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() NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SOUTH CAROLINA INVENTORY FORM FOR HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND
INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES IN A MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION

NAME OF MULTIPLE PROPERTY SUBMISSION: Lower Richland County Multiple Resource Area

PREFERRED NAME OF PROPERTY: J.A. Byrd Mercantile Store

HISTORIC NAME OF PROPERTY: Same

COMMON NAME OF PROPERTY: Nelson-Frazier Furniture

LOCATION: Main Street, Eastover

CLASSIFICATION: Building

OWNER: Lloyd Douglas
c/o Richland Supply Co.
Eastover, S. C. 29044

DESCRIPTION

The J.A. Byrd Mercantile Store, one of the dominant buildings in Eastover's small commercial district, is a two-story, brick commercial building constructed ca. 1910. The building's historic integrity has not been compromised by the minor alterations.

The building's facade (south elevation) is elegantly composed in blond brick, marble, and cast stone. A three-bay arcade defines the first-floor retail hall; two ornamented marble piers and two Ionic columns separate the storefront bays. Semicircular brick arches with radiating voussoirs spring from the piers and columns. Regular courses of brickwork are recessed in these arches, simulating large stone voussoirs. A cast-stone denticulated cornice crowns the arcade and separates the first floor from the second. The original central entryway has new aluminum-framed glass doors, and the arched windows within the arches have been covered with plywood, but the two wood-framed display windows are intact.

The second story of the facade has three tall windows with semicircular brick arches. The existing six-over-six wooden sash do not appear original to these openings. Cast-stone panels with garland motifs are placed in the brickwork above the windows. Cast-stone piers are located at the corners of the elevation, carrying the upper cornice, which consists of an egg-and-dart ovolo and simple fillet. A short parapet is above the cornice.

The west side elevation is simply composed in red common brick with regular fenestration. The east elevation is a party wall; while the north elevation is largely obscured by a cinder block and corrugated metal addition.

The building's interior includes a simple first-floor retail hall with wooden floors and ceilings.

It has been suggested that fragments of the building's facade were salvaged from a demolished Columbia building (Masonic Temple, 1425 Main Street), but this has not been substantiated.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture
Commerce

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: S (for office use only)

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The J.A. Byrd Mercantile Store is significant both for its architecture and for its importance in the commercial history of this small rural town in lower Richland County. Constructed ca. 1910 as a general merchandise store for Julian A. Byrd, this building's elegant facade seems to indicate anticipated growth for Eastover, situated in a large cotton-producing area of the county.¹ Growth was not sustained, however, for lower prices, bad crops, and the invasion of the boll weevil in 1917, brought depression to this as well as other agricultural areas of the state by 1922.²

While the Main Street elevation of the building is somewhat sophisticated for a town the size of Eastover, it illustrates the affluence of its owner and builder, Julian A. Byrd. In addition to being a leading merchant of Eastover, Byrd was also influential in the founding of the Farmers and Merchants Bank, located next door.³

ACREAGE: Approximately .18 acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the black line on the accompanying Richland County tax map #36807, Block 14, Parcel 9, with a scale of 1 inch equalling 100 feet. It includes the historic commercial building and the remainder of the acreage in the parcel.

QUAD NAME: Eastover, S. C.

QUAD SCALE; 1:24000

UTM REFERENCE POINT: 17/528270/3748440

OTHER INFORMATION:

FOOTNOTES

(1) Interview with Marion Haithcock, Eastover, S. C., June 1980; Interview with Augustus T. Graydon, Columbia, S. C., July 1985.

(2) The Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Industries and Clemson College, South Carolina: A Handbook (Columbia, S. C.: n.p., 1927), p. 130.

(3) Farmers and Merchants Bank, #6057, Records of the Secretary of State of South Carolina, Corporate Charter Division, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S. C.