecting the city's rapid growth during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century when tobacco processing and sales and the railroad brought the community unprecedented prosperity. The spine of the district is the broad, dramatic stretch of Main Street, with the railroad tracks and right-of-way down the middle of the street and consistent streetscapes of handsome brick commercial buildings extending for blocks. With the exception of remodeled shop fronts, the city presents an appearance not far removed from its boom era. Paralleling it is Washington Street, where similar commercial buildings retain perhaps even more of their integrity at both upper and lower levels. The imposing red brick railroad depot at the south end and the collection of tobacco warehouses at the north define both the edges and the economic basis of this district.

Rocky Mount settled at the Falls of the Tar River in the eighteenth century and bolstered by the extension of the Raleigh and Gaston Railroad in 1840, was incorporated in 1867. Rapid growth followed with post-Civil War recovery, and by the late 1880s the introduction of bright leaf tobacco culture and the construction of new rail lines through the town made Rocky Mount into a regional tobacco marketing and processing center. In 1891 too, the Emerson railroad shops was established there, bringing still more investment. Thus in 1892 a promoter could write, "Come to Rocky Mount, go into business and get rich." Growth continued until halted by the Depression, and only since 1950 has substantial new development occurred. The city center, however, retains the handsome architecture and dramatic railroad-oriented layout of its heyday; and reinvestment and preservation interests are seeking means of stimulating rehabilitation and renewal downtown.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. Associated with the development and preeminence of Rocky Mount as a regional tobacco and transportation center during North Carolina's late nineteenth and early twentieth century era of urbanization and industrialization.
- B. Associated with the work of several businessmen, industrialists, architects, builders, and political figures active locally and on a statewide level.
- C. Exemplifies in consistent, well-preserved fashion the varied but unified industrial and commercial architecture typical of moderate-sized towns of the late nineteenth and twentieth century; including the metal store fronts ordered from distant states, the intricate brickwork of Rocky Mount's highly

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Argonaut. Rocky Mount, North Carolina, August 27, 1891; June 4, 1892.

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 98 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Rocky Mount

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 117 | 247 | 814 | 10 | 319 | 811 | 6510

B 117 | 248 | 110 | 10 | 319 | 811 | 51610

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 117 | 2418 | 21610 | 319 | 811 | 31910

D 117 | 2418 | 11010 | 319 | 810 | 81610

E 117 | 2417 | 61210 | 319 | 810 | 31210

F 117 | 2417 | 51410 | 319 | 810 | 61010

G 117 | 2417 | 71610 | 319 | 811 | 01310

H 117 | 2417 | 61010 | 319 | 811 | 31010

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached description, justification, and map.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
North Carolina	037	Edgecombe	065
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
North Carolina	037	Nash	127

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kate Ohno, Consultant

ORGANIZATION Survey and Planning Branch

DATE

Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section

February, 1980

STREET & NUMBER N.C. Division of Archives and History

TELEPHONE

109 E. Jones Street

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Raleigh

North Carolina 27611

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Kate Ohno

TITLE Deputy
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE March 13, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 6/19/80

ATTEST: *Cecil Dubois*

DATE 6/13/80

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Criteria
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- C. skilled brickmasons seen on both commercial facades and tobacco warehouses, the classical treatments of institutional and commercial buildings, and the eclectic tastes of the period ca. 1880-1930. The totality of the city center illustrates with unusual vividness the interaction of industrial and transportation components in the economy as well as the streetscape of the community.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Initial settlement of Rocky Mount began in the eighteenth century near the Falls of the Tar River, an early mill site.¹ The extension of the Wilmington and Raleigh Railroad through Rocky Mount in 1840 marked the beginning of a new era of development and signalled a change in location for a number of the earliest commercial concerns² from the area near the Falls to the section bordering the nearby railroad tracks.

The railroad combined with the growth of the antebellum textile industry proved to be a key to expansion for Rocky Mount. Even the hardships of the Civil War and Reconstruction period failed to stem the growth of the settlement for long.

The north-south railroad line which forms the axis of the present uptown district unifies Rocky Mount's commercial area physically and divides it politically. In 1867 an Act of Incorporation was ratified, creating the Town of Rocky Mount as a political unit. Four years later, in 1871, a decision was made to move the Nash/Edgecombe County line from the Falls of the Tar to the railroad tracks. This political division³ of Rocky Mount has persisted to date and is still a source of controversy.

In the 1870's the town's economy made a strong recovery after the constraints imposed during the war and the post-war period. Several major buildings were constructed, including a new warehouse for the railroad and a brickyard. The population as well as the economy expanded during this period. On the day before Christmas in 1875 the Rocky Mount Mail announced "that there is not a dwelling house in Rocky Mount which is not occupied or engaged for another year."⁴ A gradual rate of growth was maintained during the following fifteen years. The first Sanborn Insurance Map, dating from 1885, shows a sparsely built central business district grouped around the important railroad tracks. The predominant building material was frame and few buildings exceeded⁵ one story in height. Houses, commercial, and industrial buildings were intermixed.

Although Rocky Mount experienced no dramatic growth during the 1880's, the basis of life in the area - the main agricultural crop - was changing from cotton to tobacco. This change was to have a dynamic and lasting effect on Rocky Mount's future. Traditionally, the population of both Nash and Edgecombe Counties was largely rural, dependent on agriculture for much of its income. Although the post war period saw a growth in the population of the state's cities, the rural character of much of the state was maintained.

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The Nash/Edgecombe farmers had depended on the cultivation of cotton, a crop well suited to the climate, soil and workforce. During the post-war period, however, as the price of cotton dropped, farmers in the two counties began to search for an alternative crop. In the 1880's the culture of bright leaf tobacco began to flourish in some counties in northeast and north central North Carolina.

The introduction of bright leaf tobacco as a cash crop and the subsequent founding of the Rocky Mount Tobacco Market in the late 1880's was the most important factor in the city's development in the late nineteenth century.

Bright leaf tobacco was found to be ideally suited to the climate and soil of the two counties. In the first years of its cultivation the major impediment to expanding the amount of land planted in tobacco was the lack of a centrally located market for the crops. Rocky Mount was found to be the logical choice for a marketing center. It was well served by major roads as well as by the Wilmington and Weldon, the Raleigh and Albemarle and the Norfolk and Carolina Railroads. The economy was diversified, boasting such important industrial complexes as the Rocky Mount Mills and Rocky Mount Iron Works. The growth of the transportation network resulted in the construction of several hotels and a large frame passenger station by 1891 near the well-established commercial/wholesale core. Vacant land was available for development adjacent to the railroad, making the Central City the logical site for a tobacco marketing and processing center. By 1891 eight tobacco-related structures were already established in the commercial district.

The population of Rocky Mount was given as 1200 in 1891, and in the same year a campaign was begun to attract investment to the area. The following year the Rocky Mount Improvement and Manufacturing Company was formed. This company, a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce, was headed by W. W. Whitehead and J. W. Hines. The company purchased 384 acres between the tobacco warehousing and processing area and Rocky Mount Mills and promised to grade and build streets and create a riverside park and drive. Plans were also made to build residences and other buildings, while other lots were sold to prospective residents.

In the same year a decision was made by the railroad to build a new complex of maintenance, repair, construction and refuelling shops in South Rocky Mount - the Emerson Shops.

The creation of a tobacco market and the general expansion of Rocky Mount led circa 1890 to the establishment of the Bank of Rocky Mount. The establishment of a local bank greatly facilitated the operation of the tobacco market and allowed a local financial institution to become involved in local investments during the period of dynamic expansion heralded by the creation of the tobacco market.

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In five years, between 1891 and 1896, the population of Rocky Mount more than doubled, reaching 2500 inhabitants.¹² This period of rapid economic and physical growth attracted a number of talented and ambitious citizens.¹³ One of the most outstanding was D. J. Rose, who came to Rocky Mount in 1892.¹³ Much of the present architectural fabric of the Central Business District was the work of Rose, who became one of the most productive contractors in eastern North Carolina in the early twentieth century.

The facilities for tobacco warehousing and processing also grew during the 1890's, attracting to Rocky Mount such national concerns as the American Tobacco Company.¹⁴ The 1890's set the trend creating specialized districts for such purposes as tobacco processing, retail and wholesale concerns within the central city, foreshadowing the present configuration of the city with a tobacco warehousing area to the north and a railroad complex to the south joined by a commercial district facing the railroad tracks.

The 1896 Sanborn Map of Rocky Mount shows sixteen tobacco related structures concentrated in the area to the north of Gay and Goldleaf Streets, with some others located nearby just to the west of Franklin Street. The map also shows a greater concentration of commercial buildings grouped along Main Street near the Tarboro Street and Sunset Avenue intersections in contrast to the more scattered development indicated on the 1891 Sanborn Map. The 1896 map shows the spread of the commercial area eastward via the beginnings of the strong retail / wholesale area along the 100 blocks of North and South Washington Street, secondary only to the commercial area along Main Street.

The increased building activity in Rocky Mount supported the establishment of two of its first planing mills by J. K. Howell and the Tar River Lumber Company.

In 1892 a promoter of Rocky Mount wrote "Come to Rocky Mount, go into business and get wealth."¹⁵ Apparently many took this advice at face value, and by the turn of the century, the population was estimated at 5,200 - more than twice the size of the town in 1896.¹⁶

The 1901 Sanborn Map shows that the greatest concentration of building was still located along Main Street, with commercial, residential and industrial building intermixed. The commercial core, such as it was, lay along Main Street between Thomas Street and the intersection of Western Avenue / Hill Street. Areas devoted almost exclusively to residential building were located parallel to Main Street, mainly along Church and Franklin Streets to the west of the commercial core.

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The new century was to provide services to the inhabitants of Rocky Mount that were to dramatically effect the quality of life in the town. In 1900 public water and sewerage were offered as municipal services and by the following year electricity was available, and a police force and fire department had been formed. A two story brick veneered public school was constructed c. 1901 on the northwest corner of Nash and Pearl Streets.¹⁷

Industrial growth continued during this period, including an expansion of the tobacco processing and warehousing facilities and the establishment of a fertilizer factory, a buggy manufacturer, and an ice plant.¹⁸

Religious and fraternal organizations also prospered at this time. By the turn of the century Baptist, Methodist Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal South, Presbyterian, and Episcopal congregations had constructed churches in the central city area. In 1901 work was begun on the Masonic Temple and Opera House on North East Main Street by D. J. Rose. The tallest and most imposing building on Main Street at the time of its construction, it was a social and cultural center housing meeting rooms, a banquet room, shops and offices as well as an opera house.¹⁹

In 1904 the Rocky Mount Chamber of Commerce was founded, with the goal of attracting more investment to the already booming town.²⁰

Early twentieth century Rocky Mount was molded by the designs of a number of architects, but perhaps the most influential designer of the period was John Christie Stout. Stout designed numerous buildings in eastern North Carolina, and c. 1906 he moved to Rocky Mount from Wilson. He lived here until his death in 1921, designing a number of important structures in town.²¹

Industry found in Rocky Mount a favorable climate for growth and expansion. The Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain and Ireland built a modern tobacco processing in Rocky Mount c. 1903 and in the same year a new monumental Romanesque passenger station was built on the south end of Main Street by D. J. Rose. In 1905 the Rocky Mount Hosiery Company was built in the central city area, representing the first new business attracted to Rocky Mount by the newly formed Chamber of Commerce.²²

Stout designed the Rocky Mount Municipal Building c. 1906, and it was constructed just north of the present Municipal Building.²³ It was also during the first decade of the century that most of the established congregations built substantial brick churches in the central city.²⁴

As the economic base of the town broadened, more financial institutions were established. The First National Bank, Planters Bank, and Rocky Mount Savings and Trust Company were all founded before 1908.²⁵

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The rapidly growing population and increased industrial and commercial activity gave Rocky Mount the title of "North Carolina's fastest growing city," and by 1907 Rocky Mount received its city character.

By 1912 the commercial core extended south along Main and Washington Streets toward Marigold / Nash Streets, and the residential area around the core continued to grow beyond the limits shown on the 1907 Sanborn Map.

The decade preceding the entry of the United States into World War I was one of unprecedented growth for the new city, and at the end of the war years the city's population was estimated at 20,000 including Rocky Mount Mills and the adjacent mill village.

It was during this period that Rocky Mount established permanently as one of eastern North Carolina's leading industrial and transportation centers. The establishment in 1913 of the Rocky Mount Sanitarium, Rocky Mount's first hospital open to the general public, was a great step in meeting the health care needs of the growing community.

The 1917 Sanborn Map, drawn on the eve of World War I, shows that the commercial district was beginning to extend northward up Main Street and Falls Road, and eastward out Tarboro Street.

Rocky Mount's tobacco market was one of the largest leaf markets in the state and a notable cotton market has also been established. In 1919, 23,500 pounds of bright leaf tobacco were sold on the Rocky Mount market and 10,000 bales of cotton had also changed hands. Five miles of paved streets and twenty-two miles of paved sidewalks improved walking and driving in the city and one of the largest hotels in the state, the Ricks Hotel, was located on Main Street. At the junction of six rail lines, and serving as the division headquarters for the Atlantic Coast Line, Rocky Mount was home to many commercial travellers and railroad employees. A number of savings and loan associations established in the business district provided many citizens with the possibility of owning their own homes.

In 1923, the Sanborn Map shows the extension of the commercial core south down Main Street, joining the commercial district with the cluster of buildings consisting of the railroad station, the Ricks Hotel and the Sanitorium. Residential neighborhoods also expanded during the 1920's passing for the first time the boundaries of Grace and George Street.

The rapid pace of the city's growth was maintained throughout the 1920's in 1924, 16,000,000 pounds of bright leaf tobacco was sold on the tobacco market. Improvements were made in the city services extending the paved streets to fifteen miles, while sixty-five miles of streets were lit with electric streetlights.

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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The railroad continued to maintain the city's importance as a transportation center during the 1920's and in 1925 a total of one hundred and forty-seven trains per day passed through Rocky Mount; forty-two of these passenger and one hundred and five freight.³⁰

The social and cultural life of the town also benefited from the prosperity of the period. From a very early date fraternal and benevolent organizations and established churches had been part of the community. In 1923, one of Rocky Mount's most enduring cultural institutions, the Mark Hackney Braswell Public Library, was constructed. In the late 1920's a fashionable country club was also established, providing the only eighteen-hole golf course in northeastern North Carolina.³¹

The stock market crash in 1929 tended to discourage the previous pace of rapid growth of the city, but it came at a time when Rocky Mount was well established as one of the leading cities in Eastern North Carolina. The industrial sector was diversified including seven tobacco factories and redrying plants, a cotton mill, a mattress factory, two fertilizer factories, a cordage factory, several wood working plants, the Atlantic Coast Line Shops and the tobacco and cotton markets. The distribution of farm products was also a mainstay of the economy, and the city had become a jobbing center for the region.³²

The expanding transportation network of the city included Route 301, an important link on the Washington - Florida Short Route,³³ and a municipal airport also contributed to the accessibility of the city.

The diversification of the city's economy and the well-established transportation networks which converged in Rocky Mount did much to help the city rally from the Depression. This rally was a slow one, however, and few major buildings were constructed in the central city in the years between 1929 and 1936.

The late 1930's marked the beginning of a new era for the city. Suburban neighborhoods began to expand on the fringes of the city, while expansion in the densely built central city was slow.

In 1936 the City of Rocky Mount purchased the former Masonic Temple and Opera House building and it was renovated in the Art Deco style. This project was probably one of the earliest municipally funded adaptive reuse projects in eastern North Carolina.

Like World War I, World War II once more slowed the city's economy. Most development occurred in the city after 1950, and this expansion has taken place for the most part outside the central city, leaving the central business district a well preserved early twentieth century cityscape.

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ABBREVIATIONS ITEM NUMBER PAGE

- P- pivotal building. A pivotal building is a building of outstanding architectural and/or historic significance to the district. These buildings are generally in an excellent state of preservation, and are eligible for Tax Reform Act certification.
- C- contributing building. A contributing building is a building of architectural and/or historic significance to the district which was built before 1930. A contributing building is an integral part of the streetscape, and is eligible for Tax Reform Act certification.
- *C- contributing building with some reservations. This type of building is generally similar in height, scale, and materials to the contributing buildings, but dates after 1930. These buildings contribute to the continuity and overall make-up of the proposed district but do not qualify for Tax Reform Act certification at present due to their age.
- I- intrusive building. An intrusive building is completely out of the context of the district and does not share any of the attributes of the pivotal or contributing buildings nor is it eligible for Tax Reform Act certification.

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- C Commercial Building - 334-348 S. Washington Street
c. 1922 Three story brick commercial building originally constructed for Henry W. Cutchin, P. C. Shore, and R. L. Wooten. Housed Edwards-Cutchin Motor Co., the Hudson and Essex dealership, in the 1920's.
-
- C Commercial Building - 322 S. Washington Street.
c. 1950 One story concrete commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 320 S. Washington Street.
c. 1924 Two story brick commercial building with step gable.
-
- C Kay Ann's Ceramics - 244 S. Washington Street
c. 1910 One story brick commercial building originally used as office space. Pilastered facade.
-
- C Commercial Building - 243-251 S. Washington Street.
c. 1910 One story brick commercial building constructed c. 1910 for K. K. Bell and F. P. Dunn as the Rocky Motor Car Company. Received an addition in 1912 of storefront at 251 S. Washington Street.
-
- C Commercial Building - 238 S. Washington Street.
c. 1915 Two story brick commercial building constructed for the wholesale grocery firm of Munn, Griffin and Company.
-
- C Commercial Building - 232-234 S. Washington Street.
c. 1915 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Charles Wong Laundry - 223 S. Washington Street.
c. 1915 One story brick commercial building.
-

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-
- C Commercial Building - 219 S. Washington Street.
c. 1940 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- C Whaley's Warehouse - 218 S. Washington Street.
c. 1920 Three story brick warehouse building.
-
- I Commercial Building - 200 S. Washington Street.
c. 1950 One story masonry commercial building.
-
- ✓ P Nichols Hall - 171 S. Washington Street.
c. 1905 Two story brick commercial building with outstanding raised brickwork ornament. Constructed as one of the first restaurants for blacks in the central city, the concern was operated by James Nichols. The second floor was used as a meeting hall for black organizations.
-
- C Commercial Building - 164-168 S. Washington Street.
c. 1915 Two story brick commercial building. Raised brickwork and polychrome brick are used to add interest to the facades.
-
- C Commercial Building - 163-165 S. Washington Street.
c. 1901 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Enterprise Furniture - 158-162 S. Washington Street.
c. 1920 Three story brick commercial building originally built as the Pitt-Harriss Furniture Company. Pilastered facade with molded metal cornice and well-preserved lower facade.
-
- C Commercial Building - 157 S. Washington Street.
1920 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 154 S. Washington Street.
c. 1915 Two story brick commercial building constructed for the general merchandise firm of G. Crat Robbins.
-

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C Commercial Building - 153-155 S. Washington Street.
c. 1915 One story brick commercial building.

C Commercial Building - 148-152 S. Washington Street.
c. 1906 Two story brick commercial building built for T. P. Braswell and occupied by the firm of Bulluck, Byrd, and Company in the early twentieth century. Raised brickwork and round headed arched windows enliven the facade. The well preserved lower facades is a rare survival.

C Commercial Building - 143-147 S. Washington Street.
c. 1910 One story brick commercial building with raised brick designs on facade.

C Commercial Building - 134-144 S. Washington Street.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial block with three storefronts ornamented with raised brick designs.

C Hobart Sales and Service - 133 S. Washington Street.
c. 1930 Two story brick commercial building with pre-cast concrete panels on facade.

C Commercial Building - 130 S. Washington Street.
c. 1905 Two story brick commercial building. Built as Gorham and Matthews Hardware Company for J. S. Gorham and J. L. Matthews.

C Commercial Building - 127 S. Washington Street.
c. 1915 One story brick commercial building.

P Davis Brothers Hardware - Gee and Eee's - 126 S. Washington Street.
c. 1903 Two story commercial building built for T. A. Davenport's feed and seed business. Raked parapet, cast iron columns flank floor. One of best preserved turn of the century commercial buildings in the Central City.

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-
- C Commercial Building - 125 S. Washington Street.
c. 1910 One story brick commercial building built as a bicycle repair shop.
-
- C. Commercial Building - 122 S. Washington Street.
c. 1905 One story commercial building.
-
- C. Commercial Building - 112-118 S. Washington Street.
c. 1905 One story brick commercial block.
-
- C Commercial Building - 108 S. Washington Street.
c. 1912 One story brick commercial building.
-
- P First National Bank - Alford Building - 106 S. Washington Street.
c. 1912 Two story brick bank building with elaborate pressed metal cornice,
corner entrances, molded brick panels. Designed by John C. Stout.
-
- C Commercial Building - 114 N. Washington Street.
c. 1895 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 116-118 N. Washington Street.
c. 1895 One story brick commercial building originally constructed as a market.
-
- C Commercial Building - 119 N. Washington Street.
c. 1905 Two story brick commercial building with raised brick ornamentation.
-
- C Low's Appliance - 120-122 N. Washington Street.
c. 1920 One story brick commercial building.
-

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- C Star Furniture - 123 N. Washington Street.
c. 1900 Two story brick commercial building with complex raised brick designs on the facade.
-
- *C Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Building - 131-143 N. Washington Street.
c. 1970 Three story brick telephone office building.
-
- *C Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Building - 151-159 N. Washington Street.
1948 Brick faced concrete office building. Built as the Carolina Telephone and Telegram Building. Two stories.
-
- C Commercial Building - 161-165 Albemarle Avenue .
c. 1910 One story brick commercial building said to have been built as a livery stable and blacksmith shop.
-
- C Commercial Building - 169-171 Albemarle Avenue.
c. 1910 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Mangum Warehouse No. 2 - 303 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1935 One story brick tobacco warehouse with pilastered facade, wood post construction.
-
- C Braswell, Levy and Gravely Company - Fenner's Warehouse - 287 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1910 One story brick tobacco warehouse.
-
- C Hicks Veterinary Hospital - 283 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1920 One story brick garage converted to a commercial building.
-
- *C Pemberton Inc. - 277 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1955 One story brick commercial building .
-

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- C Cobb
and Carleton Warehouse No. 1 - 221 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1930 One story brick tobacco warehouse.
-
- C Douglas Building - 210-215 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1916 2 story brick block. Enlarged between 1917 and 1922 in the style
of the original construction. Constrasting color brick used to emphasize
the regular rhythm of the second floor windows.
-
- I Commercial Building - 181-183 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1965 One story brick commercial building; triangular plan.
-
- C Bailey Professional Building - 147 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1910 Two story brick office building. Metal modillon cornice.
Second floor echoes flamboyant classical detailing of Bank of Rocky Mount
next door and the lower facade was remodelled in the Art Deco style in the
1930's.
-
- P Bank of Rocky Mount - City Hall Annex - 143 N. E. Main Street.
1889 Built by D. J. Rose as the Bank of Rocky Mount. Enlarged to two
stories by 1891. Damaged by fire in 1894. Renovated in 1904 by D. J.
Rose. First bank built in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.
-
- P Masonic Hall and Opera House - Rocky Mount Municipal Building -
131 N. E. Main Street.
1901-1904 Three story brick building constructed as the Masonic Hall and
Opera House by D. J. Rose. Damaged by fire in 1920's and renovated in 1936 by
the City of Rocky Mount as the Rocky Mount Municipal Building.
Art Deco facade.
-
- C Commercial Building - 129 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1900 ? Two story brick commercial building. Original facade obscured
by plastic screening.
-

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-
- P Commercial Building - 125 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1907 Two story brick commercial building. Well-preserved upper facade features bracketed metal cornice, arched windows divided by classical columns and rustic stone sills. L7
-
- C Commercial Building - 115-119 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial building. Rare survival of original pressed metal facade.
-
- *C City Human Relations Department - 113 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1965 One story stuccoed masonry commercial building.
-
- C Epstein's Fashion Cove - 109 N. E. Main Street.
c. 1925 Two story brick commercial building with raked gable.
-
- C Epstein's Store - 101 N. E. Main Street.
1912 Two story brick commercial building with stepped gable and modillon cornice. Constructed for notable Rocky Mount businessman Eli Epstein.
-
- *C Seaboard Coast Line-Signal Tower on Railroad right-of-way - S. E. Main Street.
c. 1950 Three story signal tower. Hipped roof with aluminum siding.
-
- P Rocky Mount National Bank-Peoples Bank and Trust Company-
107 S. E. Main Street.
1918 Monumental six story bank building designed by Millburn and Heister and constructed by D. J. Rose. Built as the result of the merger of the Bank of Rocky Mount and the First National Bank. It closed in 1933 and reopened under the name of People's Bank and Trust Company in 1934.
-
- C Public Office Service - 109-115 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1907 Two story brick commercial building. Pilastered upper facade with round arched window openings. Altered.
-

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-
- C Day's Trophy House - 121 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1907 Two story brick commercial building. Round arch windows and raised brickwork enlivens upper facade.
-
- C Commercial Building - 123-125 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1920 Two story brick commercial building. Original facade obscured by metal screening and the use of glass tile and glass brick.
-
- C Commercial Building - 127-129 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1910 Two story masonry commercial building. Metal modillion cornice. Sheathed in gauged stucco.
-
- C Commercial Building - 131 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1920 Two story brick commercial building. Stepped gable. Sheathed in stucco. Facade altered c. 1955.
-
- P Kyser Drugstore - 135 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1912 Two story brick commercial building. Round arch window lintels with rustic keystones. Lower facade almost completely intact. Owned and operated by the parents of bandleader "Kay Kyser."
-
- C Jenkins and Gehman - House of Fashions - 139 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1925 Two story brick commercial building. Facade sheathed in geometric pattern of glass tiles.
-
- C Commercial Building - 143-147 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1915 Three story brick commercial building. Metal cornice. Broad stone sills and lintels.
-
- C Commercial Building - 149-151 S. E. Main Street.
1896 Two story brick commercial building constructed for J. D. Robbins. Altered.
-

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- C Commercial Building - 155-157 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1925 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 163-165 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1925 Three story brick commercial building with modillion cornice and pilastered facade.
-
- C Joyner - Rowland - 201-207 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1900 Two story brick commercial building with step gable. Constructed
c. 1900 as general store belonging to firm of Joyner and Rowland. Remodelled
c. 1920.
-
- C Commercial Building - 209-211 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1930 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 221 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1910 Two story brick commercial building. Stepped gable, metal cornice.
-
- C Commercial Building - 223 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1910 Two story brick commercial building. Brick quoining,
eyebrow window lintels. Lower facade altered.
-
- C Matthews, Weeks, and Company - 227-231 S. E. Main Street.
c. 1905 Two story brick commercial building built for Matthews, Weeks and
Company by D. J. Rose. Remodelled in 1920's.
-
- P Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Station - 101 Hammond Street.
1903-1916 Three story brick railroad station. Constructed in 1903 in the
Romanesque style by D. J. Rose. Raised to two stories in 1911-1912 and raised
to three stories in 1916. Historically it was the headquarters of Atlantic
Coast Line, and is now the division headquarters for the Seaboard Coast Line.
-

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-
- *C B. Klitzner & Son Inc. - 340 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1950 Two story commercial building; brick faced cinder block with some stone veneer.
-
- *C Main Street News Store - 334 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1948 One story masonry commercial building faced with glass tile.
-
- *C Enterprise Furniture - 320 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1950 Two story brick commercial building designed in the International style.
-
- C Commercial Building - 300-314 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1920 Two story brick commercial block with six storefronts. Continuous metal cornice.
-
- *C Belk-Tyler - 250-260 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1950 Two story masonry department store building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 244 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1917 Two story brick commercial building. Metal modillion cornice, triglyph frieze.
-
- C Grand Theatre - 238 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1912 Two story brick commercial building constructed as a vaudeville theatre. Altered.
-
- C Dawson Drug Company - 234 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1910 Two story brick commercial building as Dawson Drug Company. Metal cornice and dramatic round arched windows.
-

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-
- C Commercial Building - 232 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1910 Two story brick commercial building with metal dentil cornice. Although built as a garage, it has been used since c. 1915 as a department store.
-
- C Commercial Building - 218-224 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1910 Two story brick commercial building constructed as the Gem Theatre, one of Rocky Mount's earliest theatres. Metal dentil cornice, pilastered facade, three store fronts in width. Altered.
-
- C Wise Fashions - 212 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1910 Two story brick commercial building. Altered.
-
- C Glamour Shop - 206 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1908 Two story brick commercial brick. Altered.
-
- C Commercial Building - 202 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1905 Two story brick commercial building boasting a dramatic arcade on the side elevation and brick quoining and rustic lintels on the front facade built by D. J. Rose for H. E. Brewer. Altered.
-
- C S. H. Kress & Company - 162 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1913 Two story brick commercial built for Kress Department Store chain.
-
- C W. D. & C. A. Cochran Company - 154-158 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1915 Two story brick commercial building constructed for Wm. D. & Chas. C. Cochran, clothiers by D. J. Rose. Remodelled in 1950's.
-
- C E. S. Levy - 152 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1905 Two story brick commercial building constructed for J. D. Blount, W. Gray Williams & P. L. Thigpen as a dry goods store. Sold to clothing concern Rosenbloom-Levy in 1917. Remodelled in 1950's.
-

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-
- C Rosenbloom Levy Store - 146 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1905 Two story brick commercial building constructed for J. D. Blount, W. Gray Williams and P. L. Thigpen as a dry goods store. Sold to clothing concern Rosenbloom-Levy in 1917 and operated as such until 1979 and operated as such until 1979. Renovated in the Art Deco style in the late 1930's by Harry Harles.
-
- C Rocky Mount Savings & Trust Company
142 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1925 Two story masonry bank building. Stone veneered facade in Beaux Art style. Designed by Millburn & Heister of Washington, D.C. Constructed by D. J. Rose.
-
- C Rocky Mount Shoe & Clothing Company - 138 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1912 Two story brick commercial building. Occupied continuously by same company since its construction. Pilastered facade, metal cornice.
-
- *C Commercial Building - 132 S. W. Main Street.
After 1936 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- C Keel Dry Goods - 130 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1900 Two story brick commercial building constructed as a dry goods store for X.T. and J.W. Keel. Original facade is obscured by metal screening.
-
- P Commercial Building - 128 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1900 Two story brick commercial building. A palladian window, dentils and keystone are in evidence. The original parapet treatment and finials also survive to enliven the facade.
-
- P Commercial Building - 114-122 S. W. Main Street.
c. 1890 Two story brick commercial building. Probably constructed for T. J. Harkney and renovated c. 1900. Largest pressed metal facade in the Central Business District. Facade manufactured by Mesker Brothers.
-

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-
- P Standard Hardware - 108 S. W. Main Street.
1901 Two story brick commercial building with unusually complex and delicate ornamental brick work built for Standard Hardware Company.
-
- C Planters Bank - 100 S. W. Main Street.
1906-1907 Three story buff brick and granite bank building designed by H. W. Simpson of New Bern for Planters Bank Corporation. The oldest bank in Rocky Mount in continuous use by the same company. The design incorporates classical elements and the building remains pivotal despite minor alterations and the loss of its original metal cornice.
-
- C Downtown Wig Market - 100 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1910 ? Early twentieth century brick commercial building remodeled in the International style c. 1940, and sheathed in stucco.
-
- C Fabric Bargain Center-106 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1901 Two story brick commercial building. Heavily remodeled in the 1950's.
-
- C Rose Drug Company - 112 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1917 Two story brick commercial building built for I. W. Rose. One of the oldest continuously operated drugstores in Central Business District.
-
- P Rocky Mount Floral Company - 114 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1928 One story brick commercial building with stuccoed facade. The richest and best preserved example of Rocky Mount's remarkable group of small commercial buildings. Rocky Mount's first floral business.
-
- C Bailey's Jewelry Company. - 116 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial building, the original facade was obscured by metal screening in the 1950's.
-

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-
- C Rocky Mount Central City Revitalization Corporation
118 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial building. The original facade was obscured by the application of glass tiles in the 1940's.
-
- C Commercial Building - 120 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial building. Raised brick work ornaments the facade. Stuccoed facade.
-
- C Commercial Building - 122 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial building. Raised brickwork ornament.
-
- P Philips Building - 126 N. W. Main Street.
1907 Two story brick office building designed by John C. Stout in the Beaux Arts style.
-
- C Commercial Building - 132-134 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1930 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- C Montgomery Ward-Heilig-Meyers
140-142 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1929 Two story brick commercial building built as a Montgomery Ward Store. The original facade has been obscured by plastic screening.
-
- C Quinn Furniture - B & R Clothing - O.K. Clothing - 168-178 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1925 Three story brick commercial block. Metal modillion cornice.
-
- C Cameo Theatre - 180 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1925 Three story brick theatre building. Metal cornice.
-

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C Commercial Building - 186 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1925 One story brick commercial building.

*C Advance Stores - 188-190 N. W. Main Street.
c. 1950 One story blonde brick commercial building.

I Koretizing Inc. - 202-204 Falls Road.
c. 1960 Brick commercial building.

C Commercial Building - 206 Falls Road.
c. 1920 One story brick commercial building.

C Commercial Building - 208-210 Falls Road.
c. 1920 One story brick commercial building.

C Commercial Building - 224 Falls Road.
c. 1910 One story brick commercial building.

C Commercial Building - 228 Falls Road.
c. 1920 One story brick commercial building.

C Commercial Building - 234 Falls Road.
c. 1920 One story brick commercial building.

C Commercial Building - 240-248 Falls Road.
c. 1920 One story brick commercial building. Nos. 246-248 have been
damaged by fire.

P Sexton and Sons - 252-254 Falls Road.
c. 1919 Two story brick Mediterranean Revival hardware and feed store. Built
by D. J. Rose.

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-
- C Commercial Building - 260 Falls Road.
c. 1930 One story brick office building once part of adjacent tobacco warehouse.
-
- P Tobacco Warehouse - 272 Falls Road.
c. 1903 Originally known as Farmer's Brick Warehouse and built by D. J. Rose. The earliest surviving warehouse in the Central Business District.
-
- P Tobacco Warehouse - 284 Falls Road.
c. 1910 Brick tobacco warehouse built for William E. Fenner, a prominent Rocky Mount tobacconist.
-
- C Tobacco Warehouse - 301 Falls Road
c. 1920 Cobb & Carlton Warehouse No. 2. One story brick tobacco warehouse with pilastered facade.
-
- *C Thorpe and Ricks, Inc. - 315-325 Falls Road.
c. 1940 One story brick tobacco processing and hogshead manufacturing plant.
-
- C Thomas Hackney Braswell Memorial Library
344 Falls Road.
1923 Colonial Revival brick library building. Designed by Ernest C. Derby, expanded in the same style in 1936, 1961 and 1963.
-
- I Union Service Center - 331 N. Church Street.
c. 1965 Masonry construction filling station.
-
- P Hardee's No. 1 - 320 N. Church Street.
First Hardee's Fast Food restaurant ever constructed c. 1965.
-

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-
- C Church of the Good Shephard - 225 N. Church Street.
c. 1909 One story brick Gothic Revival Church. Built for the first Episcopal congregation established in the city and still owned by same.
-
- c. Mangum Warehouse - 218 N. Church Street.
c. 1924 One story brick tobacco warehouse built for Irvin W. Mangum.
-
- I Carleton House Motor Inn and Restaurant - 213-219 N. Church Street.
c. 1965 Two story brick motel and restaurant complex built by Sheraton chain.
-
- *C Smith and Works Warehouse - 210 N. Church Street.
c. 1940 One story brick tobacco warehouse known in 1950's as Smith and Works Warehouse.
-
- I Coastal Texaco Service Station - 201 N. Church Street.
c. 1965 One story brick filling station.
-
- P First Church of the Christian Scientist - Former Methodist - Protestant Church.
213 S. Church Street
c. 1902 One story brick Gothic Revival church. Originally constructed for Methodist-Protestant congregation, the church was sold to the Christian Scientists c. 1920-1925. Well preserved example of small turn of the century church. Outstanding stained glass windows.
-
- C House - 313 S. Church Street.
c. 1900 L-plan frame cottage with sawn and turned porch ornament.
-
- P Rocky Mount Sanitarium - 144 Coastline Street.
1913 First public hospital in Rocky Mount. Designed in the Tudoresque style, 4 stories in height. Brick sheathed in stucco.
-
- I Ricks Building - 110 Coastline Street.
c. 1960 Two story brick commercial building with stone veneer on the Main Street facade.
-

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-
- C Commercial Building - 110-118 Marigold Street.
c. 1905 One story brick commercial building. Originally constructed as the
Pepsi - Cola Bottling Company.
-
- *C Commercial Building - 107 Marigold Street.
c. 1938 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- *C Commercial Building - 105 Marigold Street.
c. 1938 One story brick commercial building; built by B. D. Rabil.
-
- *C City Lunch - 103 Marigold Street.
1938 One story brick building constructed as a restaurant. Build by B. D.
Rabil.
-
- I Spur Station - 101 Mariglod Street.
c. 1960 Cinder block filling station.
-
- C Commercial Building - 115-117 Nash Street.
c. 1925 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 121 Nash Street.
c. 1925 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 125 Nash Street.
c. 1925 Two story brick commercial building.
-

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-
- C Alcocke & Henry Inc.
131 Nash Street.
c. 1918 Five story brick textile factory. Built as a wholesale dry goods plant for Alcocke & Henry Inc.
-
- C Commercial Building - 137 Nash Street.
c. 1918 One story brick commercial building with step gable and metal modillion cornice with triglyph frieze.
-
- C Commercial Building - 143 Nash Street.
c. 1925 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building -129-137 Western Avenue.
c. 1915 One story brick commercial block which housed the Coca-Cola Bottling Company in the 1920's.
-
- C H. E. Brewer & Company - 123 Western Avenue.
c. 1915-1920 Three story brick commercial building constructed for the general merchandise firm of H. E. Brewer and Company. An addition was put on the building on the east side c. 1920.
-
- C Commercial Building - 210 Hill Street.
c. 1920 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- C Quality Cleaners - 242 Tarboro Street.
c. 1930 One story brick building with stuccoed facade originally built as a bowling alley. Also on same lot, a brick Art Deco filling station.
-
- C Commercial Building - 239 Tarboro Street.
c. 1922 Three story brick building with molded metal cornice originally built to house the J. S. Gorham Hardware Company.
-

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-
- C Commercial Building - 235 Tarboro Street.
c. 1907 Two story brick commercial building constructed for W. T. Rose who operated a wagon factory on the site which later, under Rose's direction, was converted into a Buick dealership.
-
- C Commercial Building - 224-234 Tarboro Street.
c. 1917-1925 Two story brick commercial block built between c. 1917 and c. 1925. # 224 Tarboro Street was built for the Daughtridge Mercantile Company c. 1917, this concern was operated by general merchants David D. and William M. Daughtridge.
-
- C Commercial Building - 225-227 Tarboro Street.
c. 1929 One story brick automobile sales building. Large display window and some Art Deco details. Built for Ernest S. Armistead of Armistead Motor Co.
-
- C Commercial Building - 219-221 Tarboro Street.
c. 1920 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 215 Tarboro Street
c. 1915 One story brick commercial building.
-
- P Former U. S. Post Office - Edgecombe Technical Institution - 200 Tarboro Street.
1914 Beaux Arts United States Post Office Building designed by Treasury Department architect Oscar Wenderoth and built by D. J. Rose.
-
- P May & Gorham Drug Store - 132 Tarboro Street.
1904-1906 Two story brick commercial building. Built for Reading D. and John D. Bulluck, by D. J. Rose in 1904. Enlarged in 1906 in the same style. One of the most complete examples of a turn of the century drug store in eastern North Carolina. Flamboyant ornamentation and original interior.
-

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-
- C Commercial Building - 128 Tarboro Street.
c. 1905 Two story brick commercial building constructed for the Raleigh based furniture store chain of G. S. Tucker & Company.
-
- C Commercial Building - 124 Tarboro Street.
c. 1905 Two story brick commercial building constructed as a dry goods store for Charles O. and John L. Calhoun.
-
- C Commercial Building - 120 Tarboro Street.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial building with curtain wall facade dating c. 1960.
-
- C Commercial Building - 116 Tarboro Street.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial building with wall facade dating c. 1960.
-
- C Commercial Building - 112 Tarboro Street.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial building with curtain wall facade dating c. 1960.
-
- C Commercial Building - 111-119 Tarboro Street.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial building with 1920's facade and three storefronts. Said to be the site of the longest continually operated shoe repair business in the city.
-
- C Commercial Building - 110 Tarboro Street.
c. 1912 One story brick commercial building. Altered.
-
- C Commercial Building - 109 Tarboro Street.
c. 1920 Two story brick commercial building. Metal cornice and large round arched window. Altered.
-
- C Commercial Building - 114 Sunset Avenue.
c. 1901 Two story brick commercial building which originally housed the wholesale grocery firm of Cuthrell and Edwards.
-

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-
- C Commercial Building - 118 Sunset Avenue.
c. 1900 Two story brick commercial building which during the early 20th century housed the offices of Rocky Mount's first Chamber of Commerce publication, the Rocky Mount Record.
-
- C Commercial Building - 122 Sunset Avenue.
c. 1900 One story brick commercial building which originally housed the first Rocky Mount fire department. Original pressed metal facade still intact.
-
- C Commercial Building - 123 Sunset Avenue.
c. 1910 Two story brick commercial building. Pilastered facade and molded metal cornice.
-
- C Commercial Building - 125 Sunset Avenue.
c. 1910 One story brick office building with attractive round headed arched window and door surrounds.
-
- C Commercial Building - 130 Sunset Avenue.
c. 1905 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 132 Sunset Avenue.
c. 1905 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 141 Sunset Avenue.
c.1900 One story brick commercial building with several storefronts.
-
- P Centre Theatre - 138 Sunset Avenue.
c. 1925 Two story brick theatre building sheathed in stucco and ornamented with inset tile designs and foliate spired urns.
-

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-
- C Rocky Mount Physical Therapy Clinic - 222 W. Thomas Street.
c. 1906 Two story frame house. Irregular massing with Colonial Revival details. A house type commonly built at the turn of the century in the central city, though few examples are still intact.
-
- I Central Cafe - 212 W. Thomas Street.
c. 1965 One story brick restaurant building attached to warehouse at 210 N. Church Street.
-
- I Russell's Central Service Station
206 W. Thomas Street.
c. 1965 One story brick filling station attached to warehouse at 210 N. Church Street.
-
- C Commercial Building - 106 E. Thomas Street.
c. 1915 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 110-116 E. Thomas Street.
c. 1910 One story brick commercial block.
-
- ✓ C Commercial Building - 118 E. Thomas Street.
c. 1920 One story brick building constructed as the Manhattan Theatre for the Black community.
-
- *C Commercial Building - 122 E. Thomas Street.
c. 1940 One and one half story masonry theatre building. Art Deco influences on the facade design.
-
- I Commercial Building - 128 E. Thomas Street.
c. 1950 One story cinder block building.
-

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- ↓
- P Booker T. Theatre - 130 E. Thomas Street.
c. Two story brick building built as the Savoy Theatre. Classical facade with round arched windows and a panel with a classical figure in relief.
-
- C Burnette Building - 132-134 E. Thomas Street.
c. 1924 Two story brick commercial block constructed of hytex brick with a molded metal cornice. Built for J. B. Burnett.
-
- C Commercial Building - 200-210 E. Thomas Street.
c. 1924 One story brick commercial building sheathed in stucco with inset tile decoration.
-
- C Commercial Building - 201 E. Thomas Street.
c. 1905 One story brick building.
-
- *C Commercial Building - 203-205 E. Thomas Street.
c. 1940 One story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 200 Rose Street.
c. 1910 One story brick commercial block with some raised brick ornament.
-
- C Commercial Building - 204 Rose Street.
c. 1920 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 206-216 Rose Street.
c. 1925 One story brick commercial block.
-
- C Garage - 105 W. Goldleaf Street.
c. 1930 Brick Art Deco filling station.
-

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-
- C American Tobacco Company - Export Leaf Tobacco Company - 222 E. Goldleaf Street.
c. 1892 - c. 1907 One story brick tobacco processing and storage complex.
Plaque of corner of prizery reads "K. W. Coghill/Contractor and Builder/
1892." This would make this building the oldest existing tobacco processing
plant in Rocky Mount. Name changed c. 1912 to British-American Tobacco and
c. 1917 to Export Leaf Tobacco.
-
- C Commercial Building - 110 Howard Street.
c. 1930 Stuccoed brick commercial building with stepped gable.
-
- C Commercial Building - 120 Howard Street.
c. 1930 Two story brick Colonial Revival office building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 122 Howard Street.
c. 1930 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- *C Commercial Building - 124 Howard Street.
c. 1906 One story brick office building.
-
- C Commercial Building - 130-134 Howard Street.
c. 1910 Two story brick commercial building. Ornamental raised brickwork
and arched window surrounds enliven facade.
-
- C Commercial Building - 138-142 Howard Street.
c. 1910 Two story brick commercial building.
-
- *C Evening Telegram - 146-154 Howard Street.
c. 1960 Two story office (brick) building.
-
- C Imperial Tobacco Company - 205 Mac Donald Street.
1903 Three story brick tobacco processing plant, built for Imperial Tobacco
Company of Great Britian and Ireland.
-

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FOOTNOTES

¹Michael O'Quinlivan, "A Century of People, Purpose, Progress: Rocky Mount, North Carolina 1867-1967," Rocky Mount, N.C., Centennial Commemorative Book, 1867-1967. n.p., n.d. Hereinafter cited as O'Quinlivan, "A Century."

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Rocky Mount Mail, Rocky Mount, N.C., December 24, 1875.

⁵Sanborn Map of Rocky Mount, Sanborn Map Company, 1885.

⁶O'Quinlivan, "A Century."

⁷Rocky Mount Directory. Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1907, 5:7.

⁸Sanborn Map of Rocky Mount, Sanborn Map Company 1891.

⁹Argonaut, Rocky Mount, N.C., August 27, 1891 and June 4, 1892.

¹⁰O'Quinlivan, "A Century."

¹¹Sanborn Map of Rocky Mount, Sanborn Map Company, 1891.

¹²Sanborn Map of Rocky Mount, Sanborn Map Company, 1896.

¹³Rocky Mount Record, Rocky Mount, N.C.: Rocky Mount Record Job Printing Office, 1906, pp. 48-53.

¹⁴Sanborn Map of Rocky Mount, Sanborn Map Company, 1896. Also building cornerstone.

¹⁵Argonaut, Rocky Mount, N.C., June 4, 1892.

¹⁶Sanborn Map of Rocky Mount, Sanborn Map Company, 1901.

¹⁷Ibid. See also O'Quinlivan, "A Century."

¹⁸Ibid.

¹⁹Ibid.

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²⁰O'Quinlivan, "A Century."

²¹Rocky Mount Record, Rocky Mount, N.C.: Rocky Mount Record Job Printing Office, 1906 and 1912 editions. p. 68 (1906), p. 147 (1912). Rocky Mount Directory, Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1908, 1912, 1914, and 1920. Buried in Pineview Cemetery, Rocky Mount.

²²Sanborn Map of Rocky Mount, Sanborn Map Company, 1901 and 1907.

²³Rocky Mount Record, Rocky Mount, N.C.: Rocky Mount Record Job Printing Office, 1912, p. 147.

²⁴Sanborn Map of Rocky Mount, Sanborn Map Company, 1901, 1907, and 1912.

²⁵Rocky Mount Directory, Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1908.

²⁶Ibid, 1912.

²⁷Ibid, 1920.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Ibid, 1925.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹O'Quinlivan, "A Century." See also Rocky Mount Directory, Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1920.

³²Rocky Mount Directory, Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1930.

³³Ibid.

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Rocky Mount Directory, Richmond: Hill Directory Co., 1908, 1912, 1914, 1920, 1925, 1928, 1930, 1934, 1936.

Rocky Mount Mail, Rocky Mount, N.C. , December 24, 1876.

Rocky Mount Record, Rocky Mount, N.C.: Rocky Mount Record Job Printing Office, 1906 and 1912.

Sanborn Maps of Rocky Mount, Sanborn Map Company. 1885, 1891, 1896, 1901, 1907, 1912, 1917, 1923.

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BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the curb on the southeast corner of the intersection of Hammond Street and Florida Avenue proceeding south with the Florida Avenue curb to the northeast corner of Florida Avenue and Robinson Avenue; turning east and running parallel with Robinson Avenue, crossing the Seaboard Coast Line railroad tracks at right angles to the curb of S. E. Main Street, thence following the curb of S. E. Main Street north to the northeast intersection of S. E. Main Street and Battle Street, following Battle Street to the northwest corner of S. Washington Street, turning north and running parallel to the western side of S. Washington along the curb line to the intersection of Marigold Street, crossing S. Washington Street and running parallel with Marigold Street to the rear property line of 259 S. Washington Street, following the rear property lines of the 200 block of S. Washington Street, crossing Hill Street at right angles, proceeding north along the eastern boundary of 210 Hill Street and along the rear property lines of 153-155 S. Washington Street to the south west corner of boundary of 225-227 Tarboro Street, following the rear property lines of 225-239 Tarboro Street to the southeast corner of the rear boundary of 239 Tarboro Street, thence following the eastern property line of 239 Tarboro Street to the Tarboro Street curb, crossing Tarboro Street and following eastern boundary of 242 Tarboro Street to the southeast corner of the property line of 217 Rose Street, following the rear property line of 217 Rose Street to the curb of Arlington Street, following Arlington Street north to the intersection of Rose Street, crossing Rose Street and proceeding along the curb of Atlantic Avenue to the rear property line of 210-216 Rose Street, cornering and following the rear property lines of 206-216 Rose Street, cornering and following the rear property lines of 155-171 Albemarle Avenue, crossing the alley adjacent to 167 -171 Albemarle Avenue and proceeding along the eastern boundary of 207 E. Thomas Street to the intersection of E. Thomas Street, crossing E. Thomas Street and following the eastern property lines of 200-210 E. Thomas Street, cornering and following the rear property line of 200-210 E. Thomas Street to the intersection of Albemarle Avenue, following the curb of Albemarle Avenue north to the intersection of Goldleaf Street, crossing Goldleaf Street, cornering and following the front property line of 200-222 E. Goldleaf Street to the intersection of Atlantic Avenue, cornering and following the eastern property line of 200-222 E. Goldleaf Street, cornering and following the rear property line of 200-222 E. Goldleaf Street to the intersection of Albemarle Avenue, crossing Albemarle Avenue, following the rear property line of 120-124 E. Goldleaf Street cornering and following the western property line of 120-124 E. Goldleaf to the intersection of the

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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northern property line of 303 N. E. Main Street, following the northern property line of 303 N. W. Main Street to the intersection of N. E. Main Street, crossing N. E. Main Street and the Seaboard Coast Line railroad tracks and N. W. Main Street at right angles, following the eastern property line of 301-331 Falls Road, cornering and following the northern property line of 319-331 Falls Road to the intersection of Falls Road, crossing Falls Road and then N. Church Street and running along the front property line of 344 Falls Road to the intersection of N. Franklin Street, cornering and running south along N. Franklin Street to the southeast corner of the boundary of 214 N. Church Street, cornering and running west and then south with the southern property line of 214 N. Church Street, thence running with the rear property line of 210 N. Church Street, thence running with the western boundary of 222 W. Thomas Street to the intersection of Thomas Street, cornering and running east with the curb of W. Thomas Street to the northwest corner of 112-116 W. Thomas Street, crossing W. Thomas Street right angles and proceeding along the rear property lines of 100-190 N. W. Main Street, following the eastern property line of 114 Sunset Avenue, cornering and following the rear property lines of 114-118 Sunset Avenue, crossing Sorsby Alley and following the rear property lines of 122-138 Sunset Avenue, cornering and following the western property line of 138 Sunset Avenue, crossing Sunset Avenue at right angles and proceeding along the western property line of 141 Sunset Avenue, cornering and following the rear property line of 141 Sunset Avenue to southeast corner of 141 Sunset Avenue, cornering and proceeding south crossing the alley and following the rear property lines of 120-154 Howard Street to the intersection of Western Avenue crossing Western Avenue at right angles and following the western property line of 131-135 Western Avenue, cornering and following the rear property of 131-135 Western Avenue, cornering and following the western property line of 123-127 Western Avenue, cornering and following the northern property line of 213 S. Church Street, cornering and following the front property line of 213 S. Church Street and cornering and following the southern property line of 213 S. Church Street, cornering and following the rear property lines of 240-260 S. W. Main Street to the intersection of Nash Street, following Nash Street curb west to the northeast corner of Nash Street and S. Church Street, crossing Nash Street and following the S. Church Street curb to the intersection of Coastline Street, following the Coastline Street curb to the intersection of S. W. Main Street, crossing Coastline Street and following the S. W. Main Street curb to the intersection of Hammond Street, crossing Hammond Street at right angles, cornering and following Hammond Street to the intersection of Florida Avenue.

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the proposed downtown district for Rocky Mount, North Carolina have been drawn to include the three elements combined to form the basis of one of the leading cities in eastern North Carolina. These elements include the tobacco warehousing and processing district, the commercial core and the railroad station. Since the period of the greatest historical and architectural significance to Rocky Mount took place between 1890 and 1930, efforts have been made to exclude more modern construction, especially those buildings constructed after World War II.

Although residential areas surround the proposed district on all sides, few residences have been included within the district boundaries because the greatest concentrations of late nineteenth/early twentieth century buildings in a good state of preservation were found within the commercial/industrial area lining the railroad tracks, and not in the outlying residential areas which have often been subject to intrusions and large gapsites. Flanking residential areas will be considered for the National Register for Historic Places at a later date.

At the far southern end of the proposed district a narrow arm of the district embraces the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Station. To the north and east of the station are large empty lots and to the west and south modern construction requires the setting of the boundary around three sides of the station. On the east side of the railroad tracks the boundary omits the large gapsite and modern bus station on the 400 block of S. E. Main Street and extends one block down Battle Street to include the block of commercial buildings dating c. 1925-c. 1938 facing on the 300 block of the west side of Washington Street and the 100 block of Marigold Street. This boundary excludes the modern construction present on the east side of the 300 block of S. Washington Street. From the intersection of Marigold Street the boundary runs north up the rear property lines of the east side of the 200 block of S. Washington Street, including the fine block of intact early twentieth century commercial buildings. The rest of the block bounded by S. Washington Street / Hill Street / Arlington Street / and Marigold Street includes a large gapsite, some modern construction and a few houses. These are omitted. From Hill Street the boundary continues north running down the back property lines of the 100 block of S. Washington Street and the 200 block of Tarboro Street stopping short of the large surface parking lot on the corner of Tarboro Street and Arlington Street. The Hill and Arlington Street sides of the block

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2

have several intrusive buildings and five houses on the far end of Hill Street, which are excluded. Crossing Tarboro Street, the boundary excludes a modern building and its adjoining parking lot at 256-258 Tarboro Street, and it follows Arlington Street past the intersection of Rose Street. The area on the east side of Arlington Street was not considered for inclusion in the district because of the predominance of new construction. The boundary corners at this point, running down the rear property lines of the early twentieth century commercial buildings on Rose Street and then corner once again following the rear property lines of the commercial buildings on Albemarle Street, and from there it follows the eastern property line of 207 E. Thomas Street. This excludes some modern construction on the eastern end of E. Thomas Street and Atlantic Avenue. The boundary crosses E. Thomas Street and runs north along the eastern boundary of the commercial block at 200-210 E. Thomas Street, excluding a gapsite and some residences. The boundary runs down the back property line of 200-210 E. Thomas Street to Albemarle Avenue. This portion of the boundary defines the edge of the tobacco warehousing and processing area and divides it from the mixed residential / commercial neighborhood on the east side of Albemarle Avenue. The boundary turns east at Goldleaf Street to encompass the former American Tobacco Company building, the earliest extant tobacco processing structure within the proposed district. The boundary follows the east, and then the rear, property lines of the American Tobacco Company at 222 E. Goldleaf Street and crosses Albemarle Avenue at right angles and from there follows the rear property line of 120-124 E. Goldleaf Street and the north property line of 303 N. E. Main Street. This defines the northern edge of the tobacco warehousing and processing area on the east side of the railroad tracks. The boundary then crosses the tracks and runs along the north property line of 319-331 Falls Road, excluding a vacant lot. This forms the northernmost boundary of the tobacco warehousing and processing areas. The boundary then follows Falls Road to N. Franklin Street, including Rocky Mount's first public library at 344 Falls Road. The boundary corners at the intersection of Falls Road and N. Franklin Street and follows N. Franklin Street south along the western edge of the tobacco warehousing and processing area, following the southern boundary of 210-230 N. Church Street and the western boundary of 222 E. Thomas Street to exclude some modern construction. The boundary corners and follows W. Thomas Street to the intersection of Sorsby Alley where it corners and follows the rear property lines of N. W. Main Street. The boundary then corners and follows the rear property lines of Sunset Avenue where upon it corners again and follows the western boundary of 138 Sunset Avenue, crosses Sunset Avenue and follows the western boundary of 139-

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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141 Sunset Avenue then follows the rear property lines of Howard Street. This excludes most of the modern construction which faces Church Street. The boundary then crosses Western Avenue, proceeds along the western boundary of 135-137 Western Avenue and includes an early twentieth century church on S. Church Street. This church is a key structure and stands quite near the back of significant Main Street structures (closer than the map suggest.)

From here to the starting point the boundary excludes the largely vacant lot bounded by Nash, S. Church, Hammond and S. Franklin Streets as well as the vacant lot bounded by Coastline, S. Church, Hammond and S. W. Main Streets.



NEGATIVE NUMBER _____

PHOTOGRAPHER _____

PHOTO DATE _____

SUBJECT _____

300 blk. S. Washington St.

Rocky MA H.S.

W. side facing S.

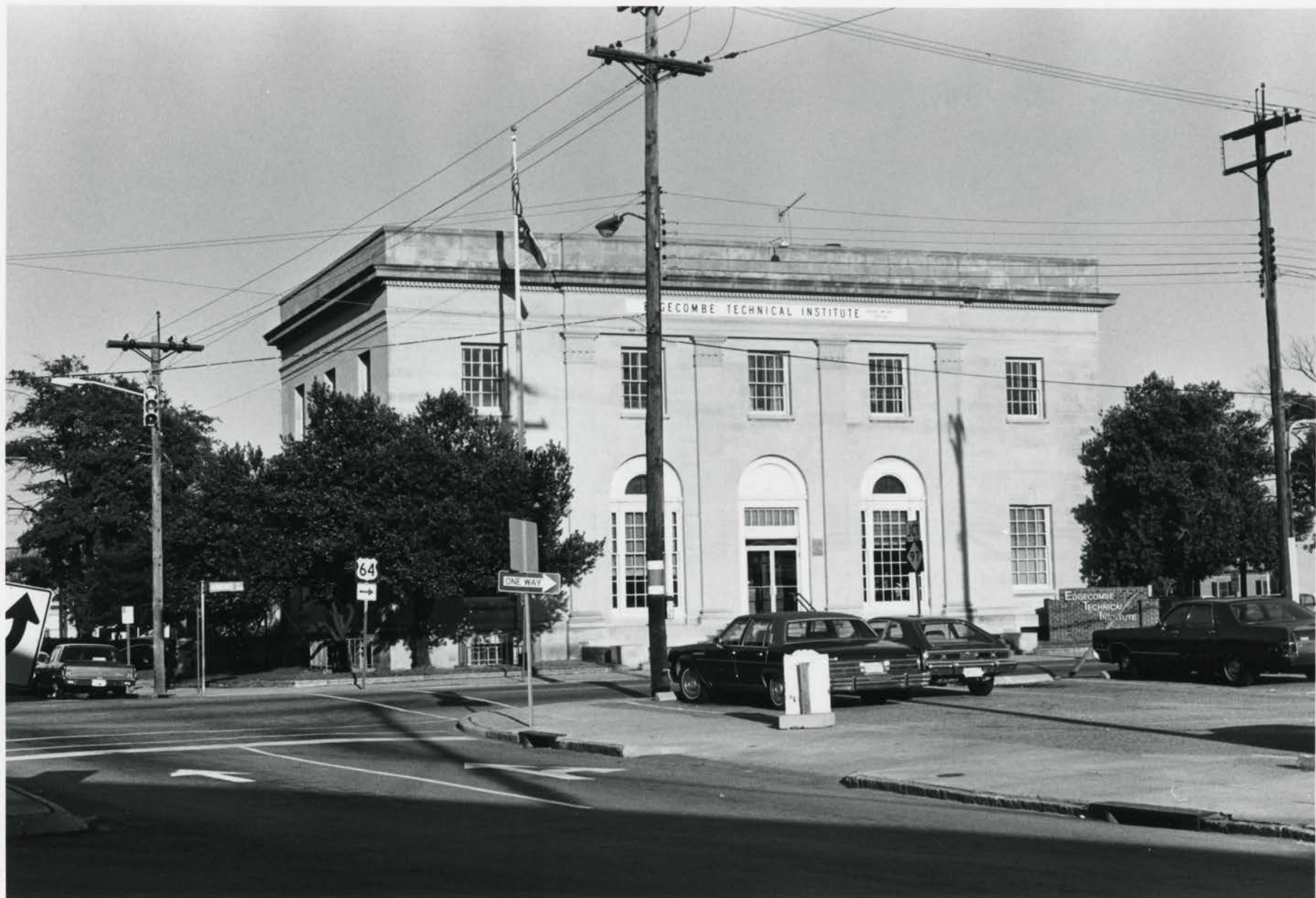
Rocky Mount Central City Historic
District

Nash Co.

1/31

11A

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER _____

Rocky Mount Central City Hist. District

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Ohms

Nash Co.

PHOTO DATE 11/79

SUBJECT (former) U.S. Post office

2/31

200 Tobacco St.

Rocky MA. 419.

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER _____

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Ohno

PHOTO DATE 4/79

SUBJECT N. Side 200 blk. Rose St.

Rocky Mt. H.D.,
facing W

Rocky Mount Central City Hist - District
Nash CO.

(17) 3/31

35

JUN 19 1980



←
ONLY

↑
ONLY

KEEP
RIGHT
↗

DO NOT
ENTER

ENTER
RADIO SERVICE SHOP
TELEVISION CENTER
John S. Service



Rocky Mount Central City Historic District
Nash Co.

NEGATIVE NUMBER _____

PHOTOGRAPHER E. Ohno

PHOTO DATE 11/79

SUBJECT W. Side, look N. S. Washington St.

Rocky Mt. H.D.
W. side facing S.

4/31

220

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER _____

Rocky mount Central City Historic Dist.
Nash Co.

PHOTOGRAPHER _____

K. Ohms

PHOTO DATE _____

11/79

SUBJECT _____

Nichols Hall - 171 S. Washington St.

(15)

5/31

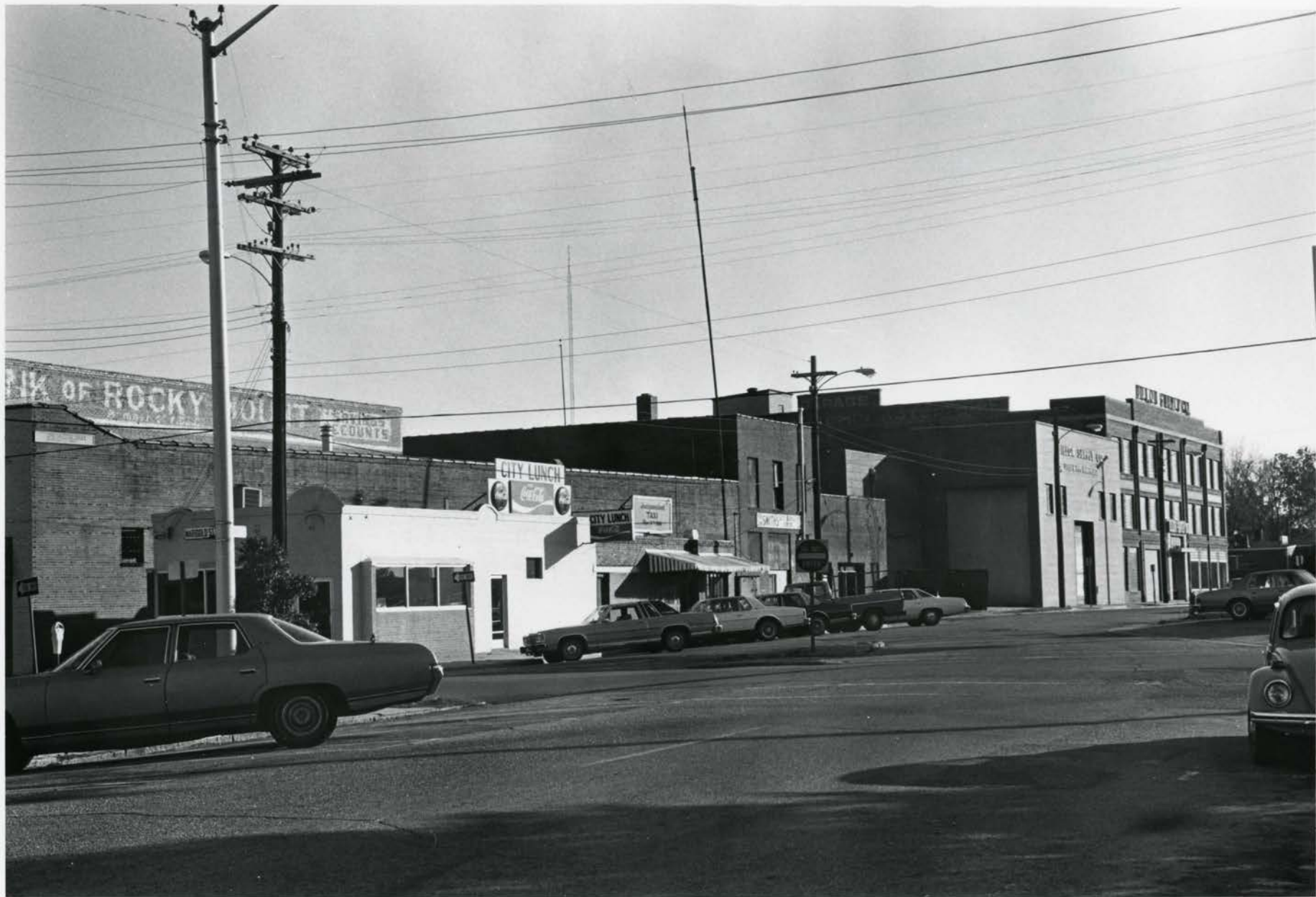
~~E. Side~~

Rocky Mt. HD.

N.E. corner S. Washington St. & Western Ave.

27

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER

PHOTOGRAPHER

K. Ohno

Rocky Mount Central City Hist. District
Nash Co.

6/31

PHOTO DATE

11/79

SUBJECT

300 Wk. S.E. Main St.

14

Rocky M.H.D.
E. side looking S.

19

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER

PHOTOGRAPHER

PHOTO DATE

SUBJECT

Rocky Mount Central City Hist. District
Nash Co.

7/31

E. Ohno

11/79

200 blk. S.E. Main St.

(13)

Rocky Mt. H.D.

E. side facing S.

202 → 281

18

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER _____

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Ohms

PHOTO DATE 11/79

SUBJECT Nat'l. Bank of Rocky Mt.
109 S.E. Main St.
Rocky M.A.H.D.

Rocky Mount Central City Hist. District ¹³¹
Nash. CO.

(12)

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER _____

Rocky Mount Central City Historic Dist
Nash Co.

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Ohms

PHOTO DATE 11/79

SUBJECT S. side 100 blk. N. Washington St.

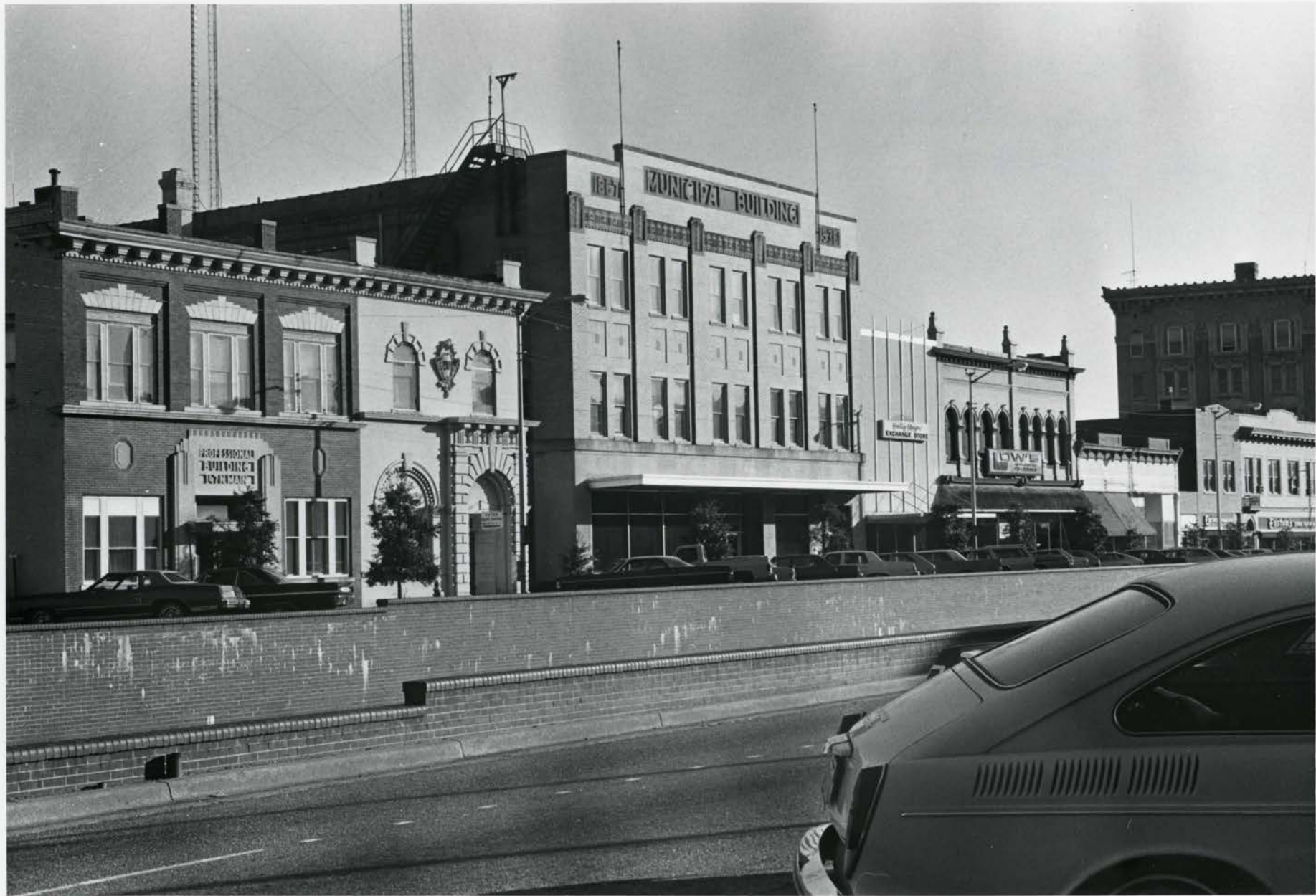
Rocky Mt. H.D.

facing N

(11)

30

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER _____ Rocky Mount Central City Hist. District
Nash CO.

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Ohno

PHOTO DATE 1/79

SUBJECT 100 blk. NE. Main St.

(10)

10/31

Rocky Mt. H.A.
E. side facing **S**.

15

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 79-4-846 Rocky Mount Central City Dist. District

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Ohno

Nash CO.

11/31

PHOTO DATE 7/78

SUBJECT 252-254 Falls Rd. (whole)

Rocky Mt. H.D.

S.W. Corner Falls Rd. & Gay St.

846



CENTER

HERCULES
And
HERCULES UNCHAINED

SIGNS

A HICKS

NEGATIVE NUMBER N^o 79-5-416

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Ohno

PHOTO DATE 7/78

SUBJECT Center Theatre - 136-140 Sunset Ave.

Rocky Mt. Hist.

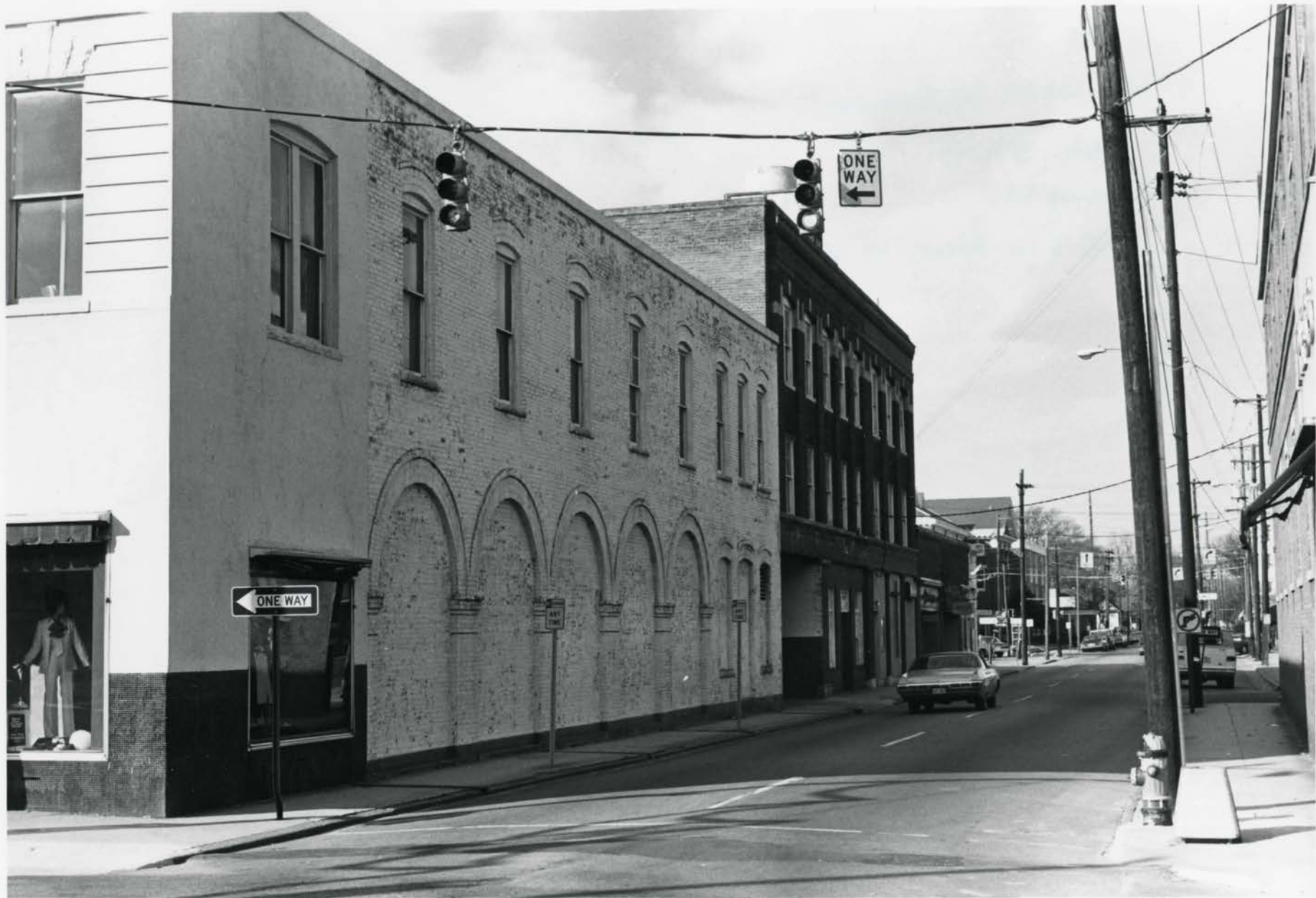
Rocky Mount Central City Hist. District
Nash co.

(7)

12/31

416

JUN 19 1980



Rocky Mount Central City Hist. Soc.
Nash Co.

13/31

NEGATIVE NUMBER _____

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Ohno

PHOTO DATE 4/79

SUBJECT S. side 100 blk. Western Ave.

(6)

Rocky MA. H.S.

facing W.

202 S.W. Main - 133 Western

36A

JUN 19 1960



JCT
64

FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
1880

ER'S

NEGATIVE NUMBER N.79-4-812

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Chuo

PHOTO DATE 8/78

SUBJECT 1st Ch. Christ Sci.

Rocky Mount Central City Hist. District
Nash CO.

74/31

(5)

Rocky Mt. A.D.,
213 S. Church St.

812

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Ohno

PHOTO DATE 11/79

SUBJECT 200 W. S.W. Main St. Rocky Mt. H.D.

W. Side looking S.

Rocky Mount Central City Hist. District
Nash Co.

(4)

15
31

4

6

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER

Rocky Mount Central City Historic District

16/31

PHOTOGRAPHER

K. Ohms

Nash CO.

PHOTO DATE

11/79

SUBJECT

300 blk. S.W. Mainst.

(3)

Rocky Mt. H.D.

E. side looking S.

300 → 344

7

JUN 19 1980



THE NATIONAL
UNDERWEAR
ROCKY MOUNT DRY GOODS CO. WHOLESALE DRY GOODS NOTIONS

DAVIS SHOE REPAIR

BRASWELL'S
SPORT & VCL SH

BRASWELL'S SPORT

SCHWINN
BICYCLES



PRIVATE
PARKING ONLY

ONE WAY

ONE
WAY

DONT
WALK

Evinrude
BRASWELL'S
SPORT

DAILY
FOOT CLEANING

NEGATIVE NUMBER

Rocky Mount Central City Historic District
Nash CO.

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Okno

PHOTO DATE 11/79

17/31

SUBJECT S. Side 100 blk. Nash St.

(2)

Rocky Mt. H.D.
View AA

12

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 14-4-1031

PHOTOGRAPHER K. Ohms

PHOTO DATE 7/78

SUBJECT Atlantic Coastline R.R. Sta
Rocky Mt. H.D.

Rocky Mount Central City Historic Dist.
Nash Co.

①

18/31

1031



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-80 1-672

PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO

PHOTO DATE 11-79

SUBJECT NASH CO-STREETSCAPE

N. side

Rocky Mount Central City Hist
District Nash Co.

FROM DIVISION OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY,
RALEIGH, N. C.

JUN 19 1980

19/31

FEB 28 1980

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION SECTION

Rocky Mount Sanitorium

144 Coastline St.

NE corner Coastline & Church Sts.

Rocky Mount Central City H.A.

APR 28 1980

672

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-80-1-670 Rocky Mount Central City Historic District Nash Co.
PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO
PHOTO DATE 11-79

FROM DIVISION OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY
RALEIGH, N. C.

20/31 FEB 28 1980

SUBJECT EDGEcombe CO-STREETSCAPE View K
S. Side

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100 Block Main St.

Rocky Mount Central City, NC

APR 28 1980

670

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER 11-801-677 Rocky Mount Central City
PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO Historic District Nash Co.

PHOTO DATE 11-79

JUN 19 1980

SUBJECT EDGECOMBE CO. - STREETScape View J
E. side 200 block S. Washington looking N
from Main old 21/31

FROM DIVISION OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY,
RALEIGH, N. C.

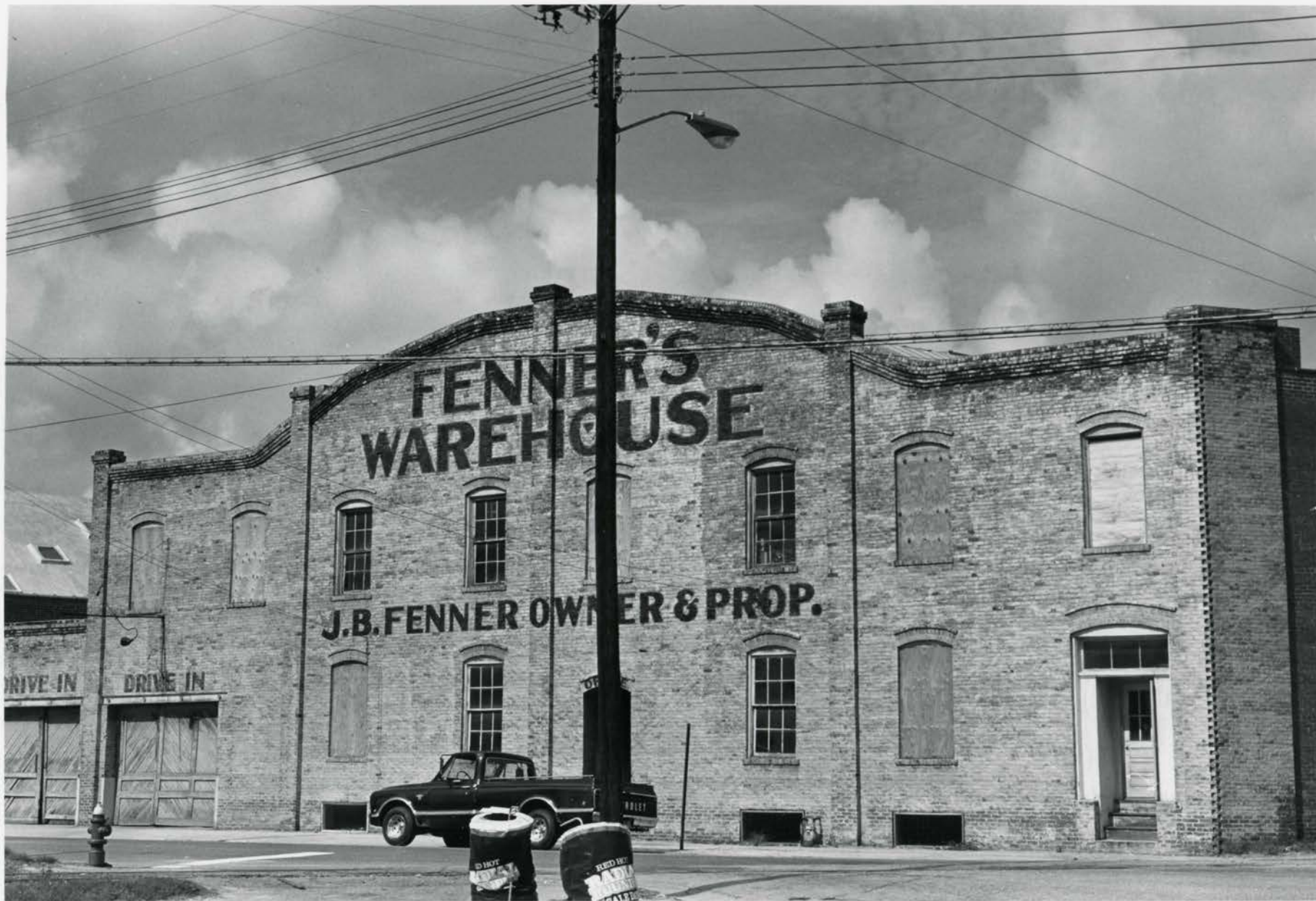
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Rocky Mount Central City, NC.

APR 28 1980

677



JUN 19 1980

NEGATIVE NUMBER N.79-4-851

PHOTOGRAPHER ~~296-298~~ SA K Ohno

PHOTO DATE 7/78

SUBJECT 296-298 Falls rd (Whse) ? (9)
Rocky Mt. H.S.

22/31 Rocky mount Central City Hist. Dist.
Nash CO.

JUN 19 1980

551



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-80-1-667

PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO

PHOTO DATE 11-79

SUBJECT EDGEcombe CO-STREETSCAPE **View A**

FROM DIVISION OF
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RALEIGH, N. C.

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Cobb & Carleton whse.
200 Block NE Main St.

23/
31

Rocky Mount Central City **HIP**
Nash Co.

JUN 19 1980

APR 28 1980

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-80 1-664

PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO

PHOTO DATE 11-79

SUBJECT EDGEcombe CO. STREETScape **View B**

100 Block E. Thomas St.

Rocky Mount Central City H.H.

Nash Co.

24/31

JUN 19 1980

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NEGATIVE NUMBER N-80-1-676

PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO

PHOTO DATE 11-79

SUBJECT EDGEcombe Co. - Streetscape View C
N. side E Thomas St. looking W
Rocky Mt. Central City HD.
Nash Co.

257
31

APR 28 1980

JUN 19 1980

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NEGATIVE NUMBER N-80-1-681

PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO

PHOTO DATE 11-79

SUBJECT NASH CO - STREETScape View D

100 Block N.W. Main St.
Rocky Mount Central City Historic District

26/
31

Nash Co. APR 28 1980

JUN 19 1980

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68/

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-80-1-682

PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO

PHOTO DATE 11-79

SUBJECT EDGEcombe CO-STREETSCAPE *View E*

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RALEIGH, N. C.

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100 Block SE Main St.

26
/31

JUN 19 1980

Rocky Mount Central City H.D.
Nash Co.

APR 28 1980

682

JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-80-1-683

PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO

PHOTO DATE 11-79

SUBJECT NASH CO - STREETSCAPE View **F**

100 Block SW Main St.

JUN 19 1980

29
31

Rocky Mount Central City H.D.
Nash Co.

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JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER V-80-1 667

PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO

PHOTO DATE 11-79

SUBJECT NASH CO - STREETSCAPE View G

W. side. 100 Blk. Howard St

JUN 19 1980

28/31

Dockery Mount Central City RD.

Nash Co. APR 28 1980

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RALEIGH, N. C.

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JUN 19 1980



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-80-1-665

PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO

PHOTO DATE 11-79

SUBJECT EDGEcombe CO - STREETSCAPE

S. Side 200 Blk. Tarboro St. *View H*

JUN 19 1980

Rocky Mount Central City H.P.
Nash Co.

29/31

APR 28 1980

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665



NEGATIVE NUMBER N-80-1-674

PHOTOGRAPHER K. OHNO

PHOTO DATE 11-79

SUBJECT EDGEcombe CO - STREETScape *View I*

E. side S. Washington St. looking N.

JUN 19 1980

Rocky Mount Central City H.D.

30/31 Nash Co.

APR 28 1980

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JUN 19 1980



110 E. Thomas
C. 1979

A&H CAFE

PROPOSED ROCKY MOUNT UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Boundary ———
 Area Included ■■■



Rocky Mount Central City
 Historic District
 98 acres
 Zone 17
 UTM Grid
 Date: 11/24/00
 Scale: 1:24,000
 17/24780/398150
 17/24810/398150
 17/24840/398150
 17/24870/398150
 17/24900/398150
 17/24930/398150
 17/24960/398150
 17/24990/398150
 17/25020/398150
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UTM COORDINATES 10/16/07
 A) 17/24780/398150
 B) 17/24810/398150
 C) 17/24840/398150
 D) 17/24870/398150
 E) 17/24900/398150
 F) 17/24930/398150
 G) 17/24960/398150
 H) 17/24990/398150
 I) 17/25020/398150
 J) 17/25050/398150
 K) 17/25080/398150
 L) 17/25110/398150
 M) 17/25140/398150
 N) 17/25170/398150
 O) 17/25200/398150
 P) 17/25230/398150
 Q) 17/25260/398150
 R) 17/25290/398150
 S) 17/25320/398150
 T) 17/25350/398150
 U) 17/25380/398150
 V) 17/25410/398150
 W) 17/25440/398150
 X) 17/25470/398150
 Y) 17/25500/398150
 Z) 17/25530/398150

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, USCE, and North Carolina Geodetic Survey
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1974. Field checked 1974
 Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: North Carolina coordinate
 system (Lambert conformal conic)
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 18, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum
 Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000
 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 KILOMETER
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Primary highway, hard surface ——— Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
 Secondary highway, hard surface ——— Unimproved road
 Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

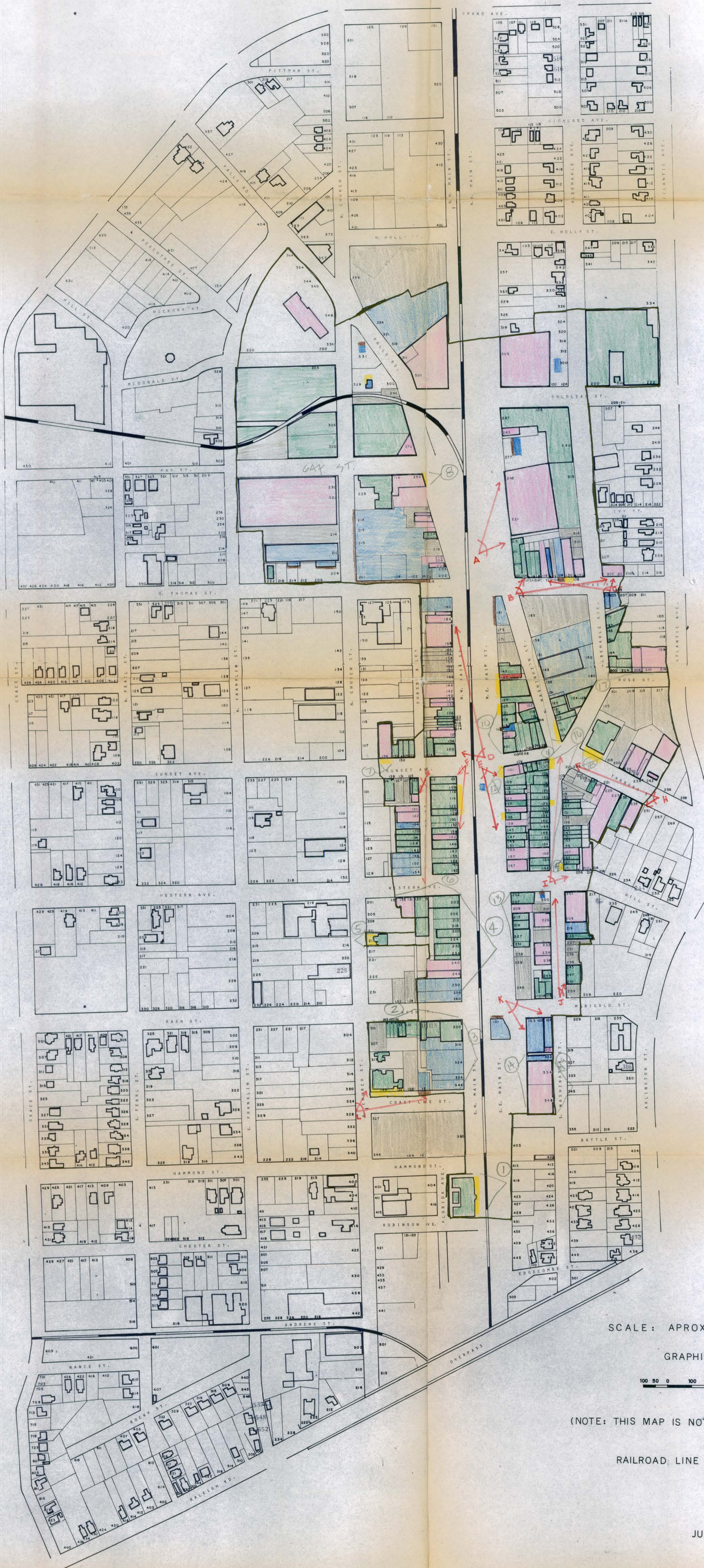
ROCKY MOUNT, N.C.
 NE 1/4 ROCKY MOUNT 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3552.5—W7745.7.5
 1977
 AMS 5455 IV NE—SERIES V642



ROCKY MOUNT

CENTRAL CITY REVITALIZATION AREA

PROPERTY MAP



Additional photos <

Key

Age of Building
 before 1890
 1890-1916
 1917-1936
 1937-present

Contribution* to district
 Pivotal
 Intrusive
 Boundary

*Contributing buildings are not marked.

SCALE: APPROXIMATELY 1:100

GRAPHIC SCALE



(NOTE: THIS MAP IS NOT DRAWN TO EXACT SCALE.)

RAILROAD LINE

JUNE 1977



Property

Rocky Mount Central City Historic District

80002826

State

NC - Nash

Working Number

4-28-80 1252

TECHNICAL

? SHPO Signature?

verified w/State Office 6/17/80 CONTROL

Photos 12 + 19

Maps 2

Downtown commercial district of late 19th/early 20th c. commercial + warehouse district - documents significance of railroad b) brought leaf tobacco culture to Rocky Mount. Good examples of many styles are contained w/in, ranging from rather substantial office bldgs to the more common early 20th c one story commercial blocks.

Need to check against DOE.

DUBIE ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN 5/26/80

Additional photos received + reviewed - provide more complete coverage of area -

Boundaries same as determination of eligibility.

ACCEPT DUBIE 6/13/80

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT

CO

6/13/80

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JUN 19 1980

Federal Register Entry 2, 3, 81

Re-submit _____

NORTH
CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT
OF
CULTURAL
RESOURCES

Raleigh,
North Carolina
27611

Division of
Archives and History
Larry E. Tise, Director

Sara W. Hodgkins,
Secretary
James B. Hunt, Jr.,
Governor



April 8, 1980

Ms. Carol Shull
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is the nomination for the Rocky Mount Central City Historic District in Nash/Edgecombe counties, North Carolina, to be entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust you will find this nomination in order. If there are any questions, please call us.

Sincerely yours,

Larry E. Tise (for)

Larry E. Tise
State Historic Preservation Officer

LET/fr

Enclosures

cc: Honorable Robert Morgan
Honorable Jesse Helms
Honorable L. H. Fountain

(P. S.) Maps being sent under separate cover.

FROM: Renee G-E.

SURVEY AND PLANNING BRANCH
Archaeology and Historic Preservation Section

DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
Division of Archives and History
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, N. C. 27611

TO: Carol

Enclosed are additional
photos to go with the
Rocky Mt. CBD nomina-
tion. Hope they are helpful.
Renee

DATE: June 3, 1980

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE NORTH CAROLINA

Date Entered JUN 19 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Rocky Mount Central City Historic District	Rocky Mount Nash County
Nobles, Dr. A. B., House and McKendree Church	Mercer vicinity Edgecombe County

Also Notified

Honorable Jesse Helms
Honorable Robert B. Morgan
Honorable L. H. Fountain

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Larry E. Tise
Director, Division of Archives
and History
Department of Cultural Resources
109 East Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

NR

Byers/mjd 6/20/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Rocky Mount Central City Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NORTH CAROLINA, Edgecombe

DATE RECEIVED: 7/15/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/28/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 80002826

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

~~additional Documentation Accepted~~

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE History

TELEPHONE

DATE 8-27-09

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Please Refer to the Following Nomination for Additional Documentation

<u>Resource Name</u>	<u>County, State</u>	<u>Reference Number</u>
Rocky Mount Central City Historic District (Boundary Increase and Decrease)	Edgecombe and Nash Counties, North Carolina	09000659