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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Pleasant Commercial Historic District  
other names/site number NA

### 2. Location

street & number Roughly N. & S. Main sts., Public Square & Hay Long Ave. NA  not for publication  
city or town Mount Pleasant NA  vicinity  
state Tennessee code TN county Maury code 119 zip code 38474

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert E. Hays 9/26/03  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
  - determined eligible for the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register.
  - other,  
(explain:)

Elson R. Beall 11-13-03  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
21	7	buildings
		sites
		structures
1		objects
22	7	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic and Architectural Resources of Mount Pleasant, Tennessee

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business, professional, financial  
 Institution, specialty store, department store, hotel,  
 restaurant  
 RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument  
 GOVERNMENT: post office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business, professional, financial  
 Institution, specialty store, department store, hotel,  
 restaurant  
 RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument  
 GOVERNMENT: post office

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Commercial Brick-Front  
 Classical Revival  
 Colonial Revival  
 Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE  
 walls BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE, weatherboard  
 roof Composition shingle, METAL, METAL  
 other WOOD, METAL, GLASS

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity who's components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C moved from its original location.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

Circa 1880-1953

Significant Dates

NA

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Multiple; unknown; Simon, Louis (supervising architect for Post office)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other
Name of repository: Mount Pleasant Main Street program



# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1Mount Pleasant Commercial Historic District  
Maury County, Tennessee

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### Description

The Mount Pleasant Commercial Historic District is in the town of Mount Pleasant, population 5,000, which is located on U. S. Highway 43 in the southwestern part of southern Maury County, twelve miles southwest of the county seat of Columbia. It is fifty (50) miles southwest of Nashville and sixty (60) miles northwest of Huntsville, Alabama. The district consists of twenty-eight (28) buildings and one (1) object. There are twenty-one (21) contributing buildings, one (1) contributing object and seven (7) noncontributing buildings. The district is situated primarily along two blocks of the traditional commercial core including sections of North Main Street, South Main Street, the Public Square, and Hay Long Avenue. Most of the district is linear and follows the initial layout of the town, which was centered on a military road. The public square is a rectangle arranged around a green space--Memorial Park -- where the Civil War monument is located. U. S. Highway 43, an early twentieth century transportation corridor, becomes Mount Pleasant's North and South Main Streets as it passes through town.

Dates of nominated properties range from 1880 to 1950 with the majority of the buildings dating from 1900 to 1940, which coincides with the period of the town's greatest population growth and development when Mount Pleasant reigned as the "Phosphate Capital of the World." In fact, many of the buildings are not architect designed but were constructed from company plans by miners and other employees of the phosphate companies. Generally, the nominated properties are one- and two-story brick buildings with stone foundations, flat roofs, and similar setbacks, providing a recognizable and established sense of cohesiveness to the town's remaining core. While buildings within the district display elements of Art Deco, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, the most prevalent form is the Commercial Brick-Front. Acknowledged as a common construction design for small and moderately scaled commercial buildings between 1850 and 1950, the style is well represented in Mount Pleasant. Described by Gottfried and Jennings in *American Vernacular Design 1870-1940* (Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1985), the "Brick-Front store was built as a single building or in groups with party walls up to a block in length." (p. 240) This form of smaller town building has also been called the one and two part commercial building.

The building block now encompassing 103-113 North Main Street is a prime example of the Commercial Brick-Front design, as it was built in 1900 to house multi-purpose spaces partitioned by load-bearing walls. The profile description for this type of building explains that the upper levels include panels of brickwork, decorative lintels or sills, brick friezes and cornices featuring decorative arrangements of brick. The walls are divided laterally with brick panels and belt courses. Cornices function as a defining element under which other elements, some quite delicate, are arranged. Access to the upper floors for professional offices and living space is separate from the ground floor commercial spaces. Display space is quite conventional though doors may be either offset or centered. This description is applicable to several properties in the Mount Pleasant Commercial District including 104-106 Hay Long Avenue, 103-105 North Main Street, 115-115A North Main Street, and 111 Public Square. The also common but less dominant one-story and one and one-half story (104 South Main Street) Commercial Brick-Front is, like the two-story design, narrow, deep, and rarely built alone but in concert with similar buildings that are often tied together by horizontal elements. Examples of this more modest Commercial Brick-Front are

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located on either side of South Main Street.

While the Commercial Brick-Front is the most prevalent form in the Mount Pleasant Commercial Historic District, a few buildings display stylistic influences that add interest to the streetscape. The Phosphate Museum, historically the First National Bank Building built in 1899 (108 Public Square) exhibits elements of the Classical Revival style. Built in 1930, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics Building (117-119-119A North Main Street) has distinctive decorative elements that indicate it was influenced by Art Deco design. The United States Post Office at 201 North Main Street is an excellent example of a national movement that resulted in the construction of around 200 similar Colonial Revival post offices by the Federal Works Agency in 1940. The Mount Pleasant Post Office is considered one of the best examples of this design still extant in Tennessee. The Mount Pleasant Commercial Historic District offers an opportunity to interpret the history and architecture associated with the phosphate industry that made the town's location known throughout the world during the first half of the twentieth century.

## INVENTORY

### Hay Long Avenue

#### 1. 104-106 Hay Long Avenue

The Glass House (104)

The Beauty Shop

1900

Two-story Commercial Brick-Front rectangular plan with graduated roof and denticulated brick cornice. Second story has three recessed bays surrounded by brick pilasters; windows have drip stone moldings and new stained glass panes. 104 has central recessed entrance with double doors flanked by plate glass storefront windows. 106 has single-door side entrance with adjacent plate glass storefront. Metal awning, stone foundation. (C)

### Main Street, North

#### 2. 102 North Main Street

Vacant

c. 1960, 1990

One-story brick with overhanging mansard, asphalt-shingle roof. Upper half of building is covered with vinyl siding and lower half is brick veneer with recessed single door side entrance flanked by plate glass storefront windows. Stone foundation. (NC, due to date of construction)

#### 3.103-105 North Main Street

Hambricks and Rivers Books

Apartment, Second Floor

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1900

Two-story Commercial Brick-Front rectangular plan, flat roof and stone foundation. Building has a continuous denticulated cornice and five bays on the second story. Central window is one over one double hung sash with transom; stone plaque with date of 1900. Four sets of paired windows are one over one double hung sash with, stone sill, transoms and brick surrounds. 103 has central recessed ground floor entrance with tripartite transoms and plate glass storefront windows. A double door located between the central pilasters accesses the stairway to the second floor apartment. 105 has recessed entry and floor to ceiling plate glass windows. The south side of 103, facing the Public Square, has denticulated cornice and four bays flanked by brick pilasters. The first story features two circular windows with four panes and radiating voussoirs above which is an egg and dart trim and one window that is one over one double hung sash with transom and jack arch. The second floor has two sets of paired windows (located in the second and third panels), one over one double hung sash with stone sills, transom, and brick surrounds. In the outer brick panels are one over one double hung sash windows with transoms and jack arches. Historically, 103-113 is one building with separate addresses partitioned by load-bearing walls. (C)

#### 4. 104 North Main Street

Main Street Mount Pleasant  
Chamber of Commerce  
c. 1900

Two-story Brick front rectangular plan with stepped roof and denticulated cornice. Second story has two symmetrical four over four double hung sash windows with radiating voussoirs and stone sills. First story has central entrance flanked by plate glass windows. Canvas awning. Stone foundation. (C)

#### 5. 106 North Main Street

Frank's  
c. 1900

Two-story Commercial Brick-Front rectangular plan with stepped roof and denticulated cornice. Second story has brick pilasters and two windows have eight pane casements with a two pane transom, radiating voussoir and stone sills. Street level has central recessed entrance with single door and transom flanked by plate glass storefront windows and black structural glass ca. 1930. Entry floor has black and white checked tile. Metal awning. Stone foundation. (C)

#### 6. 107-109 North Main Street

The Pizza Place  
1900

Two-story Commercial Brick-Front rectangular plan with flat roof and stone foundation. Building has denticulated cornice and two one over one double hung sash windows with segmental arch window opening capped by jack arch above which is a thin line of egg and dart trim. A brick pilaster flanks each window.

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The first story commercial property (107) has a central recessed entry and plate glass display windows. A flat roofed metal overhang (1980) with four metal posts covers the sidewalk and entry. A single door (109) leads to staircase accessing second floor. (C)

### 7. 108-110 North Main Street

Blackwood Electronics Repair  
1900

Two-story Commercial Brick-Front rectangular plan with stepped roof and denticulated cornice. Second story has brick pilasters with two symmetrical bricked-over windows and radiating voussoirs. First story has recessed entrance flanked by plate glass display windows. Side entry (108 N. Main) with stairway to upper floor has a double door with a wood transom and painted fanlight surrounded by a brick arch. Stone foundation. (C)

### 8. 111 North Main Street

Irwin Brothers  
Irwin Brothers/Etagere  
1900

Two-story Commercial Brick-Front rectangular plan with flat roof and stone foundation. The second story has denticulated brick cornice and two bays that are one over one double hung sash with window opening ending in jack arch and egg and dart decorative trim. A brick pilaster flanks each window. The first floor covered recessed entry has two round Tuscan columns and flanking pilasters, a tiled entryway with "Irwin Bros" inlaid and central double doors. A single door is situated to the south of the central entry and has three plate glass windows with heavy wood frames. (C)

### 9. 112 -116 North Main Street

Grace Restaurant  
A.J.'s Jewelry and Repair  
Purple Frog Antique Emporium  
c. 1900, 1980s

One and one-half story brick with flat roof. Façade covered with vertical aluminum siding. First story has recessed central entrance with double doors and transom plate glass storefront windows and side entrance on southern end. Flat, metal awning covers walkway. Stone foundation. (NC, due to date of alterations following fire)

### 10. 113 North Main Street

Two-story Commercial Brick-Front rectangular plan with flat roof and stone foundation. Second story has denticulated cornice and three bays. One bay is central entrance with double paneled doors with transoms and wood sunburst lintel with arch. To either side are segmental arch window openings topped by jack arches, above which is an egg and dart decorative trim. An attached balcony, circa 1990, with balustrade is supported by four plain posts, which cover the sidewalk and the central double entry with plate glass storefronts to either side. The display windows are framed with black structural glass at top and sides and six rows of brick at bottom. (C)



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Maury County, Tennessee**11. 115-115A North Main Street**

Ed T. Workman Building

1890

Two-story Commercial Brick-Front rectangular plan with flat roof and cast-iron cornice with decorative elements (element is missing from south end). Below denticulated cornice are letters identifying this as the "Ed T. Workman Building." Two windows have brick segmental arches. The recessed central entry has plate glass display windows surrounded with copper sheeting. Above the windows and entry are ten rows of block glass. Stone foundation. Canvas awning. (C)

**12. 117-119-119A North Main Street**

Junior Order of United American Mechanics

County Probation Office

1930

Two-story brick rectangular plan with flat roof and stone foundation. The Art Deco influenced building is yellow brick with brick frieze and identification plaque with symbol and "Jr. O. U. .A.M." Below are thirteen groupings of four stretcher glazed bricks. Brick pilasters are at either end and the contrasting color of the glazed brick motif is repeated here and above in the frieze. The second story has three windows (currently covered) with plain brick surrounds and flat stone sills. A restored (in 2003) original neon sign with "Jr. O. U A.M." projects from the second floor. Two separate entrances at the street level lead to retail sections with storefront windows. The north display window is surrounded with black reflective glass. A metal awning covers the sidewalk. At north side of building (119A), a staircase covered by metal grillwork leads to an office and the second floor meeting hall of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics. (C)

**13. 118 North Main Street**

Hotel

Aunt Marcy's Thrift Shop

c. 1900, 1950, 1980

Brick, two and one-half story with stepped roof. Top story has symmetrical bays each containing half-sized, two pane stationary windows with decorative shutters and brick sills. The second story has two symmetrical two over two double hung windows with brick sills and decorative shutters. First floor has recessed side entrance flanked by plate glass storefront windows. Stone foundation. Bricked over entrance to historic service alley (still extant) located between 118 and 116 N. Main St. (C)

**14. 121 North Main Street**

c. 1940

Commercial Brick-Front one-story with concrete foundation and flat roof. Entrance is offset on south end and storefront has four single pane plate glass windows. Canvas awning. (C)

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### 15. 123 North Main Street

c. 1940, 1990

Brick, one-story with concrete foundation and flat roof. Entry is on south side, three multi-paned windows with fanlight arches. Brick arcade with shed roof, reconfigured façade, and windows date from 1990 alterations. (NC because of date of extensive alterations)

### 16. 201 North Main Street

U. S. Post Office

1940

Free-standing brick, one-story Colonial Revival design with hipped roof and asphalt shingles. Five bay symmetrical façade with multi-paned windows flank a central entrance with multi-paned window above. A flat metal awning with a metal American eagle projects over the entrance. A Cornerstone inscription reads "

James A. Farley, Postmaster General

John M. Carmody, Federal Works Administrator

W. Englebert Reynolds, Commission of Public Buildings

Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect

Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer

1940

The south and north sides of the Post Office are identical and symmetrical with brick walls and four symmetrical windows that are metal frame with four central casement panes arranged in a column. The casement panes are flanked on each side by five stationary panes. Beneath each of the windows are glazed brick bays. Concrete block foundation has four vents aligned under each window. (C)

### Main Street, South

### 17. 100 South Main Street

Drug Store

Lumpy's /Pearl's Palace

c. 1900

Two-story brick with parapet wall, flat roof, and denticulated cornice. North façade has one bay with paired one over one double-hung windows and flat stone arch with central keystone. First floor has a three-paned plate-glass storefront window. The main entry to the building is on a canted, northeastern corner. There are paired one over one double hung sash windows with flat arch with keystone and stone sills on the second story. The first story has a central entrance with glass double-doors and transom with sidelights. The east façade has seven bays with one over one double hung sash windows with stone sill, flat arch and keystone on the second story. The first story has two plate glass storefront windows with surrounding wood frames and cloth awnings. The south side has a recessed entrance flanked by plate glass windows. (C)

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Maury County, Tennessee**18. 101 South Main Street**

TASC, Inc.

c. 1940, 1970

One and one-half story with flat roof, and stone foundation. Building covered with aluminum siding. Siding also covers two windows above central entry flanked by two plate glass display windows. Aluminum sidewalk cover with three thin metal posts shelters entry. (NC due to date of alterations)

**19. 103 South Main Street**

Charlie's TV

Family Floor Covering

c. 1940

One and one-half story Commercial Brick-Front with brick pilasters, flat roof, and stone foundation. Off-side entry with double doors and plate glass display window, cloth awning. (C)

**20. 104 South Main Street**

Rippeys Auto Parts

c. 1940

One and one-half story Commercial Brick-Front with graduated roof and brick foundation. Upper half story has three painted recessed brick panel with stepped brick cornice. First story has a single door side entry, central two pane plate glass window and concrete sill and garage door entry. Display window and door are covered by metal awning. (C)

**Public Square****21. 99 Public Square**

Crews Printing

c. 1900, 1960

Two-story Commercial Brick-Front, graduated roof. Stone foundation. Aluminum siding façade. First floor has flat metal awning supported by three metal posts. Side, recessed single-door entrance flanked by plate glass storefront. Stone foundation. (NC due to date of alterations)

**22. 101 Public Square**

Tavern and Pool Hall

c. 1940

One and one-half story Commercial Brick-Front with stone foundation. Two windows covered by louvered shutters, added c. 1960) were cut into the façade that includes a modified chevron with herringbone pattern panel. Central entrance has double doors and is flanked by paired six over six paned windows (1960). Aluminum encloses space above windows and doors to a point where it meets the metal awning that covers entry and sidewalk. (C)

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Maury County, Tennessee**23. 103 Public Square**

Tobacco Express

c. 1900, 1960

Two-story with flat roof and stone foundation. Aluminum siding (1960) covers upper half of façade. Side entry with plate glass display windows and metal sidewalk cover. (NC due to date of alterations)

**24. 105 Public Square**

c. 1900, 1980

Two-story with flat roof and stone foundation. Squares of marbled veneer were added to the façade in the 1980s. A sign reading "Community First Bank" projects from the upper story. Street level has side entry with double doors and plate glass store front windows. Canvas awning. (NC due to date of alterations)

**25. 107-109 Public Square**

Cook Building

Wren's Hardware, Lightning's Barber Shop

1900

Two-story Commercial Brick-Front rectangular plan with yellow glazed bricks, stone foundation and flat roof. Denticulated cornice and brick pilasters divide four bays. Symmetrical recessed windows with stone sills are currently enclosed by corrugated metal. 107 has recessed central double doors with plate glass display windows. 109 has side entrance with door flush to sidewalk and plate glass storefront windows. "COOK" is carved in the central stone identification plaque. The space connecting the south side of 107 and the north side of 105 has been bricked in and has a double-paneled wood door with transom. (C)

**26. 108 Public Square**

First National Bank

Mt. Pleasant Phosphate Museum

1899

Two-story Classical Revival of ashlar limestone and brick with flat roof. Central pediment contains date and "First National Bank Building" written across the frieze. Front façade is multi-bay with flat stone classical pilasters. Central pilasters have Doric capitals. First story has two entrances on the east side of the building's front. The entrance closest to the east has double doors and leads to the second floor. The adjacent entrance is a slightly recessed single door covered by a canvas awning. It is flanked by a plate glass storefront window. Stone foundation. Second story of the west side of building has six one over one double hung sash windows with stone sills. The bottom floor has five glass block windows and a single entry with metal door and concrete ramp for ADA compliance. An original iron fire escape leads from the upper floor. (C)

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### 27. 111 Public Square

Clarke Building

Williams Drug. Co.

Cornerstone Café and Bakery

1901

Two-story, Commercial Brick-Front, rectangular with stone foundation and stepped roof. Two recessed sections contain two windows with single pane plate glass above, which is a plain brick frieze with stone identification plaque with "Clarke." North half of lower story has central recessed entry flanked by plate glass windows. South half has four plate glass windows. The building has a decorative brick pattern laid from foundation to display windows. Original transoms are in place above metal awning. The north side of the building retains an original iron staircase and sign for "Williams Drug Co." (C)

Attached to the north wall of 111 Public Square is a shed structure that was traditionally a taxi stand. Built over fifty years ago (exact date not known) it has a separate entry and window, as well as a separate address of 104 Bluegrass Avenue. Now vacant, the property is owned by the City of Mount Pleasant. (C)

### 28. Memorial Park

Confederate Monument

Memorial Park is a rectangular green space central to the Public Square and is approximately 38 yards by 12 yards with the longer end running parallel to U.S. Highway 43 (Main Street). Sited in the center of the park is a Confederate monument dedicated by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1907. A soldier stands atop the obelisk which features crossed swords at the base and symbols including a lighthouse and anchor and flag on the shaft of the monument. Cannons decorate each corner of the base. The inscription is as follows:

East side - Erected in Memory of Our Confederate Soldiers

By the Bigby Gary Chapter, U.D.C.

The Love, Gratitude AND Memory Of The People Shall

Gild Their Fame in One Eternal Sunshine

South side- History Has Enshrined Them Immortal

West side - Crest to Crest They Bore Our Banner

Side by Side They Fell Asleep;

Hand to Hand We Rear This Token

Heart to Heart We Kneel and Weep.

North side - 1861-1865

In Perpetual Remembrance

Enclosing the monument is a short wrought iron fence with lanterns at each corner. The monument is surrounded by an aggregate walkway and is flanked by flower beds, which are

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surrounded by brick walkways. Trees, shrubs, and perennials are planted in the beds and green space. Seven benches are placed throughout the park. (C)

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Mount Pleasant Commercial Historic District  
Maury County, Tennessee

## Statement of Significance

The Mount Pleasant Commercial Historic District, located primarily along Highway 43, 12 miles south of the county seat of Columbia, is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for local commerce, particularly its association with phosphate mining industry in the late nineteenth and first half of the centuries. Comprised of twenty-one (21) contributing buildings, one (1) contributing object and seven (7) noncontributing buildings, the district is primarily characterized by two-story brick stores. While some storefronts have been altered, overall, the district retains its integrity and meets the registration requirement of the "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mount Pleasant."

The oldest properties in the district, 101 and 103 Public Square, date to 1880 and the slight economic boom brought by the reopening around 1875 of the Mount Pleasant Railroad, a branch of the Nashville and Decatur Railroad which had been destroyed by Federal troops during the Civil War. With the discovery of phosphate rock in Maury County by William Shirley in 1888, and the subsequent discovery by Judge S. O. Weatherly in 1896 of high grade brown phosphate rock near Mount Pleasant, the population and the architecture of the small town began a phenomenal transformation.

From 1890 to 1900 the town's population increased from 466 to 2007. The First National Bank (108 Public Square) designed in the Classical Revival style in 1899 stands as a symbol of this period and is today, in an appropriate adaptive reuse project, the home of the Mount Pleasant Phosphate Museum. The adjacent and substantial two-story brick building at 100 South Main (1900) and the multi-use two-story brick block stretching from what is now 103-113 North Main Street (1900) also illustrates the increasing prospects of the residents and the need for professional office and retail space. A Civil War monument was erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1907 in Memorial Park, a green space central to the Public Square.

Through the first two decades of the twentieth century, the population and economic opportunities grew and building continued. Several companies also began operating chemical fertilizer plants, of which phosphate is a primary ingredient, in the area. Rockdale Furnace in Maury County manufactured ferrophosphate that was used for armor plating battleships and guns during World War I. During the 1930s, the Tennessee Valley Authority, which had begun production of phosphate fertilizers by electric furnace process, located a mining and washing division in Mount Pleasant. By the 1930s, steam engines were being used to mine the phosphate and men were paid about 13.5 cents per hour to operate the steam engines. Monsanto Chemical constructed a plant in 1936 for the manufacture of elemental phosphorus. Victor Chemical Works (later Stauffer Chemical Company) located its plant in the town the following year. It began operations with one furnace, added another in 1939, and two more in 1940.

The construction of several commercial buildings during the 1930s and 1940s indicates the relative prosperity of Mount Pleasant during the years of the Great Depression and the New Deal era. In 1930, the local chapter of the Junior Order of United American Mechanics (J.O.U.A.M.)

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constructed a substantial two-story brick building (117-119- 199A North Main Street ) for their headquarters. Their meetings were held on the second floor and commercial space occupied the street level. The J.O.U.A.M. was a national fraternal organization that emerged from the United American Mechanics, which was founded in Philadelphia in 1845. The J.O.U.A.M. became an independent society in 1885. At that time it defined its objectives as promoting the interests of Americans against foreign economic competition, establishing a Sick and Funeral Fund, and working to promote public education. The "Junior" had no reference to the age of its members and the word "Mechanic" did not necessarily denote member occupations. Procedures and obligations of this organization were somewhat similar to those of the Masons.

Representing the importance of the early age of automobile traffic and the significance of Mount Pleasant's location on U. S. Highway 43 in the commercial district is 104 South Main which was built as a garage circa 1940. While the 1940s also saw construction of one-story commercial buildings at 121 North Main Street, 103 South Main and 101 Public Square, the United States Post Office (1940) at 201 North Main Street added a modern design to Mount Pleasant's streetscape. During that year around 200 post office facilities were built in smaller communities across the United States by the Federal Works Agency. The goal of this effort was to aid economic recovery, construct efficient buildings, and establish a prominent Federal governmental presence throughout the country. Most post offices from this period, including the one built in Mount Pleasant, were designed in the Colonial Revival style and conformed to standardized plans. Art work in post offices was introduced during the 1930s in an attempt to subsidize artists and bring art to the American people. The Mount Pleasant Post Office mural by New York artist, Eugene Higgins, interprets early settlement showing white families and black slaves. The work was ostensibly based on a story provided by Suzanne Kenyon, also an artist, whose roots were in Mount Pleasant. Free standing and anchoring the north boundary of the district, the Mount Pleasant Post Office is considered one of the finest facilities of this period and design in Tennessee.

The phosphate industry continued to bolster the fortunes of Mount Pleasant's residents, which numbered 3,100 in 1940, and to contribute significantly to that of the state. For example, the total number of dry net tons of phosphate mined in Tennessee steadily increased from 1,184,478 in 1939 and into the 1940s with the greatest number of tons being mined in 1943 (2,092,615). A reduction was noted in 1944 and 1945 with an increase in 1946 taking production back to 1,474,040 dry net tons. After World War II, diesel trucks began to replace steam engines in the removal and transportation of phosphate from the mines. Reserves were expected to continue to support Mount Pleasant in its claim as the Phosphate Capital of the World well into the last half of the twentieth century. In the 1950s, however, Florida began to vie for this title. Phosphate located on cheaper land in the Sunshine State began to attract the industry. The separation of the mineral from sand was not only easier but also left a white sand that was a more desirable and readily disposable waste. Plants in Mount Pleasant began to decrease their operation and eventually close. Monsanto began reclaiming and planting mined land according to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. By the 1980s, the phosphate industry was completely gone from Mount Pleasant.



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Consequently, the downtown commercial district, so viable for the first half of the twentieth century, began a dismal decline. No other industry came to replace the phosphate mining and the town struggled with its identity. In the 1980s, hoping to attract tourism dollars and to preserve and interpret the story of its industrial past, the citizens established the Mount Pleasant Phosphate Museum. The North Main Street Historic District, encompassing a significant residential area, was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1989. Main Street Mount Pleasant was established in 1999 from a grass-roots movement to help the town cope with sprawl and to assess and implement ways of redirecting the community. In a short time, Mount Pleasant Main Street has initiated a number of useful and successful programs. Of particular note is the Facade Restoration Grant that has provided financial assistance for several merchants who have chosen to restore commercial exteriors along Main Street to their historic appearance. The active organization of merchants and townspeople has elected to plan for and to pursue a diversity of economic measures while retaining, expanding, and interpreting the history of Mount Pleasant prior to, during, and since its years of phosphate fame. Because no mines nor accessory buildings remain in Mount Pleasant today, the architectural resources of the Mount Pleasant Commercial Historic District are key to both recalling and interpreting the town's important industrial past and are of paramount consideration in an overall plan of thoughtful and considered growth, preservation and revitalization, and economic diversification.

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## Major Bibliographical References

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## Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The district boundaries include the north, south, and east sides of the Public Square and Memorial Park; 104-106 Hay Long Avenue; the odd numbered properties of the 100 block of North Main Street and the free-standing U. S. Post Office at 201 North Main Street; the even numbered properties of North Main Street through 118; the odd numbered properties South Main Street through 103; and the even numbered properties of South Main through 104.

The boundaries include the extant traditional core of historic properties associated with Mount Pleasant's Commercial District. The area is roughly bounded by the Public Square, North Main Street, and South Main Street with a small extension continuing from the Public Square to the west along Hay Long Avenue.

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### Photographs

Photo by: Kevin Cason, Heather Bailey, Jessica Davis, Caneta Hankins, and Mike Gavin  
Date: September 2002 and July 2003  
Negative: Tennessee Historical Commission

104-106 Hay Long Ave, facing north  
#1 of 29

104/106 Hay Long Avenue 99 Public Square, 103/105 North Main –streetscape, facing east  
#2 of 29

102-106 North Main, facing east  
#3 of 29

103-105 North Main, facing west  
#4 of 29

103-105 North Main-south elevation, facing north  
#5 of 29

107-119 North Main, facing west  
#6 of 29

106-116 North Main, facing east  
#7 of 29

113-117/119/119A North Main, facing west  
#8 of 29

117/119/119A North Main-second floor, facing west  
#9 of 29

116-120 North Main, facing east  
#10 of 29

121-123 North Main, facing west  
#11 of 29

201 North Main, facing west  
#12 of 29

100 block of North Main and Public Square, facing southeast  
#13 of 29

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100 block of North Main, facing northwest  
#14 of 29

100 South Main, facing southwest  
#15 of 29

99 Public Square, facing north  
#16 of 29

101 Public Square-103 South Main, facing east  
#17 of 29

103 South-107 South Main, facing east  
#18 of 29

100-106 South Main, facing northwest  
#19 of 29

103-105 Public Square, facing east  
#20 of 29

107-109 Public Square, facing east  
#21 of 29

108 Public Square, facing south  
#22 of 29

108 Public Square-west elevation, facing east  
#23 of 29

111 Public Square, facing east  
#24 of 29

111 Public Square-north elevation, facing south  
#25 of 29

111 Public Square-painted sign on 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of north elevation, facing south  
#26 of 29

100 block of South Main and Public Square, facing east  
#27 of 29

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Memorial Park, 100 South Main, and 108 Public Square, facing southwest  
#28 of 29

U.D.C. Confederate Monument in Memorial Park, Public Square, facing northwest  
#29 of 29

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Mount Pleasant Commercial Historic District  
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## Property Owners and Addresses

**1. 104-106 Hay Long**

Lenice & Jim Hutcheson  
104 Hay Long Ave.  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**2. 102 North Main St.**

Don & Nancy Estes  
513 Southport Road  
Mt. Pleasant, TN

**3. 103-105 North Main St.**

Alton Kelley  
8 Public Square  
Columbia, TN 38401

**4. 104 North Main St.**

The City of Mount Pleasant  
P.O. Box 426  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**5. 106 North Main St.**

Frank Hyman  
106 North Main Street  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**6. 107-109 North Main St.**

Roxanne Howell  
501 North Main Street  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**7. 108-110 North Main St.**

Susan Swaner  
P.O. Box 604  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**8. 111 North Main St.**

Donald & Jane Britt  
206 Pleasant Street  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

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**9. 112-116 North Main St.**

Randall & Faye Wyatt  
301 Goodloe Street  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**10. 113 North Main St.**

Nancy Russell  
113 North Main Street  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**11. 115-115A North Main St.**

Maury County Tennessee  
Maury County Courthouse  
Columbia, TN 38401

**12. 117-119-119A North Main St.**

J.O.U.A.M.  
c/o James F. Workman  
822 Sevier Ave.  
Knoxville, TN

**13. 118 North Main St.**

James L. Bailey  
619 Circle Drive  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**14. 121 North Main St.**

Donald Norman  
P.O. Box 46  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**15. 123 North Main St.**

Mount Pleasant Power System  
123 North Main Street  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**16. 201 North Main St.**

United States Postal Service  
Kenny Warren, Postmaster  
Mt. Pleasant, TN 38474



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**17. 100 South Main St.**

R.G. Lumpkins  
1204 Bobs Lane  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**18. 101 South Main St.**

Tony Thompson  
505 North Main St.  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**19. 103 South Main St.**

Henry Rail  
410 Walnut Street  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**20. 104 South Main St.**

James M. Rippey  
117 East 6th Street  
Columbia, TN 38401

**21. 99 Public Square**

L. W. Byrd  
1037 Rolling Fields Circle  
Columbia, TN 38401

**22. 101 Public Square**

Tony Thompson  
505 North Main Street  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**23. 103 Public Square**

Jeff Tietgens  
306 Gray Lane  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**24. 105 Public Square**

Community First Bank and Trust  
501 James Campbell Blvd.  
Columbia, TN 38401

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**25. 107-109 Public Square**

Billy Wren  
204 South Cherry Street  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**26. 108 Public Square**

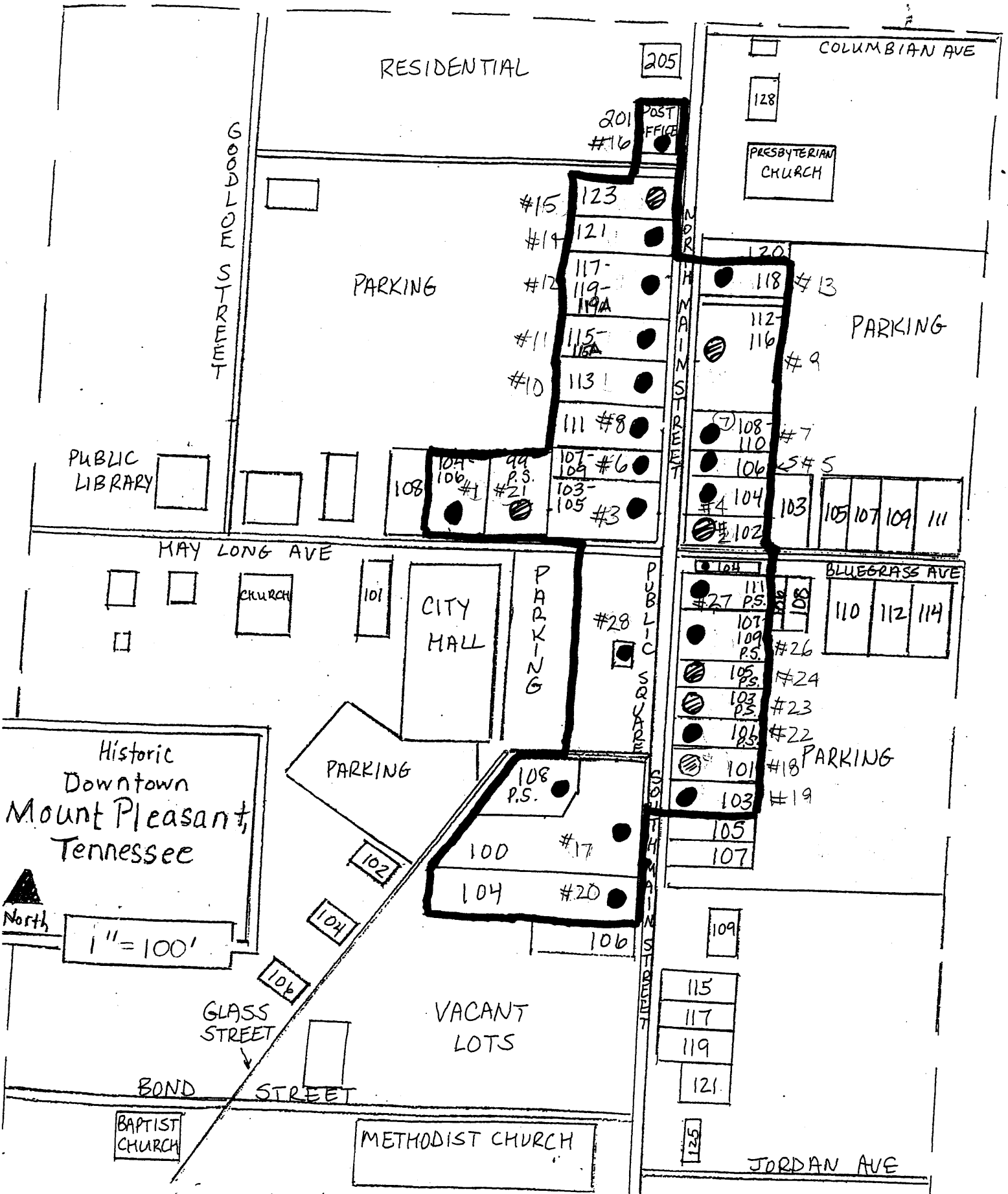
Mount Pleasant/Maury Phosphate Museum  
108 Public Square  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**27. 111 Public Square**

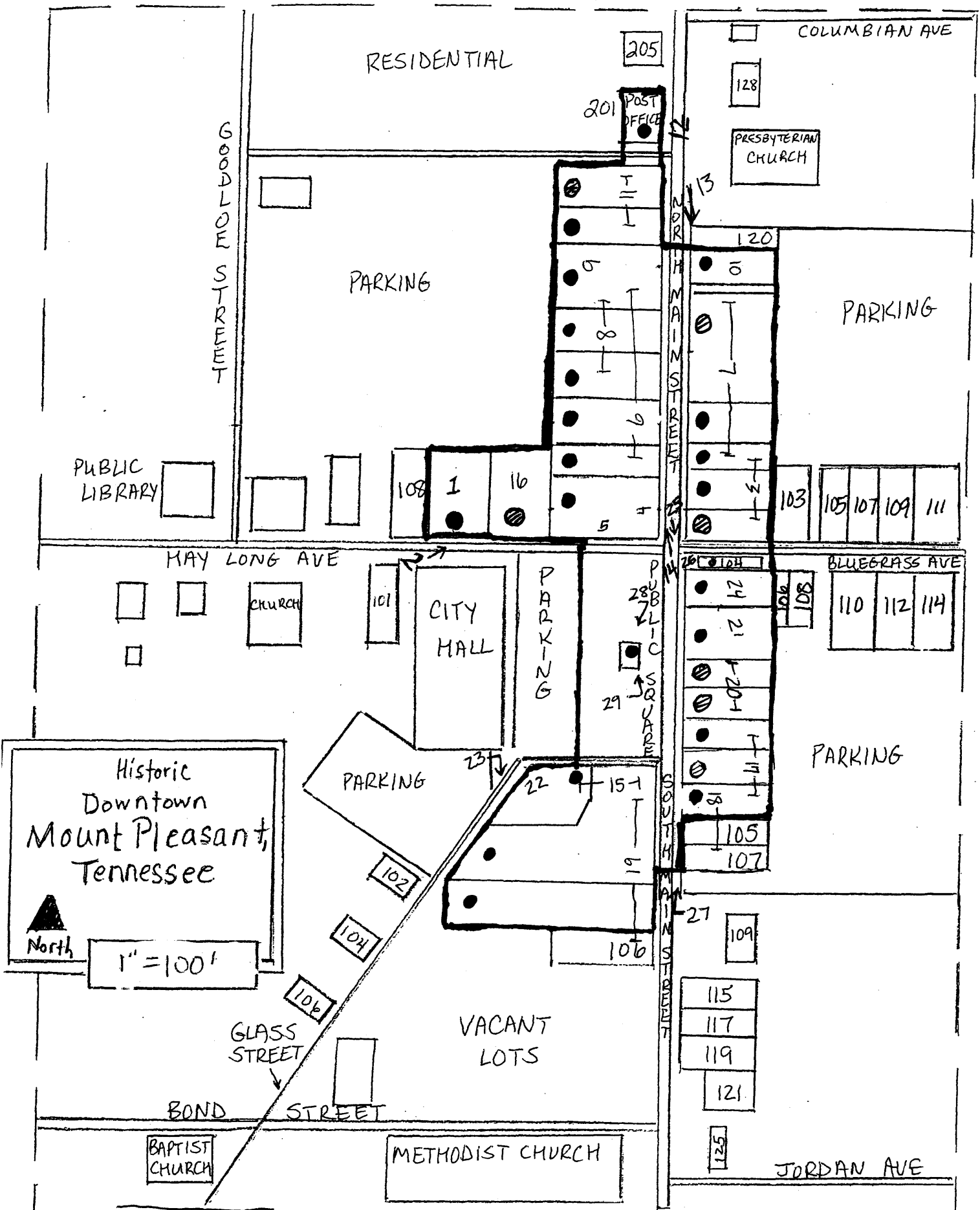
Roxanne S. Howell  
501 North Main Street  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474

**28. Public Square Memorial Park and 104 Bluegrass (part of inventory # 27)**

City of Mount Pleasant, c/o Mayor  
Memorial Park  
P.O. Box 426  
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474



# inventory  
 contributing ●  
 non-contributing ⊙



Historic  
Downtown  
Mount Pleasant,  
Tennessee

North

1" = 100'

Photo Map  
Contributing ●  
non-contributing ⊙