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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 27 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pratt City Carline Historic District
other names/site number Carline District

2. Location

street & number Along 1st St, Av. T-Av. U & Carline, Av. W to 6th St. not for publication
city, town Birmingham vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Jefferson code 073 zip code 35214

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>61</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>61</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 1-18-89
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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:)

[Signature] 3/2/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/business

Transportation/rail-related

Domestic/single-dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/business

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & 20th Century Revival

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American

Movements

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

wood

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

GENERAL PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

NATURAL TERRAIN, NATURAL LANDMARKS, GEOGRAPHIC FEATURES

The Pratt City Carline District was developed in the late 19th century on a tract of 200 acres. Alabama's major coal seam, the Pratt seam, borders the district to the north and west. Coal Branch of Village Creek, Birmingham's principal body of water, runs just to the west and north of the district. (A tributary has been channelled under the 1st Street district at #20.) The topography is gently rolling to hilly with a 200 foot change in elevation within sections of the district.

Prior to industrialization, the area was farmed by small entrepreneurs.

LOCATION AND BOUNDARY

The Pratt City Carline District is situated six miles west of Birmingham's City Center. The Y-shaped district extends 15 blocks in a northwest/southeast direction along Carline Avenue, the original and intact carline roadbed. The district includes 61 historic resources all of which front on the open public spaces created by the historic carlines. The district is bounded on the north by the tracks of the Birmingham Southern Railway and the newer houses developed on the forming mining slopes beyond. It is bounded on the east by Avenue W, a major north-south thoroughfare linking Interstate 20-59 and Highway 78. It is bounded at its southeastern terminus by the Frisco Railroad. (The historic street railway bridge across the creek has been removed and Carline Avenue dead ends here.) It is bounded on the west by historic housing and industrial operations, TCI's now dormant Pratt mines and coke ovens. (See Illustration I.)

Street addresses included in the district are:

1st Place: 716-722

1st Street: 830, 900, 904, 908-910, 805, 807, 809, 817, 819-821, 823, 825, 827-829

Avenue T: 98, 98a, 100, 102, 108-110, 112, 114

Avenue U: 106, 108, 110, 107, 109, 111, 116, 120, 200, 204-206, 207, 205, 212

2nd Street: 900-904, 906, 906½, 911, 1001, 1005, 1009, 1013, 1017

Carline: 828, 906, 734-738, 717, 520, 633, 638, 636, 632, 911, 826

Avenue G: 329, 339, 325, 323, 321, 317-319, 315

5th Street: 514-518

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

 Architecture

 Industry

 Community Development

 Ethnic Heritage

 Transportation

Period of Significance
 1890-1929

Significant Dates
 NA

Cultural Affiliation
 NA

Significant Person
 NA

Architect/Builder
 unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pratt City Carline Historic District is significant in the areas of commerce, architecture, industry, transportation, and ethnic history. The district represents 1.) the earliest, most extensive and most intact Birmingham example of a small town commercial center; 2.) the earliest and largest example of a commercial center linked to Birmingham's earliest industrial development; 3.) a fine example of a commercial district whose development is linked to the extension of the street railway system; 4.) a fine example of a commercial district formed by the street railway system and private speculation. The district represents a fully realized service area in a turn-of-the-century southern mining boomtown. The prosperity of the district lasted from the opening of the Pratt Mines in 1879 until the depression. Birmingham and the New South's entry into the American industrial revolution was begun at the Pratt Mines in that year. These mines are located just to the west of the Historic District, at the district's western boundary. From Slope #1, the very first entrance into the largest and highest quality of Alabama's coal seams, poured forth tons and tons of the Pratt coal used to fire the furnaces, stoke the locomotives and heat the homes of what would become, by the late 1880s, the South's largest industrial center, Birmingham. Development of the Pratt City Carline District had begun by 1885 at which time the carline appears on a speculator's plat, a full two years before the street railway company was incorporated. Development of this carline on the ridge above the industrial plants predetermined the location of the Pratt Carline District - a series of commercial centers established at the streetcar stops. The Carline District's central core of businesses was instrumental in giving the town its identity. The buildings that sheltered these businesses remain and reflect the Southern salad bowl of ethnic, industrial culture that flourished in Pratt in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Criterion A-Commerce

The Pratt City Carline District is significant for its development as the leading early commercial center of the Birmingham and Alabama coal fields. For the first decade of the mining community's existence, the mines were served by company stores of the Pratt Coal and Iron Company. With the development of the street railway system

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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

Specify repository:

Birmingham Historical Society

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 80 acres

UTM References

A

1,6	5	1	1	1	8	0	3	7	1	0	6	4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing									

C

1,6	5	1	0	5	2	5	3	7	0	9	6	8	0
Zone	Easting			Northing									

B

1,6	5	1	1	1	8	5	3	7	1	0	3	2	0
Zone	Easting			Northing									

D

1,6	5	1	0	4	0	0	3	7	0	9	7	4	5
Zone	Easting			Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached map; boundaries are defined by property lines of properties included in the district and the outer edges of the city streets that form the corridors connecting the commercial properties.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Boundaries were drawn to include the route of the streetcar line and to encompass the commercial properties along the line. Boundaries encompass the streetcar roadbed and the commercial properties related to the line.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Marjorie White, Betsy Hunter, Madge Barefield (AHC; E. Mertins, S.Q. Range, reviewer)

organization Birmingham Historical Society date January 26, 1988

street & number One Sloss Quarters telephone 205/251-1880

city or town Birmingham state Alabama zip code 35222

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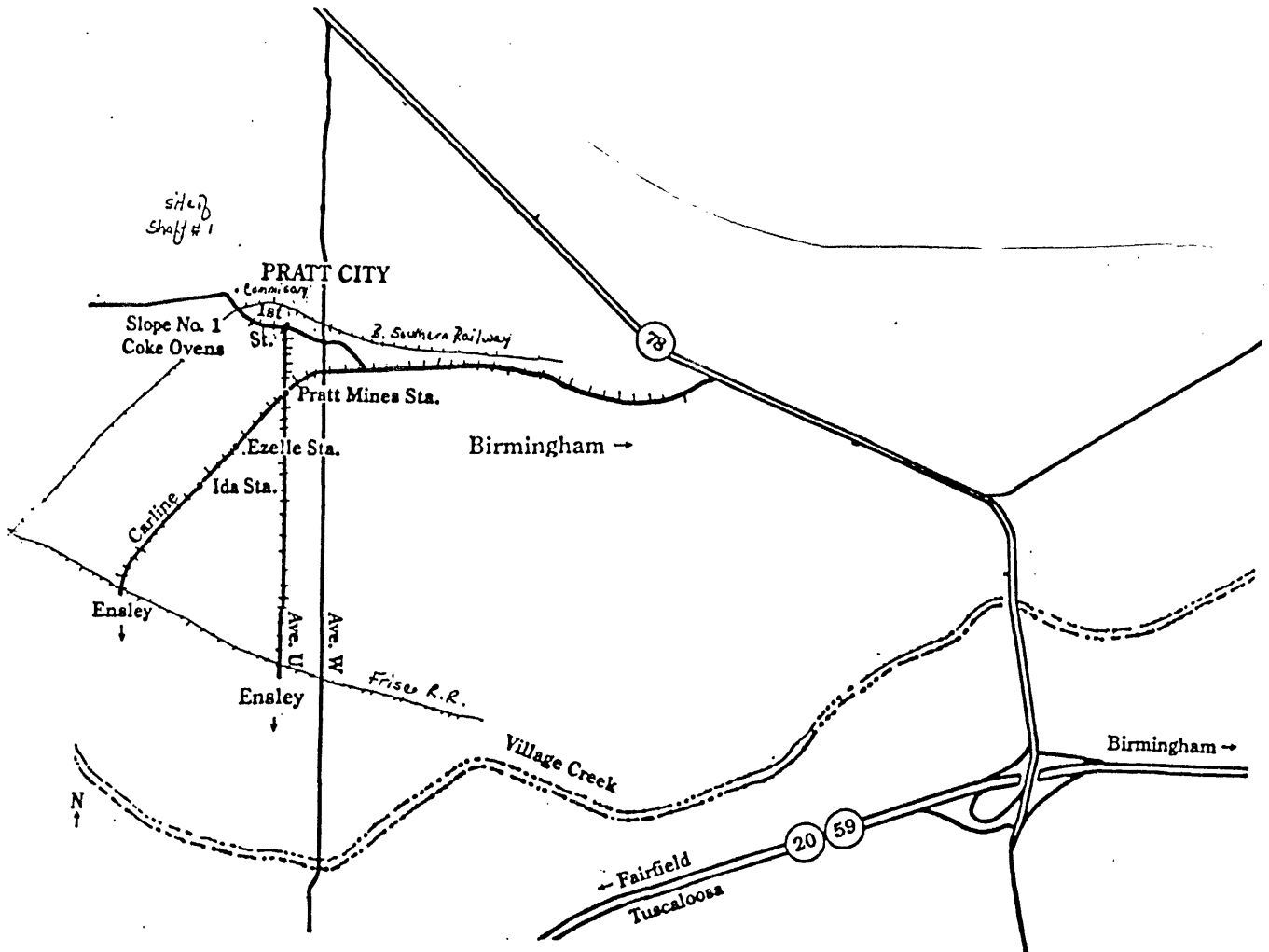


ILLUSTRATION I. Map of Pratt City, 1988, noting the location of the Pratt City Carline Historic District with reference to major interstates and highways.

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PATTERNS OF LAND DIVISION, STREET AND LOT LAYOUT

The district is densely developed along the historic street carline roadbed as it cuts across the series of irregularly sized city blocks. The carline cuts through the developed area in a northwest/southeasterly direction. At each point that it intersects the grid of city streets, irregularly sized open spaces are formed. The major triangular spaces in the center of the carline form distinctive commercial and community centers, each called into existence and unified by the historic streetcar system. The carline makes the district one. It connects centers within the town, and the town with other centers: Ensley, Thomas and Birmingham.

The carline is tree-lined and traverses many tree-lined streets. The irregularly sized blocks are bisected by alleys and generally have from six to twelve lots facing the street.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES

With the street as an anchor, commercial buildings tend to abut the sidewalk and other buildings next door. Few, however, fill the large building lots. Many originally had privies and service buildings located near the rear alleys but few remain. Several of the buildings have plantings.

Both Carline Avenue and 1st Street are tree-lined. Along the historic streetcar roadbed many low walls and hedges mark the edges of the private property as it lines up to the carline right-of-way. Proceeding southwest from Ida Station Carline Avenue narrows to a single lane roadbed.

The tracks of the historic carline are thought to exist beneath the asphalt pavement which now covers them. The sense of the tracks, of the streetcar roadbed and of the stations is still present on the landscape.

PARTS OR SECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT

The Pratt City Carline District consists of four basic sections. All are located at historic streetcar stops along the original and intact streetcar roadbeds. Sections include: 1st Street, Pratt Mines Station, Ezell Station and Ida Station. Additionally, there are two neighborhood stores attached to residences. The 1st Street commercial center, nicknamed "The Bottoms" is located most directly adjacent to the historic industrial operations including Slope #1, the coke ovens and bins, Shaft #1, the tracks of the Birmingham Southern Railway and the TCI company store. The three other commercial centers and the two stores are located along Carline Avenue, the curving trolley roadbed which follows the ridge 200' above the industrial plants and "The Bottoms." At each center commercial buildings cluster about the distinctive and irregular open spaces created by the intersection of the carline and the city grids.

The 1st Street center, the largest and oldest of the commercial centers, contains 28 buildings (#1 - #28). It extends from the tracks of the Birmingham Southern Rail-

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way and the TCI Commissary along the 330' block of 1st and then up Avenue U to Pratt Mines Station. The 1st Street center contains Pratt City's oldest commercial concentration with 15 brick structures solidly lining the south side of the Street (5 built by 1891 and 10 by 1902). This is the oldest and most substantial early commercial area in Birmingham. (See photos 1-8.)

Pratt Mines Station contains 15 buildings (#29-41, 10 commercial and five residential). These buildings are grouped about the irregularly shaped triangle which forms the principal entrance to Pratt City from town. Pratt Station buildings are principally stores, a wonderfully shaped Historical Revival style commercial block (#33), a Masonic Hall (#29), and a magnificent stand of early cottages (#39-43) situated on an elevated rise overlooking the entrance triangle. (See photos 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19.)

Ezell Station boasts a single large commercial block (#45, photo 20). At Ida Station twelve commercial structures (#46-57) are grouped about and in the triangular median ground. (See photos 21-25.) The majority are brick; however, early frame stores also remain.

ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DISTRICT

The Carline District consists of 61 historic one and two-story frame and brick commercial buildings and residences. The 52 commercial buildings display nine architectural types. There are three residential styles. Residential styles include individual examples of bungalow and Queen Anne houses and several cottage types. Commercial types include: Commercial Brick, Brick Victorian, Italianate, Colonial Revival, Historical Revival, Tudor, Mission and other (the clapboard stores). Commercial Brick (N=37 or 73% of commercial buildings in the district) is the predominant style. Victorian Brick (N=7 or 14% of buildings in the district) is also popular, notably for the oldest buildings. There are single examples of the Italianate (#20, the W. D. Young Building, photo 2); the Colonial Revival (#28, the early furniture company and Masonic lodge building, photos 12 and 13); and the Historical Revival (#33, the wonderful Pratt Mines Station Commercial Block whose facade is rounded to fit the curve of this carline site, photo 18). The Mission style is represented by the Hill Grocery (#32, photo 15); the Pratt City Service Station (#1, photo 10); and a remodeling of an earlier structure. There are three clapboard stores. Two are attached to residences; one is free standing.

Of all the commercial buildings constructed, stores are the most prolific type. Forty-five of the 51 commercial structures in the district (88%) are stores. Of these 87% are one story. Pratt City's stores are small, non-monumental practical buildings. They represent the types of commercial structures that flourished at the turn of the century in small towns across the South, arising to meet the needs of middle class shop owners and their middle class clientele. Interestingly, although the industrial

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context at Pratt City was new to the South, neither the industrial milieu nor the ethnicity of the entrepreneurs running the small stores at Pratt is not evident in the stores' facades. Neither is the function of one store clearly delineated from that of another. For example, the Pratt City Bank (#2) is housed in a building that looks much like the other stores. The bank is a brick front store with a recessed name plaque on the same street in the same scale as all the other businesses. (See photo 6, left building.)

Most of the stores (N=52 or 86% of all commercial buildings in the district are single structures. However, at each of the major streetcar stations, stores are grouped in units of two and three. These units fill the irregularly shaped lots and sport distinctively shaped facades. Well sited on the carline these large facades were intended to attract arriving and departing carline passengers and entice them to stop and shop. They include the Pratt Station Commercial Block (#33) with its great oculus, the stucco-clad Ezell Station Block (#45) and the Victorian Brick showcase Costello Grocery (#52) at Ida Station. These commercial blocks and the two story buildings are the most prominent structures in the Pratt Carline District. The two-story structures (N=9 or 14% of commercial structures in the district) include Vann Brothers/ S.T. Key Furniture Store (#4) and the three Masonic lodges (#28, #29 and #56). Each of these buildings has shelter facilities for commerce at the ground level and rooms for meeting and social activities above. Standing apart from their neighbors, they provide an essential focus for collective activities and rank among the most conspicuous buildings in town.

Brick is the predominant building material in the district appearing in all of the district properties (100%) and as the principal structural material in 87%. Bricks of nearly every size, shape and color form the principal structural and decorative elements. The district stores were designed to be seen from the front, and not as free-standing objects. Typically they sported fancy facades, with narrow street frontage. These facades had storefronts of brick laid up in decorative patterns and panels, most often at the cornice line. The fancy brickwork at the cornice competed with the display of merchandise in the large shop windows to attract the passerby. (See photos 5 and 9.) Other materials used include clapboard, stucco, iron, tile, cinder block and permastone.

DESCRIPTION OF PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL TYPES

Victorian Brick

There are seven Victorian Brick style commercial buildings located principally in the older 1st Street area. These brick buildings are one and two stories tall with entrances flush to the facade, small arched window openings on the upper story and very decorative corbeling, often with a depth of surface ornament at the cornice. This cornice serves as the elaborate terminus to the whole building. Occasionally,

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brick bands appear on the side pilasters. Roofs are flat and hidden behind the decorative facades.

Good examples of the Victorian Brick style can be found at A. H. Daniels Grocery (#16, includes extensive decorative corbeling above the transom lights and at the cornice line, left building, photo 4); Prigot Dry Goods (#13, decorative arched openings above entrance and transoms) and Costello Grocery (#53, windows embellished with decorative surrounds, series of recessed panels at cornice line, photo 25).

Commercial Brick

There are 37 Commercial Brick structures in the district. Well dispersed throughout all sections of the district, they are one and two stories tall and 25' or 50' wide. Brick, the principal construction material, was simply laid in a straight forward bond and incorporates shallow pilasters and modest corbels beneath flat parapets. The most popular method of decorating the resulting expanse of the wall plane is the inset panel, framed by headers and inset with a name plaque.

The Commercial Brick style features symmetrical facades. Roofs are flat and hidden behind a stepped parapet capped by brick, stone or terra cotta. Upper story windows when present are usually of the double hung variety set in simple wooden sashes and grouped in pairs to stress the horizontal emphasis of the style. As in the Victorian Brick style, windows at first story are large and designed for the display of goods. Entrances are centered and often recessed.

Good examples of this style abound and include: Laughlin Grocery (#9, with shallow brick corbeling at the cornice line); Evans Furniture (#8, with its name plaque offset by headers); the Old Post Office Building (#3, with its patterned cornice and pilaster strips, photo 14); and Turner Drugs (#26, where the flat brickwork at the cornice line becomes an artistic showcase of the bricklayer's talent, photo 16).

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Appendix A

PRATT CITY CARLINE DISTRICT
PROPERTY DESCRIPTIONS AND HISTORICAL SUMMARIES

1ST STREET

1(247) Pratt City Service Station (Richie's Service Station),
830 1st Street (1928) *

Commercial Building; Mission style; one-story; stucco; tile roofing; garage out building to the west has stucco siding and a tile roof.

Built for Standard Oil, this filling station has been a hub of automotive service and repair for 60 years. Louie C. Richie, Jr. has operated the station since 1964.

2(248) Pratt City Savings Bank (Specialty Contracting & Supply Co.) 900 1st Street
(1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; large, horizontal stucco name plaque recessed into front building facade and bordered by brick soldier courses; stepped parapet on the sides; center double-door entrance flanked by paired windows.

The Pratt City Savings Bank, a community bank established in the 1880s, operated here until the depression. Other tenants have included a feed store from 1935 to 1956, a grocery in the 1970s, and since the 1970s a construction supply house.

3(249) Unknown (Hydrick Truck Service) 904 1st Street (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; central display window enclosed with automatic door; soldier course at roofline.

4(250) Vann Furniture Co. Building (vacant) 908-10 1st street (1902)

Commercial Building; Victorian Brick; two-story; brick; arched openings at second story with 1/1 windows and stone sills; west store front altered to truck bay; major display windows retain large painted wood display sign advertising the once popular "Saturday sales." East corner of the building has an arched door opening which leads to the second story space.

Listed in the 1905 statewide commercial directory as "Vann Brothers" suppliers of "furniture, stoves, house furnishings, and sewing machines (the only conveyors in town)," this busy Pratt City establishment was run by Perry C. and James P. Vann.

* Dates determined by correlation to Sanborn Maps, census and statewide commercial directory resources as the district was not annexed into the city or its record keeping systems previous to 1911.

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The building served as Vann Furniture Company through the 1910s. In the 1920s it served a Chevrolet dealership, with repair and filling station services added in the 1930s. The S. T. Key Furniture Company purchased the property in 1946 for use as a warehouse and remained through the 1960s. Upstairs rooms were rented out for retail use and for social events.

5(931) "Smokey Row Apartments" 716-722 1st Place (1902)

Apartment house; Victorian Brick; one-story; brick and stucco; full low-hipped front porch with square wooden columns; belt course at cornice; stepped parapet sides with arched window openings.

Listed as a "Negro Tenement" on the 1902 Sanborn Map, this six tenant apartment complex has continuously housed black workers for 80 years. Locals residents call it "Smokey Row."

Just to the west along 1st Place was the historic entrance to the TCI coke oven works. These early beehive structures processed coal into coke by heating it for many hours. During this time prodigious quantities of fumes and smoke were emitted.

6. (1038) Demo Brothers Building (Willard Cleaners) 98 Ave. T (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; stepped parapet with soldier brick course; prominent recessed sign panels; center entrance flanked by shop windows.

Demo Brothers Grocery and Confectionery was located here in the 1920s through 1940s. By the 1950s the operation had become a snack bar and drive-in cafe. From 1960 to 1975, Clarks Drive-In Restaurant was located here. Food service businesses have been located here for 60 years.

7. (1039) Demo Brothers Building (vacant) 98a Ave. T (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; decorative brick parapet with stone coping; recessed brick sign panel above storefront; center entrance flanked by enclosed store windows.

Demos Brothers Restaurant and Confectionery was located here until the mid-1950s when Willard Cleaners, the current tenant moved in. Willard Cleaners has been here 33 years.

8. (124) Unknown (Evans Furniture Co.) 100 Ave. T (1902)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; parapeted front with recessed sign panel; wooden store front intact with transom lights partially infilled with plywood; brick pilasters with geometric patterns to each side of store front.

Earliest records indicate use as a barber shop in 1930. Evans Furniture Co. has been located here since 1960.

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9. (125) Laughlin Grocery (Evans Furniture Co. Warehouse) 102 Ave. T (1902)
Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; wooden storefront with double-door entrance and transoms intact but covered with plywood; decorative brick corbeling and dentil course at cornice; decorative brick above transom lights.
In 1911 J.M. Laughlin ran a grocery here. From 1920 through 1950 the building served as a barber shop and for the black businesses run by Charles Dismukes and Jesse Johnson. The Evans Furniture Company Warehouse has been located here since 1960.
10. (126) Lacey Mercantile Building (Forestdale Kitchen & Cabinet Makers) 108-110 Ave. T (1902)
Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; tile overhang; Storefront has been modernized with rough wood paneling and a shingled overhang.
Joseph T. Lacey operated a general merchandise store here in 1910 and 1911. Tenant information for the 1920s has not been located. Since 1946, a cabinet works has located here. The Ensley Cabinet Works did business here from 1946 to 1970.
11. (127) Williams Cleaners (vacant) 112 Ave. T (1902)
Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; corbeling at roof line; iron lintel with rosettes above transom windows; original entrance flanked by large plate glass windows, now inset with wood panels.
Early usage is uncertain, but from 1930 through 1950, black proprietor Zenous F. Williams ran a clothes cleaning establishment here. OK Cleaners located here from 1956 to 1970. The building has been continuously used as a cleaners for 40 years.
12. (128) Williams Cleaners Building (vacant) 114 Ave. T (1902)
Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; corbeling at roofline; storefront has a cast iron lintel with decorative flowerets and brick belt course above; aluminum and glass doors inset into original storefront.
Early usage is uncertain, but from 1930 through 1950, black proprietor Zenous F. Williams ran a clothes cleaning establishment here. OK Cleaners located here from 1956 to 1970. This building together with #11 has been continuously used as a cleaners for 40 years.
13. (239) Prigot Dry Goods/Manning Building (vacant) 805 1st St. (1891)
Commercial Building; Victorian Brick; one-story; brick; arched brick courses above the double bays at entrance and shop windows; corbeling at cornice line; wooden dentil course above multi-paned transom lights; shop window openings enclosed with brick.
Meyers Prigot, a Russian born merchant, and his wife Hannah, lived here and sold dry goods in 1910 and 1911. George Manning also ran his grocery here for many years in the 1930s through the 1970s.

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14. (240) Manning Grocery Building (vacant) 807 1st Street (1902)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; decorative brick parapet; recessed double-door entrance flanked by large shop windows currently bricked in; transom lights above.

By 1935 George E. Manning had established a grocery here. He added dry goods in the 1940s, general merchandise in the 1950s and a hardware business in the 1960s and 1970s. Manning's prosperous establishments lasted for 40 years. His sign on the building still remains.

15. (241) Bonfeld General Store (Randle Properties) 809 1st St. (1891,1920s)

Commercial Building; Victorian Brick; one-story; brick; mission style facade and roof; mid-20th-century facade features stucco panels; single Italianate brackets at cornice and red tile roof; store windows now paneled over; along sides of the building, the stepped parapet and arched window openings testify to the initial construction date.

Jacob Bonfeld, a 31-year-old Russian immigrant merchant with a household of five, operated a dry goods and general merchandise store here from 1900 to 1910. The building later served McClure Hardware and Supply Co. during the 1920s and Darden Furniture Co. from 1940 to 1960. Various clothing, cabinet and garage repair firms have also conducted business here.

16. (243) A. H. Daniel/M.H. Barnes Grocery Building (Jimmy's Carpet Services) 817 1st Street (1891)

Commercial Building; Victorian Brick; one-story; brick; extensive and deep decorative corbeling at cornice and above transom lights; horizontal bands on pilasters at sides of shop windows.

A. H. Daniel Grocery and Meat Market is the earliest listed tenant for this building appearing first in the 1905 state commercial directory. The building served as a grocery and meat market through the 1940s. M. H. Barnes and Sons ran a grocery and later hardware here into the 1960s. Jimmy's Carpet Service was located here by 1975.

17. (243A) Krentler Dry Goods (Jimmy's Carpet Service) 819-821 1st St. (1902)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; brick facade with recessed sign panel; storefront openings filled with vertical wood paneling.

The 1900 census lists as building tenants Austrian dry goods merchant Henry Krentler and Alabama born druggist Cohn Sherrod. By 1905 the J. H. Eubanks and Company under the management of J. E. Wood sold groceries, fresh meats, and feed here. This pioneer firm had established itself in Pratt City by 1887. By 1910 W. C. Muir and Bennett Brothers Grocers had taken over the grocery trade in this location. The M. H. Barnes family (father and son, M. H. and M. H., Jr.) ran its dry goods, grocery and hardware here from 1928 to 1964. Jimmy's Carpet Service acquired the building by 1970.

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18. (244) Cale Drug Co. Building (Grans Antiques) 823 1st St. (1902)

Commercial Building; Victorian Brick; two-story; brick; extensively decorative brick corbeling; second story arched window openings and central door which originally led to a balcony now removed; street level bays with arched openings intact.

E.E. Cale managed the Cale Drug Company (sellers of medicines, toilette articles, cigars and tobacco) here as early as 1902. Dr. W.L. Jones, a dentist, had his offices upstairs. By 1911 Dr. Charney Cale, a physician lived and worked here. Five other Cale family members resided here. In the 1940s and 1950s Henry L. Denton's Barber Shop occupied the 1st floor. Grand Antiques located here by 1980.

19. (245) Adair & Sons Grocery Building (Brucke Industries, Inc.) 825 1st St. (1902)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; two-story; brick; corbeling at parapet; original wooden staircase leads from street to upstairs apartments; 2/2 wooden sash remains in one window. The structure is severely fire damaged.

Earliest known usage in 1910 is as the James Adair & Sons Grocery at first story level. A dentist (43 year old John C. Fason with a family of 10), a justice of the peace and a shoemaker had offices on the second floor in this year. This amazingly adaptable commercial building later served as a billiard hall (1935), gospel mission (1940) and as a door and screen manufacturer's show room (1950s), refrigerator and service company (1960s) and auto repair service (1970s). It has been vacant since 1975.

20. (246,243) William D. Young Building (Brucke Drafting & Design) 827-829 1st St. (1891)

Commercial Building; Victorian Italianate; two-story; brick; a well articulated, sophisticated building with seven bays divided by brick pilasters and floors marked with horizontal banding; building solidly addresses its prominent corner setting; recessed panels at cornice line; arched brick openings; stone sills at second story windows, first story windows and transom openings, the later now enclosed with "contemporary rustic" paneling. Described as iron clad in the Pratt City Advertiser (Jan., 1899) and on the 1902 Sanborn map.

This is the largest, most substantial and possibly the earliest remaining Victorian commercial building in Pratt City. Always a retail and office building with multiple tenants at both first and second stories. Russian immigrant, Joseph Goldstein whom the 1900 census describes as a 30 year old merchant and tailor, ran his business here for many years. By 1911, his general merchandise and dry goods store was described as a "Department Store." (Various members of the Goldstein family are still active in clothing and jewelry establishments in Birmingham today.) In these early years the Southern Express Co. used an entrance on Ave. U. Attorneys, doctors and a justice of the peace had their offices upstairs, marking this building as Pratt City's first professional service building. Among prominent early professionals listed here are physician G. W. Brown; druggist J. V. Brown; physician C.H. Carraway; attorney C.D. Comstock and Justice of the Peace G. M. Taylor. Verdo & Gregory ran a grocery here in the 1920s through the 1940s. A confectionery, tire company, refrigerator and appliance service company also located here in the 1940s through 1960s. Portions of the upstairs are currently in residential use.

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21. (44) Sparks Hardware Building (vacant) 106 Ave. U (1902)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; corbeled brick cornice, iron lintel with double row of flowerets above multi-paned transom, recessed central entrance with storefront seemingly intact behind plywood panel.

Early usage is unknown. The building served Sparks Hardware from the 1950s through 1970s.

22. (46) Levy Dept. Store Building (Sparks Hardware & Paint Co.) 108 Ave. U (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; metal cornice projects above panel above transom; transom and storefront covered by corrugated metal panels; double-door wooden entrance intact.

Henry Levy opened his dry goods and department store here in the 1920s. Jones and Coffee ran a funeral home here in the 1940s. Sparks Hardware prospered here in the 1950s through 1980s.

23. (46a) Unknown (Sparks Hardware & Paint Co.) 110 Ave. U (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; pressed metal cornice; fleur-de-lis applied decoration thought to be fastenings for awnings.

Early tenant information is unavailable. In the 1950s and 1960s, this building also served Sparks Hardware.

24. (45) Key Furniture Co. Building (Birmingham Art Glass Co.) 107 Ave. U (1902)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; decorative corbeled parapet on Avenue U facade; original storefront with windows intact but large openings infilled with wood panels.

The Key family continuously used this building as a furniture showroom from 1902 through the late 1970s. Shorter T. (S.T.) Key and P.F. Moseley established this firm at the turn-of-the-century as Key and Moseley Furniture Company. The prosperous family managed firm was later known as S. T. Key Furniture Company, one of Pratt City's most successful and longest running firms. This building served the family furniture company from 1902 through the late 1970s.

25. (45a) Atkinson Millinery Building (vacant) 109 Ave. U (1902)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story brick; recessed entrance with large windows for retail sales. The Atkinson name appears in a title block laid in the sidewalk in front of the building.

According to the 1910 Census Mrs. Mary Atkinson ran a millinery shop here in that year. She was a 41 year old widowed mother of two Alabama born children. She had attended nine months of school and owned her own home.

26. (47) Telephone Exchange Building (vacant) 111 Ave. U (1902)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; originally a two-story building; front shop windows enclosed by corrugated metals; c.1960 Mansard-style overhang added to the front, original stairs to second story remain despite demolition of this floor.

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This building housed the "Telephone Exchange" in 1902. The 1902 map also indicates an iron clad, rear addition. Miss Margaret M. Young, the 36 year old single postal clerk, worked here in 1916. A variety of tenants including paint, hardware, and flower shops, a bakery and various contractors worked here from the 1940s to 1980s.

27. (48) Reynolds Dry Goods Store (Mann Steel Products) 116 Ave. U (1902)
Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; refaced with a tan brick facade; original arched openings on the north side are bricked in; iron lintel over bays; storefront enclosed with cinderblocks; original second story removed.

Listed as "drugs" and "store" on a 1902 map, this building served as the location of J. M. (and later George W.) Reynolds' dry goods business in the 1910s, 1920s and 1930s. Both the Eagle (in 1928) and the Woodsmen of the World (Palmetto Camp No. 52 in the 1930s and 1940s) met upstairs. Sparks Hardware used the building in the 1960s and 1970s.

28. (49) Eagles Hall (Southern Safety Products) 120 Ave. U (1902)
Commercial Building; Commercial Brick with Colonial Revival addition at first story completed in the 1920s; two-story; brick; stepped parapet with multiple soldier courses and recessed sign panel at cornice; the street level arcade features seven arches with stone lintels and column caps and cast iron railings.

Constructed as a furniture store by 1902, this building's second story offered meeting space to many fraternal organizations from 1930 through the 1970s, with records for early years not available. Woodsmen of the World, Daughters of Pocahontas and the Fraternal Order of Eagles No. 972 all convened here. The Eagles met here from 1940 to the 1970.

29. (281) Pratt City Post Office (Pratt City Package Store) 900-904 2nd St. (1911)
Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; two-story; brick; extensive belt courses and patterns at roof line; patterned pilaster strips separating original intact storefronts; paired windows above at the 2nd floor; square stone inserts and a horizontal stone sill provide contrast and ornamentation.

This two-story multi-use building served as the Pratt City Post Office from the 1920s through the 1960s as well as the location for George W. Reynolds Dry Goods from 1940 to 1965. Various Masonic organizations, including the Florida Lodge 450 and the Eastern Star met upstairs.

30. (282A) Reynolds Dry Goods Building 906 2nd St. (1902)
Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; recessed storefront with transom windows above; attached to the front of a T-shaped cottage. The cottage dating to 1891 is one of few to have survived the fire of January 1899 which destroyed most early commercial structures and many residences.

31. (282B) Giattina House 906 1/2 2nd St. (1891)
T-shaped Cottage; one-story; clapboard; additions include the c.1925 side porch with its brick piers at entrance and the store (#30) which faces 2nd St.

Residents have included Miller McIndoe, Thomas W. Gibb (in 1930) and John Giattina from 1935 to 1950. The property became a dry goods establishment in 1950 and has served as a jewelry, hosiery and record shop in subsequent years.

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32. (51) Hill Grocery Co. Building (Magic Glass Co.) 200 Ave. U (1928)

Commercial Building; Mission style; one-story; brick; Mission-style red tile overhang; multi-paned transom, original storefront includes later aluminum plate glass shop windows and entrance.

The Birmingham-owned and managed Hill Grocery chain built this stylish grocery in the late 1920s. Hill Grocery operated here into the early 1960s when the firm sold out to Winn Dixie.

33. (53,55) Pratt Station Commercial Block (Antoine's Hot Dog Kingdom) 204-6 Ave. U (1911)

Commercial Block with three shop entrances; Historical Revival; one-story; brick; curved facade building rounded to fill the corner lot fronting on Carline; three arched bays each with a tenant entrance. The central bay features a central semicircular parapet with stone coping and a central oculus and triple arched fanlights above shop windows and double-doored wooden entrance.

Early records for this building have not been located. Berthon family members who hail from Pratt City claim that Berthon Cleaners, a Birmingham based dry cleaning establishment was founded here. "Johnny the Shoe Fixer" (John A. Tortamase) who repaired footwear here for over 50 years beginning in the early 1930s. Charles A. Hassler, real estate, and the Pratt Station (later City) Barber Shop were other early tenants.

34. (333) Unknown (Hunts Beauty & Barber Shop) 828 Carline Avenue (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; original facade refaced in early 1950s; central entrance flanked by rectangular shop windows.

Early tenant information is unavailable. Printed signs on the side of the building advertise "Paul's Place" and Consolidated Dairies.

35. (56) Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company Building (JJ's Beauty Salon) 207 Ave. U (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; original brick facade enclosed by corrugated front; stepped parapet on the south side.

John Giattina managed the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company here from 1928 well on into the 1930s. The Gem Cafe, Miller Jewelry Co. and B & W Cleaners, dyers, hatters and laundry businesses also flourished here.

36. (54,334) Turner Drug Co. Building (vacant) 205 Ave. U (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; shaped to fill corner lot; decorative tapestry-like belt courses at cornice line; corner entrance cut away to address the corner site on the carline; recessed wood frame sashed entrance intact.

Earliest tenant is Harry H. Elliot, a clothes cleaner. Turner Drug Co. is listed here from the 1930s through the early 1980s and was continuously operated by the same family for more than 50 years.

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37. (335) Professional Building (Pratt City Eye Clinic) 906 Carline Ave. (1928)
Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; refaced with permastone in the 1940s; shed cornice; double entrances.
No tenant information has been located. Locals say Dr. William Roundtree had his office here after he retired as company doctor at Republic.
38. (336,283) A & D Food Store Building (Shnittker, Inc.) 911 2nd St. (1928)
Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; three bays; brick foundation.
This large store has been occupied by several food chains including A & D Foods, Bruno's Food Stores, Inc. and the Ezell Food Store Company.
39. (284) James C. Almon House (Louis Brown) 1001 2nd St. (1902)
Victorian Cottage; one-story; asbestos shingles; brick and early cement block foundation; front gable facing the road; center chimney behind gable; center gable projects over the porch with sheds to each side; cement columned entrance flanks gabled entrance portico.
Twenty-eight year old Georgia born livery man (in 1910) turned retail and coal merchant (by 1911) James C. Almon and his wife Minnie resided here in 1910. William Walls, Jr. lived here 1946 through the early 1970s. The current owner purchased the house in the 1970s.
40. (285) James E. Seay House (Mrs. Ida M. Teer) 1005 2nd St. (1902)
Victorian Cottage; one-story; clapboard; brick pier front; steep hipped roof with center gable and side gable facing the street; two chimneys placed to either side of center gable; full open porch with square wooden columns and open balustrade; stained glass transoms; original front door; decorative windows and vents in gables.
Physician James E. Seay (wife Elma and seven other family members) resided here in 1910. John L. & Ida M. Kelley (1940s & 1950s) and Robert D. and Ida M. Teer lived here from the 1960s to the present.
41. (286) James W. Greer House (Eugene Cox) 1009 2nd St. (1902)
T-Cottage; one-story; clapboard; brick pier foundation; gabled roof; chimneys at center and exterior west gable wall; full low-hipped porch with wooden columns and balustrade; 4/1 wooden sash windows on side.
Furniture salesman James W. Green is the earliest known resident, by 1910. Oscar M. Stagg and his wife Anna resided here for more than 40 years (1940 to the 1980s).
42. (287) J.S. Atkins House (Thomas C. Trammell) 1013 2nd St. (1900)
L-Cottage; one-story; clapboard; brick foundation; chimney placed on left at exterior wall; full low-hipped open porch with square wooden columns and balustrade; 4/1 wooden sash windows and turned wooden pilasters.
Yard foreman, J.S. Atkins (age 53), resided here in 1900. Electrician engineer and miner Enoch Green (age 29) lived here with his wife Susie and two family members in 1910. William L. and Georgia Ashworth lived here from the mid 1940s through the mid-1970s. The present owner has resided here since the mid 1970s.

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43. (288) Mary Thomas House (John Wright) 1017 2nd St. (1902)

L-Cottage; one-story; clapboard; brown brick foundation; gabled as roof with central dormer; chimney on the eastern wing at the end of gable; open porch; gable with decorative wooden central brackets. Irish born widow Mary Thomas (age 62) boarded seven here in 1910 including Alfred Thomas, Pratt City's Justice of the Peace, (offices at #20) and James Thomas, a miner. Robert D. McCulley resided here from mid 1950s through the 1970s.

44. (57) Ideal Cleaners Building (New Fellowship Baptist Church) 212 Ave. U (1911)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; solid brick foundation; interior chimney on the north side wall; stepped parapet slopes to the rear.

Although the building appears to date to 1911 at which time a brick "store" is indicated at this site. The only recorded tenant is Ideal Cleaners which Corlis Berry operated here from 1946 to 1980.

EZELL STATION

45. (331) Ezell Station Commercial Block (Thomas Delicatessen) 734-738 Carline Ave. (1911)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick faced with stucco; commercial block fills corner lot at Carline Ave. and Ave. T; cast iron lintels with rosettes; 4/4 wooden sash on sides.

Among the 1910s and 1920s tenants of this Ezell Station retail block was real estate agent Charles A. Hassler, barber Charles Cataldo, confectioner Sam D. Contorupis and the People Drug Co. In the 1930s and 1940s James J. Bowie ran a grocery here. Vacancies occurred in the 1960s. The Thomas Delicatessen opened in the mid-1970s.

IDA STATION

46. (326) John J. Nickles House (Ollie Finley) 717 Carline Ave. (1902)

House; Queen Anne; two-story; clapboard and decorative wooden shingles in gables; brick foundation; open porch with brick columns; decorative shingles and brackets on bay front.

John Nickles, a Pennsylvania born grocery salesman and clerk at Bonfeld Department Store (#15) in Pratt City is the earliest known resident (1910). He lived here with his wife Fannie and five other persons. Leo Coleman and his wife Viola purchased the house in 1950 and began renting out rooms. The present owner, Ollie Finley, son-in-law of Viola McCray owner of the Down Beat Cafe, has resided here since 1960s.

47. (204) Glover Building (Leonard Lewis Grocery-Pratt City Variety Store) 315 Ave. G (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; corbeled brick cornice; wooden sash removed from window and door.

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Earliest recorded tenant information is 1950 when Caleo Glover, a black shoe shiner is listed. Mrs. Viola S. McCarroll ran a barber shop here in the 1950s and 1960s. The current tenant is the Rev. Leonard Lewis who runs a neighborhood grocery. However, this store and #48, 49 and 50 have traditionally housed Italian, Greek and black businesses.

48. (205,206) Katapodis/Blue Moon Cafe (Central Roofing & Sheet Metal) 317-9 Ave. G (1928).

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; two bays facing intersection of Ave. G and Carline; iron lintels above bays with rosettes; corbeled brick cornice; original storefront encased with metal siding.

Peter Katapodis established a restaurant here in 1928. The business later known as the Monarch and Blue Moon Cafes had separate black and white entrances, indicated by the two separate bays.

49. (207) Gaston Cleaners Building (Shirley's House of Beauty) 321 Ave. G (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; corbeled cornice; recessed sign panel; central entrance with large shop windows to each side and multi-light transom above.

Tenants in the 1920s and 1930s include Fidelfio and John Tortomasi who repaired shoes. In the 1930s Prosperity Cleaners and Dryers, a black run business, opened and closed its doors. Black operated Gaston Cleaners prospered here in the 1950s and 1960s; the Pratt City Cleaners operated into the early 1980s. The building has been continuously used as a cleaners for 50 years.

50. (323) Hill Grocery Building (J & H Convenience Store) 323 Ave. G (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; corbeled cornice with recessed sign panel; large shop window to right of entrance.

Hill Grocery opened a market here in the 1920s, their second in Pratt City. The retail space has been vacant since 1935, except in the mid-1950s through 1970s when Henry Valentine ran a business here.

51. (209) Graffeo/Brooklere Grocery Building (New Hope Missionary Outreach Church) 325 Ave. G (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; brick panel and corbeled cornice; cast-iron lintel with rosettes; multi-light transom; wooden storefront intact; windows infilled with paneling.

This building has been continuously used as a grocery since the 1950s. Vito Graffeo operated a firm here from 1928 to 1940 and John A. Brooklere from the 1940s to 1960s.

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52. (321) Costello Grocery Building (Pratt City Grocery and Birmingham News Branch)
632 Carline Ave. (1911)

Commercial Building; Victorian Brick; one-story; brick; three storefront commercial row; arched decorative window openings and entrances with multi-paned transoms; decorative panels at cornice line.

These are the oldest commercial stores at Ida Station. Chero Concalli's meat market opened here by 1911. By the 1920s Sam Milazzo ran a drug store here. Joseph Costello opened a grocery here in the mid-1930s and his family grocery business is still thriving.

53. (323) Down Beat Cafe (Down Beat Cafe) 636 Carline Ave. (1911)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick.

Early tenant information is not available. William A. Leonard was running a grocery here in 1930. Fred Davis, a black grocer, and Samuel Milazzo and a Costello ran a billiards establishment here in the late 1930s and 1940s. The Down Beat Cafe prospered in the 1950s and 1960s.

54. (324) Silver Dollar Cafe (Tucker Radio & Television Service) 638 Carline (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; two-story; brick with permastone at 1st story; retail 1st floor, offices and residential apartments above.

Early tenant information is not available. In the 1940s the Silver Dollar Cafe located here. Jo Tucker established his Radio Service business here by 1950. By the 1960s he was also repairing T.V.s. His business prospered into the early 1970s.

55. (322) Pearlus Cafe/Harlem Grill Building (American Mop & Broom Co.) 633 Carline (1928)

Commercial Building; style unknown; one-story; clapboard; brick pier foundation; gable roof; cinderblock facade.

Early tenant information is unavailable. By the 1950s the Pearlus Cafe was popular here on Friday and Saturday evenings. The Harlem Grill prospered in the 1960s and 1970s.

56. (210) Italian Hall (Pratt City Community Services Center) 329 Ave. G (1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; two-story; brick; facade features a smooth geometric brick veneer, soldier courses at cornice, above windows and 1st story shop windows and entrances; recessed sign panel; ground level retail with meeting hall on 2nd.

This building has been in continuous use as a community center for 60 years. The Italian Society and Union Fraternal Lodge No. 97 met here from 1929 to the mid-1940s); United Mine Workers Local No. 5795 in the 1940s through the 1960s and Ruth Lodge 33 F&AM currently meets in the second floor hall. The Pratt City Neighborhood Service Center established offices here by 1970.

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57. (212) Guillian Brothers Grocery (Curry Cleaners) 339 Ave. G
(1928)

Commercial Building; Commercial Brick; one-story; brick; stepped parapet on both sides; decorative diamond-shaped insets above storefront; stuccoed facade; metal sash on storefront.

The Guillian Brothers Grocery operated here for 30 years from 1930 to the 1960s. Albeine and Louis Guillian were born in Michigan in 1895 and 1896 of Austrian immigrant parents. Their father is listed in the 1900 census as a grocery merchant. Curry Cleaners, the current tenant, opened doors here by 1970.

58-59. Monello Residence and Grocery (Vacant) 514-8 5th St. (1928)

Bungalow residence (#58) with store attached (#59); residence is one-story; clapboard; brick foundation; gabled roof with exposed brackets; chimney at center gable; full open gable porch with tan brick piers; 4/1 wooden sash windows. Attached store has a cut away entrance and shape tailored to the carline lot; one-story; clapboard; brick foundation; double-door entrance; store windows boarded over.

The Monello family including Samuel, Mrs. Carolina, Joseph J. and Mrs. Callie operated a family grocery business here from the 1920s through the 1960s.

60-61. (519) Tudisco Grocery and House (J & H Convenience Store) 520 Carline (at 5th Place and Ave. E) (1911)

Commercial Building (#60) attached to residence (#61); Commercial Building is one-story; clapboard; gabled roof with hipped wing to the rear; fills wedge-shaped lot at intersection of 5th Pl., Ave. E and Carline Ave.; attached to frame L-shaped cottage; one-story clapboard.

The Tudisco family operated a grocery here for more than 50 years.

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by 1887 and the prosperity of the mines, merchants and investors flocked to the town and opened a variety of commercial establishments. The growth of the town's commercial areas, caused by the influx of merchants and investment capital was such that by 1910, the Pratt City Carline District served as commercial center for the largest of industrial communities incorporated into the City of Birmingham in that year. (Pratt City's population of 6,000 was larger than Ensley and North Birmingham, communities which have much greater land areas.) The district is Birmingham's earliest and largest intact collection of commercial resources. The proliferation of small businesses in the district provided a livelihood to many a merchant and many an opportunity for personal and professional advancement to newly arrived immigrants.

Criterion C-Architecture

The historic resources of the Pratt City Carline District are significant architecturally as examples of the commercial and residential buildings that represent Birmingham's development from its earliest decades as a mining boomtown through the highly prosperous 1920s. The commercial building architecture in the district ranges from several grand examples of the Italianate, Classical and Historical Revival styles to the ingeniously decorative and more widely used Victorian Brick and Commercial Brick styles. Though called into existence by modern industrial development, the district showcases the full range of late 19th- and early 20th-century styles, buildings, materials and techniques popular in small towns across the South. These very traditional, small-scale, small-town, southern building techniques are reflected in the districts' shops, banks, restaurants and lodges.

Criterion A-Industry

The Pratt City Carline District is significant as an excellent example of an industrial center which developed in Alabama during the boom of the late 19th and early 20th century. Incorporated in 1891, just after a mad rush of real estate speculation and development of the streetcar system, the Pratt City district is indicative of industrial service centers that grew up in the New South during the years following the Civil War, when industrial enterprise was replacing agriculture as the principal economic base of the area. The Pratt Mines, just west of the district, achieved prominence as the New South's leading mining center, the largest coal mining development in the South in the late 19th century. Worldwide attention attracted to the Pratt Mines at the World Exposition of 1884 later contributed to the influx of immigrants from southern rural area, Northern industrial states and foreign nations. Pratt City's miners, as well as the small business entrepreneurs, represented a melting pot of nationalities attracted to set in gear the New South's industrial economy.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2Criterion A-Community Development

Development of the streetcar railway predated development of the Pratt City residential and commercial districts. With the exception of the mines and railroads to these mines, the only planned element of community development is the carline. Pratt City's residential districts were developed by myriads of speculators who bought up small parcels of land adjacent to the mines, resulting in a helter-skelter, disorganized system of streets which have been renamed and straightened, time and time again. The carline, which cuts across the community in an oblique direction, remains the essential spine of community integrity and identity. At the points it intersects the city street grids, triangular open spaces are created. About these centers crowd the commercial buildings of the district. It is the transportation route that makes the community one by connecting centers within the town. Several residents describe it as Pratt's "umbilical cord."

Criterion A-Ethnic History

The historic resources of the Pratt City District are significant for their associations with numerous ethnic groups. These groups include persons of English, Irish, Scotch, German, Austrian, Russian, Welsh, and African origins. Participation in the prosperous commerce of the mining boomtown afforded them opportunities to make money, build and own fine homes, and become members and leaders of an emerging American middle class. German immigrant son Nickles, a clerk at Bonfeld, #15, built the great Queen Anne mansion on the Carline, #46; plumber W.D. Young developed the principal commercial block, #20; Russian immigrants the Bonfeld, #15 and Goldsteins, #20, developed establishments still flourishing today. The French Berthon family established their dry cleaning business at #33. Italian and Austrian grocers, the Monellos, Costellos, Milazzos, Tudiscos and Guillians and black entrepreneurs the Currys, Johnny Brooklere, Jo Tucker, Zenous Williams, Viola McCarroll all became successful small town entrepreneurs and leaders at various district establishments.

Criterion C-Transportation

The Pratt City Carline District is a fine example of a late 19th- and early 20th-century district whose development and character are inextricably linked to the extension of a privately developed street railway system. Development of the Carline, plated as early as 1885, predated the extensive real estate speculation and community development. This 10-mile railway linking Pratt City to Ensley and to the city center represented one of the longest street railways developed in the nation and contributed substantially to turn-of-the-century Birmingham's claim to the nation's second largest network of public transit facilities.

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The development of Pratt coal marked the start of modern industrial development of the Birmingham District and the rise of the community of Pratt Mines, later Pratt City.

In 1878, industrial entrepreneurs Henry DeBardeleben and James Sloss joined with mining engineer Truman Aldrich to form the Pratt Coal and Coke Company, Alabama's first big coal company. The company purchased \$30,000 worth of coal lands and in 1879 located and named the Pratt seam. The development of the seam provided the first successful first-class fuel for Birmingham industry. (Armes 274-275; White 245)

In the early 1880s DeBardeleben used the cheap Pratt coal, delivered via his company railway, as an inducement for location of industrial furnace operations in the heart of Birmingham (Armes 281). (See Illustration II.) These operations included the Sloss Furnaces. By 1883 the Pratt seam, sometimes called the Brown or Coketon seam, had become the most important Alabama coal seam (USGS 1883, 155).

At the New Orleans World Industrial and Cotton Exhibition of 1884, an 11-ton lump of Pratt Coal displayed Alabama's marvelous mineral resources. This display is said to have attracted significant national and international investment to Birmingham's emerging industry. (See Illustration III.)

By 1886 the Pratt Coal and Coke Company was producing one half of the state's coal output and was more extensively worked than any other seam (McCalley, GSA 1886, 316). By 1898 the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company (TCI) which had acquired the Pratt Company in 1886, was still mining 50% of Alabama's coal at Pratt City Mines. (See Illustration IV.) Here it also owned and operated more coke ovens (the mechanical charging chambers in which coal is converted into coke, the fuel for making iron) than any other U.S. corporation with the exception of the H. C. Frick Coke Co. of Pennsylvania. Pratt City also served as a regional shipping point for coal and coke. (See Illustration V.)

Until New Year's Day, 1891, the group of scattered settlements surrounding the Pratt Mines was known as Coketown. At this time, Pratt City was incorporated and named in honor of Daniel Pratt, the state's first industrialist whose fortune Henry DeBardeleben used in the initial development of the mines. The population in 1891 was listed at 5,500, a third of whom were state and county convicts housed at mining prisons. Convict labor supplied the large numbers of early laborers. However, with mines, coke ovens and railroads opening on all sides, people from north and south and many foreign nations flooded to Pratt City to find employment. In the early years miners lived in tents near the mines where they worked, later in company houses and gradually a private community formed. Due to the rapid and highly successful development of the mines, real estate speculation was intensive in the late 1880s and early

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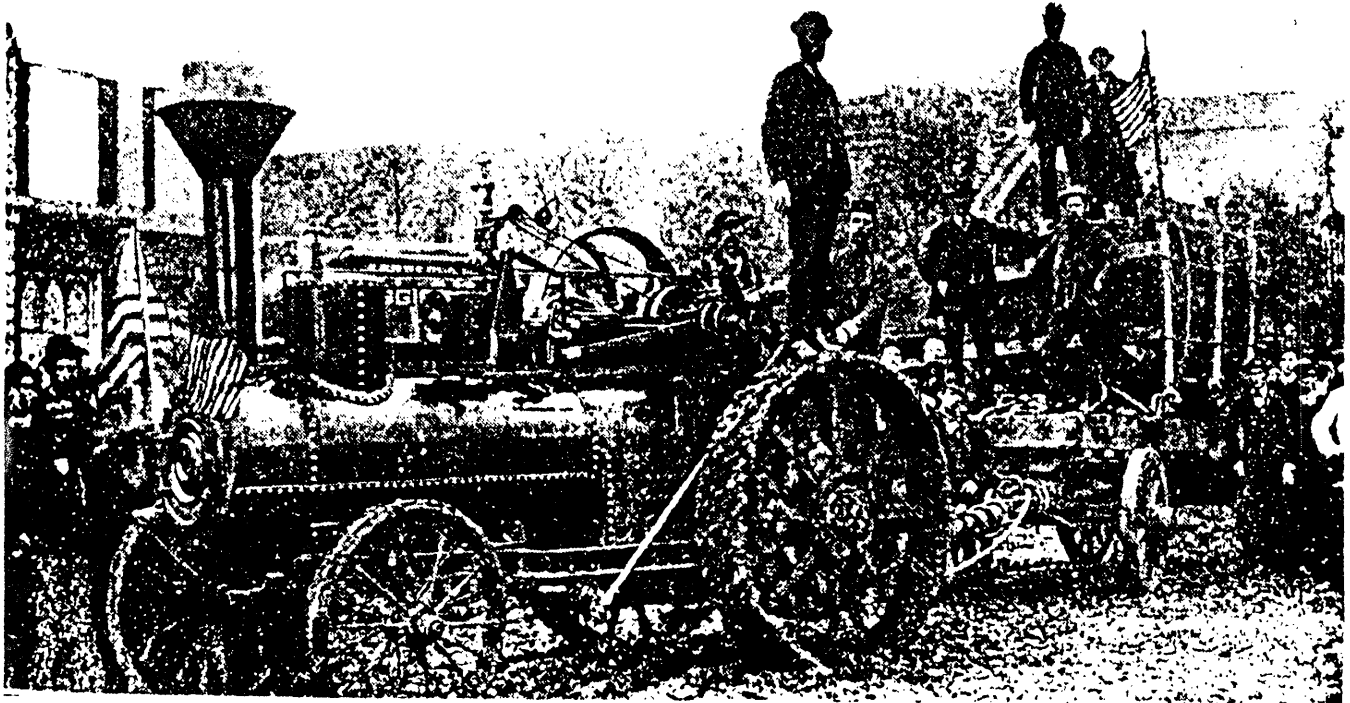


Illustration II. This Pratt Coal and Iron Company Railway locomotive transported coal over the company railway to the extensive trunk system developed by the Louisville and Nashville and other major railways. Photo c. 1884 from Ethel Armes. The Story of Coal and Iron. Courtesy, Marvin Whiting.

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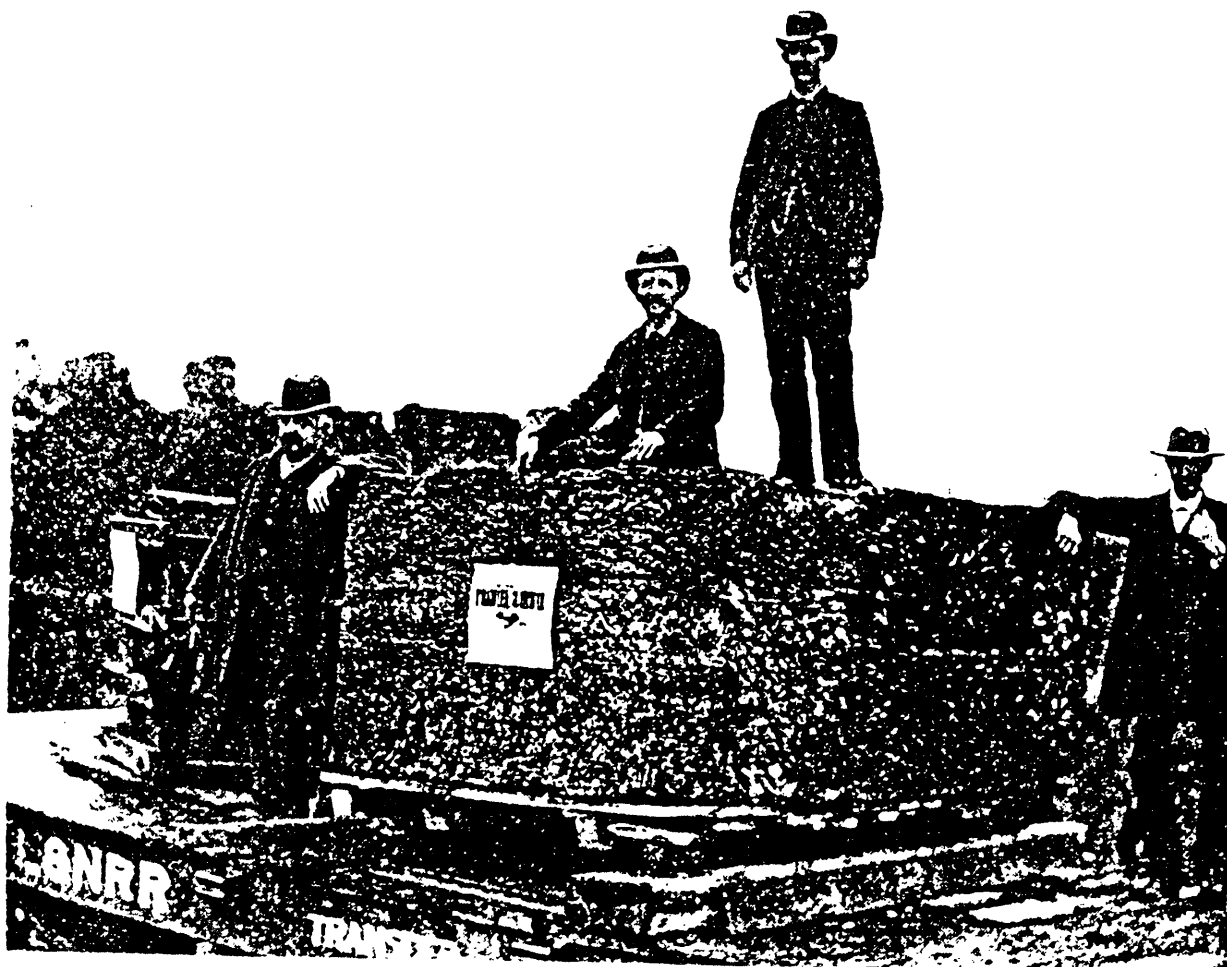


Illustration III. This L. & N. Railway car loaded with an 11-ton lump of Pratt coal is routed to the New Orleans' World Exposition of 1884. The exposition of Birmingham's mineral wealth at the fair attracted world-wide interest and investment in the emerging industrial district. Ethel Armes, The Story of Coal and Iron. Courtesy: Marvin Whiting.

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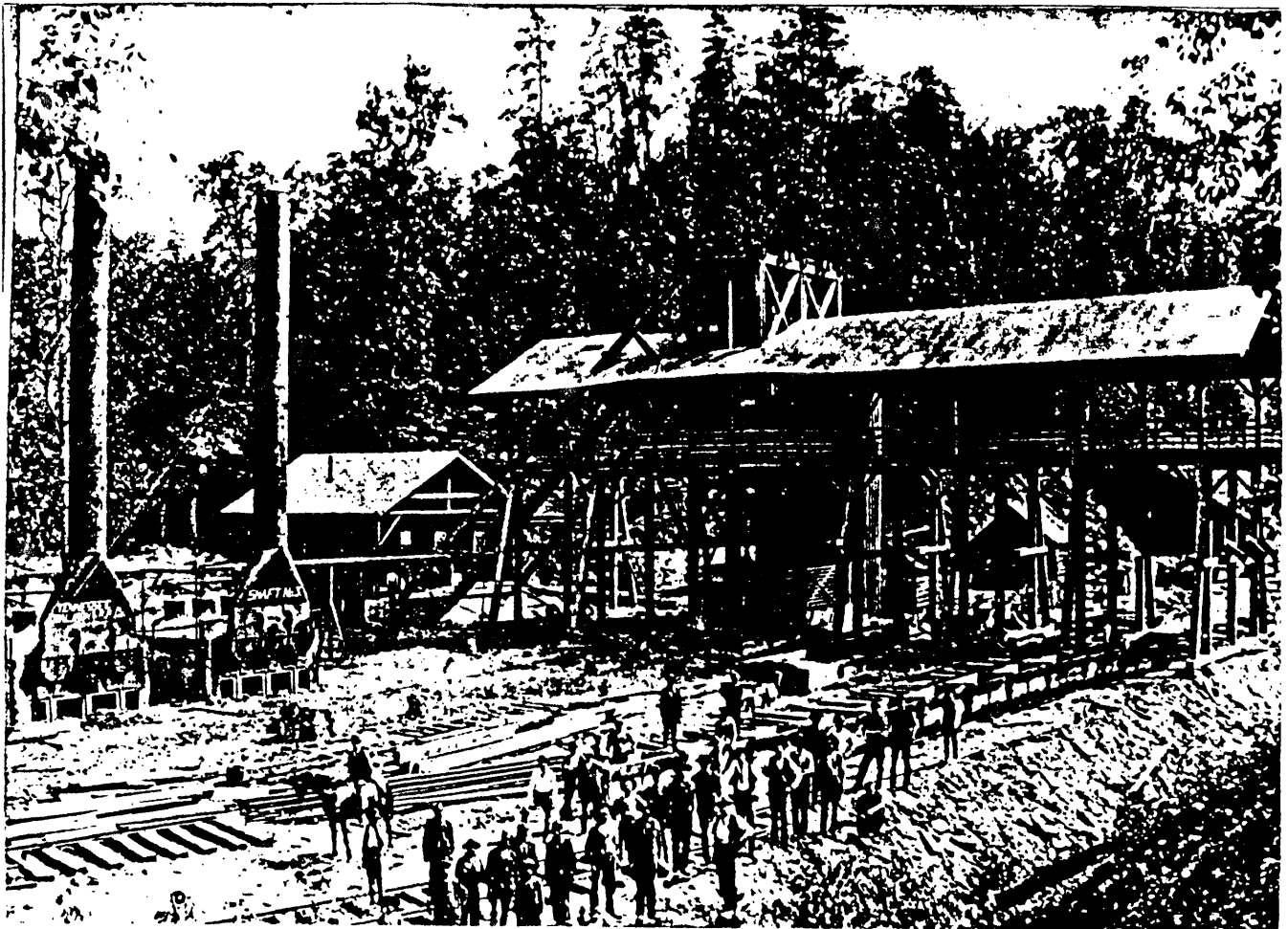


Illustration IV. Shaft Number Three, Pratt Mines, c. 1900.
Birmingham Public Library, Department of Archives and Manuscripts

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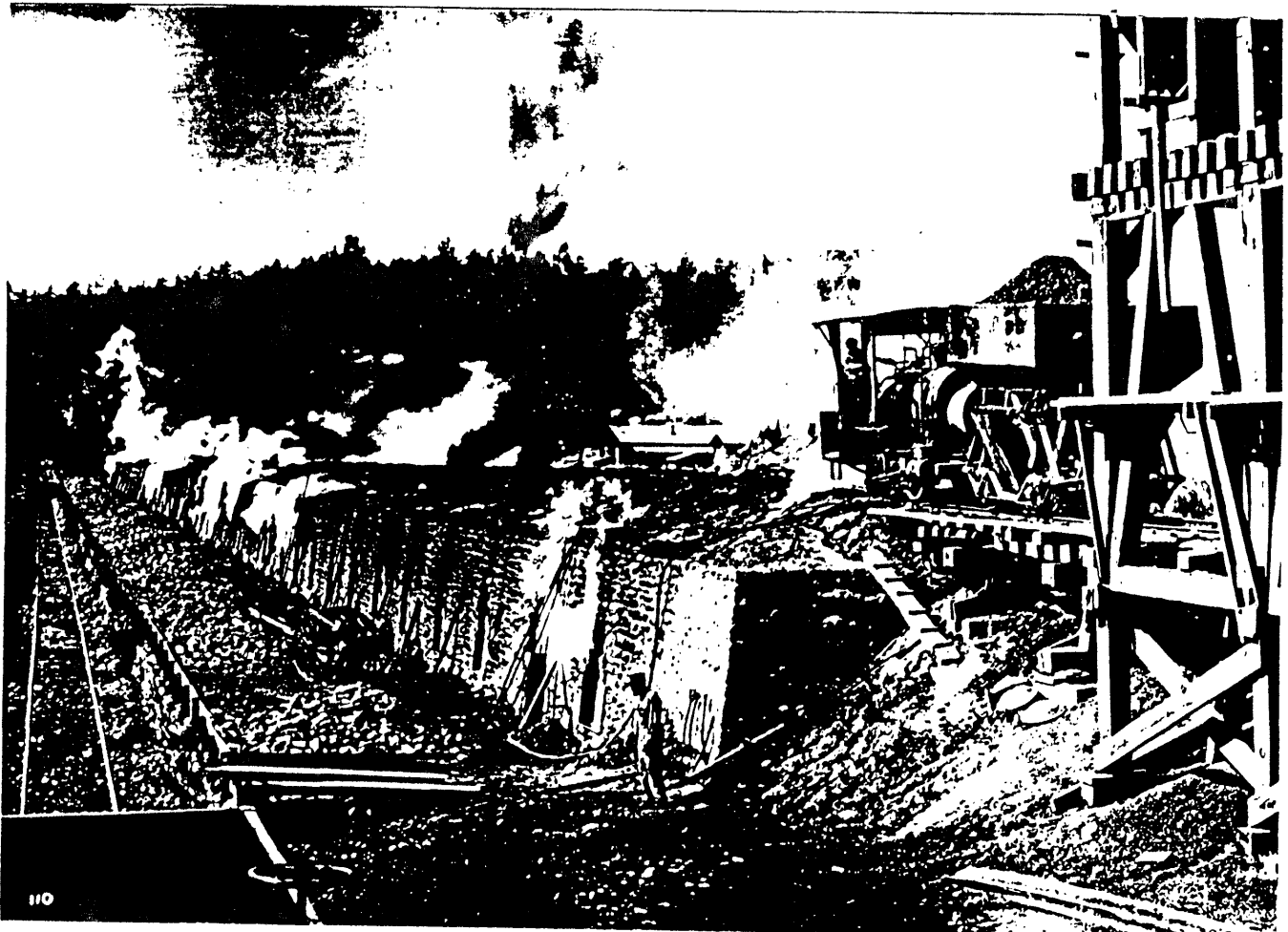


Illustration V. Coke ovens in operation, c. 1920, O.V. Hunt.
Birmingham Public Library, Department of Archives and
Manuscripts.

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1890s. By 1894, papers for 38 small subdivisions (of one to six blocks each) had been filed at Jefferson County Probate Court. A hodgepodge of small, disconnected streets and residences quickly evolved. Locals explained the disconnected streets by saying that TCI's chief mining engineer Erskine Ramsay (himself one of the most successful speculators) "was drunk the night he laid out the streets." Void of any master plan for its development, Pratt City grew like topsy in the boom times of the turn-of-the-century. By 1910, 22 additional subdivisions had been platted within a developed area of less than 200 acres. The 1902 Sanborn map records more than 1000 frame cottages and four commercial centers crammed along the narrow streets. By 1910 TCI operated 10 mines and employed 2,467 persons at the Pratt Mines. Pratt City boasted a population of 7,000 (40% black, 20% European immigrants, 40% white). This southern salad bowl of ethnic industrial culture included Southerners and Northerners, Englishmen, Scots, Irishmen, Frenchmen, Russians, Germans and Austrians. Each ethnic group tended to settle together in groups of their own nationality. The Irish settled on North Highlands, the Scotch on East Highlands, the Blacks lived in "Driftrack." There was "French Town" and "Little Italy." The resulting mining boomtown was the largest municipality incorporated into the city of Birmingham in 1910.

As early as 1887, the Ensley Railroad Company provided streetcar service to the neighboring industrial manufacturing towns of Ensley and Thomas and to "Town," downtown Birmingham six miles distant. (See Illustration VI and VII, O'Brien's Map of Birmingham, 1887 for the location of the streetcar line. It is called the "Ensley City and Pratt Mine dummy line" on this map.) By 1900, traffic over the line was so heavy that tracks were doubled. In 1912, a second public transit line, the Tidewater, extended trackage into the community to take advantage of Pratt City's prosperous trade. The Tidewater line provided Pratt City additional public transportation to downtown and to Ensley. These trolley lines also determined the development of Pratt City's commercial resources...a series of centers anchored to the open public domain of the carline, each center clustered at the intersection of the carline with the grid of city streets. Four major centers emerged, the largest at 1st Street and Pratt Mines Station. In Pratt City's heyday expanding commercial activity fused these areas together. At Ezell and Ida Stations smaller neighborhood centers developed to serve local residents. Additionally, two neighborhood stores sprouted where the carline intersected the grid. Each area took on the character of the adjacent industrial activity or ethnic variety of nearby residents. Into all these commercial areas, crowded small family-run trades including grocery, general merchandise, household and dry goods, and furniture stores, saloons, a bank and business offices for the many doctors who treated industrial injuries. These small businesses provided fertile training ground for development of community leadership and institutions. Birmingham's Berthon Cleaners, Bonfeld clothing store, and Carraway Hospital were established in Pratt City district buildings.

The Pratt City Carline District formed the earliest and largest regional economic center for the Alabama coal fields. It served the TCI miners and their families. It

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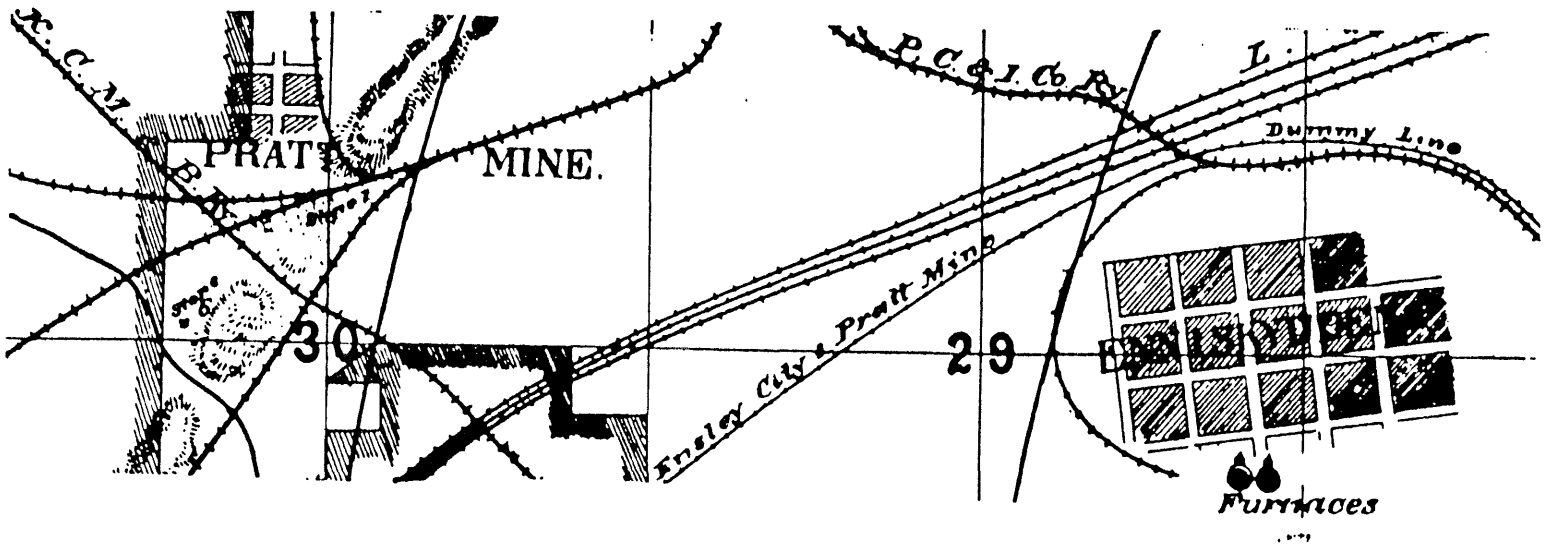


Illustration VI. O'Brien's Map of Birmingham, 1887. Note the extensive development of mines and railroads which preceded development of the residential and commercial districts at Pratt Mine, now Pratt City. The Carline, noted here as the "Ensley City and Pratt Mine Dummy Line" also predated community development and ultimately became the major unifying element of the Pratt community.

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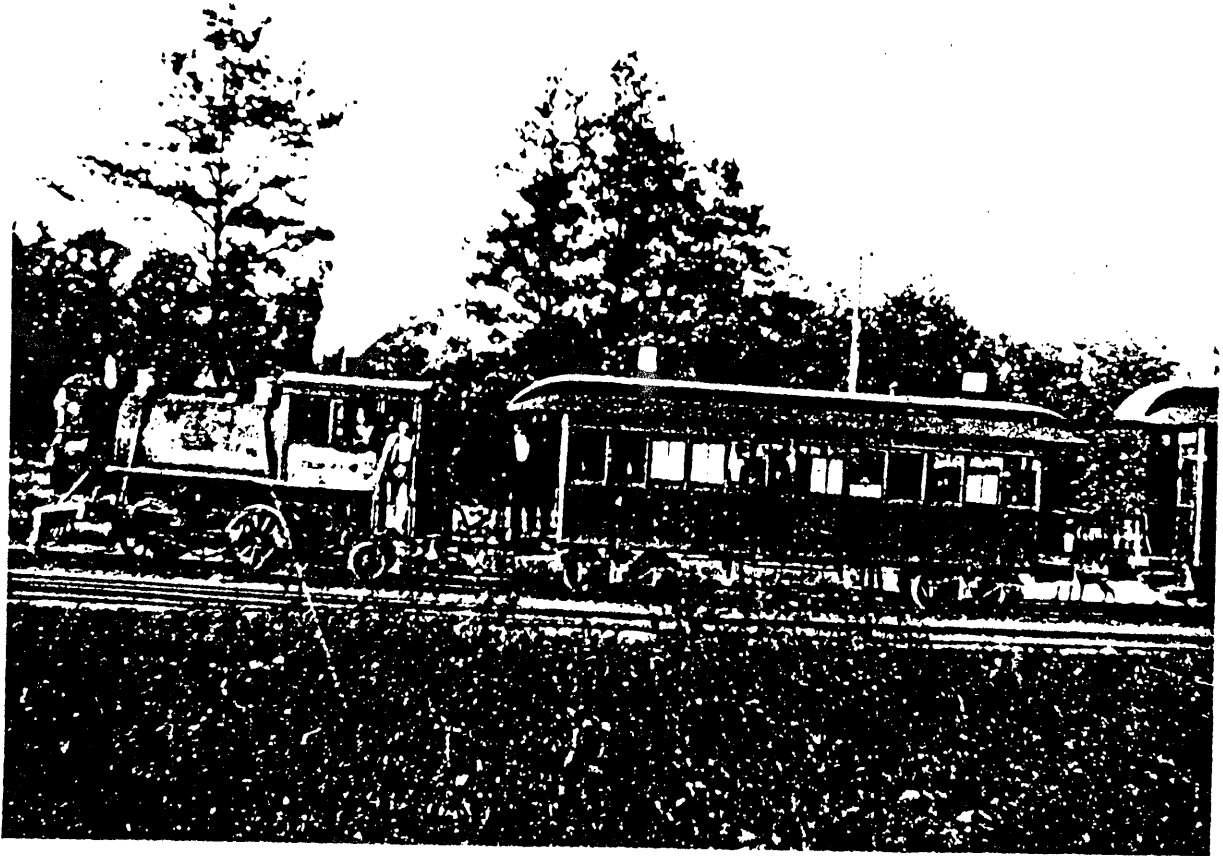


Illustration VII. An Ensley Railway Train at Thomas, Alabama powered by an 0-4-2 tank type locomotive, c. 1894. Photo courtesy, Alvin Hudson.

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gave work to the private commercial sector who were attracted to provide services for these miners. Additionally, miners and their families from the neighboring industrial communities of Sandusky, Docena and as far away as Cat Mountain, now Hillview, came to Pratt to shop. The Pratt Carline District also served as an important social center. On Saturday mornings everyone poured into Pratt for goods and groceries and to catch up on current events. The principal commercial area (1st Street to Pratt Mines Station) was crowded from the commissary to the top of the hill. According to oral interviews, Pratt merchants "did a heap of trade."

The earliest recorded listing of commercial activity at the Pratt Mines appears in 1887. The Alabama State Gazetteer and Business Directory of 1887-1888 lists 12 general stores, one hotel, eight physicians, a barber, carpenter, justice of the peace, lawyer, boot and shoemaker, postmaster and the TCI mines and general store. Where they all were located remains unknown.

By March of 1885 Louis Boissell had been speculating that commercial development would come along the route the carline eventually took. His plat of that date, duly recorded at Probate Court, notes the carline intersecting Avenue U at the future Pratt Mines Station, a full two years before the Ensley Railway Company was formed to develop the street carline. W. D. Young, listed as a plumber in the 1911 city directory, seemed uninterested in such speculation. In early 1888, Young purchased all the land from 1st Street to Pratt Mines Station and built himself a sizeable frame cottage. His large side porch overlooked his well and garden. Young's residence was in an area pejoratively nicknamed "the Bottoms." "The Bottoms" is 200 feet lower in elevation than Pratt Mines Station. Coal Branch of Village Creek flows right through it. By 1891, as the Sanborn Map of that year records, the 50' wide 1st Street had been cut through and opened under a railroad trestle to the TCI company store and Shaft #1, just to the west. First Street had become the principal commercial area of Pratt City. A host of 32 tiny frame stores of irregular dimensions crowded in rows fronting both sides of the street. Probate court records several land sales by Young. It is surmised that Young invested his newly acquired assets in Pratt City's finest building, the two-story office building at the corner of 1st and Avenue U (#20) which bears his name. He placed this building equidistant from the streetcar stop at Pratt Mines Station and the TCI store at the railroads. He continued to live across the street, in his residence, now located just to the north of the commercial strip. The Young Building housed retail operations and many prominent early physicians including Dr. Thomas Jefferson Brown and Dr. Charles Newton Carraway, all of whom had offices upstairs. In 1902 Carraway opened the Carraway Clinic in a small house nearby on Avenue U. Here 16 patients could be treated at one time. (Today Carraway Hospital in North Birmingham remains a leading medical center.)

Pratt City's weekly newspaper, the Pratt Mines Advertiser, reports that a fire in January 1899 destroyed 44 businesses in "The Bottoms." The "large iron clad" building, the Young Building (#20), Daniel Grocery (#16), Prigot Dry Goods (#13) and

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Bonfeld's (#15) survived the fire. Witness to Pratt City's prosperous times, 17 commercial structures along 1st Street were quickly rebuilt by 1902. Of these, 16 remain today in the district.

In 1887 the Ensley carline had begun running along the curving tracks up on the ridge above "the Bottoms." By 1891, the date of a Sanborn map, commercial activity was indicated at Pratt Mines Station, which was so named. About the triangular open space formed by the intersection of the streetcar line and the straight grid of the city streets, 13 buildings were grouped. These stores included a fruit stand, an office, a grocery and dry good store, a restaurant, a livery, a barber and three furniture stores. None of these early buildings remain.

In 1891, a third commercial node had emerged at Ezell Station, where once again the street railway intersected the straight grid. Nine stores bordered the triangular open space. These included a two-story "negro restaurant," an ice house, a grocery, several stores and a bakery. By 1902, the date of the next available map resource, more than 1,000 frame residences and a population of 6,000 are recorded in Pratt City. (Sanborn, 1902; Baists, 1902). Many community institutions including five churches, a City Hall, waterworks, three schools, a brick livery and an Odd Fellows Hall indicate the substantial growth of the privately developed city adjacent to the prosperous mining operations, located just to the north and west. The developed area of Pratt City extended 10 irregular blocks to the east and west and 14 blocks from south to north. All streets were unpaved and ranged in width from 28' to 60' some with widths of 30', 40', 43', 50' and 53'. Many had been straightened and all renamed since the 1891 map.

By 1902 an additional commercial area at Ida Station had developed. Here the streetcar line intersects the present 5th Street. Scott School, the early grade school for blacks, was located nearby. The 1911 Sanborn map, notes each of the above commercial nodes and also the smaller Italian stores at Carline and 5th and the one at Carline and 6th.

When the Tidewater streetcar line to Ensley along Avenue U opened in 1912, the commercial activity at Pratt Station and 1st Street was further strengthened. These areas, immediately adjacent to the industrial operations and well serviced by public transit, continued to grow and prosper. In 1911, 38 commercial buildings crowded the sides of 1st Street and extended up the hill on Avenues T and U all the way to Pratt Station, actually fusing the two areas into one large commercial area. Ten commercial enterprises were located at Pratt Station; 15 at Ezell Station and 18 at Ida Station. Through correlation with the 1910 Census for the Pratt City area, 14 of 26 businesses listed in existing district properties have been researched and the analyses listed under each district property description. These analyses reveal the diverse ethnic base that made up Pratt City's early entrepreneurs. Among the 14 are three Russians, an Italian, and southern born black and whites. Occupations listed include retail and

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dry goods merchants, grocer, postal clerk, liveryman, dentist, barber, physician, tailor, milliner, and soft drink salesman. A 1905 statewide directory lists 94 businesses for Pratt City including 18 groceries and food conveyors, 10 physicians and dentists, seven banks, loan and real estate companies, seven dry goods operations, six saloons, four furniture stores and two hardware stores among the 51 different kinds of small family enterprises. Pratt City merchants offered a complete line of services including such luxuries as sporting goods and chinaware, gasoline, telephone service, fancy groceries, wholesale oysters, confections, undertaking, millinery and "money to lend." Those merchants and professionals who could be tied to existing buildings are listed with the property descriptions. (See Illustration VIII.)

Several additional district buildings were added in the 1920s, particularly at Ida Station which expanded in the early 1920s with brick buildings replacing some of the early frame structures. Additionally, the Birmingham-based Hill Grocery Store chain built two stores in Pratt at Pratt Station (#51) and at Ida Station (#50). Bonfeld's (#15) was refaced in the fashionable Mission style.

Coal mining and coke production of significant levels continued at Pratt City through World War I as the rich coal seams and coking facilities yielded their copious mineral wealth. However, by the 1920s as more mechanized mines opened, the early pick and shovel ones at Pratt became obsolete. The great depression closed the beehive coke operations also, and the stores. The miners who did find work in the depression had to trade at the TCI company store. The private commercial section declined. Cale Drugs (#18), Monello Grocery (#58-59) and S. T. Key Furniture (#54) seem to be among the only district merchants to have survived.

A new generation of entrepreneurs opened shops in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Mining continued at Hamilton Slope just to the north of Highway 78 and the TCI Transportation Facility and Dispensary just to the west provided jobs to community residents, many of whom had learned to look elsewhere for employment. Many small family run businesses opened to capture the local grocery, cleaning, hardware and food service trade. In the 1960s at Ezell Station small cafes and nightclubs flourished. Masonic lodges, with as many as 40 different organizations mentioned in the city directories of the 1940s through 1960s, provided an essential focus for collective activities.

Use declined significantly in the late 1970s as long-term merchants died or moved away. Barnes Gro. #17; Sparks Hardware #21-23; Key Furniture #54; Turner Drugs #36; Ideal Cleaners #44; Gillian Brothers #57 and Tudisco Grocery #60-61, all closed at this time. Newer shopping areas were developing along Highway 78 to the west and the racial composition of the residential districts changed. Many civic and commercial resources were torn down. Gone are the turn-of-the-century beaux arts styled City Hall (site of the current public library) at Pratt Station, the entire north side of the block along 1st Street, the movie house at Pratt Station, and many of the neigh-

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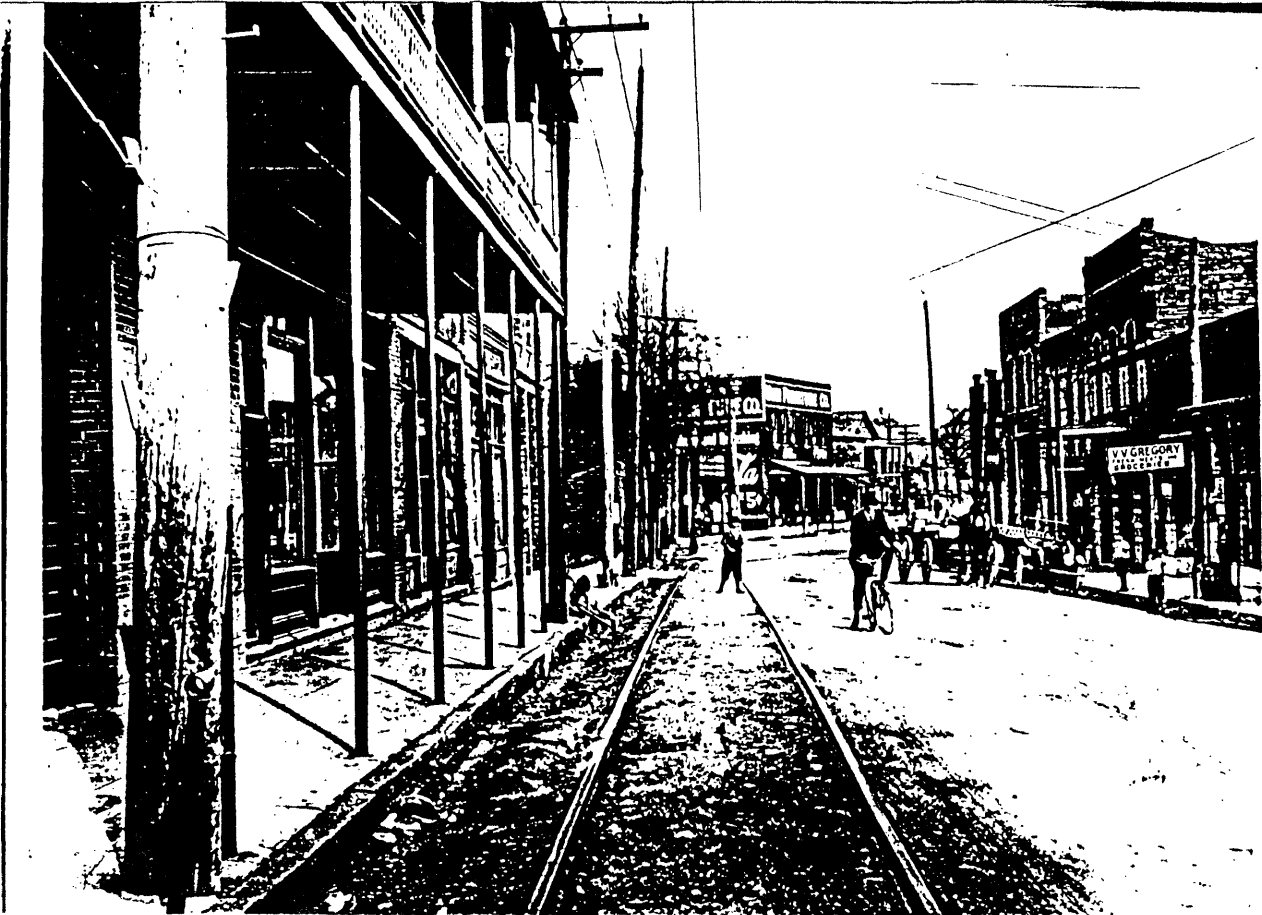


Illustration VIII. View of 1st Street District, looking east, c. 1920. Note prominence of streetcar tracks. Here the streetcar turned around in an area which locals termed "The Bottom". Photo courtesy, Lou Ritchie.

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borhood stores. Many remaining ones are vacant and boarded up. Construction firms have become the principal tenants of the 1st and Pratt Station areas, while Ida and Ezell Stations still capture the neighborhood trade.

Today, Pratt City remains a small town with the traditional friendliness of a turn-of-the-century community. Residents often third and fourth generation Pratt citizens, have a sense of history and fondness for their community which they call "Old Pratt." Two local historical societies revive Pratt's past and plan for its revitalization. In addition to the locals and their organizations a city-sponsored program of street, landscape and commercial revitalization coordinated through the Community Development Department began in 1986. First Street has been repaved and new sidewalks, lighting and street furniture installed. Similar type improvements are slated for Carline Avenue. The designated boundaries of the proposed historic district fall within the city's Commercial Revitalization area. Several of the former mining sites, including Shaft #1, site of the earliest mines and prison, have been redeveloped as densely populated suburban residential areas. It is hoped that the historic commercial resources of the Pratt City Carline District will once again become an intensive hub of commercial and social activity for the residents of the "old Pratt" and the new.

The Pratt City Neighborhood Association and City Councilman Eddie Blankenship have offered support, assistance and endorsement for this National Register historic district nomination. Thus, this nomination is part of a larger preservation movement in Pratt City. Not only does it acknowledge the historic significance of the Pratt City Carline Historic District, but it also lays the groundwork for future preservation planning and activity.

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UTM References continued

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G. 16/510960/3710525

H. 16/510960/3710620

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Appendix B

PRATT CITY CARLINE HISTORIC DISTRICT

All of the photographs listed below were taken at sites in the City of Birmingham, Jefferson Co., Alabama.

1. View from the Railroad at 1st Street and Ave. U (District #20)
Maurie Van Buren, December 1987
Negative: Contact 1073, Photo 19
Facing south
2. W.D. Young Building at the corner of 1st and Ave. U. during 2st Street Revitalization (District #20)
Marjorie L. White, October 1987
Negative: Contact 8252, Photo 33
Facing south
3. W.D. Young Building at corner of 1st and Ave. U after 1st Street Revitalization (District #20)
Maurie Van Buren, December 1987
Negative: Contact 1077, Photo 35
Facing south
4. First Street Streetscape during 1st Street Revitalization. From left to right are Adair & Sons Grocery, Cale Drug Co. and Kentler Dry Goods Co. (District #19,18,17)
Maurie Van Buren, December 1987
Negative: Contact 8252, Photo 35
Facing west
5. Brick detail on First Street Buildings. From left to right W.E. Young Building, Adair & Sons Grocery, Cale Drug Co. and Kentler Dry Goods (District #20,19,18,17)
Maurie Van Buren, December 1987
Negative: Contact 1073, Photo 16
Facing west
6. First Street Streetscape at corner of 1st and Dugan Ave. during revitalization. From left to right Pratt City Savings Bank, a small commercial building, and Vann Furniture Co. (District #2,3,4)
Marjorie L. White, October 1987
Negative: Contact 8252, Photo 31
Facing north

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7. First Street Streetscape after 1st Street Revitalization. On the right are the W. D. Young Building, Adair & Sons Grocery and Cale Drug Co. (District #20,19,18) On the left are Pratt City Service Station, Bank of Pratt City and Vann Furniture Co. (District #1,2,4)
Maurie Van Buren, December 1987
Negative: Contact 1073, Photo 5
Facing east
8. View of Ave. T from west end of 1st Street showing the recent revitalization including lighting and landscaping of the area. On left (on 1st) are Prigot Dry Goods and Manning Grocery (District #13,14). On Ave. T, from left are Lacey Mercantile, Laughlin Grocery, Evans Furniture Co. and Demos Brothers Building (District #10,9,8,7)
Maurie Van Buren, December 1987
Negative: Contact 1073, Photo 8
Facing west
9. A. H. Daniel/M.H. Barnes Grocery Building, 817 1st Street. (District #16,15)
Marilyn Sullivan, August 1986
Negative: Contact Photo
Facing south
10. Pratt City Service Station, 830 1st Street (District #1)
Maurie Van Buren, December 1987
Negative: Roll 18, Photo 7
Facing south
11. 110 Ave. U detail (District #23)
Marilyn Sullivan, August 1986
Negative: Roll 6, Photo 0
Facing west
12. Eagles Hall, 120 Ave. U (District #28)
Marjorie L. White, October 1987
Negative: Contact 8252, Photo 29
Facing west
13. Eagles Hall with new owners, City Council woman Linda Coleman and husband, 120 Ave. U (District #28)
Maurie Van Buren, December 1987
Negative: Two Towns #8
Facing west

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14. Old Post Office/Masonic Hall, 900-904 2nd Street (District #29)
Marilyn Sullivan, August 1986
Negative: Contact 8252, Photo 28
Facing north
15. Hill Grocery Co. Building, 200 Ave. U (District #32)
Marjorie L. White, October 1987
Negative: Contact 8252, Photo 23
Facing west
16. Turner Drug Co. Building, 205 Ave. U (District #36)
Marilyn Sullivan, August 1986
Negative: Roll 5, Photo 34
Facing southeast
17. 1001 2nd St. James C. Almon House (District #40)
Marilyn Sullivan
Negative: Roll 19, Photo 23
Facing south
18. Pratt Station Commercial Block
826 Carline Ave. and 204-206 Ave. U (District #33)
Marjorie L. White, October 1987
Negative: Contact 8252, Photo 22
Facing southwest
19. Carline Streetscape, 206-204 Ave. U and 826 Carline on left.
(District #33)
Marjorie L. White, October 1987
Negative: Contact 1077, Photo 23
Facing northeast
20. Ezell Station Commercial Block
738 734 Carline Ave. (District #45)
Marjorie L. White, October 1987
Negative: Contact 8252, Photo 18
Facing southwest
21. John J. Nickels House, 717 Carline Ave. (District #46)
Marilyn Sullivan, August 12
Negative: Roll 6, Photo 12
Facing northeast

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- 22. Italian Hall
329 Avenue G (District #57)
Marilyn Sullivan
Negative: Roll 6, Photo 9
Facing west

- 23. 401 Avenue G (District #58)
Marilyn Sullivan
Negative: 1077, Photo 33
Facing south

- 24. Hill Grocery Co., 323 Avenue G (District #50)
Marjorie L. White, October 1987
Negative: Contact 8252, Photo 12
Facing southwest

- 25. Costello Grocery Building, 632 Carline Ave. (District #52)
Marjorie L. White, October 1987
Negative: Contact 8252, Photo 21
Facing east

- 26. Aerial Reconainance Photo Jefferson Co. Survey

Section 30, T175, R3W #330 c.1950
Pratt City Carline Historic District Aerial View

Negative: B'ham Public Library, Archives