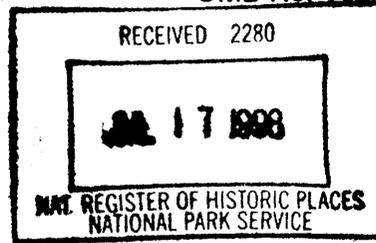


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number roughly the courthouse square bounded by Lawrence, Main, Court, and Market Streets not for publication N/A  
city or town Moulton vicinity N/A  
state Alabama code AL county Lawrence code 079 zip code 35650

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.)

Elizabeth Ann Brown 7-10-98  
Signature of certifying official 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
  - other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 8-14-98  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
County and State Lawrence, Alabama

5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

**Category of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>40</u>	<u>7</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>40</u>	<u>7</u> Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	Sub: <u>Business</u>
_____	<u>Financial Institution</u>
_____	<u>Speciality Store</u>
_____	<u>Department Store</u>
_____	<u>Warehouse</u>
_____	<u>Restaurant</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Courthouse</u>
<u>RECREATION/CULTURE</u>	<u>Theater</u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	Sub: <u>Business</u>
_____	<u>Financial Institution</u>
_____	<u>Speciality Store</u>
_____	<u>Department Store</u>
_____	<u>Warehouse</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Courthouse</u>
<u>VACANT/NOT IN USE</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Classical Modern

Other: one-story commercial block

Other: multiple-story commercial block

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE, STONE, BRICK

roof OTHER: tar & gravel

walls BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE

other GLASS, METAL

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
County and State Lawrence, Alabama

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
COMMERCE \_\_\_\_\_  
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1911 - 1948

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Jackson, W. R., builder Frahn, Albert R., architect

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A  
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:  
 State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other state agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
 Name of repository  
Lawrence County Archives and History

=====

**10. Geographical Data**

=====

**Acreage of Property** approximately 9

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	473220	3815330	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**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 Ford, consultant and Trina Binkley, AHC Reviewer

organization N/A & Alabama Historical Commission date January 20, 1998

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.)

name multiple

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 1

---

The Moulton Courthouse Square is situated at the intersection of Highways 24 and 33 approximately thirty-seven miles southwest of Huntsville and thirty miles southeast of Florence, Alabama (Figure 1). The square, the county seat of Lawrence County, contains early to late twentieth-century buildings arranged around the perimeter of Lawrence, Main, Court, and Market Streets. The Lawrence County Courthouse stands at the focal point of the square. Although some of the buildings have undergone some minor alterations, the overall integrity of the Moulton Courthouse Square has not been diminished.

Highways 24, 33, and 157 form the axes along which the town of Moulton has developed during its one hundred and seventy year history. Of recent construction, Highway 157 cuts a diagonal path on the east side of town approximately one mile from the square. Signage from corporate America, i.e., McDonald's, a state wide grocery and drug store chain, and local entrepreneurs vie for attention on either side of the transportation route. This commercial strip with its asphalt parking lots and plywood, plastic, aluminum, and glass buildings initially posed a problem for the square, drawing away businesses seeking more modern means of attracting consumers; but other merchants in the historic square have begun to fill their void.

Highway 24 serves as a bridge between the recent developments on Highway 157 and the courthouse square. The buildings along this corridor were constructed during the post World War II era building boom. Those buildings nearest Highway 157 sprang up in the 1980s and early 1990s. A number of 1950s and 1960s era, wood frame and brick ranches line either side of the Highway 24 (Court Street) midway between the new transportation corridor and the square. A series of brick and concrete block commercial edifices constructed shortly after the close of World War II cluster near the northeast corner of the square. Among them are an erstwhile hamburger stand now doing duty as a used car lot, a cafe with counter, and a hardware store.

Many residential units have accumulated along Highway 33 and its offshoots over the years. The older architectural faire tends to congregate near the north and south sides of the square. An amalgam of vernacular forms, Victorians, bungalows, and a ranch or two defines this streetscape.

A mixture of the new and old lies south of the square. To fill the needs of a growing community, single and multiple residential units have been built on recently developed real estate situated a half a mile or more from the downtown area. A panoply of bungalows clad in weatherboard, brick, and fieldstone rest on lots with a courthouse view. They are joined by a smaller number of Tudor Revival cottages and ranches.

A variety of buildings, most of which are of recent design, occupy positions in the vicinity of the Moulton Courthouse Square. The northwest corner of Market and Court Streets is bounded by a park replete with a gazebo, landscaping, walkways, and retro cast iron lamp posts. The United Methodist Church stands on the north side of the park. The Citizen's Bank drive through kiosk is situated on an expanse of asphalt just west of the square. Moulton City Hall, ensconced in a modern brick building, adjoins the Citizen's Bank lot. A number of brick and concrete block edifices display their wares on Market and Walnut Streets one block south of the courthouse. A building of recent design which houses municipal services, stands just south of the Moulton Advertiser (19 CR) on

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 2

---

the northwest corner of Walnut and Main Streets. The Bank of Moulton with its flat roof, plain wrap around cornice, pylons, and thin vertical windows and a separate drive through is stationed one block east of the Lawrence County Courthouse Annex (27 NCR). There are several brick and concrete block buildings from the 1950s and 1960s near the northeastern intersection of Court and Main Streets.

#### Courthouse Square Description

The Moulton Courthouse Square consists of two elements, the Lawrence County Courthouse and a collection of commercial buildings arranged in a square configuration.

The two story, limestone veneer courthouse with a basement is positioned at the center of an open square. The square, which rises a number of feet above street level, serves as an earthen dais on which rests the foundation of the courthouse. Trees stand at the corners. Grass extends from all four sides of the government building to street side. Shrubbery wraps around the base of the building. Centrally placed tiers of stone steps conduct pedestrian traffic from the streets to the courthouse and vice versa. A parking lot occupies part of the west square.

The Lawrence County Courthouse is contained within two sets of parallel streets. Court and Lawrence Streets border the government building to the north and south, respectively. At right angles to Court and Lawrence, Market and Main Streets line the west and east sides of the court building, respectively. Parking spaces are positioned around the square. Sidewalks extend between the streets and store fronts. A number of retro cast iron lamp posts and benches are intermittently placed around the square.

A battery of one story, brick commercial buildings adjoin the south side of the square. The Moulton Advertiser (19 CR) and Brewer Insulation, Inc. (20 CR), both of which were formerly the Pepsi Cola Bottling Works, are among the four buildings in this block. They are separated from Shelton's Cleaners (18 NCR) by an alley.

The Lawrence County Archives (Moulton Bank) (23 CR) anchors the southeast corner of the intersection of Lawrence and Main Streets. Several one story, brick buildings occupy the real estate immediately south of the erstwhile bank outside the district boundaries. A parking lot borders its east side.

The east side of the square is defined by a amalgam of edifices. The Drug Shop (29 NCR) and Memories Antiques (24 CR) serve as bookends for the row. In between stand several one story brick buildings and the three story Courthouse Annex (27 NCR).

The Corner Florist (30 CR) stands at the corner of the northeast corner of Court and Main Streets. Brick houses of commerce adjoin the florist to the east and north.

A row of brick businesses constitute the north side of the square. A military surplus store (8 CR) and Blue Ribbon Shoes (2 CR) define the ends of the row. The Alexander Building (6 CR) lies roughly in the middle.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 3

---

The west side of the square features yet another collection of brick commercial edifices. McCulloch Furniture Co. (42-45 CR), King's (37 and 38 CR), and Citizen's Bank (39 NCR) occupy multiple spaces in the block.

The Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District is composed of buildings built between 1911 and 1960. The majority of them were constructed from 1920 to 1940 and 1945 to 1950. All but two of the resources are classified as one and multiple story commercial block buildings. Two edifices, an erstwhile bank and the courthouse, evince characteristics of the Classical Modern vocabulary. Located in the historic district are forty-four commercial buildings, two public buildings, and one theater. Forty of the resources are contributing, seven are noncontributing.

Commercial buildings constitute an overwhelming percentage of the resources in the Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District. Of the thirty-nine contributing commercial buildings, thirty-two are one story commercial blocks; seven are multiple story commercial blocks, one of which qualifies as a vault type commercial building with Classical Modern details (Bank of Moulton-Lawrence County Archives 23 CR). A vault type commercial building is characterized by being two to three stories with a large, tall central opening on the front facade. The multiple story commercial blocks are constructed of brick or concrete block. They feature plate glass display windows and doors, and some awnings. The upper story is used as office space and storage. The one story commercial blocks are constructed of brick or concrete block. They feature plate glass display windows and doors, and some awnings. Both types of commercial blocks have little ornamentation. Decoration consists of tile inlays and corbeling. The Star Theatre is the only movie house extant in the district and falls under the multiple story commercial block typology. Constructed in 1947, the moving picture house rises to a height of two stories; it features concrete block construction. Carrera glass panels are attached to the lower facade.

There are two public buildings in the square, the Lawrence County Courthouse and the Courthouse Annex. Built in 1936, the courthouse is designed in the Classical Modern style as is the Bank of Moulton-Lawrence County Archives (23 CR). This style blended the classical lines and associations of the Classical Revival with the innovative decorative ornamentation of the Art Deco period. Dominant on these courthouses is a sense of verticality and smooth planes. Narrow windows set back from the facades in dark panes help to emphasize this smooth vertical movement. Classically inspired columns or pilasters are also found on these buildings. Ornament is subtle and refined, set in bands around the buildings or topping an entranceway or window. These buildings break with earlier traditions in architecture but clearly employ earlier principles as well. The north and south facades of the Lawrence County Courthouse feature porticoes with entablatures and four fluted columns. Its temple with wings form is faced with limestone. The annex (27 NCR), formerly the county jail, rises to a height of three stories. Like the courthouse, it has a basement. Unlike the courthouse, the annex is built of red brick. It was the unfortunate victim of a misguided restoration in 1955, which contributes to its noncontributing status.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District**  
**Name of Property**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES** **Lawrence, Alabama**  
**CONTINUATION SHEET** **County and State**

**Section 7 Page 4**

---

**Archaeological Component:** Although no formal archaeological survey has been conducted of this district area, the potential for subsurface remains is good; buried portions may contain information that may be useful in interpreting the entire area.

**Inventory**

The following is both a description of the present and past status of the resources in the Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District. Each of the resources is assigned a number from 1 to 47. The resources are organized by street and number hierarchy. 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). There are 40 contributing and 7 non contributing resources in the historic district.

**Court Street**

1. **14537 Court. McCulloch Furniture Co. (CR). ca. 1947. One Story Commercial Block.** The first building located on Court Street just off the square was constructed after the end of World War II. The one story commercial block is constructed of concrete block faced with brick. It has a flat composite roof of tar and gravel fronted by a parapet. Stylistic detailing is limited to a pattern of lighter colored bricks inset into a sea of red brick. The symmetric facade facing Court Street displays three bays. A double leaf door with two single leafs with multiple panes of glass is flanked on either side by two plate glass windows. The interior features a tile covered floor and ceiling. The building lacks partitions for greater furniture display area. A large opening has been cut into its east wall to permit cross traffic between it and a section of McCulloch's situated on the southwest corner of Court and Market Streets.

2. **14319 Court. Blue Ribbon Shoes (CR). ca. 1938. One Story Commercial Block.** Blue Ribbon Shoes is like the rest of the square buildings in that it has a flat roof of tar and gravel. The one story brick building is fronted by a parapet. A string course plays out beneath the parapet. A sign advertising "Blue Ribbon Shoes" is attached to the facade on top of two recessed panels. A metal panel covers a transom. Five metal rods enable a flat metal awning to project over the facade bays and sidewalk. A plate glass door is centered between two plate glass windows, a section of each of which is canted. On the inside, the floor is covered with linoleum tiles and the ceiling with another form of tiles. The interior is devoid of partition walls. The large open space is filled with tables covered with shoes.

In 1939 the commercial block was listed at 101 Court Street (Figure 3). An auto sales and service occupied it. The image in Figure 5 presents the building's appearance during the 1950s. Numerous bays punctuated the west wall. A pool hall is rumored to have been in it at one time.

3. **14321 Court. F.D. Gibson Building-Fashion Outlet (CR). ca. 1926. Multiple Story Commercial Block.** Rising to a height of two stories, the Fashion Outlet, or the F.D. Gibson Building built in 1926 according to a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 5

---

name and date plate above the second floor bays, towers above its neighbors. Constructed of brick, the commercial building sports roof construction and materials typical in the square. A parapet rises above the roof with corbeling across the top of the facade. A decorative rectangular pattern of brick is inset in the brick wall. Two multipane windows with casement windows pierce the brick on the second floor. The second floor is used as storage. A metal signage panel demarcates the division between the first and second floors; it covers a transom. Metal rods enable a flat awning to float over the first floor fenestration. A single plate glass door stands near the corner of the south and west walls of the building. Plate glass windows provide a view of the interior. The first floor interior is used for product display. The floor is covered with carpet, and the ceiling with an early version of acoustic tiles. Columns support the upper story.

In 1939 the F.D. Gibson Building was listed at 105 Court Street. The two story structure was constructed of brick. Early 1940s aerial photography captured the likeness of the rooftop and south wall of the F.D. Gibson Building. The second floor appears to have been pierced by a series of individual bays rather than the two present openings. The inset of light colored bricks on the second floor south wall, which is visible today, was noticeable in the 1940s. In its early days, the commercial edifice functioned as a dry goods store. The building served as the Ritz Theatre run by Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hodges in the 1940s (Jordan 1984). The Ritz closed in 1947 when the Star Theatre opened.

4. 14325 Court, Wilkerson's Diamonds (CR). ca. 1945. One Story Commercial Block. The one story commercial building has a flat roof of tar and gravel. It is fronted by a parapet. A noticeable signage plate is affixed to the top of the upper facade. Anchored into the brick, three metal rods suspend a flat metal awning over the sidewalk. The fenestration plays out beneath the awning. Plate glass fronts two display cases, one on either side of a single leaf entry. Carpet covers the floor; acoustic tile forms a suspended ceiling. The jewelry store has two spaces. The first space functions as customer service and product display; the other room as work, storage, and office space.

The historic time frame of this business house is similar to that of the following building. Reportedly, the building has always contained a jewelry store within in its four walls (Luallen 1996).

5. 14329 Court, T.S.S. Enterprises (CR). ca. 1940. One Story Commercial Block. The one story commercial block has a flat roof of tar and gravel. It is fronted by a parapet. Embellishment is lacking. Beneath the parapet are two recessed panels. A canvas awning is suspended from the brick of the south wall of the building. The awning projects over the entrance and covers a transom. Plate glass serves as the facade windows and doors. The inside of the building is divided by partition into two zones. The largest of the two is devoted to customer service and product display; the other serves as storage and office space. The floor is covered with carpet. The ceiling, one of the few in the square not covered with acoustic tiles, is constructed of painted sheetrock or plaster. Interspersed columns support the weight of the ceiling.

A building was present on this site in the 1930s as revealed by a 1939 Sanborn map (Figure 3). Little can be determined about the building from the map, but it was not present in an early 1940s photograph (Figure 4). The

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 6

---

present building may be the one captured in a 1956 photographic image. Although exact identification is difficult to determine as only its roof is shown. Carol's Fabrics was once housed in the store as suggested by the painted signage on the facade. A furniture place operated in it at another point during its history (Luallen 1996).

6. 14341, 14343, 14345 Court. Alexander Building (CR). ca. 1947. Multiple Story Commercial Block. The Alexander Building is an animal of different color. Whereas most of the buildings utilize red brick, the Alexander Building exhibits a preference for masonry of an ocher hue. However, it makes use of the same roofing materials. It, too, has a parapet. Embellishment is demonstrated in the form of a corbeled string course and decorative terra cotta colored diamond and cross motifs. The second floor of the building has seven steel casement windows that face Court Street. Some of the panes of these windows have been replaced with air conditioning units. Metal rods anchored into the front, or Court Street side, suspend a metal awning across the building. A metal signage panel advertising "Consolidated Concepts, Inc.," a defunct enterprise no longer in the building, extends across a portion of the facade above the first floor fenestration. The ground floor is divided into two stores. Each store front is characterized by plate glass doors and windows. A single leaf entrance near the corner of the south and east walls of the building leads to a stairwell. In turn, the stairwell, the walls of which are sheathed in wood paneling, leads to the second floor. The stairwell empties out onto a hallway. Wood paneled walls and an acoustic tile covered ceiling are evident in the hall. Wood and glass panel doors lead off the hall into a beauty parlor and a series of four offices, one of which is vacant. The Lawrence County Courthouse rents out three of the offices. One space is utilized for tax maps. The walls, floors, and ceilings are as those in the hall. The inside of Tann South on the first floor features carpet flooring and what may be the original tiled ceiling. Fluorescent lighting is suspended from the ceiling as is a heating a cooling duct. The interior has a large open space for customer service and product display. There is a small room in rear toward the north wall of the building that serves as storage and employee use. There is a basement which contains a reception area and eight tanning beds. The interior of the other first floor store is currently in use by a church. It is similarly designed in the fashion of Tann South.

According to a 1939 Sanborn map, a brick hardware store stood on the site in the late 1930s (Figure 3). However, an early 1940s photograph reveals that the lot was empty (Figure 4). On October 2, 1947, *The Moulton Advertiser* announced that H.A. Alexander was erecting a two story brick building on the north side of the square. Two stores were intended for the first floor and office space on the second. H.A. Alexander opened a store in the building on November 13, 1947 (*The Moulton Advertiser*). The town of Moulton began renting office space on the second floor of the H.A. Alexander Building on October 30, 1947 (*The Moulton Advertiser*). The Elmore Chain of stores signed a lease to use the west side of the H.A. Alexander Building on December 18, 1947 (*The Moulton Advertiser*). The roof and part of the south wall of the building are evident in an aerial view of the town square taken in 1956 (Figure 5).

7. 14355 Court. Designs Hair Salon (CR). ca. 1935. One Story Commercial Block. Designs Hair Salon is constructed of brick, and has a composite roof of tar and gravel. The facade features a parapet crowned with stone and two recessed panels. Beneath the panels is a cloth awning, which projects over the entry bay. A covered transom tops the display bays and entrance. A double leaf entry of wood and glass panels stands between a pair of display compartments with canted glass walls. The interior has the usual suspended acoustic tile ceiling beneath an original

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 7

---

ceiling which has an intact skylight. The skylight may be exposed in a future renovation. The floor is made of wood and is original. The space is divided into two sections: the first is dedicated to customer service with hair dryers, stylist stations, and hair care product displays. The rear of the inside toward the north wall serves as room for the employees.

The status of the business house in the late 1930s is noted in a 1939 Sanborn map (Figure 3). The masonry building was officially located at 123 Main Street. It featured bays in its north and south walls. From what can be determined from an aerial photograph, the business house had a lightwell, and an awning hung above the south side bays in the early 1940s (Figure 4). It had brick construction. For much of its history, the building functioned as a dry goods store (Luallen 1996). In the 1940s, Hardin's Grocery and Meats conducted business under this roof (Jordan 1984).

8. 14363, 14365, 14367 Court. 4 Square Military Surplus and City Square Hardware (CR). ca. 1932. One Story Commercial Block. This one story brick commercial block is divided into three compartments or stores. They share a composite roof of tar and gravel. Additionally, the businesses share a brick and stone parapet. The facade is visually divided into three separate store fronts through the presence of brick pilasters or pylons. Each store front features a recessed panel with decorative brickwork. A continuous metal awning crowns the bays of each store. 4 Square Military Surplus has a large signage panel affixed to the recessed brick panel. There may be an embedded stone date and/or name plate concealed by this sign. An enclosed clerestory is concealed from view behind the awning. A central recessed double leaf entry of wood and glass is flanked on either side by display windows and compartments. The store is the only one of the three that has its original metal panel ceiling and cornice intact. The wood plank floor may be original. The interior is open with the exception of a room or two toward the rear or north wall. City Square Hardware, which once occupied two store spaces, has a stone date and name plate inscribed "W.R. Jackson 1932" above the awning. The bay arrangement is identical to that of 4 Square Military Surplus. The original floor and ceiling are covered with carpet and suspended acoustic tiles, respectively. The interior is one large space.

The one story commercial block was recorded by a 1939 Sanborn map (Figure 3). The stores were recorded as 125, 127, and 129 Court Street. The overall structure was constructed of brick. All three had wood flooring. The edifice is somewhat discernible in a 1940s photograph (Figure 4). The roof had three fixtures that appear to be lightwells. The facade was divided into three store fronts and an awning extended across the entire facade. Only the roof and part of the north wall of the building are visible in a 1956 photographic image (Figure 5). The lightwells were still present in 1956. A number of bays pierced the north wall. W.R. Jackson, Probate Judge, built these stores (Jordan 1984). Tom McCulloch operated a grocery in the corner store. Adjacent to it was Milton Hall's feed and seed store. V. W. Sparks Grocery, which is painted on the east wall of the building, operated in the corner store in the 1960s.

Lawrence Street

9. 445 Lawrence. Vacant Building (CR). ca. 1945. One Story Commercial Block. This building adjoins the 1925

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 8

---

rendition of King's on its west side. The one story block is clad in a light colored concrete block. The building features four bays. One bay has a double leaf door. Another has a plate glass door. The other two bays are enclosed. Currently the edifice is vacant.

That this building is the one depicted as a pool room (217 Lawrence Street) in a 1939 Sanborn map is doubtful (Figure 3). The edifice shown in Figure 4 appears quite different. It did not appear to be directly adjacent to its eastern neighbor as the one in the Sanborn map. The 1940s version of the store house may have had a pyramidal or gable roof. There is no indication to the fact regarding the 1930s version. The one exhibited in a 1950s bird's eye view seems more likely to be the one presently residing next to King's. It had a flat roof conflated with King's. The building is believed to have once housed such businesses as a flower shop and a cafe (Luallen 1996).

*10. 512 Lawrence. J. Allison Smith Accountant and Liberty National (NCR). ca. 1939. One Story Commercial Block.* The one story commercial block is constructed of brick. It has a flat roof of tar and gravel, which is fronted by a parapet. Extending across the facade, or north wall of the building is a corbeled string course. Below it are two recessed panels, one smaller than the other. The original bay arrangement has been altered. It has been largely enclosed with brick with the exception of four thin windows and a single door of glass. The interior is divided into two spaces. The historic fabric of the interior is long gone. It has been replaced with walls covered with wood panels and wallpaper, a ceiling covered in acoustic tiles, and floor covered in carpet. The accounting office has a small reception area with a hallway that leads to other offices. Liberty National is similarly composed.

This building may have been present when the Sanborn agency surveyed Moulton in the late 1930s (Figure 3). The store house depicted at 106 and 108 Lawrence Street was constructed of brick. It featured a number of bays on its north and south sides. The edifice once housed the Crosswaite Store (Jordan 1984). The north side of the building was altered in a recent restoration.

*11. 520 Lawrence. Lang's Photography (CR). ca. 1948. One Story Commercial Block.* The one story commercial block is constructed of concrete block. It has the typical roof fronted by a parapet. The facade is punctuated by a large opening. Steel spans the top of the opening. Glass is fixed in the bay with a single leaf entry in the center. The interior exhibits the typical carpet covered floor and suspended tile ceiling. The immediate interior serves as customer service, product display, and office space. The rear of the building is given to work space. Wood floors are evident in the parts of the work space.

In the late 1930s a masonry structure stood on the site at 112 Lawrence Street (Figure 3). The Sanborn agency recorded it as a post office. The building burned in the early 1940s (Luallen 1996). It was rebuilt in the mid 1940s, and may be shown in a 1956 photograph (Figure 5).

*12. 522 Lawrence. Michael F. Terry Attorney (CR). ca. 1948. One Story Commercial Block.* The attorney office is crowned by a flat composite roof. The roof is concealed behind a parapet topped with stone. The facade is clad in red brick. The fenestration is divided into three bays. Panels form the tops of the bays and bottoms of two of them. One of the bays is occupied by a plate glass door replete with sidelights and transom. The floor of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 9

interior displays linoleum tiles while the ceiling is of suspended tiles. The interior features some office furniture. A partition divides the office area from storage.

13. 526, 528 Lawrence. *Citizens Bank (Guy S. Johnson) (CR)*. ca. 1912. *Multiple Story Commercial Block*. The erstwhile bank building stands at a height of two stories. A flat roof of composite material caps the upper floor. It is concealed behind a parapet. The facade is clad in patent stone. The upper floor has three bays inset in the north wall of the former financial institution. The tops of the bay are strengthened by steel lintels. A steel beam spans the width of the three bays of the first floor. The center bay is recessed with three single leaf entry bays. The middle door leads to a stairwell that in turn leads upstairs to an apartment. A large plate glass bay occupies the voids in the brick wall on either side of a recessed bay. The bank vault is still intact in the east side of the building adjacent the east wall. The vault features a steel outer door and two steel inner doors. The door surround is ornate with Corinthian pilasters, a dentilated entablature, and a Federal Eagle. The space between the vault and the north wall or facade is used for storage. It has linoleum flooring and the vestiges of tin panel ceiling. An inaccessible room is located south of the vault. A hall way beneath the stairwell has a doorway that leads to Guy S. Johnson's office. Johnson's engineering and surveying office is also accessible from the street via a door in the middle recessed bay. The office is fronted by a reception area. A hallway leads to several office space. The walls are sheathed in painted sheetrock; the floor covered with carpet; and the original ceiling is concealed by acoustic tiles.

Guy S. Johnson (1996), current owner, has a deed to the building that indicates it was erected circa 1911-1912. *The Moulton Advertiser* edition of December 27, 1911 reported that Citizens Bank would open for business on January 1, 1928. Citizens Bank was still open for business in the building in the late 1930s (Figure 3). It was located in the east half of the edifice and a general merchandise store in the west. Citizens Bank moved to the east side of the square in 1940. The roof and east of the building are shown in Figure 4 and its roof and north side in Figure 5. The 1950s view of the erstwhile bank building resembles its current look.

14. 534, 538 Lawrence. *Aydt Business Service and Hilda's Attic (NCR)*. ca. 1960. *One Story Commercial Block*. The one story, commercial building is faced with brick. It has a flat roof fronted by a parapet. The facade, or north wall, is rather plain in appearance. A partition wall bifurcates the building into two store spaces. Aydt Business Service is housed in the west side of the edifice. A canvas awning hangs over a series of plate glass bays, one of which is a single leaf entry. The interior has an acoustic tile ceiling and carpeting. Wood panel partitions divide the interior into smaller work and service spaces. Hilda's Attic is ensconced in the east side of the building. The interior features a tile ceiling and a linoleum tile floor. Much of the space is given to merchandise display. A partition wall separates this area from some storage space.

This house of commerce did not exist in the mid 1950s (Figure 5).

15. 544 Lawrence. *Itta-Butt's Antiques (CR)*. ca. 1945. *One Story Commercial Block*. This commercial block is one of the few in the square that makes use of light colored bricks, but it has the typical roof. The facade displays a modicum of decorative brickwork. A canvas awning spans most of the width of the facade. Below the awning

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 10

---

there is a covered transom. Centered in between two sections of plate glass and a sidelight is a plate glass entrance. On the inside, the floor is constructed of wood. Acoustic tile covers the ceiling. Fluorescent fixtures hang from the ceiling. Rows of columns bare the loads of the ceiling. A set of wood stairs toward the rear, or south wall of the building, lead to a loft space. Beneath the loft is storage space.

As recorded in the November 29, 1945 edition of *The Moulton Advertiser*, Mr. and Mrs. Farley had finished the principal part of the work on their new store on the south side of the square. The Farley's operated a furniture store in this building (Jordan 1984). It is featured in a 1950s view of the square (Figure 5). The view shows that the transom, which is now covered with plywood, was once a salient feature of the store.

16. 548 Lawrence. *H and R Block Income Tax (CR)*. ca. 1947. *One Story Commercial Block*. The one story business house has a flat roof concealed behind a parapet. Clad with brick, the structure lacks stylistic embellishment. Signage projects from the facade. A shingled awning crowns the facade bays. A plate glass door with sidelights is flanked by a plate glass display window. The interior has carpeting and a suspended tile ceiling. Partitions create smaller work spaces.

The building is exhibited in Figure 5.

17. 552, 554 Lawrence. *Video Active and Beltone (CR)*. ca. 1947. *One Story Commercial Block*. The one story, commercial block is faced with brick. It has a flat roof fronted by a parapet. The facade, or north wall, is rather plain in appearance. A shingled awning projects out from the building; it covers a transom. A partition wall bifurcates the building into two store spaces. Video Active is housed in the west side of the edifice. There is a series of two plate glass bays, one of which is a single leaf entry. The interior has an acoustic tile ceiling and carpeting. Partitions divide the interior into smaller work and service spaces. Beltone is ensconced in the east side of the building. The interior is similar to that of the west side.

The building is featured in Figure 5.

18. 558 Lawrence. *Skeltons Cleaners (NCR)*. ca. 1925. *Multiple Commercial Block*. The block in which the cleaners is housed stands two stories high. It is faced with red brick. There are two bays on the second floor facing Lawrence Street. Each contains a pair of 6/6 windows with brick sills and stone lintels. An awning extends out across much of the facade above the first floor bays. A single leaf door with a transom and sidelights is centered between two plate glass windows. The brick around these bays have been covered with vinyl. The Main Street side of the building features a plate glass bay on the first floor. The interior is divided into three sections. A customer service area has been established between the north wall of the building, or facade, and a partition wall. As can be expected, the floor is covered with linoleum and the ceiling with acoustic tiles. A tripartite counter runs parallel to the partition wall. Above the customer service area is office space on the second floor, which is accessed by a set of stairs. The office space does not extend south in the building much past the customer service area below it. The remainder of the building is given to the cleaning apparatus. The walls in this area are exposed brick. The ceiling and floor separating this area into first and floor are gone.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 11

---

This house of commerce has anchored this corner of the square for some time. Documentation has it that the place at 144 Lawrence Street featured a hardware store on the first floor and an office on the second in the late 1930s (Figure 3). Early in its history, it was the Sandlin-Cowan Drug Store, and later a Rexall Drugs (Jordan 1984). The roof and east and sides of it are salient features in a bird's eye view from the 1940s (Figure 4). Bays abounded on the east side second floor and both floors on the south side. In another bird's eye view from the following decade reveals the makeup of the roof and north side of the former drug store (Figure 5). The north wall was pierced at both levels by a number of bays. According to Bibbi Skelton (1996), current owner, the building suffered a fire in recent years that destroyed the second floor, only a part of which was rebuilt.

#### Main Street

**19. 659 Main. Chrysler-Plymouth Dealer-The Moulton Advertiser (CR). ca. 1940. One Story Commercial Block.** The one story commercial block rises to a height of one story. Constructed of brick, the commercial building has a flat roof of gravel and tar. A parapet rises above the roof on the street side of the building. A metal awning spans the full width of the facade. The facade features three bay. The entry bay, a single leaf of plate glass, is centrally placed. The interior is bifurcated into zones; the space closest to the street is given to a reception desk and counter; the middle zone has a number of offices; the rear of the building contains the work area. The interior divisions are of recent construction. The drop ceiling has acoustic tiles. Walls are constructed of wood faced with painted sheetrock.

The building which is presently occupied by the Moulton Advertiser did not exist prior to the 1940s. According to a 1939 Sanborn map (some of the information provided in the map has been lost in the reproduction process), the building was of wood frame construction (Figure 3). The one story business house, the address of which was 411 Main Street, served as a filling station. A wood frame structure adjoins it to its south and west. Their usage is undesignated. A photograph taken some time between 1939 and 1947 reveals the presence of a one story building on the site (Figure 4). Another one story structure stands adjacent this building. These edifices do not appear to be the present block.

The present brick building once housed the Oliver Tractor Shop (Luallen 1996). A Chrysler-Plymouth dealer occupied the building in the 1940s (Luallen 1996).

**20. 671 Main. Pepsi Cola Bottling Company-Brewer Insulation, Inc. (CR). ca. 1938. One Story Commercial Block.** Brewer Insulation, Inc. rises to a height of one story. Constructed of brick, the commercial building has a flat roof of gravel and tar. A parapet rises above the roof on the street side of the building. Signage is affixed to the facade near the top of the wall. Beneath the signage, a metal awning spans the full width of the facade. Three bays punctuate the street side wall. Two of the bays are constructed of plate glass; one functions as a pedestrian entrance/exit. Another bay is used for vehicular access. A fourth bay is enclosed. The south space features a customer reception area and offices. The northern space is utilized for storage and a work area. The south space is of recent design with its acoustic tile ceiling and sheetrock walls whereas the work area features views of the original walls, floor, and ceiling.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 12

---

The Pepsi Cola Bottling Company is depicted in a 1934 Sanborn map (Figure 3). The one story building was divided into three sections: the east side of the building had office space and a separate bottling works; the west section of the building served as bottle storage. The east wall was veneered with masonry. The office and bottling work featured wood frame construction; the bottle storage was built of brick. The address was recorded as 216 (409) Main Street. A photograph exhibited in Figure 4 depicts the status of the building between 1939 and 1947. The building had a front gable roof. Numerous bays pierced the south wall near the roof line. Pepsi Cola was being bottled in Moulton in 1941 (*The Moulton Advertiser* 1941). In a conversation with Gladys Luallen (1996), a member of the Lawrence County Historical Commission, Luallen stated that the Pepsi Cola Bottling Company Building was built in 1936 by Doctor Wayne Gentry an official of Citizens Bank. In the early 1940s, the building housed a Chrysler-Plymouth dealer.

21. 675 Main. *Vacant Building (CR)*. ca. 1946. *One Story Commercial Block*. The vacant building stands one story in height. The brick commercial building features a flat roof of gravel and tar. A parapet surmounts the top of the street side wall. Beneath the parapet are two recessed panels. Three bays pierce the brick of the building store front. A large two leaf bay, the size of which suggest vehicular use, is situated toward the south wall of the building. A door is positioned between this bay and enclosed window. The building interior was not open for review.

A 1939 Sanborn map shows a building adjacent to the south side of the bottling works (Figure 3). The east section of it was built of brick, and was set back from the street. It had another section made of wood. The building, located at 212 (407) Main Street, is featured in Figure 4. The photograph corroborates the information in the Sanborn map. The Moulton Advertiser is rumored to have once occupied the building. Such businesses as a florist and a television shop were housed in it during its history (Luallen 1996).

22. 681 Main. *D. L. Martin Attorney Office (CR)*. ca. 1948. *One Story Commercial Block*. The one story, concrete block building is faced with brick. It has a flat roof of gravel and tar. A parapet caps the street side wall. A canvas awning spans the greater part of the width of the building above a series of plate glass bays. One of the bays, a single sheet of plate glass trimmed out in metal, serves as the entrance. The interior features a reception area and staff office. A hallway separates the reception area from the attorney's office and meeting room. The ceiling is suspended from the roof and has acoustic tiles. The walls are made of paint covered sheetrock.

23. 694 Main. *Bank of Moulton-Lawrence County Archives and History (CR)*. ca. 1939. *Vault Type Commercial Building. Classical Modern*. The erstwhile bank building rises to a height of two stories and has a basement. Topped by a flat roof of gravel and tar, the building is faced with limestone on its west side, or the facade, and brick on its north side. Near the top of the facade "Bank of Moulton" is inscribed in stone. The name plate is flanked by on either side by an inscribed abstract motif. Three bays pierce the facade. A central double leaf bay of plate glass is surmounted by several sections of glass and a clock embedded in stone and flanked by fluted stone. A bay with four panes of glass is on either side of the entry. Two sets of nine windows are inset into the north wall. A wood and glass door is inset into this wall as well. An awning surmounts the doorway. A majestic coal chute is still visible near the bottom of the wall. A stone tablet is embedded in the wall near the corner of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 13

---

east wall. Incised into the date plate is the date "1939" and "designed by Albert R. Frahn" and "Contractor J.B. McBride and Son." The east wall is faced with brick and has several bays. The interior is divided into a number of spaces with plywood partitions. A large part of the first floor space is given to public spaces for research. The rear of the first floor has a small kitchen and an office. The wood and glass doors in the rear of the building appear to be original. A stairwell leads upstairs to a second floor used for meetings. The stairwell also leads downstairs to a basement used for archival storage. The bank vault on the first floor is currently used as storage for past newspapers. An earlier Bank of Moulton is depicted on a 1934 Sanborn map (Figure 3). Listed at 201 (400) Main Street, the bank was divided into two sections. A photograph catches a glimpse of its south wall and roof (Figure 4). An aerial view of the bank in 1956 reveals that the building has retained its overall character over the last four decades (Figure 5). The Bank of Moulton resided in this building until the 1970s when it was moved to a newly constructed building.

On June 1, 1939, *The Moulton Advertiser* announced that a wood frame building at the southeast corner of the square was being razed to make room for a bank building being built by the Bank of Moulton. Another article informed the Moulton public that the Bank of Moulton would move to its new building on November 27, 1939 (*The Moulton Advertiser* 1939). The financial institution was formerly located in a wood frame edifice built circa 1903 on the same side of the square according to the article. Charles Jordan (1984) in *A Look At Moulton and Lawrence County* indicates that the first Bank of Moulton was located adjacent the north side of Memories Antiques where now stands the American Red Cross and Merle Norman Cosmetics building.

24. 716 Main. Memories Antiques and Tank's Cut and Style Salon. (CR). ca. 1939-40. One Story Commercial Block. The one story, brick building is clad in stucco. It has a flat roof of gravel and tar fronted by a stepped parapet. A metal roof spans the width of the front or west side of the building. The facade feature six bays; among them are two single leaf entry doors. The interior has hardware floors. The original ceiling is covered with one of suspended acoustic tiles. A small section of the building is partitioned off for a barber shop. The lower portion of the facade is covered with metal siding. A covered transom is concealed from view.

As recorded by a 1939 Sanborn map, Memories was then a grocery store at 125-129 (316-318) Main Street (Figure 3). At one time it was the Irwin Drug Store. The building was built of brick and had an awning or canopy. A partition made for office space along the north wall. An aerial photograph taken sometime in the early 1940s captures the south wall and roof of the business house (Figure 4). Shown are four bays on the south wall. All but one of these bays is presently enclosed. The building is also featured in a 1956 photograph. Unfortunately, the image reveals little about the structure as the photograph was taken at some distance from it. It did have an awning attached to its facade.

25. 726 Main. American Red Cross and Merle Norman's Cosmetics (CR). ca. 1948. One Story Commercial Block.

Constructed of brick, the one story building has a flat roof of tar and gravel fronted by a parapet. Decorative brick work in the shape of a diamond plays out beneath the parapet. Signs are affixed to the west side wall. Beneath them is a full width metal awning. Four bays are cut into the brick facade. Two plate glass doors stand to the interior of a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 14

---

plate glass window. The interior is divided down the middle into two compartments of equal size. Both have suspended acoustic tile ceilings and tile floors.

A 1939 Sanborn map recorded the presence of a wood frame building on this site in 1939 (Figure 3). As mentioned previously, *A Look At Moulton and Lawrence County* (Jordan 1984) indicates that the first Bank of Moulton stood on this site. The present brick edifice is depicted in an aerial photograph taken in 1956 (Figure 5).

26. 734 Main. *Moulton Drugs (CR)*. ca. 1948. *One Story Commercial Block*. The vacant, brick drug store is topped with a flat roof of tar and gravel. Much of the brick west wall is covered with wood and metal siding. Signage fronts the upper facade. A wood awning with wood posts stands over the sidewalk in front of the building's bays. The store front has two double leaf plate glass bays flanked on either side by plate glass windows. Tile covers the floor and suspended ceiling on the inside. Numerous columns support the ceiling. A lunch counter and pharmacy are positioned toward the east wall of the building. There is a large continuous transom covered by corrugated tin.

A 1939 Sanborn map documented a wood frame commercial building on this site in the late 1930s (Figure 3). As indicated on the map, the building was fronted on its west side by an awning or canopy. Richardson's Chevrolet occupied the space. The building is barely visible in a 1956 photograph (Figure 5). Not much can be discerned about its character from the image. The interior was originally partitioned, and the drug store only occupied a section of the overall space (Luallen 1996). Moulton Drugs operated in the building until 1994.

27. 746 Main. *Lawrence County Courthouse Annex (NCR)*. ca. 1911. *Government*. The annex rises to the height of three stories; there is a basement. Constructed of brick and stone, the civic building is surmounted by a roof of materials like those of the previous buildings. A corbeled brick and stone belt course wraps around the top. The facade bay arrangement features five bays on each floor. A stone addition projects from the west and south sides of the structure. An inset entry bay with a double leaf plate glass door is contained within an access/stairwell well. This well is accessed from the street by a flight of stone steps and a wheelchair ramp. The omnipresent suspended tile ceiling abounds in the annex. The floor is sheathed in tile. The entry well empties into a hallway that wraps around the perimeter of the floor with offices arranged on either side. This configuration is repeated on the upper floors.

Despite its modern look, the annex was built in 1911 (Jordan 1984). A photograph taken during World War II reveals the pre facelift look of the building originally intended as a jail. The three story brick structure once appeared more like a castle with its crenelation. A corbeled cornice wrapped around the building. The facade, or Main Street side, featured a four over four over four bay arrangement. A stoop rested over the entry. A stone sill course demarcated the division between the first and second floor. The Lawrence County Annex is shown on a 1939 Sanborn map at 107 (306) Main Street (Figure 3). At that time the building served as the county jail. The configuration of the structure as documented on the map matches that in Figure 6. The 1955 face lift drastically altered the character of the building; hence, its non contributing resource designation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 15

---

28. 760 Main. *Electric Beach Tan N Tone (CR)*. ca. 1946. *Multiple Commercial Block*. Electric Beach is actually the name of a former tenant in this building. Surmounted by a composite roof of tar and gravel and constructed of brick, the building is limited to two stories. Its facade is understated with a minimum of embellishment. A recessed stone signage plate stretches above the display and entry bays. A plate glass door of two leafs is positioned between plate glass windows. Acoustic tile serves as the ceiling and another form of tile lines the floor. The interior is vacant.

As indicated in a 1939 Sanborn map, the brick building presently on this site did not exist in the late 1930s. However, it is exhibited in a 1956 photograph (Figure 5). In the 1950s, the business house had an awning over the facade bays. The store was built to house a womens clothing business.

29. 764 Main. *The Drug Shop (NCR)*. ca. 1945. *Multiple Commercial Block*. The permastone covered edifice has a composite roof of tar and gravel; it is surmounted by a parapet on the front and side facades. Three bays with metal awnings constitute the second floor fenestration on the west side of the building. A number of similar windows make up the second floor fenestration on the north side. A metal canopy provides pedestrian shelter on two sides of the building. Plate glass abounds on the first floor. Plate glass windows and doors pierce the west and north walls. The second floor serves as storage; the first houses a pharmacy.

A filling station anchored this corner site in the late 1930s according to a 1939 Sanborn map (Figure 3). Roy Anderson Warren built the store circa 1945 (Minnenette Kelso 1996). Warren operated the first floor as a grocery store and used the upstairs as living quarters for his family. Warren sold the building to a Mr. Posey in 1957. Originally, the building featured stucco covered concrete blocks, a partial second floor balcony, and numerous bays. The side of the building featured in Figure 7 faces Court Street. The Main Street side of the erstwhile grocery is depicted in a 1956 photograph (Figure 5). It had an awning over the first floor bays. The second floor facade is pierced by three pairs of bays. The present permastone siding was added to and the second floor balcony removed from the building sometime after 1956.

30. 782 Main. *Moulton Cleaners-Corner Florist (CR)*. ca. 1947. *One Story Commercial Block*. As with the other buildings in the square, the cleaners has a flat roof of tar and gravel fronted by a parapet. Several signs, one advertising flowers, are attached to the upper facade. Fenestration consists of nine bays that wrap around the south and west walls. Metal awnings top the windows and doors. The exterior is clad in brick. The interior is given two to zones: one for display and customer assistance and the second for work space. The two zones are separated by a counter.

*The Moulton Advertiser* reported on October 2, 1947 that Moulton Cleaners was in the process of constructing a new building of concrete blocks on the northeast corner of the square. Although the building was built in 1947, the Moulton Cleaners did not move into its "modern plant" until February 12, 1948 (*The Moulton Advertiser* 1948). The completed cleaners is captured in an aerial photograph from 1956 (Figure 5). As indicated by the image, the present metal awnings are a historic characteristic of the building. The configuration of the commercial building has remained the same over the last forty years.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 16

---

31. 798 Main. *Walker and Reed Manufacturing Co. (CR). ca. 1938. Multiple Story Commercial Block.* The two story commercial block rises to a height of two stories. It is constructed of concrete blocks covered with stucco. There are two 1/1 windows with stone lintels on the second floor facade. A suspended awning crosses most of the facade. In the middle of the first story there is door. On either side are two plate glass windows.

The building is featured in a 1939 Sanborn map (Figure 3). The address was recorded as 226 Main Street. It had three second story windows on its south side. Its function in 1939 was not recorded.

32. 808 Main. *Silas Flooring. (CR). ca. 1938 and 1947. One Story Commercial Block.* The southern block of Silas Flooring is one story high. It is constructed of concrete blocks covered with stucco. A flat metal awning extends across the facade. There is a plate glass door with a transom at the center of the facade. There is also a plate glass window with a five pane transom and a plate glass door with flanking plate glass windows on the facade.

The building is featured in a 1939 Sanborn map (Figure 3). The address was recorded as 224 Main Street. Its function in 1939 was not recorded.

33. 808 Main. *Silas Flooring. (CR). ca. 1948. One Story Commercial Block.* The northern block of Silas Flooring is also one story high. It is constructed of brick. The block has an identical awning as that of the southern block. At the center of the facade is a double plate glass door. There are flanking plate glass windows.

The building is not present in 1939 (Figure 3).

34. 799 Main. *Native Construction. (CR). ca. 1938. One Story Commercial Block.* The one story, concrete block commercial block has a brick veneer facade. A gable roof with a parapet crowns the building. The facade has brick veneering. There is a central double plate glass door. Flanking it are a two light plate glass window and a double plate glass door.

The building is featured in a 1939 Sanborn map (Figure 3). The address was recorded as 225 Main Street. Its function in 1939 was not recorded.

#### Market Street

35. 14471 Market. *Star Theatre (CR). ca. 1947. Multiple Story Commercial Block.* The Star Theatre is constructed of concrete block. It has a flat roof of composite material. The somewhat austere facade features three windows above a marquee. The marquee is suspended via two rods anchored in the concrete blocks. The marquee has the quintessential neon signage. Below the gas lit signage is a series of bays. A wood door leads upstairs. Two double leaf entrances are recessed on the facade. They are flanked by ticket booths. The concrete block at this level is sheathed in carrera glass panels. The interior was not available for review.

Prior to the erection of Star Theatre in 1947, Osteen's photographic studio stood on the site. The site for

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 17

---

the theater was selected as early as late 1946 (*The Moulton Advertiser*). Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hodgins, then owners of the Ritz, were the inspiration behind the Star. The building dimensions were on the order of 140 feet long and 40 feet wide and was intended to fitted with the latest and best in projection and sound equipment; but construction was sporadic at best. According to a 1947 *Moulton Advertiser* article, the concrete block structure was begun in October of 1947, halted in that month, and resumed the next month. When completed the theater would seat 700, 500 on the first floor and 200 on the second. The Star was completed and opened in early 1948. In the regrettable days of Segregation, blacks bought their tickets at a separate booth, took a separate entrance, and sat in the balcony (Ensor 1988). In its hey day, the Star Theatre drew a capacity crowd on the weekends. Friday nights were designated as jackpot nights when local merchants donated money and gifts to be awarded lucky winners. On these occasions the movie house would be packed and hundreds more would be outside waiting for an opportunity for a prize (Ensor 1988). The advent of television ended the popularity of the picture show. The Star Theatre has remained vacant for decades.

36. 14469 Market. *The Side Pocket-Videotech (NCR)*. ca. 1960. *One Story Commercial Block*. This commercial building has a front gable roof of metal for a change. The facade is clad in brick and metal. A metal awning spans much of the Market Street side of the building. Beneath the awning there is a series of plate glass windows and single plate glass door. The interior functions as space for video display and a counter for customer service.

37. 14499 Market. *King's (CR)*. ca. 1925 and 1946. *One Story Commercial Block*. King's Department Store is composed of two blocks. Both have a flat roof of composite construction and a parapet. The south block, constructed circa 1925, has its original tin panel ceiling intact. It has a carpeted floor. The building interior features clothing displays. The south exterior wall is uniquely clad with fieldstone and brick. The fenestration is composed of plate glass windows.

38. 14499 Market. *King's (CR)*. ca. 1946. *One Story Commercial Block*. The north block of King's, constructed in 1946, is faced with ocher colored bricks. In turn, sections of the brick are faced with glazed tile. A flat metal canopy projects from both buildings out over the sidewalk. Plate glass serves as fenestration. There are two single leaf entry bays separated by two sections of plate glass and flanked by more of the same. On the inside, carpet covers the floor. Acoustic tile sheaths the ceiling. A row of metal poles support the ceiling. The interior has one big room with many clothes racks and bins. The dividing wall between the two blocks has been knocked out to create the impression of one unified space.

The north section of King's opened with much fanfare during the first week of July 4, 1946 (*The Moulton Advertiser*). Hailed as "modern, new, and streamlined," the store advertised a variety of goods. The roof top of the building was photographed from the air in the 1950s (Figure 5). The south half of the store derives from an earlier era. In the 1930s, its address was 130 Market Street (Figure 3). It was constructed of masonry and rose to a height of one story. Another building stood adjacent to its west side. This structure boasted of a pool room at 217 Lawrence Street. A plane view of the town square in the early 1940s shows the roof and south and west sides of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 18

---

building at 130 Market (Figure 4). The south wall appeared to have only one bay, and the east side two. This latter assessment may be incorrect as the image is not very clear.

39. 14505 Market. *The Citizen's Bank (NCR)*. ca. 1940. *One Story Commercial Block*. The one story financial institution is faced with brick. Coming as no surprise, the flat roof is composed of a mixture of tar and gravel. The roof is concealed behind a parapet topped with stone. A string course stretches across the top of the facade, or east wall. The facade is pierced by seven tall bays with round arch tops. The arches are replete with keystones. Lamps are ensconced beneath the arches. Five of the bays have multiple panes of fixed glass; the other two have doors, one is a double leaf and the other a single leaf with a canvas awning. A line divides the facade into two sections, one corresponding to the first four bays and the other the last three. The first section of the bank contains customer service counters and the vault; the other has office space. The interior is of contemporary design.

In 1939, news came that Citizens Bank, then located on the south side of the square (Resources 37, 38, and 39 CR), intended to erect a new edifice on the west side of the square (*The Moulton Advertiser* 1939). In order to make way for construction, a wood frame structure housing Terry's Cafe and H.H. Hambrick's cleaning and pressing plant was to be razed. Citizens Bank, which was organized in 1912, moved into their new home on the west square in September of 1940 (*The Moulton Advertiser* 1940). The roof top of the bank is the most recognizable feature in a 1950s aerial view of the downtown (Figure 5).

40. 14525 Market. *Books Plus (CR)*. ca. 1923. *One Story Commercial Block*. Books Plus, now a defunct business, is similar in design to Shelton's.

This commercial house also shares its historic time frame with its northern neighbors.

41. 14527 Market. *Shelton's (CR)*. ca. 1923. *One Story Commercial Block*. Shelton's is similar in design to Resource 42 of McCullochs Furniture Co. The fenestration consists of a recessed plate glass door with a transom. The door is flanked on either side by plate glass windows, sections of which are canted. The interior is piled from floor to ceiling with boxes.

The commercial block was a fixture in the square in the 1930s (Figure 3). The business house at 114 Market Street was designed similarly to its neighbors at 102, 108, and 110 Market Street. According to a 1939 Sanborn map, the space may have been a variety store at one time, although this may not be correct as this information is crossed out. A pool hall occupied it in the late 1930s. A dry goods was in it in 1942 (Luallen 1996).

42. 14535 Market. *McCulloch Furniture Co. (CR)*. ca. 1923. *One Story Commercial Block*. McCulloch Furniture Co. occupies five commercial blocks (six including the one on Court Street) with different construction dates. Resources 42 and 43, constructed in 1923, are quite similar to Resources 44 and 45. The common parapet of Resources 42 and 43 is set a few inches lower than that of Resources 44 and 45. The embellishment is similar as well. A corbeled string course runs the width of the upper facade of both blocks. Both blocks feature a recessed

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 19

---

panel above a covered transom. A General Electric sign projects from the upper facade. The fenestration of the blocks includes one section of plate glass bays sans a door and another section with a door. The interior of these edifices is similar to that of Resources 44 and 45. In a nook in the southwest corner of the building, which is not accessible to the public, there is a skylight that still bares black paint from the mandatory blackouts of World War II. A brick partition wall with a number of openings extends east/west between Resources 42 and 43.

**43. 14535 Market. McCulloch Furniture Co. (CR). ca. 1923. One Story Commercial Block.** Resources 42 and 43, constructed in 1923, are quite similar to Resources 44 and 45. The common parapet of Resources 42 and 43 is set a few inches lower than that of Resources 44 and 45. The embellishment is similar as well. A corbeled string course runs the width of the upper facade of both blocks. Both blocks feature a recessed panel above a covered transom. A General Electric sign projects from the upper facade. The fenestration of the blocks includes one section of plate glass bays sans a door and another section with a door. The interior of these edifices is similar to that of Resources 44 and 45. There is an elevator toward the west wall. A brick partition wall with a number of openings extends east/west between Resources 42 and 43 as well as one between Resources 43 and 44.

**44. 14535 Market. McCulloch Furniture Co. (CR). ca. 1934. One Story Commercial Block.** The block features brick construction and a height of one story. The flat roof is of a tar and gravel constitution; it is concealed behind a parapet. Facade embellishment includes decorative tiles embedded in red brick and arranged in square and diamond patterns. A string course stretches across the top of the facade. Two panels separated by a pilaster are recessed in the brick above two enclosed clerestories. The name of the store is painted across the upper facade as well as that of Resource 45. For shelter from the elements, a flat metal canopy that is anchored in the facade and supported by metal poles anchored in the sidewalk extends across the front of the entire store. The fenestration consists of a recessed wood and glass panel door centered between two plate glass display bays, sections of which are canted. The inside of the block features linoleum and carpet floors. The linoleum and carpet covers a wooden floor, the lines of which are etched into the linoleum. Large columns carry loads from the tile covered ceiling and roof to the floor. The interior is open for the display of furniture. A counter is positioned toward the west wall of the building. There is a large opening in the common wall between Resources 44 and 45.

**45. 14535 Market. McCulloch Furniture Co. (CR). ca. 1934. One Story Commercial Block.** The block features brick construction and a height of one story. The flat roof is of a tar and gravel constitution; it is concealed behind a parapet. Facade embellishment includes decorative tiles embedded in red brick and arranged in square and diamond patterns. A string course stretches across the top of the facade. Two panels separated by a pilaster are recessed in the brick above two enclosed clerestories. The name of the store is painted across the upper facade as well as that of Resource 44. For shelter from the elements, a flat metal canopy that is anchored in the facade and supported by metal poles anchored in the sidewalk extends across the front of the entire store. The fenestration consists of a series of plate glass windows that extend across the facade. The inside of the block features linoleum and carpet floors. The linoleum and carpet covers a wooden floor, the lines of which are etched into the linoleum. Large columns carry loads from the tile covered ceiling and roof to the floor. The interior is open for the display of furniture. A counter is positioned toward the west wall of the building. There is a large opening in the common wall between Resources 44 and 45.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 20

---

In 1939 Littrell Hardware and Furniture, recorded at 102 and 104 Market Street, was established in what is now Resources 44 and 45 of McCulloch Furniture Co. (Figure 3). The one story store was constructed of brick and decorated with tile; it had wood flooring. Two bays were cut into the west wall. Back then, McCulloch Electrical Appliances and Furniture occupied what is now Resource 44 of the current McCulloch enterprise (Figure 3). Constructed of brick, the store had wood floors and two west wall bays. A wood frame structure stood adjacent to its west wall. Resource 43 then had a beauty shop, barber, and a drug store. A partition separated the store into three spaces. It had wood floors. The store was designated as 110 Market Street. Very little of McCullochs is discernible in Figures 4 and 5. The building listed as 102 and 104 Market Street was known as the Will Heflin Hardware Store at one time (Jordan 1984). The McCullochs expanded their business into this building in the 1960s (McCulloch 1996). F.O. Smith is credited with the construction of 108 Market Street, which Price McCulloch rented for his electrical appliance store (Jordan 1984). The four buildings are depicted in aerial views of the courthouse from the 1940s and 1950s.

**46. 14578 Market. *McCullochs Furniture Co. (CR). ca. 1938. One Story Commercial Block.* Commercial Block. The one story, brick commercial block has a flat roof of tar. Its facade features a plate glass door, flanking two light plate glass windows, and a double metal door. This section of McCullochs is separated from the other five blocks that constitute the furniture store.**

The building is featured in a 1939 Sanborn map (Figure 3). In 1939 the building functioned as a garage.

#### Center of The Square

**47. *Lawrence County Courthouse (CR). ca. 1936. Classical Modern.* Constructed of limestone, the two story courthouse is the crown jewel of the square setting. The courthouse alludes to the Classical vocabulary. It features a temple with wings form: it has a main block with additions. All three sections rest on a raised basement.**

The main block is crowned by a flat roof. The roof is sheathed with rubber sheets that have been melted together at the seams. The south side of this section features a parapet with the following inscription: "The Eternal Laws Of Justice Are Our Rule And Our Birth Right." The inscription is flanked by symbols of justice. Beneath the parapet is a wrap around stone cornice. In turn, an entablature inscribed, "Lawrence County Courthouse," rests on top of four, rectangular, stone columns with Corinthian capitals. Five bays with six over six pane windows pierce the limestone wall on the second floor. Below them are five more bays, four of which are identical to the upper five. The central bay is ultimately crowned with a stylized Federal eagle in low relief. Underneath the eagle sculpture is a decorative transom. The transom completes the ensemble which includes two plate glass doors. A date plate is inset to the base of the wall at the corner of the south and west walls. The north side of the main block of the courthouse is very similar to the south side with a few minor exceptions. The parapet inscription reads: "Let Us Remember That Justice Must Be Observed Even To The Lowest." Three of the central second floor bays contain fifteen panes of glass rather than twelve. The main block is flanked on either side by a wing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 7 Page 21

---

The south side of the wings are pierced by four windows, two on each floor. The windows have an arrangement of six over six panes of glass. A wrap around cornice, which continues from the main block, caps the top of the wings. The west side of the west wing and the east side of the east wing are similar. They feature a cornice and entablature, four pilasters with Corinthian capitals, and six bays, three on each floor. A low relief federal eagle rests above the west side entry. The east side does not have an entry bay in between the interior pilasters. A stairwell is adjacent the north side of each wing. The basement walls are pierced at intervals by windows and doors.

A hallway between the north and south side entries provide passageway into the interior of the first floor. The floors are covered with linoleum tile. Metal staircases positioned in the foyers of the main block lead upstairs and down stairs. Such departments as the tax accessor and county clerk occupy office space on the first floor of the courthouse. The doors of the offices are constructed of wood and opaque glass. The basement floor features a courtroom and restrooms. The second floor has another courtroom, and some additional office space. An opening in the office space ceiling provides access to the roof.

The courthouse is featured in a 1939 Sanborn map and photographs from the 1940s and 1950s (Figures 3, 4, and 5). There was a structure atop the roof in the 1950s (Figure 5). The 1940s photograph reveals the absence of parking immediately adjacent to the courthouse. There are additional sidewalks from the building to the street on its east side (Figure 4). A parking lot was built on the east side between 1940 and 1956. The landscaping appeared to be more abundant in the 1950s. Given comparisons between the images of the government building in Figures 3, 4, and 5 and its present status, it is clear that the size of the north sides of the wings have been increased some time in the last three decades.

In 1935 officials of Lawrence County decided that the second courthouse was obsolete. The County Board of Revenue held a public vote to determine the interest in constructing a new building (*Moulton Advertiser* 1936 a). The measure carried based on a 5 to 1 vote in favor of new construction. To defray construction costs, the County Board of Revenue issued bonds in the amount of \$130,000 (Minutes 1936). Of this amount, approximately \$120,000 was allotted for construction of the courthouse; \$9,000 for furniture and fixtures; and several hundred dollars for landscaping.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 8 Page 22

---

### Significance

#### Commerce

The Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its collection of early to mid twentieth-century commercial buildings. These buildings reflect a period of important commercial development for Moulton from which the period of significance, circa 1911 (the date of the earliest extant building) to circa 1948 (the fifty year cut off date) fits within. Moulton is particularly unique within the context of Alabama's county seat squares in that most of the buildings were constructed during the 1930s and 1940s. Despite its nineteenth-century origins, Moulton's square expresses its twentieth century commercial and civic history today. While a good number of 1910s and 1920s buildings remain, the bulk of Moulton's square is made up of 1930s and 1940s buildings. These buildings reflect the influence of the New Deal and the county's slow recovery out of the Great Depression, prewar construction, and the rise of an unprecedented consumer economy in the postwar era.

#### Politics/Government

The Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District is additionally significant under Criterion A for politics/government as the square contains the center of county government, the Lawrence County Courthouse. Constructed in 1936, the courthouse is only the third building to house government activity since the county's creation in 1818. As the focal point of the downtown commercial district and the county seat of government, the Lawrence County Courthouse led the regrowth of construction in the downtown. A new courthouse provided the county with a new, larger facility, created jobs for local citizens, and poured more money into the local economy. The Lawrence County Courthouse is unique for its time period as it was funded entirely by the sales of bonds whereas other contemporary Alabama courthouses, such as that of Cherokee County, were built using New Deal relief money.

#### Architecture

The Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District is significant under Criterion C for its collection of early to mid twentieth-century commercial buildings. 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 Classical Modern 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 forty-seven resources collectively embody the attributes of a rural, central courthouse square plan of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Classical Modern style of the Lawrence County Courthouse visually corresponded with the new progressive, reform oriented government plan which President Roosevelt's New Deal was beginning to implement all over Alabama. The Classical Modern style, used for civic buildings nationwide during the Depression, is a creative merging of the Classical Revival with modern Art Deco styling. For New Deal buildings, this style symbolized the modernizing intention of federal, state, and local governments in the 1930s. The modernistic details found on the exterior and interior of these buildings underscored the overall purpose of the New

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 8 Page 23

---

Deal to find modern solutions to the crisis of the Depression while giving the impression of a more efficient government administration. New Deal officials in Washington actually promoted the style's successful blending of modern Art Deco and Classical elements to be model style for public buildings. While this style is generally associated with civic buildings, it did trickle down to other types of buildings. Constructed in 1939, the Bank of Moulton/Lawrence County Archives (Resource 23 CR) was designed in the Classical Modern style with its smooth modernistic stone facade, vertical windows, and classically inspired decorative detailing.

#### Historical Summary

The history of the Moulton Courthouse Square begins with the establishment of Lawrence County in 1818.

After the Cherokee Indians ceded their land south of the Tennessee River in 1816, settlers inundated the fecund Tennessee River Valley, many of them locating in what would become Lawrence County (Owens 1949). The county, named for American Revolutionary War Captain James Lawrence, was established by law on February 4, 1818. In 1820, an election was held to determine the seat of justice (Gentry 1962). Courtland and Moulton vied for this distinction. Moulton was selected as the site of the courthouse on February, 1820 (Gentry 1962).

The founding of Moulton occurred concurrently as that of other county seats in northwestern Alabama. These seats of government include Florence, Tuscumbia, Decatur, Russellville, Athens, Huntsville, and Double Springs. Of the eight, Moulton, Tuscumbia (National Register 1973), Athens, and Huntsville based their county seats on the central courthouse square plan. Coincidentally, Courtland laid out a central square in anticipation of becoming the seat of government for Lawrence County. When the distinction was bestowed upon Moulton instead, the center of Courtland's square remained an open public green but eventually commercial buildings rose up on three sides of the square. In 1832, the tracks of the Tuscumbia-Courtland-Decatur Railroad were built on the south side of Courtland's square (Gentry 1962). Fueled by the railroad and bounteous cotton, Courtland's commercial district rose to economic prominence.

Unlike the other county seats in northwestern Alabama, Moulton did not draw its source of revenue from river and rail trade. The closest railroad was some fifteen miles north of town in Courtland and the Tennessee River further yet at an approximated distance of twenty miles. Consequently, the county seat of Moulton did not assume the characteristics of a full fledged central courthouse plan as early as the other county seats. Moulton overcame its economic shortcomings and evolved into a recognizable central courthouse square in the later part of the late nineteenth century. Placed in its regional context, the Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District is singular in this respect.

Lawrence Countians wasted no time in building a courthouse. In 1820, a log structure was erected to house the office of the county government (Gentry 1962). Local historians believe that this courthouse contained only

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 8 Page 24

---

three rooms and was about the size of the foyer in the current court building (Finney nd). The log courthouse served until 1859 when it was consumed by fire.

The early appearance of the Moulton Courthouse Square was quite rudimentary. In addition to the log courthouse, Lawrence Countians erected a log jailhouse. Situated on the site of the present courthouse annex (second jail)(27 NCR), the log jail operated until 1911 (Gentry 1962). Historic texts do not mention any other edifices on the square in the early nineteenth century, but no doubt there were probably a small number of basic log and wood frame structures. Walkways covered with sawdust were laid out around the courthouse (Jordan 1984).

In the early part of the 1800s, Moulton began to shed its frontier mien and don the trappings befitting a seat of county government. The town had a newspaper called the *Moulton Whig* by the 1830s (Gentry 1962). It was changed to the *Moulton News* in 1836. *The Moulton Advertiser* press cranked up in 1841. A post office, which transported mail via wagon train, linked Moulton to the outside world. The Baptists, Methodists, and Church of Christ established churches at the onset of the town's incorporation (Gentry 1962). Initially, schooling was conducted at home, but was later institutionalized. In the mid 1800s, the Male Academy and Moulton Female Institute were opened to students (Gentry 1962).

In the mid nineteenth century, Lawrence Countians, which were among the state's wealthiest due to cotton production, chose to replace the log courthouse with a government building more befitting their social position. County officials commissioned notable architect Hiram H. Higgins of Athens, Alabama to design their new house of government (Gamble 1990). To his credit, Higgins conceived the design of the Limestone County Courthouse, countless private homes, and two school buildings, the present Founders Hall at Athens College and the East Alabama Masonic Female Institute at Talladega before he accepted the Lawrence County work.

Completed in 1860, the second Lawrence County Courthouse was considerably grander than its antecedent. Built in brick, it measured 54 feet by 54 feet and rose to a height of two stories (Gamble 1990). A 42 foot belfry and spire atop a truncated pyramidal roof rose well above the square, symbolizing its prominent position in the county (Figure 8). First and second floor windows were inset between Classical pilasters. The interior was given to county offices and a courtroom on the second, a typical arrangement of courthouses at the time and one that would dictate the design of the third courthouse (Gamble 1990). This courthouse served the county until 1935 when it was deemed unfit and razed.

The aftermath of the Civil War brought hardships to Lawrence County as it did much of the South. As a consequence of the war, "agriculture was in a demoralized condition, labor was scarce, and much of the land was thrown out of cultivation" (United States Department of Agriculture 1916). Deprived of its primary means of subsistence, Lawrence County floundered for a time. Little or no new construction occurred on the Moulton Square during Reconstruction.

In the 1870s a measure of stability returned to Lawrence County. The number of improved farm land acres increased by nearly 1,500 from 142,726 in 1860 to 144,224 in 1870 (United States Census 1860, 1870). By 1889

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 8 Page 25

---

the number of improved farm acres had increased by 45 per cent (United States Department of Agriculture 1916). Agriculture, the lifeblood of Lawrence County, enjoyed a renaissance in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Moulton benefitted from the economic rebirth of the county. Although Moulton did not have a railroad station or a river port, it did have a cotton gin and farmers brought their cotton and their money for supplies to town. A group of entrepreneurs acted to meet the needs of the farmers.

A building boom ensued, and the four sides of the square began to resemble more of a central courthouse square plan. The Moulton Hotel and saloon, a dry goods store, drug store, and a livery stable came to occupy the west side of the square; on the north side, there was a grocery store, saloon, Masonic Hall, post office, and a general merchandise business; the county jail and newspaper office stood on the east side; and the south side had a saloon and several other buildings (Gentry 1962). Moulton bustled with commerce in the 1870s and 1880.

Agricultural conditions continued to improve in the county at the turn of the century. In 1889 there were 1,914 farms; that number soared to 3,196 by 1900 (United States Department of Agriculture 1916). Ten years later the number of farms climbed to 4,003 (United States Census 1920). Increased agricultural activity resulted in another boom.

In 1911, a second jail (27 NCR), this one of brick, was built on the site of the first one near the northeast corner of the square. Six years earlier the Bank of Moulton erected a two story structure on a lot south of the jail (Jordan 1984). Citizens Bank established its headquarters (13 CR) on the south side in 1911 (Gentry 1962). In addition to the jail and two banks, the four sides of the square were defined by two hotels, a number of general merchandise stores, a newspaper office, barbershop, law office, and a home supply, which were housed in one and two story wood frame and brick structures with flat and gable roofs.

The character of the Moulton Courthouse Square continued to evolve in the 1920s as its economic lifeblood hit new heights. The number of Lawrence County farms jumped from 4,003 in 1910 to 4,535 in 1920; the value of that property rose dramatically from \$ 5.5 million in 1910 to \$ 16.25 million in 1920 (United States Census 1920). Seven of the present buildings on the square came to fruition in this period. The F. D. Gibson Building (3 CR), part of the McCulloch stores (42, 44, and 45 CR), Shelton's (41 CR), Books Plus (40 CR), and King's (37 CR) derive from this growth spurt.

The Great Depression initially had a deleterious impact on the nation. The stock market crashed, precipitating a nationwide failure of banks; millions lost their life savings, jobs, and ultimately their homes; national unemployment figures soared into the tens of millions. In Lawrence County, agriculture was in dire straits: the total number of farms decreased from 5,119 in 1930 to 3,489 in 1940 (United States Census 1940).

When Herbert Hoover passed the presidential baton to Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933, the United States embarked on the road to economic recovery. In the first few days of his tenure, Roosevelt introduced the New Deal, a comprehensive program of legislation, in order to raise the Great Depression and rectify basic economic and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 8 Page 26

---

social inequalities (Cashman 1989). Such agencies as the Public Works Administration (PWA), Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Works Project Administration (WPA), and Tennessee Valley Authority among others were established through New Deal legislation. The PWA built public works, such as highways, dams, schools, and federal buildings while pumping federal dollars into local economies and placing the unemployed on the government dole. The WPA, a later New Deal creation, functioned in a similar capacity to the PWA. Created in 1933, the TVA was authorized to construct new dams and improve existing ones; control floods; generate cheap hydroelectric power; manufacture fertilizers; check erosion; and reforest denuded land (Cashman 1989). Aimed at young men between the ages of 18 and 25, the CCC concentrated on reforestation, soil conservation, and firebreak, lookout tower, and recreational facility construction.

The New Deal provided much needed relief to Lawrence County. The CCC operated at least two camps in Lawrence County, one on the western outskirts of Moulton and another near Kinlock in the southwestern corner of the county. According to the June 3, 1937 (a) *Moulton Advertiser* article, the CCC planted 200,000 Black Locust and pine trees for erosion control in Franklin and Lawrence Counties. CCC youths built recreation sites near Kinlock and south of Moulton (*Moulton Advertiser* 1938 a). The PWA built 49 steel bridges, 70 miles of rock road repaved, and 60 miles of new rock road in Lawrence County (*Moulton Advertiser* 1938 b). WPA projects in Moulton included the pavement of 11 streets, construction of a junior high gymnasium, and the erection of a community building. Located at nearby Muscle Shoals, the TVA's fertilizer development center allocated tens of thousands of tons of nutrient rich fertilizer to the revitalization of depleted Lawrence County soil, an activity that would later produce huge dividends (*Moulton Advertiser* 1936 b). The TVA constructed Wheeler Dam, the southern terminus of which is in Lawrence County, and thereby provided electricity to the region. Additionally, the TVA built a village adjacent to Wheeler Dam in Lawrence County to house the large work force required for such a monumental project. Lawrence County benefitted from federal relief projects both big and small.

In addition to improvements to Lawrence County's agriculture, transportation, and building infrastructures, the New Deal pumped money into the economy. In an October 15, 1936 (c), *Moulton Advertiser* article entitled "R.F.C. Spent Large Sums in County," the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) is credited with spending \$87,040.83 in Lawrence County from 1932 to 1936. The PWA reportedly had a monthly payroll of \$11,000 (*Moulton Advertiser* 1938 b). The Farm Security Administration (FSA) made it possible for many Lawrence County tenant farmers to purchase farm land. For its part, the WPA employed 105 men (*Moulton Advertiser* 1936 d). Thus, New Deal money made its way to the citizens of the county, who in turn passed it on to merchants and banks, creating a cyclical flow of funds that aided in economic recovery.

The TVA fertilizer program possibly proved to be the most beneficial New Deal assistance, though. Due to TVA and CCC efforts to replenish depleted farm land, cotton, the driving force of the Lawrence County economy, rebounded, breaking previous yield records. A December 9, 1937 (b) *Moulton Advertiser* article promulgated news of an "all time national record for cotton crops." In November of 1937, agents reported Lawrence County's cotton production at 13,614 bales more than that of the previous year (*Moulton Advertiser* 1937 c). That a Moulton boom was reported in February, 1938 c issue of the *Moulton Advertiser* came as no surprise.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 8 Page 27

---

Twelve buildings were erected during this period. The second Moulton Bank-Lawrence County Archives (23 CR) and third courthouse (47 CR), with their "modern" facing of Russellville Limestone, were welcome additions. The W.R. Jackson Building (8 CR), Designs Hair Salon (7 CR), Blue Ribbon Shoes (2 CR), and part of McCullochs stores (44 and 45 CR) came to grace the square at this time. These buildings were joined by Resources 10 NCR, 34 CR, 44 CR, 45 CR, and 46 CR.

The first year of the 1940s witnessed continued progress on the square. In 1940, the second Citizens Bank (39 NCR) and the north half of Kings (38 CR) took their place in the courthouse setting. Undoubtedly, there were other plans in the making, but they were preempted by World War II. A moratorium was placed on new construction as the nation's resources were required for the war effort.

Progress returned to Moulton after a five year hiatus. The number of farms in the county rose for the first time in a decade from 3,293 in 1940 to 4,142 in 1950 (United States Census 1950). Lawrence Countians, like their counterparts across the nation, were quite anxious to liberate savings accrued during the war. Thus began one of the most prolific construction periods in the history of the Moulton Courthouse Square. In all, seventeen edifices took their place among the square's fixtures between 1945 and 1947.

In 1945, the Farleys were among the first to christen the new era with the erection of a furniture store (15 CR) on Lawrence Street. In the same year, the owners of the Ritz Theatre announced plans to build a state of the art movie house. The Star Theatre (35 CR), the construction of which would progress intermittently until its opening in 1948, would be the culmination of those plans. Taken with the spirit, the owners of the Moulton Cleaners erected a "modern" cleaning plant and office (30 CR) on the northeast corner of Court and Main Streets. Other 1940s era buildings include 6 CR, 5 CR, 4 CR, 1 CR, 9 CR, 11 CR, 12 CR, 16 CR, 17 CR, 21 CR, 22 CR, 28 CR, 29 NCR, and 33 CR.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 9 Page 28

---

Major Bibliographical References

- Sean Dennis Cashman. *America in the Twenties and Thirties: The Olympian Age of Franklin Delano Roosevelt*. New York University Press. New York. 1989.
- Holly Ensor. "Former Theater Workers Recall Star's Heyday." *The Moulton Advertiser*. September 22, 1988.
- Robert Gamble. "Lawrence County's Second Courthouse (1860-1935)." *Old Lawrence Reminiscences: Volume 4 Number 4*, Pages 100-105. December 1990. Moulton.
- Dorothy Gentry. *Life and Legend of Lawrence County Alabama*. Tuscaloosa. 1962.
- Charles Jordan. *A Look at Moulton and Lawrence County, Alabama*. Lawrence County Historical Commission. Moulton 1984.
- Minnenette Kelso. Notes on Warren Grocery Store. March 1996.
- Nina Leftwich. Two hundred Years at Muscle Shoals. Privately Published. Tuscumbia. 1935.
- Lawrence County Board of Revenue. County Revenue Minutes. March, 1936.
- Gladys Luallen. Personal Interview. March 22, 1996.
- The Moulton Advertiser*.
- "New Courthouse Will Be Built In Lawrence." March 12, 1936 a.
- "Fertilizer From Muscle Shoals Enriching Land." December 24, 1936 b.
- "R.F.C. Spent Large Sums in County." October 15, 1936 (c).
- "W.P.A. Doing Good Work." June 4, 1936 d.
- "Much Reforestation Done in County By TVA and CCC." June 3, 1937 a.
- "All Time Record Cotton Crop For Nation." December 9, 1937 b.
- "Bumper Crop Of Cotton." November 25, 1937 c.
- "Recreation Site To Be Built." December 15, 1938 a.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 9 Page 29

---

"Many Valuable Bridges Built In County By PWA." June 2, 1938 b.

"Building Boom Started in Moulton." February 10, 1938 c.

"Old Office Building Is Being Razed For New Bank Building." June 1, 1939.

"Bank Of Moulton Will Move To New Building Monday." November 23, 1939.

Citizen's Bank To Build On West Side Of Public Square." November 2, 1939.

"Citizen's Bank Now In Beautiful New Home." September 5, 1940.

"Many Public Buildings, Business Houses And Homes Have Been Built In Recent Years." October 24, 1940.

"Pepsi Cola Advertisement." April 3, 1941.

"Thirty Years Ago." December 27, 1941.

"Many Buildings Under Construction Here." November 29, 1945.

"King's Federated Store Opens Friday Morning." July 4, 1946.

"Plans For New Picture Show In Moulton Are Nearing Completion." November, 1946.

"Building Of Homes And Business Houses Moves Forward Here." October 2, 1947.

"Alexander Opens New Store Here." November 13, 1947.

"Town Of Moulton Rents New Office In Building On North Side Of Square." October 30, 1947.

"Elmore Chain Store Leases New Building On North Side." December 18, 1947.

"Moulton Cleaners Moves To New Home." February 12, 1948.

Marie Bankhead Owens. *The Story of Alabama.* 1949.

Sanborn Map Company. *1939 Moulton Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.* New York. 1939.

United States Census. *The Eighth Census of the United States.* Washington, D. C. 1860.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 9 Page 30

---

*The Ninth Census of the United States.* 1870.

*The Fourteenth Census of the United States.* 1920.

*The Sixteenth Census of the United States.* 1940.

*The Seventeenth Census of the United States.* 1950.

United States Department of Agriculture. *Soil Survey of Lawrence County, Alabama.* Washington, D. C. 1916.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District  
Name of Property

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Lawrence, Alabama  
County and State

Section 10 Page 31

---

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District are recorded on Lawrence County tax map 15-09-32-5 featured in Figure 2. The scale is at 1 inch = 100 feet.

Boundary Justification

The Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District boundaries were drawn to encompass those resources historically associated with the commercial and governmental center of Moulton and Lawrence County. An effort was made to include the greatest number of contributing and least number of non contributing resources located on or adjacent to the square.

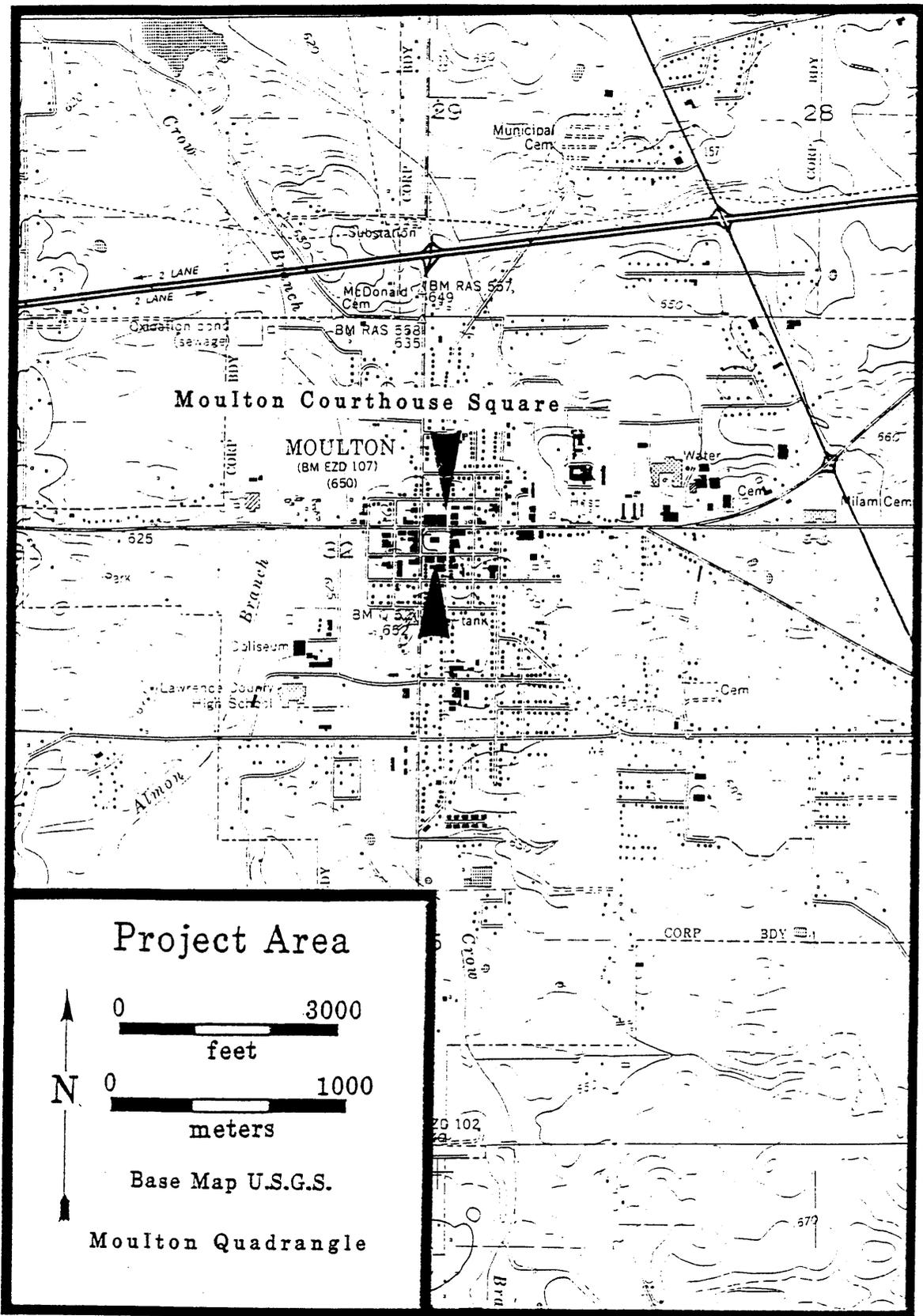


Figure 1. Location of Moulton Courthouse Square.

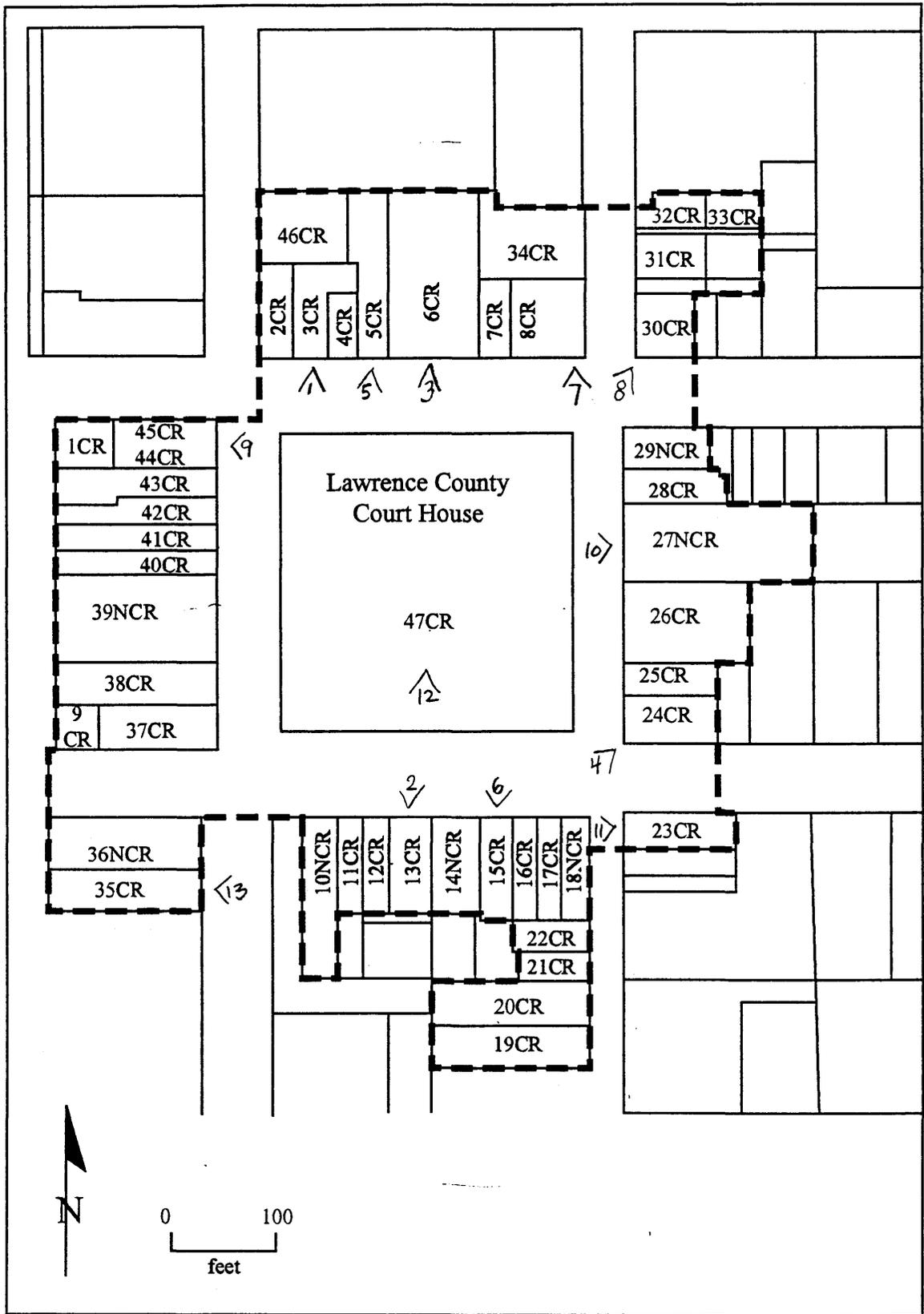


Figure 2. Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District Boundaries

Lawrence Co., Alabama

CR: contributing resource  
 NCR: noncontributing resource

➤: photo # & direction

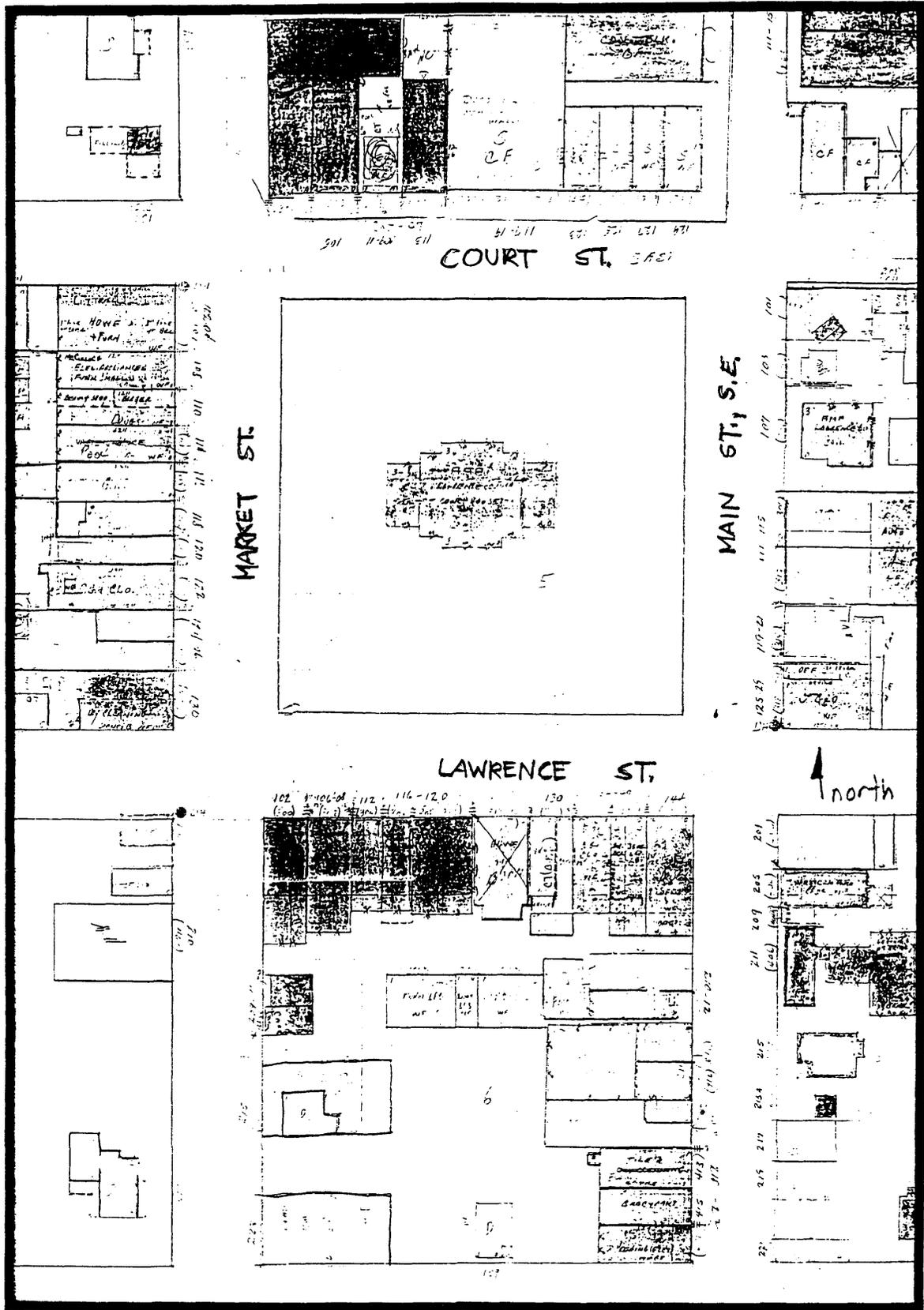


Figure 3. 1939 Sanborn Map of Moulton, Lawrence Co., AL