

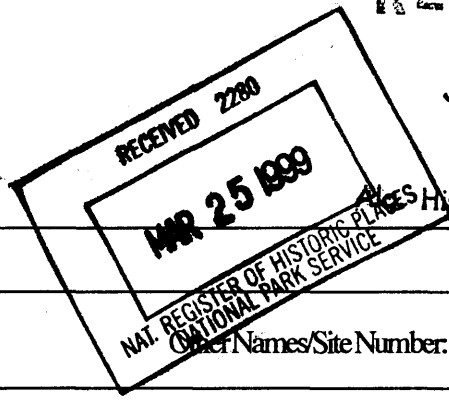
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUN 17 1998

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**



**1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Hartselle Downtown Commercial Historic District

**2. Location**

Street & Number Portions of Main, Railroad, Hickory, and Sparkman Streets In Downtown Hartselle

Not for Publication: NA

City or Town: Hartselle

Vicinity: NA

State: Alabama

Code: AL

County Morgan

Code: 103

Zip Code: 35640

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 forth 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.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

3/12/99  
Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

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 commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

[Signature] 4/22/99  
Edson H. Beall

\_\_\_\_\_  
other (explain):

Hartselle Downtown Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

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### 5. Classification

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| Ownership of Property<br>(Check as many boxes as apply) | Category of Property<br>(Check only one box) | Number of Resources within Property |                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
|   |  | Contributing                        | Noncontributing     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private             | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s)         | <u>61</u>                           | <u>12</u> buildings |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u>                            | <u>0</u> sites      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State                   | <input type="checkbox"/> site                | <u>0</u>                            | <u>0</u> structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal                 | <input type="checkbox"/> structure           | <u>0</u>                            | <u>0</u> objects    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object              | <u>62</u>                           | <u>12</u> Total     |

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed  
in the National Register

0

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### 6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category:

COMMERCE/TRADE

Subcategory:

Business

Financial Institution

Specialty Store

Department Store

Warehouse

Restaurant

SOCIAL

Meeting Hall

GOVERNMENT

Post Office

TRANSPORTATION

Train Depot

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Category:

COMMERCE/TRADE

Subcategory:

Business

Financial Institution

Specialty Store

Department Store

Warehouse

Vacant/Not In Use

GOVERNMENT

Post Office

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### 7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: One-Story Commercial Block

Other: Multiple-Story Commercial Block

Spanish Revival

Colonial Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, Stone, Brick

other Glass, Metal

roof Tar and Gravel

walls Brick, Stone, Concrete

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

(See Continuation Sheet Section 7 Page 1)

**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 whose components lack individual distinction.

**D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or a grave.

**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)**

Architecture  
Transportation  
Commerce

**Period of Significance**

1910-1940

**Significant Dates**

1916

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

(See Continuation Sheet Section 8 Page 16)

**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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- 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

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University

N/A Other

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property: approximately 15 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Zone Easting Northing |                      |
| 1. 16-505790-3811210  | 3. 16-506320-3811040 |
| 2. 16-506200-3811350  | 4. 16-505920-3810880 |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title: Gene A. Ford and Trina Binkley, National Register Reviewer

Organization: Private Consultant

Date: September 7, 1997

Street & Number: #10 Lakeview

Telephone: (205) 752-4599

City or Town: Tuscaloosa

State: Alabama

Zip Code: 35401

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

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The Hartselle Downtown Commercial District is located in the Tennessee River Valley town of Hartselle in Morgan County, Alabama. Originally founded as Cotaco in 1818, Morgan County lies within the geographic region designated as the Tennessee Valley (Mancini 1990). The county is defined by a series of generally east-west upland and lowland belts; the uplands are characterized by smooth topped plateaus, and the lowlands by undulating country produced by erosion (Knox 1966). Hartselle, second in size to Decatur in the county, sprawls out across a relatively flat portion of topography.

Hartselle is ideally located in terms of transportation routes. The town is sandwiched between Interstate 65 and U. S. Highway 31. A major waterway, the Tennessee River, which forms the northern boundary of the county, lies an approximate distance of fifteen miles north of Hartselle. The Louisville and Nashville (L & N) Railroad bisects the town. The bulk of Hartselle's residences is situated east of railroad tracks while the heart of the business district is located on the west side. Hartselle's association with the railroad is evident in the proximity of the commercial district to the L & N Depot (Chamber of Commerce, Resource 50).

The Hartselle Downtown Commercial District features buildings that were constructed between 1910 and 1940. A large percentage of them are attributed to the ten year boom period between 1910 and 1920. One and multiple story commercial blocks and Colonial and Spanish Revival styles define the architectural character of the collection of early twentieth century commercial buildings. Seventy-four resources constitute the downtown historic district. Sixty-two of the resources qualify as contributing to the significance of the district-- 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 58, 59, 60, 61, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 71, 73, and 74; twelve are noncontributing-- 2, 18, 29, 41, 50, 56, 57, 62, 63, 69, 70, and 72. Included among the historic properties are two train depots, one post office, one civic lodge, two gas stations, one site (a gin complex), one cotton warehouse, and sixty-six commercial buildings.

The overwhelming majority of the Hartselle Downtown Historic District is composed of commercial buildings. Fifteen of the resources in the district are categorized as multiple commercial blocks. They include Resources 10 (CR), 11 (CR), 14 (CR), 19 (CR), 30 (CR), 33 (CR), 38 (CR), 41 (NCR), 42 (CR), 44 (CR), 49 (CR), 51 (CR), 60 (CR), 61 (CR), and 69 (NCR). They feature brick construction with a flat roof. All but Resources 41 and 69 are considered contributing. Of the thirteen contributing multiple story commercial blocks, all but one (Resource 49) are two stories in height. Resource 49 is a three story building. These historic properties feature a store front and upper floors. Composed of an entry door, transom, and flanking display windows, the store fronts correspond with the first floor store space; the upper floor(s) function as private space, such as office, storage, and/or residential use. Wood and glass panel doors, flanking display windows and space, and a transom typify the make up of the store front. Corbeling, a parapet, decorative brickwork, and flat and round top windows define the upper facade of these multiple story commercial blocks.

Fifty-one of the historic resources in the district are classified as one story commercial blocks. They include Resources 1 (CR), 2 (NCR), 3 (CR), 4 (CR), 5 (CR), 6 (CR), 7 (CR), 8 (CR), 9 (CR), 12 (CR), 13 (CR), 15 (CR), 16 (CR), 17 (CR), 18 (NCR), 20 (CR), 21 (CR), 22 (CR), 23 (CR), 24 (CR), 25 (CR), 26 (CR), 27 (CR),

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28 (CR), 29 (NCR), 31 (CR), 32 (CR), 34 (CR), 35 (CR), 36 (CR), 37 (CR), 39 (CR), 40 (CR), 43 (CR), 45 (CR), 46 (CR), 47 (CR), 48 (CR), 50 (NCR), 54 (CR), 55 (CR), 56 (NCR), 57 (NCR), 62 (NCR), 63 (NCR), 64 (CR), 67 (CR), 68 (CR), 70 (NCR), 71 (CR), and 72 (NCR). These commercial blocks feature brick construction with a flat roof. As the typology terminology suggests, the commercial buildings have only one story. The store fronts and upper facade designs of these edifices are similar to that of the multiple story blocks. Of the fifty-one, one story commercial buildings, ten (2, 18, 29, 50, 56, 57, 62, 63, 70, and 72) are designated as noncontributing resources. Six (29, 50, 62, 63, 70, and 72) of these were built post 1950 ; the integrity of the other four has been compromised.

There are two transportation buildings in the Hartselle Downtown Historic District. Constructed circa 1917, both buildings serviced the L and N Railroad in their prime. The L and N passenger depot, now the Chamber of Commerce (53 CR), features brick construction, a low pitched hip roof with dormers, wide eaves, brackets, and multiple windows and doors. Also constructed of brick, the freight depot, now the Emporium (52 CR) which is a multiple booth antique and wares shop, has two sections with flat and gable roofs, metal brackets, and a wood platform.

Two gas stations, both of which are contributing resources, are included in the district. One (66) is rather distinct with Spanish Revival details, such as curvilinear parapets, ceramic roof tiles, and a stucco covered exterior. The other gas station (73) sports a more streamlined appearance. It has a pedimented parapet on the facade and sleek casement windows.

One site (58 CR) is present in the district. Three gin buildings, two of which are constructed of brick and metal, the third of brick, comprise the site. The complex dates back to the early twentieth century.

One lodge (65 CR) is part of the district. Two stories in height and constructed of brick, the building favors the design of the multiple story commercial blocks in the downtown.

One post office (59 CR) is counted among the contributing resources in Hartselle's downtown district. Typical of federal post offices of the 1930s, Hartselle's post office features a rectangular block of brick with a central entry. The entry leads to a glass and wood foyer that opens to the left and right inside the building. A cupola crowns the building.

### **Archaeological Component**

Although no formal archaeological survey has been conducted in the downtown vicinity, there is a potential for subsurface remains.

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### **Inventory**

The following is both a description of the present and past status of the resources in the Hartselle Downtown Commercial Historic District. Each of the resources is assigned a number from 1 to 74. The buildings are divided into two classifications: those that contribute to the significance of the historic district and those that do not contribute to the significance. Contributing resources are abbreviated (CR) and non contributing (NCR).

#### **Main Street**

- 1. 113 E. Main Street. Neon Sound Systems (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** The commercial block has a flat roof that is fronted by a parapet. Fifteen recessed panels with corbeled brickwork embellish the upper facade. An awning supported by rectangular posts projects from the building. Fenestration consists of a number of plate glass display windows beneath which are brick kick plates
- 2. 109 E. Main Street. Vacant Building (NCR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** A gable roof crowns the brick commercial block. Beneath the parapet are thirteen recessed panels with corbelwork. Extending across the entire width of the facade is a shed awning that is supported by rectangular wood posts. Three doors punctuate the facade. The flanking display windows, which rest above brick kick plates, are covered by latticework.
- 3. 101 E. Main Street. Quinn Family Grocery Warehouse (CR). ca. 1910. One Story Commercial Block.** Constructed of brick, the commercial block has a hip roof with a multiple gable crown. The Main Street facade consists of one plate glass door and two windows with awnings. Another opening with a segmental arch has been filled with bricks. The west side of the building has one window and a wood frame addition. The interior space retains its original character. The floor is constructed of concrete. An opening in the north wall leads to an adjoining circa 1920 metal warehouse. The original pot-bellied stove used for heating the warehouse is in place.
- 4. 101 W. Main Street. Combined Talents (CR). ca. 1920. One Story Commercial Block.** Constructed of brick, the one story commercial block has a flat roof and parapet. A metal slip cover sheaths the upper facade. Behind the slip cover is a transom. Fenestration consists of an off centered double plate glass door and flanking plate glass windows above brick kick plates. A faded Coca Cola advertisement adorns the east side of the building. The brick walls are exposed on the interior.
- 5. 103 W. Main Street. Murphy's Discount Carpets (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** The brick commercial building is topped by a flat roof and parapet. A corbeled cornice adorns the upper facade as does a recessed panel. The original store front is intact. It features an off centered wood and glass door with flanking display windows and brick kick plates. A covered transom extends across the top of the

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door and windows. The ceiling is sheathed with decorative tin paneling.

**6. 105 W. Main Street. Holme's Pool Hall (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** The design of this commercial block is similar to Resource 5. The store front features a central glass door with flanking display windows above kick plates. Green Coronado glass covers the exterior of the lower facade. A transom runs across the top of the door and windows. The ceiling of the commercial edifice retains its original tin panel ceiling.

**7. 107 W. Main Street. Promise Land Church (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Built of brick, the building has a flat roof with a parapet. A corbeled cornice stretches across the upper facade. Beneath the cornice is a recessed panel. The top of the store front is bolstered by an iron beam. Fenestration consists of a covered full width transom, central double glass door, and flanking display windows above brick kick plates.

**8. 109 W. Main Street. Golden Oldies Antiques (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** The design of this brick commercial block is of the same ilk as its eastern neighbor with the exception of the door and window arrangement. The double wood and glass panel door is off centered. Two display windows flank the left side of the door. The windows rest above kick plates.

**9. 111 W. Main Street. Pair-A-Shoes (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** The upper facade of this brick commercial edifice is the same as Resources 8 and 9. The lower facade is marked by a glass door with sidelights and transom and flanking display windows above brick kick plates.

**10. 113 W. Main Street. Edward R. Jones & Co. (CR). ca. 1910. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Two stories in height, the commercial block features brick construction. The flat roof of the building is concealed behind a parapet. The cornice has corbeling and decorative brickwork. Piercing the second floor facade are four openings fitted with 9/9 double hung sash windows. The windows have stone sills and brick segmental arch lintels. An iron cross beam spans the top of the first floor store front. Beneath it is a transom. The first floor store front additionally consists of a central wood and glass door with flanking display windows above brick kick plates. The original tongue and groove wood ceiling remains exposed on the first floor.

**11. 115 W. Main Street. Plantation House Designs (CR). ca. 1910. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Two stories in height, the commercial block features brick construction. A flat roof and parapet crown the multistory commercial block. A corbeled cornice adorns the upper facade of the second floor. Two openings punctuate the second floor facade. They are fitted with 1/1 double hung sash windows. Window surrounds include rusticated stone sills and brick segmental arch lintels. A multipane display window, above which is a transom and below which is a brick kick plate, occupies the center of the first floor facade. It is flanked on one side by a multilight door and on the other by a six panel wood door. The first floor interior has its original wood ceiling intact.



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**12. 117 W. Main Street. Zandy Zebra (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Built of brick, the commercial block has a flat roof with a parapet. Corbeling graces the cornice, and beneath it is a recessed panel. Above the covered transom of the lower facade is an iron cross beam. A double wood and glass panel door stands in the middle of the lower facade. It is crowned by a transom. Flanking the entry door are display windows above brick kick plates. The interior features a wood plank floor, tin panel ceiling, and a skylight.

**13. 121 W. Main Street. Ruby's Beauty Shop (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Less decorative than its eastern neighbor, this commercial block has a flat roof and a parapet with plain stone coping. A corbeled cornice extends across the upper facade. Beneath the cornice is a recessed panel. Fenestration of the store front includes a covered transom, central wood and glass panel door, and flanking display windows resting on brick kick plates.

**14. 123 W. Main Street. R. W. Puckett (CR). ca. 1919. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** The brick commercial block rises to a height of two stories. It has a flat roof and a parapet front with stone coping. Pilasters define the edges of the second floor front facade. The upper facade is marked by a stone name and date plate inscribed "R. W. Puckett 1919." A brick belt course also embellishes the building. The first floor fenestration is defined by a central plate glass door with a transom and flanking plate glass display windows above low brick kick plates.

**15. 125 W. Main Street. C. F. Penn Hamburgers (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Constructed of brick, the commercial edifice is capped by a flat roof and parapet. Corbeling embellishes the cornice on the upper facade. Beneath the cornice is a recessed panel with decorative borders. The lower facade has a metal slip cover. An off center plate glass door, transom, and flanking display windows characterize the lower store front.

**16. 127 W. Main Street. R. W. Puckett (CR). ca. 1916. One Story Commercial Block.** Constructed of brick, the commercial edifice is capped by a flat roof and parapet. The parapet features a centrally located triangular pediment. The upper store front has a raised crest with flanking raised bricks. Decorative triangular, square, and diamond-shaped stone are inset in the brick. A diamond-shaped name and date plate is inset in the center of a decorative panel. It is inscribed "R. W. Puckett 1916." A strip of corrugated metal covers a transom. A central glass door with a transom and flanking display windows above brick kick plates fit between the walls of the lower store front.

**17. 129 W. Main Street. Long and Long Attorneys (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** The upper facade of this brick commercial block is quite plain. A flat roof caps the building. A parapet with simple stone coping rises above the roof line. Vitrolite sheaths a small portion of the facade. A covered transom is situated beneath the vitrolite. A double display window, which rests above a vitrolite covered brick kick plate, stands between two wood and glass panel doors.

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**18. 131 W. Main Street. Hartselle Rexall Drugs (NCR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** The one story brick commercial block has a flat roof with a parapet. A metal slip cover sheaths the south and west upper facades. Fenestration consists of plate doors with flanking plate glass windows. According to the present owner, the building once had a second story. It was removed during a recent renovation. The interior of the first floor was renovated as well. Little of the historic character of the building remains. Thus, it is classified as a noncontributing resource.

**19. 201 W. Main Street. Broadhead Cook Furniture-Strickland Drug, Inc. (CR). ca. 1910. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Topped by a flat roof and wrap around parapet, the two story commercial block features brick construction. The cornice wraps around two sides of the building. It is embellished with a series of recessed dentils. A belt course wraps around two sides of the building beneath the cornice. On the second story, the east facade, which faces Sparkman Street, has six openings with 1/1 double hung sash windows, stone sills, and brick segmental arch lintels. The first floor of the east facade has three smaller windows that echo the configuration of those on the second floor and a single display window. An advertisement promoting Strickland Drug, Inc a past tenant, continues to fade away on the east side. The southeast corner is canted. On the second floor of the canted wall is a lone window like the rest in the building. Above it is a diamond shaped louvered ventilator. On the first floor, there is a double glass door with a transom. The second and first stories of the south side, which faces Main Street, have two 1/1 double hung sash windows with stone sills and brick segmental arch lintels, respectively. Green Coronado glass surrounds the entry door and display windows.

**20. 203 W. Main Street. Johnny's Hamburgers-Broadhead Cook Furniture (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** The brick commercial building is topped by a flat roof and parapet. A corbeled cornice adorns the upper facade as does a recessed panel. A transom is concealed behind a strip of vinyl. The building is divided into two retail spaces. The west side store front has an off center glass door and transom and a flanking display window. The east side store front is a mirror image of the west. Both stores have the original wood ceilings.

**21. 209 W. Main Street. Hartselle Antique Mall (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Actually, the antique mall consists of three one story commercial blocks (Resources 21, 22, and 23). The east block features brick construction, a flat roof, and a parapet with stone coping. A recessed panel is beneath a corbeled cornice, and below it is a covered transom. Three display windows above brick kick plates comprise the store front. The store retains its original wood floor.

**22. 209 W. Main Street. Hartselle Antique Mall (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** More austere than either of its neighbors the middle block has a flat roof, parapet with stone coping, and corbeling. Two string courses grace the upper facade. Two double glass doors with transoms and two display windows fill the opening designated for the store front. It has an original wood floor.

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**23. 209 W. Main Street. Hartselle Antique Mall (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Three display windows make up the store front of the west block. On the upper facade, there is decorative brickwork. A stepped parapet with rusticated stone coping tops the building. The original wood plank floor is in place. The interior walls of the antique mall have been removed.

**24. 213 W. Main Street. Beauty Nook (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Constructed of brick, the commercial block has a flat roof and a parapet with stone coping. Recessed brickwork serves as upper facade ornamentation. The original store front is intact with an off centered recessed wood and glass door and flanking display windows and space above a brick kick plate.

**25. 215 W. Main Street. Whistle Shop Antique Mall (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** The original store front is in place. At the east end of the store front is a recessed glass door with transom. It is flanked on its west side by four display windows and display case above a brick kick plate. Above the store front, there is decorative brickwork. A stepped parapet with rusticated stone caps the upper facade. Behind it is a flat roof.

**26. 219 W. Main Street. Junkshun Antiques (CR). ca. 1920. One Story Commercial Block.** Built of brick, the commercial block features its original store front. It is composed of a recessed central double wood and glass door with flanking display windows and spaces. The upper facade ornamentation consists of decorative brickwork. A parapet and flat roof crowns the commercial edifice. Tin paneling is affixed to the ceiling.

**27. 221 W. Main Street. Heavenly Treasures (CR). ca. 1920. One Story Commercial Block.** Heavenly Treasures consists of two one story commercial blocks. The upper facade of the east brick commercial block mirrors that of Resource 26. The original store front is defined by a central recessed glass door and flanking display windows. A multipane transom extends across the top of the store front. The tin panel ceiling is intact.

**28. 221 W. Main Street. Heavenly Treasures (CR). ca. 1920. One Story Commercial Block.** The top of the west brick commercial block is characterized by a flat roof and a parapet with stone coping. A cornice with recessed dentils stretches across the upper facade. A recessed panel serves as additional ornamentation. Below the panel is a covered transom. The store front is original. A central recessed glass door with a sidelight is flanked on either side by display windows.

**29. 225 W. Main Street. Joe Roberts Annex (NCR). ca. 1986. One Story Commercial Block.** The building has a gable roof of asphalt shingles. It is sheathed with vinyl siding. There are two wood and glass panel doors with a flanking display window.

**30. 227 W. Main Street. Silhouettes (CR). ca. 1910. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Built of brick, the commercial block rises to a height of two stories. The east facade does not have any openings. On top of the south side facade, which faces Main Street, there is a stepped parapet with stone coping. Decorative

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geometric patterns adorn the upper facade of the second floor. Four openings punctuate the second story; they are fitted with a fixed single pane of glass with stone sills and brick lintels. The first floor store front is intact. It features a transom, below which is an off center wood and glass door with flanking display windows. Situated near the southeast corner, a stairwell leads to the second floor. It is fronted by an original wood and multilight door with a transom. Seven 1/1 double hung sash windows, all but one of which is covered by wood, with stone sills and brick segmental arch lintels fill voids in the second floor west side facade. Seven similar, but smaller, windows fill the openings in the first floor facade. The tin panel ceiling is intact.

**31. 301 W. Main Street. 4 Square Military Surplus (CR). ca. 1920. One Story Commercial Block.** The original store front is a salient feature of this brick commercial block. It includes a central recessed double wood and glass door with flanking display windows above brick kick plates. The transom is hidden behind decorative plywood. A recessed panel comprises the detailing of the upper facade. A parapet with stone coping tops the building. Three single pane windows are featured on the east facade. It has a tin panel ceiling.

**32. 303 W. Main Street. Country Classics Antiques and Gifts (CR). ca. 1925. One Story Commercial Block.** This brick commercial building is the twin of Resource 31.

**33. 226 W. Main Street. Joe Roberts (CR). ca. 1920. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** The store occupies two buildings, a one story commercial block and a two story commercial block, both of which are constructed of brick. The two story commercial block has a flat roof. The north facade, which faces Main Street, features a parapet and a corbeled cornice. On the second floor facade, there are three 1/1 double hung sash windows with brick sills and brick segmental arch lintels. The windows are covered. An iron support beam runs across the top of the store front. The transom is covered with a strip of vinyl. An off center glass door is flanked by a series of display windows above brick kick plates. Eight windows like those on the second floor of the north facade are featured on the second story of the west facade. They are also covered with vinyl. Four smaller windows of similar configuration occupy openings on the first floor.

**34. 226 W. Main Street. Joe Roberts (CR). ca. 1920. One Story Commercial Block.** The one story block has a flat roof and a parapet with stone coping. Corbeling embellishes the cornice. Below the cornice is a sign board. The store front is original. Spanning the top of the store front is an iron beam. A transom is hidden behind a strip of metal. Display windows sandwich a central wood and glass door.

**35. 224 W. Main Street. The Something Blue Shop (CR). ca. 1920. One Story Commercial Block.** Of note in the design of this brick commercial block is the original store front. In front of the entry is an intact mosaic tile floor with a fret motif border and geometric patterns. The central double wood and glass panel doors are recessed. They are flanked on either side by canted display windows and cases which rest above brick kick plates. A covered transom rests above the doors and windows. Above it is an iron support beam. A recessed brick panel and corbeling constitutes the only detailing. Stone coping lines the top of the parapet. The roof is flat.

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**36. 222 W. Main Street. Variety Furniture Co. (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Of note in the design of this brick commercial block is the original store front. The central double wood and glass panel doors are recessed. They are flanked on either side by canted display windows and cases which rest above brick kick plates. A covered transom rests above the doors and windows. Above it is an iron support beam. Corbeling constitutes the only detailing. Stone coping lines the top of the parapet. The roof is flat.

**37. 220 W. Main Street. Broadhead Cook Furniture Annex (CR). ca. 1920. One Story Commercial Block.** Less detailed than the adjacent edifices, this brick commercial block sports a flat roof with a parapet. A corbeled cornice amounts to the only stylistic detailing on the upper facade. A transom above the store front is covered by a strip of corrugated metal. The store front is comprised of a central glass door with flanking display windows above brick kick plates.

**38. 218 W. Main Street. The Village (CR). ca. 1917. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Two stories in height, the commercial block features brick construction with a flat roof. Three pilasters rise above the parapet which is lined with stone coping. A corbeled cornice runs the width of the upper portion of the second floor. Two recessed panels lie below the cornice. The second floor of each features two openings with a continuous stone sill course and brick lintels. The double hung sash windows are covered with wood. A full width transom is concealed behind a strip of corrugated metal. The store fronts have recessed glass doors with flanking display windows above kick plates. A door at northeast corner of the block leads to a stairwell. On the interior, there is a tin panel ceiling. Currently, the building is vacant.

**39. 214 W. Main Street. Oliver's Printing Company (CR). ca. 1928. One Story Commercial Block.** The store front of this brick commercial block is quite a gem. The vibrant geometric pattern mosaic tile floor fronting the entry represents one of the true architectural gems of the historic district. Included among the components of the original store front are a recessed wood and glass door, flanking display windows and cases, wood kick plates, and a painted transom. Geometric patterns are present in the make up of the brick upper facade. Stone modillions project from the upper facade. A stepped parapet with stone coping caps the structure.

**40. 212 W. Main Street. Main Street Antiques (CR). ca. 1928. One Story Commercial Block.** With two exceptions, the brick commercial building is identical to Resource 39. The entry door is off center with only one flanking display window and space; and there is no mosaic tile floor fronting the entry.

**41. 206 W. Main Street. Spinning Wheel and Gifts (NCR). ca. 1928. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Constructed of brick, the commercial block features two stories, a flat roof, and a parapet with stone coping. Two pilasters rise above the parapet. A diamondwork frieze is present above a metal slip cover. Behind it is decorative brickwork. For the most part, the store front is original with central recessed glass doors. Flanking them are display windows above brick kick plates.

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**42. 204 W. Main Street. Broadhead Cook Furniture (CR). ca. 1928. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Broadhead Cook Furniture occupies two buildings. Constructed of brick, the two story commercial block features two stories, a flat roof, and a parapet with stone coping. A number of brick and stone embellishments, including a running arch motif, grace the upper facade of the second floor. Two piercings in the second floor facade are fitted with three 9/9 double hung sash windows. Window treatments consist of a stone sill course and stone lintels. A transom is covered by corrugated metal. A door is at either side of the store front. Between them are three display windows above a brick kick plate.

**43. 204 W. Main Street. Broadhead Cook Furniture (CR). ca. 1928. One Story Commercial Block.** The one story commercial block has a flat roof and a parapet with stone coping. The recessed door has been replaced with a plate glass display window. Two original display windows above brick kick plates are intact.

**44. 200 W. Main Street. Minor Furniture (CR). ca. 1917. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Constructed of brick, the commercial block features two stories, a flat roof, and a parapet with stone coping. Four pilasters define the second floor north side facade. A stone belt course runs across the top of the stone capitals of the pilasters and wraps around the east side facade. Another stone belt course extends between the pilasters. Between the pilasters, there are three brick and stone Grecian crosses inside brick circles. Various signage adheres to the second floor facade. A transom lies concealed behind a strip of metal. The store front components include an off center double glass door with flanking display windows above brick kick plates. The pilaster and Grecian cross motif syntax continues on the second floor of the east elevation. All but one of the second floor openings have been enclosed with bricks. The remaining open void is fitted with a 1/1 double hung sash window. All the second floor openings feature the original treatments with stone sills and lintels. One large opening on the first floor has been enclosed with brick.

**45. 138 W. Main Street. Crump Camera and Hobby Shop (CR). ca. 1920. One Story Commercial Block.** The brick commercial block has a flat roof and a wrap around parapet with stone coping. A dentilated cornice and a stone belt course additionally wrap around the building. Below the belt course on the north facade are two decorative stone rectangles. The hallmark of the fenestration on the north facade is a large central opening. On either side of a central glass door with a transom are flanking windows. A multipane transom rests above the entry door. Stone lines the exterior of the void. A stone keystone caps the stone surround. A fixed single pane window with stone surround flanks the entry opening. A brick plinth line wraps around the commercial block. Fenestration on the west elevation consists of four large openings filled with tripartite windows covered with wood with stone sills and hoods. Additionally, there are four smaller 1/1 double hung sash windows with stone sills.

**46. 136 W. Main Street. Minor Furniture (CR). ca. 1925. One Story Commercial Block.** The glass entry door is centrally located in the store front. It is flanked on either side by display windows which rest above tile lined brick kick plates. A covered transom rests above the door and windows. A recessed brick panel and corbeling constitutes the only detailing. Stone coping lines the top of the parapet. The roof is flat.

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**47. 120 W. Main Street. Alexander's (CR). ca. 1915. One Story Commercial Block.**

Constructed of brick, the commercial edifice is capped by a flat roof and parapet. Beneath the parapet is a recessed panel with decorative borders. Inscribed "Alexander's Aug. 1915," a stone name and date plate is centered in the recessed panel. Covering the transom is a strip of wood. Two off center plate glass doors and flanking display windows characterize the store front.

**48. 114 W. Main Street. Lorie's (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Constructed of brick, the commercial edifice is capped by a flat roof and parapet with stone lining. Beneath the parapet is a recessed panel. Two ventilators are fixed inside the panel. The transom is uncovered. Much of the store front is original. Flanking the central wood and glass door are multipane display windows above brick kick plates.

**49. 112 W. Main Street. Byford Plumbing & Electrical Supply (CR). ca. 1915. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** The brick commercial block is the only one in the district that has three stories. Two series of three ventilators pierce the north facade of the third floor. Several string courses stretch across the facade. The second floor fenestration includes three 4/4 double hung sash windows with stone surrounds and one opening with brick segmental arch top that is covered with wood. The opening coincides with the stairwell. The store front has a multipane transom at the top. An off center glass door with sidelights and flanking display windows above brick kick plates comprise the rest of the store front. An original wood door with segmental arch transom provides access to the stairwell at the northeast corner of the building. One of the the many tin panel ceilings in the historic district is featured on the first floor.

**50. 110 W. Main Street. Lord and Ladies (NCR). ca. 1960. One Story Commercial Block.** Concrete block construction with a shed roof characterizes this building. The facade is lined with brick. There is a central glass door with flanking windows.

**51. 110 W. Main Street. The Corner Cafe (CR). ca. 1916. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Brick construction characterizes this two story commercial block. It has a flat roof. Tile coping lines the wrap around parapet. Two brick belt courses also wrap around the upper facade of the second floor. Three openings punctuate the second floor of the east elevation. Enclosed with brick, the openings feature stone sills and brick segmental arch lintels. Seven pairs of openings and one single, all of which favor the design of the east elevation piercings, pierce the second floor of the north side of the block. Below the enclosed windows is a wrap around canvas awning. Two display windows constitute the store front on the east side. There is a canted double wood and glass door at the northeast corner of the building. A window band and a double wood and glass door fill openings in the first floor wall on north elevation. The first floor ceiling features tin paneling.

**Railroad Street**

**52. 112 Railroad Street. Louisville and Nashville Railroad Freight Depot (CR). ca. 1917. Multiple Story Transportation Building.** The transportation building is comprised of two sections: the northern section is constructed of brick and rises to a height of two stories. It has a flat roof and a parapet that wraps

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around all four sides of the building. This space was used for offices. Corbeling and stone and brickwork squares decorate all four sides as well. The building features three brick belt courses. The second floor of the west, east, and north facades have one, two, and three 2/2 double hung sash windows with stone treatments, respectively. This fenestration pattern is repeated on the first floor. A stone water table wraps around the building near its base. It rests on a brick foundation. A one story section adjoins the two story section on its south facade. This was used as freight storage. This section also has a flat roof and a wrap around parapet. The parapet has tile coping. Below the parapet a cornice wraps around the west, south, and east facades. On the west and east elevations a shed awning with metal support brackets projects out from the building. The same sides of the building feature five openings with segmental arch crowns which are fitted with double glass doors. The south elevation has one such opening. A loading platform stands on the east and west sides of the building. The interior of the two sections have exposed beam ceilings and exposed brick walls.

**53. 110 Railroad Street. Louisville and Nashville Railroad Depot-Chamber of Commerce (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Transportation Building.** Crowning the entire structure is a multisection hip roof with wide eaves and brackets. A hip roof dormer with three lights rests atop the roof on the east side of the building, which facades the railroad tracks. The brick structure features a variety of windows and doors on its west side. In all twelve openings accommodate original wood and glass doors with transoms and a variety of double hung sash windows on the west facade and ten openings on the east facade do likewise. The treatments consist of stone surrounds. A stone water table wraps around the building. The building rests on a stone plinth.

**54. 111 Railroad Street. Railroad Street Antiques (CR). ca. 1940. One Story Commercial Block.** Constructed of brick, the commercial block has a flat roof and a parapet with tile coping. Stylistically restrained, the sole ornamentation on the upper facade consists of a simple cornice. A canvas awning extends much of the width of the building. The transom concealed behind the awning has been painted. The original store front is comprised of a central double wood and glass door with flanking multilight sidelights and flanking four multilight display windows above brick kick plates. The interior has the original tongue and groove wood ceiling.

**55. 109 Railroad Street. Genesis Hair Designers (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Constructed of brick, the commercial block has a flat roof and a parapet with tile coping. A recessed dentilated cornice adorns the upper facade. A recessed panel lies below the cornice. At the top of the store front is an iron support beam. Extending across much of the facade is a canvas awning. The store front includes an off center eight panel wood door and a multilight window band above brick kick plates.

**56. 107 Railroad Street. William H. Puckett CPA (NCR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** The upper facade of this brick commercial block matches that of Resource 55. Unfortunately, the fabric of the historic store front has been altered; hence its noncontributing status. It presently features a hip roof awning with asphalt shingles, a central eight panel wood door with Modern Classical treatment and flanking 1/1 double hung sash windows with similar treatments and shutters.



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**57. 103 Railroad Street. Southern Antiques (NCR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** This brick commercial block has a flat roof with a parapet with stone coping. Corbeling constitutes the cornice. A recessed panel and string course amount to the only other ornamentation. Unfortunately, the fabric of the historic store front has been altered; hence its noncontributing status. It presently features a hip roof awning with asphalt shingles, a central multipane door, flanking fixed sixteen pane windows with shutters, and decorative plywood siding.

**58. 100 Railroad Street. Home Gin Co. (CR). ca. 1917. Site.** The site, a gin complex, consists of three buildings. The first has a gable roof of corrugated metal, brick construction, stone foundation, and two openings fitted with sliding doors on its west and east facades; the second building has a gable roof of metal, brick construction, sections of metal siding, and one opening with a retractable door; the third building features brick construction with a gable roof of standing seam metal, two stories, and a profusion of openings on both floors. A loading platform extends off its north side.

#### Sparkman Street

**59. 201 Sparkman Street. Post Office-Hartselle Utilities (CR). ca. 1939. Colonial Revival. Public Building.** One story in height, the brick post office represents a cookie cutter design that prevailed throughout the nation in the 1930s. Above the hip roof of asphalt shingles rests a cupola. Two stone belt courses wrap around the upper facade. The east facade fenestration consists of a central double wood and glass door with six pane transom with flanking fluted pilasters and entablature and four flanking 8/12 double hung sash windows with stone sills and stone lintels. Five such windows fill the voids in the south facade. Six openings punctuate the north elevation. Two are fitted with 8/12 double hung sash windows with stone sills and stone lintels; one is enclosed with brick; two are fitted with 1/1 double hung sash windows with stone sills and stone lintels; the last has two 4/4 double hung sash windows with stone sills and stone lintels. The post office has a basement.

A corner stone on the building indicates that the post office was built in 1939. Louis A. Simon was the supervising architect. In 1941, Lee R. Warthen painted a Works Progress Administration (WPA) mural entitled *Cotton Scene* that was installed in the post office. The mural was removed fifteen years ago when Hartselle Utilities acquired the building. Warthen's mural was installed in the L and N Passenger Depot (Resource 53). Talk has it that Hartselle Utilities plans to build a new building and that the Chamber of Commerce will move into the erstwhile post office. The Chamber of Commerce has been encouraged to return the mural to its rightful place.

**60. 110 Sparkman Street. Minor Furniture Company Annex (CR). ca. 1925. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Built of brick, the two story commercial block features a flat roof with a parapet with stone coping. A recessed brick panel and corbeled cornice embellish the upper facade. Suspended with chains is an original metal awning. A strip of corrugated metal covers the transom. The store front has a double metal door and a flanking display window above a brick kick plate. The interior features a coffered ceiling.

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**61. 112 Sparkman Street. Rose's Kiddie Shop (CR). ca. 1928. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Built of brick, the two story commercial block features a flat roof with a parapet with stone coping. A dentilated cornice embellishes the upper facade. Suspended with chains is an original metal awning. A strip of corrugated metal covers the transom. The store front has a central glass door with flanking display windows above brick kick plates.

**62. 114 Sparkman Street. United Specialties (NCR). ca. 1955. One Story Commercial Block.** The one story commercial block is constructed of brick. It is crowned by a flat roof. There is a parapet with stone coping. A hip roof awning of asphalt shingles extends across the facade. In the center of the store front is glass door with transom. Display windows above brick kick plates flank the entry door.

**63. 116 Sparkman Street. Furniture Store (NCR). ca. 1980. One Story Commercial Block.** The commercial block is constructed of concrete blocks. A metal gable roof crowns the structure while a canvas awning projects from the facade. The store front is lined with bricks and has an off center double glass door and flanking display windows above brick kick plates

**64. 120 Sparkman Street. Hartselle Eye care Center (CR). ca. 1916. One Story Commercial Block.** Built of brick, the one story commercial block features a flat roof with a parapet with brick coping. A dentilated cornice and recessed panel embellish the upper facade. Suspended with chains is an original metal awning. A strip of corrugated metal covers the transom. The store front has a central glass display window, which is covered with wood, above brick kick plates. Flanking it are two original wood and glass doors.

**65. 124 Sparkman Street. Nun Oden Lodge (CR). ca. 1914. Multiple Story Public Building.** The two story brick commercial block features a flat roof and a parapet with tile coping. Two string courses and a stone name and date plate grace the upper facade on the west elevation. All the openings on the second floor of the building have been enclosed with brick. A transom is sheathed with a strip of metal on the west facade. An original metal awning is suspended from the facade by chains. There are two wood doors, one of which fronts the stairwell, on this side of the building.

**66. 130 Sparkman Street. Gas Station. (CR). ca. 1928. Spanish Revival Style.** The gas station features brick construction with a stucco veneer. Covered with ceramic tiles, the roof has a side gable form with Mission style curvilinear parapets with stone coping. The office space has two wood and glass doors with an intermediary display window. The bathroom is defined by a wood and glass door and diamond shaped window. Three retractable garage doors demarcate the garage space. The automobile canopy has a ceramic tile hip roof and two columns, one at either end of the gas pump island.

**67. 113 Sparkman Street. Johnson's Books (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.** Built of brick, the one story commercial block features a flat roof with a parapet with brick coping. A dentilated cornice and a series of corbeled courses embellish the upper facade. Paint covers the eight pane transom. The original store front has a central recessed wood door. Flanking it are two display windows above brick kick plates.

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**68. 115 Sparkman Street. Weekday's Deli (CR). ca. 1917. One Story Commercial Block.**  
This commercial block is the twin image of Resource 67.

**69. 117 Sparkman Street. Vacant Building (NCR). ca. 1940. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** The second floor of this building retains its historic character. It has a flat roof and parapet with stone coping. The detailing is sparse with a central diamond shaped stone inlay and decorative brick and stone border. There are three openings fitted with 6/6 pane sash windows with stone sills and brick lintels. Unfortunately, the first floor facade is adulterated. A large opening has been filled with concrete blocks. Styrofoam insulation adheres to the brick. There is an off center recessed double door. Due to these changes in the historic constitution of the building, it is considered a noncontributing resource.

**70. 119 Sparkman Street. Vacant Building (NCR). ca. 1970. One Story Commercial Block.**  
The historic character of this edifice is undiscernible. Two openings have been filled with concrete block. An application of styrofoam insulation has been covered with stucco.

**71. 121 Sparkman Street. Hartselle Satellite (CR). ca. 1940. One Story Commercial Block.** This one story brick commercial block is a hybrid of Resources 69 and 68. The upper facade derives from that of Resource 69 while the store front is that of Resource 68. The interior has a tin panel ceiling.

**72. 125 Sparkman Street. Vacant Building (NCR). ca. 1955. One Story Commercial Block.**  
The building features the ultra sleek design of the 1950s. It has a flat roof with no parapet. The cornice is unadorned. Extending across the top of the east facade is a four pane clerestory. An off center glass door and sidelight constitutes the only opening on this side of the building as the flanking display windows have been covered.

**73. 131 Sparkman Street. Gas Station (CR). ca. 1928.** One of two gas stations in the historic district, the circa 1920s building is constructed of brick. It has a flat roof and pedimented parapet with stone coping. The cornice is free of ornamentation. The office space features a multilight door and four pane transom. Flanking it is a multilight casement window. A similar window punctuates the north facade. Smaller casement windows fill the voids in the west side. The garage is defined by a retractable door. There is a south side addition of concrete blocks.

#### Hickory Street

**74. 110 Hickory Street. Cotton Warehouse (CR). ca. 1915. One Story Commercial Block.**  
Unlike most of the buildings in the historic district, this brick structure has a gable roof of asphalt shingles. The facade features a wood door with a stoop. A small fixed pane window constitutes the only other opening on the facade.

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### Significance

#### Transportation

The Hartselle Downtown Historic District, located in Morgan County, Alabama, is significant under Criterion A for its two, early twentieth-century railroad buildings. In 1872, the Northern and Southern (later Louisville and Nashville) Railroad completed a line through Morgan County. Railroad construction gave rise to a depot that served as the nucleus of Hartselle. Hartselle's commercial and residential districts grew outward from the railroad line. Although conflagration consumed the depot and much of Hartselle's downtown in 1916, the Louisville and Nashville (L & N) Railroad built passenger and freight depots. The economic lifeblood of the town was thus ensured. Hartselle's downtown was subsequently rebuilt. Throughout the twentieth century, the L & N passenger and freight depots have functioned as the focal point of Hartselle's commercial district.

#### Commerce

The Hartselle Downtown Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its significant association with the commercial history in Hartselle from 1910 to 1940. Reflected in this period of Hartselle history are several important developments. From 1910 to 1920, Hartselle experienced a boom during which many of the downtown buildings were built. The economic impetus of the cotton and timber industries as well as the railroad and agriculture are reflected in the downtown historic district. A number of the buildings in the district resulted from reconstruction after a serious fire in 1916.

#### Architecture

The Hartselle Downtown historic District is additionally eligible under Criterion C as a significant example of early to mid twentieth-century commercial architecture. Represented in the district are fine examples of locally significant one and multiple story commercial blocks and a small number of edifices bearing influences of Colonial and Spanish Revival architecture. Possessive of a high degree of integrity, the resources in the historic district feature such historic characteristics as name and date plates, decorative brickwork, tin panel ceilings, and transoms. The district includes a post office designed after master plans created by the federal government. This post office is identical to one in Eutaw, Alabama as well as many others across the nation.

#### Historical Summary

The history of Hartselle begins with the construction of the North and South (Louisville and Nashville) Railroad in 1870. In the late nineteenth century, a campaign to connect the coal and mineral rich areas of Jefferson County with major shipping centers in northern Alabama was well underway. Tracks for the South and North Railroad were laid in 1870 toward the fulfillment of this end. Communities popped up along the tracks. One such community was Hartselle. Consisting of a single building that doubled as a store and saloon, settlement would be

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forced to relocate in 1872 when the railroad opened (American Bank and Trust Company 1967). The stop was located on a grade on which trains had difficulty stopping and starting, so the stop was moved three-quarters of a mile south. Thus came into existence the present location of Hartselle.

Named after George Hartsell (e was added later to the town name), an early pioneer of the area, Hartselle rose up from rather modest beginnings and assumed a preeminent position in the county. The first depot was nothing more than a converted boxcar, which was later replaced by a wood frame building with a loading dock (American Bank and Trust Company 1967). Capitalizing on the railroad's presence, two men, Dr. Rountree and Colonel Stewart, purchased land adjacent the depot and laid the groundwork for the development of a thriving community. Rountree secured 160 acres east of the train depot and Stewart acquired a large parcel on the opposite side of the tracks (American Bank and Trust Company 1967). Rountree initially met with more success than Stewart as his land gave rise to a village replete with general stores, livery stables, saloons, hotels, office buildings, and dwellings while Stewart's was slow to develop with only a few stores coming to fruition; however, the commercial center gravitated toward the western side of the depot by the end of the century (American Bank and Trust Company 1967).

The construction of the North and South Railroad opened the area surrounding Hartselle for agriculture and timber production. Once the railroad was completed and a network of roads constructed that led from the hinterlands to the depots at Hartselle, Decatur, and others, cotton became an important crop throughout Morgan County (United States Department of Agriculture 1921). From 1880 to 1900, the number of farms in the county jumped from 2,352 to 3,079; the average size of farms decreased during this period from 117.8 acres to 88.4 acres (United States Department of Agriculture 1921). A number of logging outfits operated in the area. Among the largest were the Hartselle Lumber Company and A. P. Howell (Knox 1966).

By the end of the century, Hartselle had developed into a thriving town. The population reached 670 in 1900 (Alabama Industrial Development Board 1930), combined with the population in the outlying area. There was a solid base to support a booming town. By 1897, Hartselle featured thirty-five stores and shops (Knox 1966). An early map of Hartselle shows that downtown Hartselle was configured in a square with the train depot at its center (Figure 1). The business district extended west along Main Street and north and south on Sparkman Street. Turn-of-the-century photographs reveal that the mercantile district consisted of one-and two-story wood frame commercial blocks that featured front facade awnings. Included among the goods and services offered were four drug stores, five general stores, two banks, two grocery stores, one jewelry store, one doctor's office, one post office, and one saloon (Hartselle Centennial 1970). A cotton gin stood north of the depot and a sawmill and planing mill south of it.

That Hartselle developed into one of the major stops on the Louisville and Nashville (L and N) Railroad by the turn-of-the-century is important to note in terms of its regional context within Morgan County. Hartselle was surpassed only by Decatur in size and importance. Decatur was much older and it originally developed out of river trade and the cotton economy. The Tuscumbia-Courtland-Decatur Railroad (1830s), numerous industries, and the North and South Railroad contributed to Decatur's status as the leading city. In contrast, Hartselle based its origins solely on the construction of the North and South Railroad (L and N). Other stops, such as Falkville and Eva, did not match Hartselle's achievements.

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For the first two decades of the twentieth century, conditions continued to favor the growth of Hartselle, the population of Hartselle rose to 1,374 in 1910, and to 2,009 by 1920 (Alabama Industrial Development Board 1930). During that same period, the rural population of the county increased from 21,269 in 1910 to 27,792 in 1920; the number of farms also increased from 3,079 in 1900 to 4,344 in 1920 (United States Department of Agriculture 1921).

However, catastrophes redefined downtown Hartselle. In 1901, conflagration destroyed all the commercial buildings on the east side of the railroad (Hartselle Centennial 1970). Fire leveled the downtown, destroying twenty-one buildings including the train and freight depots, in 1916 (American Bank and Trust Company 1967). The buildings on the east side of the tracks were not rebuilt; however, those on the west side were replaced during a massive rebuilding campaign that occurred in 1916-1917. Thirty-three of the seventy-four resources in the historic district were erected at this time. They include 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 36, 38, 44, 48, 51, 52, 53, 55, 56, 57, 58, 64, 67, and 68. In response to the fires, the buildings were built of brick instead of wood.

Not all the edifices in downtown Hartselle succumbed to the 1916 fire. Nine of the commercial blocks in the historic district date between 1910 and 1915. They include 3, 10, 11, 19, 30, 47, 49, 65, and 74. They feature brick construction.

Ten commercial blocks were erected between 1918 and 1920. Resources 4, 14, 26, 27, 31, 33, 34, 35, 37, and 45 make up this list. In all, fifty-two buildings in the Hartselle Downtown Historic District date between 1910 and 1920.

Hartselle continued to enjoy commercial success in the 1920s, but not to the extent it had in the previous decade. The population only increased from 2,009 in 1920 to 2,204 in 1930 (Alabama Industrial Development Board 1930). In the previous two decades, the population had been rising by approximately 600 per decade. The lumber industry, which peaked at the turn of the century, steadily declined through the 1920s and 1930s (Knox 1966). Inflated by World War I, farm prices began to drop and continued to slide, hitting rock bottom in the 1930s. The railroad suffered a similar fate (Knox 1966). Yet, farming money continued to make its way into the coffers of the Hartselle merchants. Money was available enough that eleven buildings were built during this era: 32, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 46, 60, 61, 66, and 73. Nine are one and two story commercial blocks; the remaining two are gas stations, which were built to serve the growing automobile population in Hartselle.

That the Great Depression hit Hartselle particularly hard is evident from several key indicators. The population only rose from 2,204 in 1930 to 2,385 in 1940 (American Bank and Trust Company 1967). Most of the 181 new arrivals probably came in the later part of the decade when the economy improved as farming prices, the primary moving force in Hartselle, hit all time lows in the early 1930s (Knox 1966). Probably the most telling sign, though, is the death of new construction. No buildings were built between 1928 and 1936 in the historic district; and only four (54, 59, 69, and 71) rose between 1936 and 1940.

Six buildings (Resource 29, 51, 62, 63, 70, and 72) rose up in the downtown district after the period of significance. They were built after 1955.

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#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Hartselle Downtown Commercial Historic District, Morgan County, Alabama are shown on the accompanying base map (figure 2) as delineated by the heavy black line. The map scale is 1"=100'.

#### Boundary Justification

The above described boundaries were drawn to include as many contributing and exclude as many noncontributing resources historically associated with the commercial center of Hartselle.

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Photograph Log

The following information is the same for each photograph:

Name of Photographer:

Gene A. Ford

Date of Photograph:

December 20, 1996.

Location of Original Negatives:

Alabama Historical Commission  
468 S. Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

- Photograph 1. Resource 2. NCR. 109 East Main Street. Looking Northwest.
- Photograph 2. Resource 11. CR. Plantation House Designs. 115 West Main Street. Looking Northwest.
- Photograph 3. Resource 12. CR. Zandy Zebra. 117 West Main Street. Looking Northwest.
- Photograph 4. Resource 15. CR. C. F. Penn Hamburgers. 125 West Main Street. Looking Northwest.
- Photograph 5. Resource 16. CR. R. W. Puckett. 127 West Main Street. Looking Northwest.
- Photograph 6. Resource 18. NCR. Hartselle Rexall Drugs. 131 West Main Street. Looking Northwest.
- Photograph 7. Resource 19. CR. Broadhead Cook Furniture-Strickland Drugs. 201 West Main Street. Looking Northwest.
- Photograph 8. Resource 26. CR. Junkshun Antiques. 219 West Main Street. Looking Northwest.
- Photograph 9. Resource 30. CR. Silhouettes. 227 West Main Street. Looking Northwest.
- Photograph 10. Resource 33. CR. Joe Roberts. 226 West Main Street. Looking Southeast.
- Photograph 11. Resource 39. CR. Oliver's Printing Company. 214 West Main Street. Looking Southeast.



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Photograph 12. Resource 44. CR. Minor Furniture. 200 West Main Street. Looking Southeast.

Photograph 13. Resource 45. CR. Crump Camera and Hobby Shop. 138 West Main Street. Looking Southeast.

Photograph 14. Resource 52. CR. L and N Railroad Freight Depot. 112 Railroad Street. Looking North.

Photograph 15. Resource 53. CR. L and N Railroad Depot. 110 Railroad Street. Looking North.

Photograph 16. Resource 58. CR. Home Gin Company. 100 Railroad Street. Looking Southwest.

Photograph 17. Resource 59. CR. Post Office. 201 Sparkman Street. Looking West.

Photograph 18. Resource 66. CR. Gas Station. 130 Sparkman Street. Looking North.

Photograph 19. Resource 68. CR. Weekday's Deli. 115 Sparkman Street. Looking Southwest.

Photograph 20. Resource 73. CR. Gas Station. 131 Sparkman Street. Looking Northwest.

# Map of Hartselle Square

1901-1918

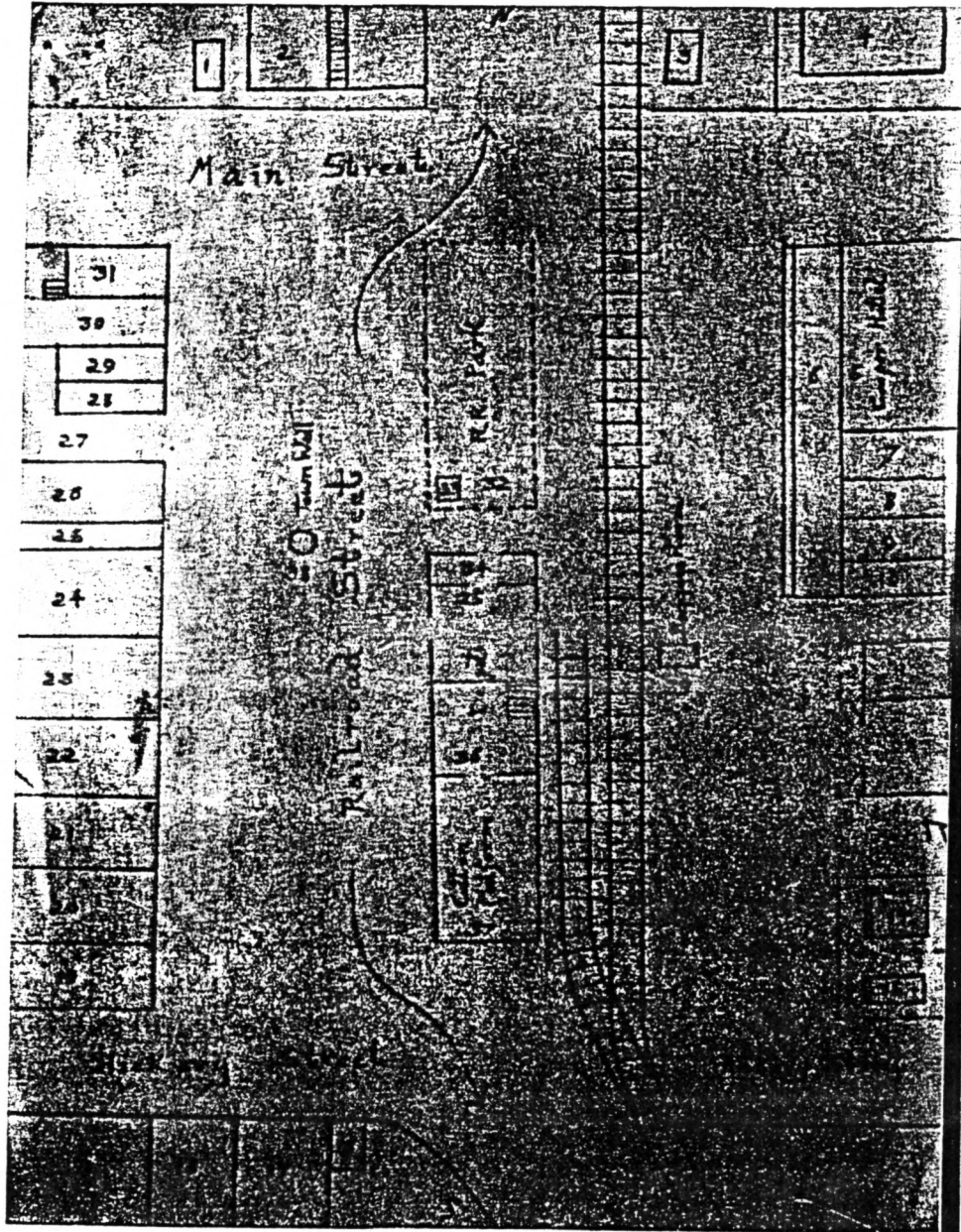


FIGURE 1: historical map of Hartselle Square, c. 1901-1918  
Hartselle Downtown Commercial Historic District, Morgan Co., AL  
not to scale

FIGURE 2:  
Hartselle Downtown Commercial Historic District, Morgan County, Alabama

