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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Canton Courthouse Square Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Madison County, MISSISSIPPI

BOUNDARY INCREASE APPROVED

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Keeper

Alvin Byrum 6/29/89

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AMENDMENT

Canton Courthouse Square Historic District
(Boundary Increase)
Canton, Madison County, Mississippi

The purpose of this amendment is to increase the boundaries of the Canton Courthouse Square Historic District National Register nomination (listed 8/30/82) to include the commercial area on W. Peace Street that is contiguous to the Courthouse Square.

Item 3: Classification

Original nomination: 1 district with 43 contributing buildings and 9 noncontributing buildings (One contributing building has since been demolished.)

Amendment: Add 31 contributing buildings and 5 noncontributing buildings for a total of 73 contributing buildings and 14 noncontributing buildings

Item 6: Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store
Commerce/Trade: Department Store
Commerce/Trade: Restaurant

Current Functions:

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store
Commerce/Trade: Department Store
Vacant/Not In Use

Item 7: Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: Commercial Vernacular

Materials:

Foundation: Brick
Walls: Brick
Stucco
Roof: Not visible
Other: Aluminum

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Description:

The Canton Courthouse Square Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982 and included 52 buildings on W. Center, N. Liberty, W. Peace and N. Union Streets. Since that time, one of these buildings, 150 W. Center Street (Inventory No. 11), has been demolished. As mentioned in the previous nomination, the district is comprised of the commercially developed center of the community, and the proposed amendment area would include the commercial area along W. Peace Street which is contiguous to the Courthouse Square.

The Canton Courthouse Square Historic District Amendment Area includes 36 buildings (32 of which are on W. Peace Street) and enlarges the district by three and one-half blocks to the west to the Illinois Central Railroad tracks. The amendment area is comprised almost entirely of commercial buildings, the majority of which were built between 1916 and 1925 (14 buildings). Three buildings were constructed between ca. 1885 and 1892, four between 1895 and 1900, three between 1905 and 1911, four between 1925 and 1930, and eight after 1930.

Represented in the amendment area are intact examples of one-story (27 buildings) and two-story (9 buildings) commercial vernacular buildings constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. All of the buildings are of masonry construction: 34 of brick, 1 of concrete block, and 1 of a combination of brick and concrete block. Nine of the buildings have been finished with stucco. The amendment area's terrain is flat, and the facades of most of the buildings are flush with the concrete sidewalks. West Peace Street was paved in 1916, while the Courthouse Square was not paved until the 1920s. Of the 36 buildings in the amendment area, 1 (the Illinois Central Railroad Station) is pivotally contributing, 30 others contribute to the historic character of the district (4 only marginally), and 5 are non-contributing. There are no intrusive buildings in the district. The three buildings west of the Canton Hotel (313, 317-321, and 325 W. Peace Street) were demolished in April 1989 when this nomination was nearly complete.

An architectural survey of the area covered by this amendment nomination was conducted as part of a city-wide survey of historic resources in Canton in the spring and fall of 1988 by Susan Enzweiler and Brenda Rubach, architectural historians, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Research was done in the Department Library, the Madison County Public Library, Canton City Hall, and the Madison County Chancery Clerk's Office to determine the boundaries and significance of the district. Interviews with local historians were also conducted.

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Inventory of Buildings

Note: Inventory Nos. 1-52 are in the original nomination.

West Peace Street

53. 217: Stanley's Department Store. Between 1916 and 1925. Commercial Vernacular. One-story, four-bay wide brick building; flat roof with parapet; plate-glass windows and recessed glazed metal single-leaf entry; flat metal awning; wide band of vertical metal panels covering transom; upper portion of wall features two large panels outlined in concrete; interior and recessed entry retain pressed metal ceilings. (C)
54. 227: Canton Office Supply. Between 1916 and 1925. Commercial Vernacular. One-story, three-bay wide brick commercial building retaining high degree of integrity. Central recessed double-leaf entry flanked by original display windows set above decorative brickwork; brick piers frame building; prism glass transom; shed metal awning; parapeted roof; recessed entry retains pressed tin ceiling. (C)
55. 231: Nelson's Department Store. Ca. 1935. Commercial Vernacular. One-story brick building comprised of two commercial spaces, each three bays wide with a central double-leaf entrance flanked by plate-glass windows. Prism glass transoms; shed metal awning; parapeted roof; end walls of each shop delineated by brick piers. (C)
56. 232: Blackman and Smith. Between 1895 and 1900. Greatly altered one-story, six-bay wide brick building with corbelled cornice; metal 6/6 double-hung windows arranged singly and in pairs; shingled pent roof over three bays and awnings protecting other bays; three entrances. (NC)
57. 239: Fifth Avenue Fashions. Between 1916 and 1925. Commercial Vernacular. One-story, three-bay brick building framed by brick piers; flat roof with parapet; original display windows but board-and-batten siding placed underneath; central double-leaf

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glazed metal doors; transom boarded over; shed metal awning. (C)

58. 244: Rings Hardware. Between 1905 and 1911. Commercial Vernacular. Two-story, four x eight bay, brick; main facade stuccoed; flat metal awning; main facade has aluminum-framed openings on first story and three segmental arched windows (boarded up) on second story. (C)
59. 245: Quality Cleaners. Between 1925 and 1930. Commercial Vernacular. This one-story, three-bay wide, brick commercial building retains a high degree of integrity. Recessed central entrance contains double-leaf wooden glazed doors topped by a four-light transom and flanked by the original display windows; wide, seven-light transom spans facade; stepped parapet with concrete coping; pressed metal ceilings in both recessed entry and interior. (C)
60. 249: Goodwill Industries. Between 1925 and 1930. Commercial Vernacular. Two-story, three-bay wide, brick; single-leaf entrance in easternmost bay; large display windows set above wooden panels; shed metal awning; second story has five round-arched windows with a continuous sill; parapet marked by tiled pent roof supported by modillions. (C)
61. 255-259: Soul Set Total Hair Care (255), Hi-Fashion Beauty Supply (257), Edward's Music Store (259). Between 1925 and 1930. Commercial Vernacular. One-story brick building containing three two-bay wide commercial spaces, each framed by brick piers crowned by corbelled concrete caps; parapet with concrete copings; pent roofs accent parapet and protect wooden panels below; display windows set above stuccoed panels. No. 255--door and transom replaced by new recessed door; three-light transom spanning facade has been painted over; shed metal awning. No. 257--three-light transom boarded up; shed metal awning. No. 259--retains high degree of integrity; single-leaf glazed door topped by single-light transom; three-light transom spans facade; interior retains pressed metal ceiling. (C)
62. 265-267: Guy's Drug Store. 1916. Commercial Vernacular. Two-story, seven-bay wide brick building crowned by a metal cornice featuring square modillions. The lower story is divided into two distinct storefronts by large corbelled brick arches--the first arch incorporates the three easternmost bays and the second arch incorporates the four westernmost bays. A large multi-light

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transom crowns the bays of each storefront. A brick beltcourse separates the stories, and the upper story features six double-hung windows--both 6/1 and 6/6 sash--crowned by stone lintels. (C)

63. 270: Hair World Beauty Salon, Madison County Union for Progress. Between 1905 and 1911. One-story, six-bay wide, stuccoed brick; flat roof with parapet. Building has two storefronts: one on west end has recessed single-leaf entry flanked by display windows, and boarded-over transom; storefront on east end has a single-leaf entrance, a five-light display window with boarded-over transom, and a boarded-over display window with four-light transom. (M)
64. 274-280: Esco's Insurance Agency and George C. Nichols Law Office (274), Blue's Fish House and Restaurant (280). Between 1916 and 1925. Commercial Vernacular. One-story, five-bay wide, brick building having two altered storefronts: one on east has central glazed aluminum door flanked by plate glass windows, boarded-up transom, and shingled pent roof; western storefront has recessed glazed aluminum door, plate glass window, and boarded-up transom. Above each storefront is a rectangular recessed panel displaying diapering. Four rectangular attic vents pierce the parapet. (M)
65. 275-279: Vacant (275), Bargain Store (277), Family Medical and Oxygen Home Care Supplies (279). Between 1916 and 1925. Commercial Vernacular. Two-story, brick, seven-bay wide building contains three separate businesses, each framed by brick pilasters with terra cotta capitals having egg-and-dart molding. Corbelled cornice; parapeted roof; storefront of No. 275 is flush while the other two are recessed behind a brick pier; plate-glass display windows set above molded wooden panels; prism glass transoms painted over or boarded over; shed metal awning. Second level's three openings are boarded up and trimmed with terra cotta sills and corner blocks. (C)
66. 284: Robinson's Furniture and Appliances. Between 1916 and 1925. One-story, four-bay wide, brick building with main facade clad in metal siding; flat metal awning. (It could not be determined whether the facade was intact under the metal siding.) (NC)
67. 285: Hamlin's Floral Designs. Ca. 1935. Commercial Vernacular. One-story, brick, three-bays wide; central recessed entrance with double-leaf glazed doors topped by single-light transom; plate-glass windows set above tiled surfaces; original flat awning with pressed metal ceiling; 10-light transom; corbelled belt

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course; flat roof with parapet; pressed metal ceiling in recessed entrance and interior. (C)

68. 289: 1936. Commercial Vernacular. One-story, brick, two-bay wide commercial building's storefront has been extensively altered. Glazed aluminum double-leaf doors; new plate-glass windows; building partially stuccoed; flat roof with parapet. (NC)
69. 292-298: Just Jeans & Things (292), Tate's Department Store (298). Between 1916 and 1925. Commercial Vernacular. One-story brick building contains two storefronts, each five bays wide with central three bays being recessed; transoms boarded over; shed metal awning; four recessed panels above awning; parapet marked by corbelled soldier and header courses. (C)
70. 293: Vacant. Ca. 1885. Commercial Vernacular. One-story, four-bay wide stuccoed commercial building apparently contained two separate businesses: the first having a multi-light, single-leaf entrance, a display window, and a transom that has been removed; the second having a glazed single-leaf entrance topped by a single-leaf transom, a boarded-over display window, and a wide prism glass transom. A single stuccoed panel with central grilled vent spans the facade. (C)
71. 299: Vacant. Ca. 1885. Commercial Vernacular. One-story, three x one bay, stuccoed; panelled parapet has rectangular attic vent; central single-leaf door flanked by large display windows, all crowned by multi-light transoms set in slightly recessed segmental arched areas. (C)
72. 302: Tate's Department Store. Between 1916 and 1925. One-story, five-bay wide, brick commercial building sheathed in metal siding; flat metal awning; flat roof. (It could not be determined whether the facade was intact under the metal siding.) (NC)
73. 305: Canton Hotel (originally Southern Hotel). Between 1895 and 1900. Two-story, brick, three x seven bay hotel; flat roof; corbelled cornice; central double-leaf main entrance crowned by wide 8-light transom and flanked by floor-length display windows with wide 12-light transoms; lower level of main facade finished with scored stucco; upper level of main facade has boarded-over central single-leaf entrance and 6/6 double-hung windows crowned by molded lintels, and the bays are accentuated by piers. East elevation has 6/6 double-hung windows crowned by segmental arched

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brick hood molds, and the lower half of the first story is coated with parging. (C)

74. 306-310: Liberty Cash Supermarket (306), furniture store (310). Between 1895 and 1900. Commercial Vernacular. One-story, brick, six-bay wide building having two storefronts; multi-light transoms; awnings; above each storefront is a large rectangular recessed panel with an attic vent; corbelled brick parapet. (C)
75. 326: Tate's Furniture Land. 1948. One-story, seven-bay wide, brick and concrete block; aluminum-framed openings; shed awning. (NC)
76. 339: Ferguson's Furniture Company. Between 1916 and 1925. Commercial Vernacular. Two-story, three-bay wide brick building with 1x4 bay, brick addition on east (side) elevation. Double-leaf entrance; large banks of display windows crowned by multi-light transoms; second story of main facade has no openings. (C)
77. 342: Jones' Grocery. Between 1916 and 1925. This one-story, three-bay wide, brick building was originally a gas station. Central single-leaf entry topped by a transom and flanked by display windows; roof altered; porte cochere removed. (M)
78. 353: Vacant. Between 1905 and 1911. Commercial Vernacular. Two-story, five-bay wide, brick building features entries in the outer two bays: one contains a boarded-over door that opens onto a stairway and the other has double-leaf glazed doors with a wide single-light transom. The display windows are set above molded panels, and all of the bays of the lower level are framed by cast iron pilasters. The second story has three segmental arched openings containing 6/6 double-hung windows; parapeted roof; corbelled cornice. (C)
79. 354-360: Grant and Son Outlet (354), Lo-bo-de's Unlimited Gifts (358), Precious' Beauty Shop (360). Between 1916 and 1925. Commercial Vernacular. Two-story, nine-bay wide brick building having three storefronts, each delineated by brick piers and containing a central recessed single-leaf entry flanked by display windows; transoms boarded up; second story has ten double-hung windows--4/6, 4/2 and 16/2 sash; corbelled cornice; flat roof with parapet. (C)
80. 357-361: Vacant. Between 1916 and 1925. Commercial Vernacular.

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One-story brick commercial building divided into three sections by brick piers; parapeted roof; corbelled brick cornice. Easternmost section has a single-leaf door and display window set above panelling; central section has modern double-leaf entry and a display window; and westernmost section has a display window only. All are topped by large prism glass transoms. (C)

81. 367-371: Po. Bill Grocery Store (367), Pool Hall (371). Ca. 1935. Commercial Vernacular. One-story brick building contains two commercial spaces, each being three bays wide and having central recessed single-leaf entrances flanked by display windows set above tiled surfaces. Above each storefront is a recessed panel. (C)
82. 405: Serve-Yourself Laundry. Ca. 1935. Originally a gas station, this one-story, six x one bay, stuccoed brick building is crowned by a low-pitched hip roof. The three easternmost bays (a central single-leaf door topped by a four-light transom and flanked by multi-light casement windows) are shaded by a porte cochere with low-pitch hip roof set perpendicular to the main roof ridge and supported by a brick pier. The three westernmost bays are comprised of a central entrance topped by a transom and flanked by display windows. (C)
83. 417: Vacant. Ca. 1935. Commercial Vernacular. One-story, stuccoed brick, four x six bays; gable roof with parapet. Main facade features single-leaf entries topped by four-light transoms in central two bays and display windows set above metal panels in outer bays; bays delineated by stuccoed piers. (M)
84. 431: fruit stand. Between 1925 and 1930. Craftsman. This one-story, three x two bay brick building with a flat parapeted roof was originally a gas station. The main facade features a central single-leaf entrance and 3/1 double-hung windows, all with three-light transoms. On each corner of the building is a pier which extends above the roof parapet and which has decorative panels. An integral full-width porte cochere extends from the facade and features two panelled brick columns. (C)

Front Street

85. 120: Amtrak Passenger Station (originally Illinois Central Railroad Station). 1892, 1926. One-story brick depot consisting of an eleven x one bay central block with a gable-on-hip roof that

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is connected to two smaller brick blocks (added 1926) by open breezeways. These two end blocks have hip roofs. The central block has a gabled three-sided bay on its west elevation, and most of its windows are 2/2 double-hung sash. A brick veneer was added to the central block in 1926 when the end blocks were added. The northern block has most of its openings boarded up, and the southern block has 1/1 double-hung windows. (P)

Cameron Street

86. 118: Vacant. Ca. 1935. One-story, three-bay wide, stuccoed concrete block commercial building; central single-leaf entry topped by transom and flanked by large display windows; stepped parapet with brick coping. (C)

South Hickory Street

87. 123: W. C. Blackman T.V. and Appliances. Between 1916 and 1925. Two-story, irregularly massed, eight-bay wide brick building constructed in two phases. The earlier (southern) section is stuccoed and has several entrances and 1/1 double-hung windows with slipsills, and is capped by a pent roof. The later two-bay section has two entrances, windows with slipsills, and a flat roof with parapet. (C)
88. 124: (originally kitchen for Southern Hotel). Between 1895 and 1900. One-story, two x two bay, scored stucco over brick; hip roof clad in corrugated metal; corbelled cornice; 6/6 double-hung windows and 3-panel glazed door, all set within segmental arches; shed-roof porch with plain posts; small flushboard addition connects this building to hotel; rear addition. (C)

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The properties included within this district have been rated as contributing or non-contributing according to the following rating system:

Contributing Elements

- P - Pivotally Contributing - These properties are of major importance in establishing the character of the district, and would be individually eligible for the National Register if they were not elements of a district.
- C - Contributing - These properties date from the period of significance of the district and possess sufficient integrity to contribute substantially to its sense of time and place or its architectural or thematic character.
- M - Marginally Contributing - These properties date from the period of significance of the district but have suffered substantial impairments to their overall appearance either through alteration or deterioration. Despite these impairments, they still help to convey a sense of time and place or the architectural or thematic character of the district, and could become substantially contributing if appropriately rehabilitated or restored.

Non-Contributing Elements

- NC - Non-Contributing - These properties do not contribute to the character of the district because their architectural character dates from later than the period of significance of the district or, in the case of a thematically-defined district, they do not contribute to the district's thematic character. This rating includes both new construction and older buildings which have been irreversibly altered to give them essentially new appearances. Although these properties do not contribute to the district, they are nonetheless relatively compatible with the rest of the district in terms of scale, materials, massing, and setting.
- I - Intrusive - These properties disrupt the visual cohesiveness of the district by being incompatible in design, scale, materials, massing, and/or setting. This rating includes both new construction and older buildings which have been so extensively and unsympathetically altered as to cause them to become intrusive.

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Criterion A

Areas of Significance: Transportation, Commerce
Period of Significance: Circa 1885 - Circa 1935
Significant Dates: N/A
Significant Person: N/A
Architect/Builder: Unknown

The Canton Courthouse Square Historic District Amendment Area is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of transportation and commerce. The three and one-half block extension of the district is an architecturally and historically cohesive area comprised of late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular commercial buildings and an 1892 railroad station. Although Canton was not founded as a railroad town, having been established in 1834 at a time when there was not a single mile of railroad track in the state, its subsequent growth and industrial and commercial development were largely due to the railroad. The commercial area along West Peace Street developed as a result of the location of the railroad west of the Square, and the buildings in the amendment area are significant because they embody the commercial development of Canton which came about because of the railroad during the period circa 1885 to circa 1935. The Sanborn Insurance Maps were used to establish the period of significance. The earliest map was published in 1887, and two of the buildings in the amendment area appeared on this map and are believed to have been constructed circa 1885. Eight buildings in the amendment area did not appear on the 1930 Sanborn Insurance Map, but six of these buildings contribute architecturally to the district and appear to have been built circa 1935.

When the New Orleans and Jackson railroad was chartered and work begun at the southern end in 1850, Madison County residents decided they needed the railroad to assure the area's future and voted to put up \$100,000 for stock in the Canton and Jackson railroad, thereby made a part of the New Orleans, Jackson and Great Northern. The need for railroad transportation was urgent in central Mississippi, as the transportation of cotton from the interior of the state to the river ports by wagons was costly and difficult. The Canton to Jackson route was completed in 1856, and in 1858 the route from Jackson to New Orleans was finished. By 1861 Canton was linked by rail to nearly all the principal cities of the north and east. As the Louisiana link aimed toward Mississippi, a New Orleans newspaper observed that "farms have

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been opened; public lands have been sought after; sites have been selected for mechanical and manufacturing purposes; in the neighborhoods of the stations store lots have been purchased. . .these are omens of the great results which may be expected to follow." (Jim Ewing, "Canton drew its strength and grew up with the railroad," Jackson Daily News, June 12, 1984). In the book Main Line of Mid-America by Carlton J. Corliss, the coming of the railroad to Canton was regarded "as the rattling of the keys of freedom in the ears of the jailworn prisoner." (Ewing)

The Civil War wreaked havoc on Mississippi's railroads. After the war only a line from Canton to Oxford survived intact, and nearly every depot, including the one in Canton, was destroyed. The government relinquished control of the railroads at the end of the war, and a reorganization and rebuilding period ended with the New Orleans line becoming a part of the Illinois Central system in 1878. The original portion of the present railroad station was constructed in 1892, with the plan being "similar to that of all depots in towns on the I.C. [sic] the same design with very little alteration being seen along the line." (Canton Picket, June 24, 1892). Upon completion of the station in July of 1892, Walter McLaurin of the Mississippi Railroad Commission reported that the waiting rooms were half the size needed and that the building was "too small and insignificant for a city like Canton." ("Not a Proper Depot," Canton Picket, August 5, 1892). He recommended that the Mississippi Railroad Commission members visit Canton "as it is a place of considerable importance, and then decide what should be done in the matter of erecting a larger and more commodious depot." ("Our Depot," Canton Picket, September 16, 1892). The interior of the station was subsequently remodeled in 1892.

Additional remodelings occurred in circa 1911 and in 1926, at which time the station attained its current appearance. At that time, the existing building was enlarged and remodeled, with the waiting rooms, the baggage room, and the ticket office being enlarged and a brick veneer added to the exterior. In addition, two brick veneered wings were constructed and connected to the main building by open breezeways. The wing at the northern end of the main building housed the lunch room of the Van Noy Co. and the wing at the southern end contained the office of the American Express Co.

Because of Madison County's strong agricultural base, many of Canton's early industries were cotton ginning companies. Between the years of 1887 through 1930, Canton boasted numerous cotton gins, cotton warehouses and yards, and a cotton compress which was by 1925 the

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largest in the state. Given the rich cotton lands surrounding the town, the facilities for processing raw cotton, and the means to transport the processed material, Canton inevitably became an important rail center for shipping the region's cotton. In 1891, Canton was acknowledged as being one of the greatest livestock and cotton shipping stations between Durant, Mississippi, and New Orleans (Bibliographical and Historical memoirs of Mississippi [Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891], p. 199), and by 1898 was transporting an average of 18,000 bales of cotton per season (Southern Homeseekers' Guide [Louisville, KY: Courier-Journal Job Printing Co., 1898], p. 142). Although cotton held the leading role economically, farming in Madison County was diversified. It was reported that in 1916 hay, hay seed, oats, corn, cotton and cotton seed were shipped to various markets, as were cattle, hogs, sheep and goats ("What Madison County Shipped in 1916." The Madison County Herald, March 30, 1917, p. 1).

In 1898, Canton was reported to have done more to encourage immigration of farmers to the area than any other Mississippi city on the main line of the Illinois Central. As a result, real estate doubled in value and business increased. Two hundred northern families immigrated to Madison County between 1895 and 1898, and the majority located in the vicinity of Canton, making that city their market place and stimulating all kinds of business (Southern Homeseekers' Guide, p. 142).

In addition to being a rail center, Canton was also a manufacturing center for such cotton derivatives as oil. Canton's industrial development brought to the city a waterworks, an ice house, a brick kiln, several wholesale groceries, lumber yards, stave and heading mills, planing mills and a large hardwood mill--reported in 1934 to possibly be the largest hardwood sawmill operation in the world--with 30 miles of logging railroad. Much of this would have been impossible without Canton's railroad facilities, of which the Illinois Central Railroad Station the only known surviving remnant. As to the importance of Canton's railroad facilities within the I.C. system between the years 1892 and 1925, Canton was the first station of the Canton District of the Louisiana Division of the railroad; of the 125 stations in this Division, measured by length of sidings, only five--Jackson, McComb, Harahan Junction, New Orleans and Gwin--were larger; the roundhouse of the Mississippi and Louisiana Divisions was here; and the city's railyards possessed a turntable--used to turn the engines for the run back to Memphis--which was among the largest (in diameter) in the entire I.C. system ("Canton Depot Declared Landmark." Madison County Herald, March 10, 1988).

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Railroading was a big part of Canton's business until the 1940s when faster freights and diesel engines made it possible to lengthen the divisions. At this time, Canton's I.C. shops were largely moved to Jackson or disbanded. The railroad had assured Canton's growth by providing an outlet for its cotton and timber products, and from the 1850s, tons of finished and raw materials were transported.

Canton's Courthouse Square has been the center of political, social and commercial activity since the founding of Canton, but the Square became too small for the business district and the four streets that run into the Square have each expanded as business areas. The earliest expansion occurred to the west, on West Peace Street, due to the location of the railroad. The commercial area on W. Peace Street not only served the residents of Canton but also catered to the many railroad men. This area historically contained a hotel, boarding houses, saloons, pool rooms, and numerous restaurants which received a large portion of their business from the railroad men. In addition, general stores, groceries, barber shops, blacksmiths, liveries, warehouses, a corn mill, and cotton gin were located in this area.

In addition to the railroad, the lumber industry played an important role in Canton's growth. In 1913 a mass meeting of citizens was held concerning locating a major mill in Canton. The meeting produced contributions for a railroad right of way and mill site purchases. The Merrill Lumber Company was the first to begin operations in the area, and was soon followed by other companies. One of these companies, the Pearl River Valley Lumber Company, was established in Canton in 1921 and by 1934 was one of the largest hardwood sawmill operations in the world. The South was economically depressed from the mid to late 1920s, but in Canton the sawmill industry provided jobs and attracted people to the area. It is also believed that the lumber industry helped Canton weather the Great Depression of the 1930s. Canton's commercial growth from 1913 through the 1930s was due in large part to the lumber industry (Madge Freiler Noble, "Building A Town From Wood." Vertical files of the Madison County-Canton Public Library, Canton, Mississippi).

Both the railroad and lumber industry played key roles in Canton's growth, development and prosperity. The buildings in the Canton Courthouse Square Historic District Amendment Area are significant because they reflect this prosperity, having served the important rail and industrial center since the late nineteenth century.

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Item 9: Major Bibliographical References

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Historic District (Boundary Increase),
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Acreage of original nomination: 14 acres
Acreage of amendment area: 7 acres
Total acreage of comprehensive nomination: 21 acres

UTM References for Amendment Area:

A 15/778125/3611875
B 15/777675/3611850
C 15/777725/3612100
D 15/778075/3612100

UTM References for Comprehensive Nomination:

B 15/777675/3611850
C 15/777725/3612100
D 15/778075/3612100
E 15/778050/3612200
F 15/778350/3612200
G 15/778375/3611850

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the comprehensive nomination (original nominated area plus the amendment area) begins at the northwest corner of the property at 200-210 West Center Street then proceeds south along the western (rear) property lines of the properties on the west side of the 100 block of North Union Street until reaching the south side of the alley where it runs in a southwesterly direction, following the southern edge of the alley, and then crosses North Hickory Street and continues along the northern (rear) property lines of 326, 342, and 354-360 West Peace Street. At the northwest corner of the property at 354-360 West Peace Street the boundary turns south and progresses to the center line of West Peace Street where it turns west and proceeds to the east side of the Illinois Central Railroad tracks, then travels in a southwestern direction along the east side of the tracks to the north side of West Fulton Street, where it continues east to the west side of Front Street. From the point at the northwest corner of the intersection of Front and West Fulton Streets, the boundary advances north along the west edge of Front Street to a point about 130 feet south of the southern edge of West Peace Street, where it turns east and crosses Front Street and continues along the southern property lines of 431 and 417 West Peace Street and 118 Cameron Street, crossing Cameron Street and proceeding east, following the southern (rear) property lines of the buildings on the south side of the 300 block of West Peace Street and the southern

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(side) property line of 124 South Hickory Street. The boundary then progresses east and crosses South Hickory Street, following the southern property lines of 123 South Hickory Street and the buildings on the south side of the 200 and 100 blocks of West Peace Street, then continues across South Liberty Street to the southeast corner of the property at 103 South Liberty Street, turning north and running along the east (rear) property lines of the buildings on the east side of the 100 block of North Liberty Street. The boundary proceeds north across East Center Street to the northeast corner of the property at 202 North Liberty, where it turns west and runs along the north (rear) property lines of the buildings on the north side of the 100 block of West Center Street, crossing North Union Street and proceeding west along the north property line of 200-210 West Center Street to that property's northwest corner to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the Canton Courthouse Square Historic District, listed in the National Register in 1982, and the contiguous commercial area to the west of the present district. The amendment area extends the existing district about three blocks westward on West Peace Street and is a cohesive concentration of historic resources that maintain their integrity. The properties on the north side of West Peace Street that are west of 354-360 West Peace Street were not included in the boundaries because they did not possess the integrity to contribute to the district historically or architecturally.

Item 11: Form Prepared By

Brenda Rubach/Architectural Historian
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
P. O. Box 571
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
(601) 354-7326
May 10, 1989


Kenneth H. P'Pool
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

May 24, 1989
Date

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AMENDMENT,
Canton Courthouse Square Historic District
(Boundary increase), Canton, Madison County,
Mississippi

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Canton Courthouse Square Historic District Amendment Area
- (2) Canton, Madison County, Mississippi
- (3) Susan Enzweiler
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

- Photo 1-- (4) April 21, 1988
(6) South side of 200 block W. Peace Street, view to southeast
- Photo 2-- (4) May 12, 1988
(6) Rings Hardware, 244 W. Peace Street, view to northwest
- Photo 3-- (4) April 21, 1988
(6) Quality Cleaners, 245 W. Peace Street, view to south
- Photo 4-- (4) April 21, 1988
(6) Goodwill Industries, 249 W. Peace Street, view to southwest
- Photo 5-- (4) April 22, 1988
(6) 255-259 W. Peace Street, view to southeast
- Photo 6-- (4) April 22, 1988
(6) Guy's Drug Store, 265-267 W. Peace Street, view to southeast
- Photo 7-- (4) May 13, 1988
(6) North side of 200-300 block W. Peace Street, view to northwest
- Photo 8-- (4) May 11, 1988
(6) North side of 200-300 block W. Peace Street, view to northeast
- Photo 9-- (4) April 22, 1988
(6) 275-279 W. Peace Street, view to south
- Photo 10-- (4) April 22, 1988
(6) South side of 200 block W. Peace Street, view to southeast

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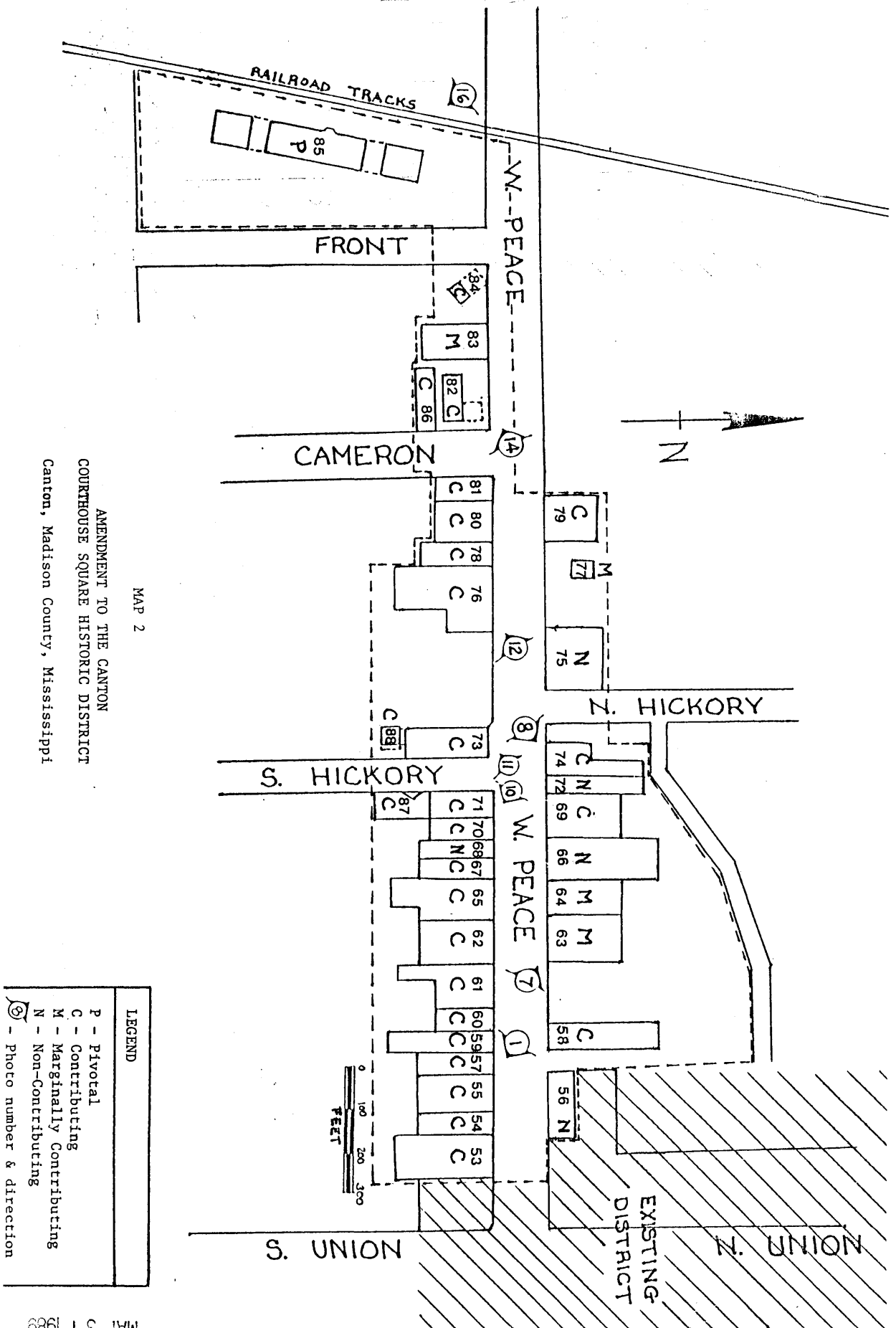
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National Register of Historic Places
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AMENDMENT,
Canton Courthouse Square Historic District
(Boundary increase), Canton, Madison County,
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Section number Photos Page 2

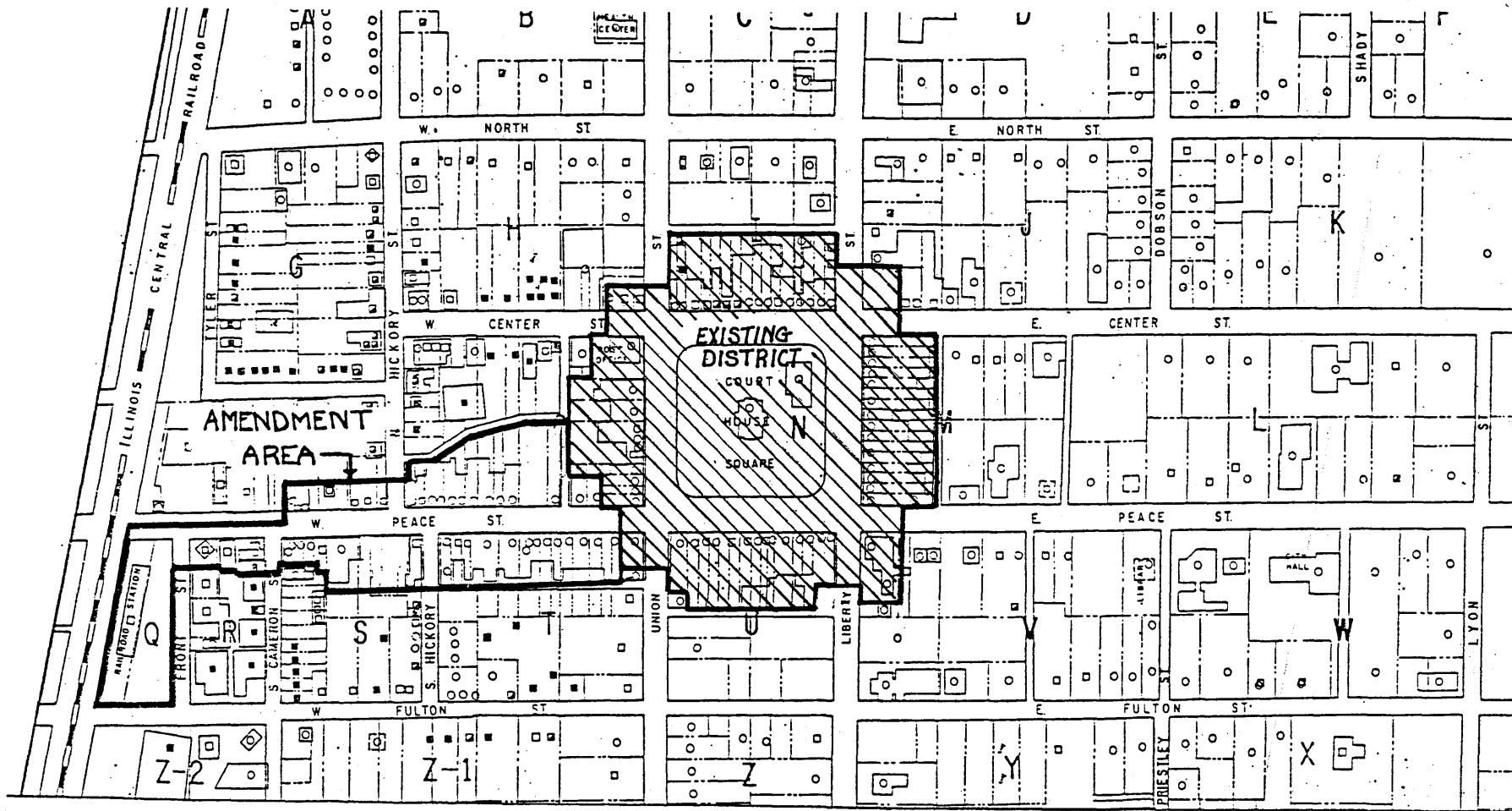
- Photo 11--(4) May 11, 1988
(6) South side of 300 block W. Peace Street, view to southwest
(Canton Hotel on left, other buildings demolished April
1989)
- Photo 12--(4) May 11, 1988
(6) South side of 300 block W. Peace Street, view to southwest
- Photo 13--(4) May 11, 1988
(6) 354-360 W. Peace Street, view to northeast
- Photo 14--(4) May 11, 1988
(6) South side of 400 block W. Peace Street, view to southwest
- Photo 15--(4) May 11, 1988
(6) 431 W. Peace Street, view to southeast
- Photo 16--(4) May 11, 1988
(6) Illinois Central Railroad Station, Front Street, view to
southeast
- Photo 17--(4) August 31, 1988
(6) First building on west side of Cameron Street, south of
W. Peace Street, view to southwest
- Photo 18--(4) August 31, 1988
(6) 123 S. Hickory Street, view to southeast
- Photo 19--(4) August 31, 1988
(6) 124 S. Hickory Street (original kitchen for Southern
Hotel), view to northwest



MAP 2

AMENDMENT TO THE CANTON
 COURTHOUSE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Canton, Madison County, Mississippi

LEGEND	
P	- Pivotal
C	- Contributing
M	- Marginally Contributing
N	- Non-Contributing
(5)	- Photo number & direction



MAP 1

AMENDMENT TO THE CANTON
COURTHOUSE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Canton, Madison County, Mississippi

MAY 31 1989