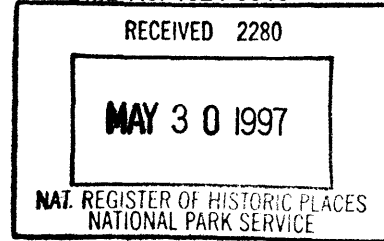


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Downtown Columbia Historic District  
other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: roughly bounded by Broad St., Meak Alley, Honey Alley, Church St., and Beef Alley  
city or town: Columbia vicinity: \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication: \_\_\_\_\_  
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Marion code: 91 zip code: 39429

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kimeth H. P. Pool May 20, 1997  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_  
See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_\_\_  
See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10/ Signature of the Keeper Barbara J. Felt Date of Action 6/20/97  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

<b>Ownership of Property:</b>	Private, Public	<b>Number of Resources within Property:</b> (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
<b>Category of Property:</b>	District	Contributing	Noncontributing	
		54	10	buildings
			1	sites
				structures
		54	11	objects
				Total
<b>Name of related multiple property listing:</b>	N/A	<b>Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:</b> 2		

**6. Function or Use**

<b>Historic Functions:</b>	COMMERCE/business COMMERCE/professional COMMERCE/financial institution COMMERCE/specialty store COMMERCE/department store COMMERCE/warehouse GOVERNMENT/correctional facility GOVERNMENT/post office GOVERNMENT/courthouse SOCIAL/meeting hall INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility	<b>Current Functions:</b>	COMMERCE/business COMMERCE/professional COMMERCIAL/financial inst. COMMERCE/specialty store COMMERCE/department store COMMERCE/warehouse GOVT/correctional facility GOVERNMENT/courthouse SOCIAL/meeting hall
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**7. Description**

<b>Architectural Classification(s):</b>	International	Art Moderne
Italianate	Art Deco	Craftsman
Colonial Revival	Mission	
Neoclassical Revival		

**Materials:**

foundation:	BRICK CONCRETE
roof:	BUILT-UP ASPHALT
walls:	METAL/tin BRICK CONCRETE CERAMIC VENEER STUCCO
other:	METAL/cast iron METAL/pressed tin

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- X     **A**     Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B**     Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X     **C**     Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D**     Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND  
DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance**

1899 to 1947

**Criteria Considerations:**

- Property is:                    N/A
- \_\_\_ **A**     owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- \_\_\_ **B**     removed from its original location.
- \_\_\_ **C**     a birthplace or a grave.
- \_\_\_ **D**     a cemetery.
- \_\_\_ **E**     a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- \_\_\_ **F**     a commemorative property.
- \_\_\_ **G**     less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Dates**

1899  
1912  
1929  
1947

**Significant Person(s)**

**Cultural Affiliation(s)**

**Architect/Builder**  
Various; unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

See continuation sheets.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

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

Name of repository:

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: approximately 10 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	16	229850	3461480	C	16	229850	3460100
B	16	230200	2461480	D	16	230200	3460150

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title:	Jennifer V. Opager	date:	February 28, 1997
organization:	Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History	telephone:	(601) 359-6940
street & number:	618 Pearl Street	zip code:	39205
city or town:	Jackson	state:	MS

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**Property Owner(s)**

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name:	Multiple	telephone:	
street & number:		zip code:	
city or town:		state:	

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Downtown Columbia Historic District  
Columbia, MS

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**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

The proposed Downtown Columbia Historic District is composed of sixty-four buildings and one structure which face Main Street and surrounding side streets in the historic downtown of Columbia, Marion County, Mississippi. The district is roughly bounded by Broad Street, Courthouse Square, and Meak Alley on the south, Center Avenue and Honey Alley on the east, Church Street on the north, and the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad on the west. The district's character is primarily commercial, but it does contain a manufacturing building and several warehouses, as well as the Marion County Courthouse and Jail (previously listed NR 3/3/95).

The buildings of Columbia's historic commercial district were constructed over a period beginning around 1900 and ending in the late 1940s. The oldest and most ornate buildings in the district are along Main Street, including the three buildings at 617, 619, and 621 Main Street (Neoclassical and Italianate [Inventory #20, 22, 23]), the old Citizens Bank and Post Office building at 624 Main Street [Inventory #25], the building at 625 Main Street (Italianate [Inventory # 26]), Lampton's Department Store at 701 Main Street (previously a fine Romanesque building, and now a nice commercial Art Deco [Inventory #29]), Hill Hardware/Saint Albans Masonic Lodge at 717-717½ Main Street [Inventory #41], Cook & Fortenberry's Pharmacy at 718 Main Street (Colonial Revival [Inventory #42]), and the building at 720 Main Street (Neoclassical Revival). These structures reflect the boom years of Columbia when the yellow pine forests surrounding the town seemed a limitless resource and the town's leaders had high aspirations and large fortunes. Second Street, Church Street, Beef Alley, Honey Alley, Meak Alley, and Broad Street all feature later, more modest commercial and warehouse buildings dating from the early 1920s to the late 1940s. The district comprises almost all of the area historically associated with downtown Columbia, except for the western part of Second Street going towards the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad Depot. Although the depot itself is intact and is historically significant, the buildings between it and the district have either been greatly altered or torn down. The U.S. Post Office, a PWA project, was previously listed on the National Register in 1979, and lies one block north of the district.

Columbia's downtown area creates an urban feeling unusual in a town of its size. The two primary streets--Main Street and Second Street--are very wide and give the feeling of grand avenues, while the alleys are narrow and more gritty. Second Street is even wider than Main Street and has a landscaped median. Main and Second Streets were paved with brick in 1929, and the pavers still exist under the modern asphalt. In some places, such as the western side of the Courthouse Square and in certain gutters, the bricks can still be seen. Wide concrete sidewalks line all the streets within the district, and directly abut them, but are not present on any of the alleys except for Meak Alley. The awnings from the various stores give shelter from the weather. The topography of the town is generally flat, and very little vegetation grows within the district.

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Downtown Columbia Historic District  
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Lots are generally long, narrow rectangles, as is common in downtown areas, but a few lots, such as Lampton's are large and square-shaped. Store facades range from fifteen feet wide to Lampton's one hundred twenty feet, and the facades are set back from the street by the width of the sidewalk.

An inventory of the proposed district follows. Fifty-four of the buildings contained within the district contribute to its architectural and historical character; their contributing character is identified with the notation (C). Ten buildings in the district do not contribute to its architectural or historical character, usually due to recent alterations which destroyed or severely altered the building's historic features. These non-contributing buildings are denoted with (NC). Some of these non-contributing buildings have received alterations that may be reversible, and these receive the additional notation "Potentially eligible if restored." Two buildings in the district have been previously listed on the National Register, and these are identified with the notation (PL). Buildings are arranged in alphanumeric order by street name and address.

**INVENTORY OF PROPERTIES**

**Beef Alley**

01 (C) 603-609 Beef Alley  
c.1940

One-story, stucco and concrete block, commercial building with flat roof and simple capped parapet. Facade is divided into four identical storefronts--each has a double-paned display window on the left and a single-leaf, glazed wooden door and transom on the right. A flat metal awning spans the entire facade, separating a clearstory of four bays of 4-light transoms from the storefront area. Side elevation has four blocked-up display windows with concrete sills and two blocked-up doors, and original awning has been removed. (Photo #1)

02 (C) 611 Beef Alley  
originally Pearl River Ice Cream and Creamery  
c.1930

Two-story, painted brick commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet with cap. Upper wall has four rectangular areas outlined in soldier and stacked bond and projecting cornerblocks. Doors and windows on storefront receive similar brick and cornerblock treatment, and windows have concrete sills. Original storefront had a central bay consisting of a single-leaf door and transom flanked by two display windows and transoms. Two outer bays probably consisted of single-leaf doors with sidelights and transoms; but the outer bays have been bricked in, and transoms in the central bay have been covered or bricked in. Side elevation has four rectangular awning windows, and several first floor windows have been bricked in. (Photo #2)

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Downtown Columbia Historic District  
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- 03 (C) 619 Beef Alley  
originally a hotel  
c.1930

Two-story, painted brick building with flat roof and stepped parapet with cap. Original second-story balcony has been replaced, and first-story porch details are probably not original. Second floor has three bays--window, door, window--with paired 3/1 double-hung wooden sash windows and a single-leaf, 3-light door. First floor also has three bays--window, door, window--but the windows are wood-frame display windows with 3-light transoms and the door is double leaf, glazed wooden covered by a 3-light transom. Currently, the porch roof/balcony is supported on four wooden posts with ironwork detailing at top. South elevation has five bays on second floor, all paired 3/1, and a single-leaf door covered with a pent metal awning as well as a display window in the first floor.

- 04 (C) 621 Beef Alley  
originally "Wholesale Candy and Tobacco"  
c.1940

One-story, painted brick, utilitarian building with flat roof and capped parapet. Two large doorways, framed with sturdy wooden beams, dominate the facade, with the smaller door on the southern side and the larger door on the northern side. Both doors are double-leaf and are made of vertical planks

- 05 (C) 700 Beef Alley  
Hill Hardware Warehouse  
c.1940

One-story, corrugated metal, warehouse building with gable roof covered in asbestos shingles. Side elevations have 4-light, wood-frame windows along the top, under the exposed eaves. Eastern facade has two large wooden sliding doors flanking paired 6-light windows, and a loading deck under a shed-roofed porch.

**Broad Street**

- 06 (C) 225A Broad Street  
The Rankin Company Warehouse  
c.1920

One-story, brick commercial building with flat roof and triangular pediment with 3-course corbeled cap. Four pilasters with 3-course corbeled tops divide the facade into three bays. The central bay has a flat metal awning over a double-leaf door and transom flanked by two iron pilasters and two display windows and transoms. The two outer bays each have two display windows and transoms divided by an iron pilaster. All windows and transoms are currently covered with particle board. (Photo #3).

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Downtown Columbia Historic District  
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07 (C) 225B Broad Street  
c.1947

One-story, painted brick and concrete block, commercial building with flat roof and triangular pediment with 3-course corbeled cap. Six pilasters with 5-course corbeled tops divide the facade into five bays--a central double-leaf, glazed wooden door is flanked by four wood-frame display windows with brick sills. Original transoms have been covered, and a flat metal awning spans the facade.

Courthouse Square

08 (PL) Marion County Courthouse  
1905  
NR 3/3/95, "Marion County Courthouse and Jail," Columbia, Marion County, Mississippi

Two-story, stone-veneered, brick building with stone columns and a green tile roof. The building is essentially square in shape, but slightly projecting corner pavilions give the building an octagonal appearance. Its most distinctive feature is its elegant Baroque-style dome, which is supported by an octagonal drum with a pair of unfluted Corinthian columns at each corner and is surmounted by an open-sided lantern. Each of the four primary facades features a pedimented distyle-in-antis portico, and the north portico, which faces to the heart of downtown Columbia, has the date "1905" in the tympanum of the pediment and the word "MARION" in the frieze.

09 (PL) Marion County Jail  
1938-1939  
NR 3/3/95, "Marion County Courthouse and Jail," Columbia, Marion County, Mississippi

Located behind the courthouse and facing east, the International-style jail is a simple two-story concrete cube with "Marion County Jail" carved into the parapet and decorative incised banding linking the second floor windows. A beltcourse separates the two floors, and the whole composition is anchored by a watertable. The centrally located entrance is sheltered by a simple cantilevered hood and flanked by original hopper-style windows.

10 (NC) Office building  
c.1970  
Non-contributing element of Marion County Courthouse and Jail NR, 3/3/95

One-story, concrete building with flat roof.



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Church Street

- 11 (C) 231 Church Street  
formerly Reliance Manufacturing Co./then Pioneer Aerospace Corp.  
c.1935

Two-story, scored brick industrial building with flat roof and simple capped parapet. Building covers most of a city block and has an attached one-story building to the rear. Eight brick pilasters on the Church Street elevation divide the facade into seven bays on both stories--the two outer bays have 50-light windows, and the middle five bays have 60-light windows. All windows are painted over and have concrete sills. The central bay on the first story has a double-leaf metal door with 10-light, painted-over transom, covered by a shed roof. Side elevations are divided into nineteen bays by twenty brick pilasters identical to those on Church Street facade, and each bay has 70-light windows on both floors, except the two outer bays, which have 50-light windows on both stories. (Photo #4).

(NC) A water tower rises toward the rear, between the two-story section and the one-story section.

- 12 (NC) 238 Church Street  
c.1960

One-story brick commercial building with flat roof and simple parapet. A flat metal awning spans most of the 40-foot facade. Storefront has a recessed central entrance--glazed aluminum, single-leaf door with fixed glass sidelight and transom. Entranceway is flanked by metal-frame, fixed-glass windows, each side in a group of three. All windows have two lights over a colored styrofoam panel. Side elevation has three, paired, 1/1 double-hung sash, aluminum-frame windows covered by metal pent awnings.

- 13 (C) 240 Church Street  
c.1947

One-story, poured-concrete commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet with cap. A flat metal awning spans most of the 20-foot facade. Storefront consists of a single-leaf wooden door in the center, flanked by two 2/2 aluminum double-hung sash windows, each with concrete sills.

- 14 (C) 242 Church Street  
c.1940, rear addition, c.1950

One-story, stucco-clad concrete block, commercial building with flat roof and simple parapet. A flat metal awning spans most of the 15-foot facade. The storefront consists of a single-leaf, glazed aluminum door and a rectangular, wood-sash display window.

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15 (C) 244 Church Street  
c.1940

One-story, stucco-clad concrete block, commercial building with flat roof and simple parapet. A pent metal awning spans most of the 15-foot facade. Storefront consists of a single-leaf metal door and a rectangular, wood-sash display window.

16 (C) 246/248 Church Street  
c.1940

One-story, scored brick and concrete block, commercial building with flat roof and parapet with cap. Upper wall has three areas outlined in headers, and a clearstory runs above a flat metal awning. Facade is divided into two storefronts of different length. The eastern storefront has a double-leaf, glazed wooden door with boarded-up transom at the far eastern end and a band of seven aluminum-sash display windows extending westward. The western storefront has a recessed entryway flanked by two large showcase areas. The doorway is a single-leaf glazed aluminum door and a filled-in transom area. Side elevation has brick extending approximately twenty feet from the facade and then painted concrete block to the rear. A poured concrete stringcourse runs along the upper wall. Two small, barred windows and three service doors are the only other features. (Photo #5).

Honey Alley

17 (C) 600 Honey Alley  
Jack's Sandwich Shop  
1944, addition, ca. 1950s

One-story, roughly triangular building with flat roof and wide overhanging eave. Exterior siding is vertical wood siding. Facade has a band of three, 1/1 double-hung, metal-sash windows and a wide sill for taking food orders. A wooden single-leaf door is to the right of the windows. Original building appears to have been rectangular, with windows on both long sides, but this configuration was changed at an unknown date.

18 (C) 616 Honey Alley  
c.1940

One-story, stucco-over-concrete block, commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet. A pent roof awning covers most of the 20-foot facade. Storefront consists of a central, double-leaf, glazed wooden door with nine lights in each leaf and transom flanked by two wood-frame display windows with concrete sills. (Photo #6)

Main Street

19 (C) 616 Main Street  
c.1930, storefront altered c.1970

One-story, painted brick, commercial building with flat roof and simple parapet with cap. Upper wall is clad in standing-seam metal, and a flat metal awning spans the 30-foot facade. Storefront has been re-worked with metal sash and plate

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(616 Main Street, cont'd)

glass windows--central double-leaf door and fixed glass transom is flanked by four windows. Side elevation features a single-leaf door covered by a metal pent awning at the rear, and a double-paned, metal-sash display window near the front.

20 (C) 617 Main Street  
1913, storefront alteration, c.1970

Two-story, glazed brick, commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet with cap. Second story facade has four bays across, each with a single, 1/1 double-hung wooden sash window, concrete lintel and sill, and a vent above. Original transoms have been covered over, and original cornice has been removed. Storefront has been re-worked with three metal-frame display windows. A flat metal awning spans the 30-foot facade. Side elevation has eight, single, 1/1 double-hung wooden sash windows on the second story, identical to the windows on the facade, and a single door covered by a flat metal awning toward the rear of the first floor. The interior is now fully joined to its neighbor, but its beadboard ceiling is intact. (Photo #7).

21 (C) 618 Main Street  
c.1925, storefront altered, c.1970

One-story, painted brick, commercial building with high upper wall, flat roof, and stepped parapet with cap. Original transoms are covered with standing seam metal, and a flat metal awning spans the 30-foot facade. Storefront has been re-worked, with a double-leaf, glazed aluminum door and fixed transom at northern end, and three large display windows taking up the rest of the facade. Rear elevation features two sizes of rock-faced block and a double course of regular concrete block as a cornice decoration.

22 (C) 619 Main Street  
1913, storefront altered, c.1970  
(Secondary facades on Courthouse St. and 2nd Street)

Two-story, T-shaped, brick commercial building with strong Italianate features, a flat roof, and capped parapet. Brick appears to have been painted at one time.

Main Street facade: Cornice is decorated with dentils and brackets and a double stringcourse runs between the first and second stories. Second story has five bays across, each a 1/1 wooden double-hung sash covered by corbeled brick segmental arches. Transoms have been covered and original storefront replaced, with large metal-sash display windows and two sets of double doors stretching across the entire facade and recessed. A flat metal awning also extends across the facade.

Courthouse St. facade: Same window treatment as on Main Street facade, with eight bays on second story. Cornice features an 11-course brick corbel table, and a double stringcourse runs between 1st and 2nd stories. First story windows have been altered--paired, 1/1, fixed windows flank a string of five fixed windows. A single door, covered with flat metal awning, is near the rear.

2nd Street facade: Second story has six bays across, with the same treatment as the other two facades. Cornice and stringcourse features also match the Courthouse St. facade. First story windows have been closed in with a stucco material, probably Dryvet; and the entrance has been re-worked, with large metal-sash display windows flanking double doors and a fixed glass transom. A flat metal awning covers the entrance area. (Photo #7)

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Downtown Columbia Historic District  
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- 23 (C) 621 Main Street  
1913, storefront altered, c.1970

Two-story, glazed brick, commercial building with flat roof, triangular pediment, and cornice decorated with dentils, brackets, and beaded moldings. Second story has four bays, each with a single, 1/1 double hung wooden sash window. Transoms have been covered and storefront replaced with three large display windows with metal frames. A flat metal awning stretches across the 30-foot facade. A double stringcourse separates the first and second stories and also serves as a continuous sill. Interior has been fully joined to its neighbor, but its pressed tin ceiling is intact. (Photo #7)

- 24 (C) 622 Main Street  
c.1920, storefront altered, c.1970

One-story, painted brick commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet with cap. Transoms are covered with standing-seam metal, and storefront has been altered with three metal-frame display windows and double-leaf glazed metal doors with fixed transoms. A flat metal awning spans the 30-foot facade. Bulkheads are brick, but side pilasters are rough concrete. Cornice line is a header course.

- 25 (C) 624 Main Street  
formerly Citizens Bank with U.S. Post Office in rear  
1913, storefront altered, c.1970

Two-story, brick and stucco, corner-lot commercial building with flat roof, capped parapet, and decorative pressed tin cornice. Second story on the Main Street elevation has four bays, each with a single, 1/1 metal, double-hung-sash window, concrete sill and lintels and a rectangular vent over each window. First floor Main St. elevation has stuccoed walls and a chamfered corner entrance supported by a single plain marble column and two semicircular arches. Entrance is a double-leaf glazed metal door and fixed sidelights and transom. Storefront has two large display windows.

Second Street elevation is divided visually into two sections--rear and front. Front half has two paired windows flanked by a single window and a group of three single windows on the second story; the first story has two single-leaf doors with transoms and four display windows reading door, window, window, door, window, window. Rear half of elevation has seven single bays on second story and two single-leaf doors with sidelights and transom on first floor. All Second Street upper story windows are identical to Main Street upper story windows. Side elevation pressed tin cornice has been removed. (Photo #8).

- 26 (C) 625 Main Street  
formerly Harris Drug Store  
c.1910

Two-story, painted brick, corner-lot commercial building with parapet and semicircular pediment, garland and wreath swags and gargoyle on the Main Street facade. Pressed tin cornice extends across both street elevations.

Main Street second-story facade has four bays, each with a single, 1/1 wooden double-hung-sash window, 4-light segmentally arched transom, concrete segmental keystone hood, concrete sill, and porthole vent above. A corbeled double stringcourse extends across the facade between the windows and the vents. First story storefront has been clad in vertical seam sheet metal, and a flat metal awning extends across the 30-foot facade. Storefront fenestration appears unmodified, but original display windows and door have been replaced, with two large metal sash display windows flanking a central glazed aluminum door with plate-glass sidelights and transom.

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Downtown Columbia Historic District  
Columbia, MS

(625 Main Street, cont'd)

Second Street elevation has ten bays, each a single, 1/1 wooden double-hung-sash window, concrete sill and flat concrete arch. Above nine of the bays are rectangular vents. A concrete stringcourse with dentils separates the first and second stories and may continue under the sheet metal cladding on the Main Street elevation. Original door transom and display window have been partially boarded up or bricked in and replaced with double-leaf door and rectangular display window.

Interior is fairly intact, with patterned mosaic tile floor, wooden display shelves, built-in clock toward rear, and pressed metal ceiling (in need of painting). (Photo #9).

27 (C) 651 Main Street  
former Police Station  
c.1940

One-story, brick, rectangular, freestanding building with red barrel-tile, hipped roof and boxed eaves. Front (east) elevation has a bay projection with three 6/6 metal double-hung-sash windows. A metal, single-leaf door is on the southern, long side. Original building has received two sympathetic additions over the years to almost triple its space. Two, 1/1 metal double-hung sash windows are in the rear. Concrete foundation.

28 (NC) 700 Main Street  
formerly The Watts Company  
c.1910, new facade, c.1985

Two-story, Dryvet-clad, corner-lot commercial building with flat roof and dentiled parapet with cap. Large lunette design is imprinted in the Dryvet on upper story of the Main Street elevation, and colossal pilasters stand at each end of the facade. A shingled pent awning covers the first-story storefront, which consists of four metal-frame display windows flanking a single-leaf glazed metal door and transom. Bulkheads are modern brick.

Second Street elevation has nine bays on the upper floor--four are 9/6 double-hung sash, five are glass brick. Five porthole vents stretch above the windows. A concrete stringcourse extends along the Second Street elevation between the first and second stories. On the first story, four rectangular windows of glass brick extends across the center area, and a single-leaf door is also near the middle. A large display window framed by black ceramic veneer and covered by a flat metal awning is near the rear.

29 (C) 701 Main Street  
The Lampton Company  
1901, 1923 addition, 1935 Art Deco facade

Two-story, Art Deco, scored concrete commercial building with flat roof and located on a corner lot. Upper story has no windows, but is decorated with colored geometrical designs. Main Street storefront has four pairs of metal frame display windows, each pair surrounded on the sides and bottom by black ceramic veneer, and three entrances. The entrance in the chamfered corner is a single-leaf glazed metal door with sidelights and "Lampton's" spelled out in decorative metal in the transom area. Middle entrance is a single-leaf glazed metal door with sidelights and "Lampton's" in the transom area and is flanked by two showcase areas. Entrance at northern end has an identical single-leaf door, sidelights, and transom. Main St. sidewalk retains its mosaic tiling with "Lampton's Dry Goods," "Lampton's Shoes," "Lampton's Men's Dept.," and "Lampton's Furniture" spelled out in a line of rectangular mosaics. The original brick is visible under the tile veneer on the storefront. An awning spans the Main St. facade and wraps around to the corner entrance.

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(701 Main Street, cont'd)

Second Street elevation has a concrete stringcourse, capped parapet, five rectangular vents on the upper story wall, and three glass-brick windows on the first story. A double-leaf door with fixed sidelights and transom and a flat metal awning is near the middle of the elevation. (Photo #10).

- 30 (NC) 702 Main Street  
formerly The Watts Company  
c.1910, new facade, c.1985

Two-story, Dryvet-clad commercial building with flat roof, triangular pediment, and cornice decorated with large dentils and brackets. Original facade is unknown, but upper-story windows were covered and storefront fenestration extensively altered sometime in the 1980s. Currently, two large segmentally arched windows flank a single-leaf door with 3-light transom. The arch motif is present in upper-story decorations as well.

- 31 (C) 704 Main Street  
formerly Walker Bros. Druggists  
c.1930, rear addition, c.1940

One-story, raised-seam metal clad commercial building with flat roof and parapet. Storefront has original configuration--recessed central entry with two showcase areas flanking a double-leaf glazed wooden door and fixed transom. A flat metal awning extends the length of the 15-foot facade. The interior is said to retain its pressed tin ceiling, but this could not be verified due to the building's being locked. (Photo #11)

- 32 (C) 706 Main Street  
c.1930, rear addition, c.1950s, shed-roofed awning, c.1970s

One-story, painted brick commercial building with flat roof and capped parapet. Two rectangular vents are on the upper wall, above a shingled pent roof awning which extends across the 15-foot facade. Storefront appears virtually unchanged, with recessed single-leaf door and transom flanked by showcase windows. Bulkheads are plaster scored to resemble tile. (Photo #11).

- 33 (C) 708 Main Street  
c.1920, rear addition, c.1950s

One-story, painted brick commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet. Original transoms have been covered over and bulkheads apparently re-bricked. A flat metal awning covers the 30-foot facade. Storefront has two display windows with metal frames on each side of the double-leaf, glazed-metal doors and fixed transom. (Photo #11).

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- 34 (NC) 708½ Main Street  
c.1930, rear addition, c.1950s

One-story, Dryvet-clad commercial building with flat roof and plain parapet. A diamond-shape adorns the upper wall and a shingled pent awning spans the 15-foot facade. Storefront has been altered, with two metal-frame display windows flanking a recessed single-leaf door and fixed transom, but it retains its historic configuration. (Photo #11).

- 35 (NC) 709 Main Street  
formerly called Columbia Bank  
c.1925, new facade, c.1985

Two-story, scored concrete commercial building with flat roof and simple parapet. Cornice has large dentils, and frieze is decorated with a row of triglyphs. Three colossal Doric columns are on each side of a large semicircular entrance arch with keystone. Windows are 2-story sheet glass with metal frames and applied muntins. Interior retains plasterwork and tile floors in the original bank side.

- 36 (NC) 710 Main Street  
c.1930, storefront altered, c.1960s  
\*potentially eligible if restored

One-story, brick commercial building with flat roof and plain parapet. Upper facade is clad in raised-seam metal, and a shingled pent awning covers the 15-foot facade. Storefront has been altered with bricked-over bulkheads, and transoms have been boarded over, but it retains its historic configuration of a single-leaf door flanked by two showcase areas. Windows are metal frame. This building could possibly be contributing if the slipcover and awning were removed.

- 37 (C) 712 Main Street  
c.1920

One-story, painted brick commercial building with flat roof and Mission-style parapet with cap. In the upper wall, raised seam metal covers the transoms. Storefront appears fairly unchanged, with wooden bulkheads and two display windows flanking a double-leaf door and fixed glass transom and sidelight. A flat metal awning spans the 20-foot facade. (Photo #12).

- 38 (C) 714 Main Street  
c.1920

One-story, painted brick, commercial building with flat roof and stepped triangular parapet. Upper wall has a 3-course corbel table. Transoms and bulkheads have been covered with raised-seam metal. Storefront appears only slightly changed, with two showcase areas flanking a recessed, single-leaf glazed metal door and transom. A flat metal awning spans the 27-foot facade. (Photo #12).

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39 (C) 715 Main Street  
c.1920

One-story, painted brick commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet with cap. Transoms have been covered with stucco, and a flat metal awning spans the 30-foot facade. Storefront has two large showcase areas flanking a double-leaf glazed wooden door and 2-light transom. Display windows are metal frame. Entryway is recessed with beaded board ceiling, and bulkheads are of black ceramic veneer.

40 (C) 716 Main Street  
c.1905, storefront altered, c. 1970s

One-story, painted brick, commercial building with flat roof and Mission-style capped parapet. Brackets adorn the cornice, and transoms are covered with a metal pent roof awning. Storefront is severely altered with rustic wood-panel cladding, and features a display window and recessed entryway with a single-leaf modern wood door. (Photo #12).

41 (C) 717-717½ Main Street  
Hill Hardware Co./Saint Albans Lodge No. 60, F & AM.  
1903, storefront altered, c.1970s, cornice removed, c.1970s

Two-story, painted brick, commercial building with flat roof and simple capped parapet. Original pressed tin cornice has been removed and space covered with two signboards, and stepped portion of the parapet has been taken off. Upper story has 3 bays--the central bay has two windows, and the outer bays each have three. Each second-floor window is covered with a semicircular hood and has above it, a vent set in a segmentally arched niche with brick sill. Two brick pilasters with Greek orders flank the central bay on the upper story, and an arcaded corbel table stretches between the pilasters at the cornice. Two signboards are at the top of the outer bays. A 5-course corbeled stringcourse forms a continuous sill, and a pent metal awning supported on nine wooden posts extends the length of the 65-foot facade. Storefront has plywood cladding (faux board and batten) except in the central area, which retains its brick. The arched, rusticated-concrete entrance is ornate and is flanked by pairs of short Ionic pilasters of painted brick. The hood of the entrance extends above the awning. the double-leaf, glazed wooden door is recessed under the arch. A display window and a recessed, second-floor entry are the only other storefront features. Interior is highly intact, with original wood floors and second floor balcony. (Photo #13).

42 (C) 718 Main Street  
Cook & Fortenberry Pharmacy (since 1952)  
formerly Quin's Drug Store  
c.1900, storefront altered, c.1935

Two-story, brick commercial building with flat roof and pedimented gable parapet. Upper story has four bays, each with a single 1/1 double-hung wood sash window, keystone arch, and metal awning. Stone or concrete quoins stretch up the upper story, and two stringcourses span the facade between the first and second floors and below the cornice. The original cornice has been removed. Storefront has been altered, with original arched display windows replaced with rectangular metal display windows, and the large transomed entryway replaced with a double-leaf glazed aluminum door and sidelights. The hooded entryway remains, but is obscured by the awning. Green and white mosaic tile clad the storefront, which was originally scored concrete. "Drugs" is spelled out in tile on four structural posts on the storefront facade. (Photo #14)



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- 43 (C) 719 Main Street  
formerly Middletons Furniture  
c.1910, shingle awning, c.1970s, upper-story windows altered, c.1970s

Two-story, painted brick commercial building with flat roof and stepped polygonal parapet with cap. Four pilasters with 2-course corbeling at the top rise up the second story and divide the building into three bays. Each bay has paired porthole vents over a window. Original segmentally arched, paired windows have been replaced with rectangular, 20-light, wooden frame windows flanked by shutters, giving the building a vaguely Colonial appearance. A 5-course corbel table stretches along the cornice, and a corbeled double stringcourse runs between the vents and the windows. "Columbia Auction Co." is spelled out on the signboard above the shingled pent awning, which features dentils and a wooden soffit. Storefront has two large showcase areas flanking a central recessed entrance. Exterior transom has been boarded up, but interior transoms in the recessed area and northern showcase area are intact. Original 2-leaf glazed wooden door with 3-light transom remains, as well as decorative mosaic tiling on sidewalk and entranceway. (Photo #15).

- 44 (C) 720 Main Street  
c.1905

Two-story, painted brick, commercial building with flat roof and simple parapet with cap. Cornice is decorated with brackets and dentils. Uppers story has four bays, each with a single 1/1 double-hung, metal sash window. A cloth and metal awning spans the 26-foot facade. Storefront appears to be its original configuration, with two showcase areas (metal frame), flanking a recessed entryway of double-leaf glazed wooden door and transom. A single-leaf recessed entrance to the upper story is on the north side of the storefront. Bulkheads are wooden, probably original.

- 45 (NC) 722 Main Street  
c.1905, facade altered, c.1970s  
\*Potentially eligible if restored

Two-story, brick commercial building with upper story completely clad in raised-seam metal. A flat metal awning spans the 90-foot facade, supported on six metal posts. Storefront has four bays, each with a single-leaf glazed aluminum door and fixed glass transom, and a double-paned display window. The storefront reads as follows: double window, door, double window, door, door, double window, door, double window. Bulkheads are fiberglass. Second floor interior retains most of its detailing, including ornate door and window surrounds, wrap-around balustrade, bead-board ceiling, and service elevator. Once the upper story slipcover were removed, this building might be considered contributing. (Photo #16).

- 46 (C) 723/725 Main Street  
formerly called the White Building  
c.1920, storefront altered, c.1960s

Two-story, painted brick, commercial building with flat roof and triangular capped parapet. Originally housed three separate businesses, but now only two. Upper story has star and diamond decorations, and reflects the original three-store configuration--each store area has two paired, 1/1 double-hung wooden sash windows flanking a single 1/1 window. The simple cornice has large dentils in the middle store area, which is recessed one brick course. A soldier course forms a continuous lintel, and sills are of concrete. Transoms have been covered with raised-seam metal. A flat plastic awning spans the southern two-thirds of the facade, and a cloth awning the northern one-third. Storefronts are clad in raised-seam metal, and have an irregular arrangement of ten large display windows and four doors, reading window, window, window,

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(722 Main Street, cont'd)

window, door, window, window, window, door, door, window, door, window. One door leads to the upper floor which has been converted to apartment space. One recessed entrance retains its decorative mosaic tiling and beadboard walls.

Side elevation is stuccoed and has four 1/1 single windows and eight 1/1 paired windows on the second floor, and a paired 9/1 window near the rear and a display windows near the front on the first floor. (Photo #17).

47 (C) 800/802 Main Street  
Newsom Building  
c.1930

Three-story, free-standing concrete commercial building with flat roof and Art-Deco features. Main Street facade has two bays--each a group of four 4-light windows (with the bottom light being a hopper window), metal sashes and covered with a pent metal awning--on the two upper stories. First story has two storefronts--to the north, a small single-leaf, glazed wooden door recessed and flanked by two small showcase areas; to the south, double-leaf glazed aluminum door and transom flanked on the left with four display windows, and on the right with two. Storefront area on both Main and Church Streets has been altered with vertical wood siding and large display windows. A flat concrete awning wraps around both main elevations and has a sleek curved corner.

Church Street bays are asymmetrically placed--three 4-window groupings identical to Main Street windows and a single 4-light window are on the western half, and two 4-window groupings, single 4-light window and paired 4-light window on the eastern half. The central entrance is framed in concrete and black ceramic veneer and has Art Deco-style decorations in concrete. Paired 4-light windows are on the second and third stories. Four storefront areas line the Church Street facade, and the entire first floor area is clad in vertical wood siding. All storefronts have recessed entries with original glazed wooden doors and transoms and large showcase areas. A 3-course line of glass brick is toward the Main Street (western) side.

Northern elevation has an exterior, off-center chimney and windows asymmetrically placed in single, double, triple, and quadruple groupings. First floor is extended approximately ten feet from the main building and has no windows. Extension appears to be original. A service elevator shaft is visible on the roof.

The name "Newsom" appears in all-capital red letters on the central Church Street entrance and vertically down the Main Street facade. (Photo #18).

Meak Alley

48 (C) 331 Meak Alley  
formerly a tin shop  
c.1935

Two-story, painted concrete block, square utilitarian building with flat roof and simple parapet with cap. Upper story has two bays, each with paired 6/1 double-hung wooden sash windows. First floor has two single-leaf doors and transoms flanking a large 6-light, Craftsman-style window. (Photo #19).

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Second Street

49 (C) 217-221 Second Street  
Lampton Warehouse  
1910

One-story, rough stucco over brick, freestanding commercial building with flat roof and stepped triangular pediment. A metal pent awning supported by five metal posts spans the facade. Four pilasters divide the facade into three storefronts, and six iron pilasters--two on each storefront--adorn the facade. Original transom areas are covered in wood panels. The western storefront has two display windows, and a single-leaf glazed aluminum door with sidelights and transoms. Central storefront has a double-leaf glazed wooden door and a 2-light transom flanked by two display windows. Eastern storefront has third display windows and a single-leaf glazed wooden door and transom. All window frames are wood. Side elevations are functional, with service entries, and the rear still retains its loading porch with tin shed roof. (Photo #20).

50 (C) 227 Second Street  
formerly People's Cafe  
c.1926

One-story, painted brick, freestanding (originally attached) commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet with cap. The building's unique triangular shape is a result of the railroad cutting through normal lot lines. A pent metal awning spans the facade and is supported by three metal posts. The storefront area is relatively intact, only the door having been replaced. The three pairs of windows are 3/1, double-hung wooden sash. The entrance is a single-leaf 9-light door with 1-light sidelight and transom. (Photo #21).

51 (C) 236 Second Street  
c.1930

One-story, painted brick, commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet with cap. A geometrical wooden decoration is in the center of the upper wall and was perhaps intended as a signboard. A pent metal awning spans the 26-foot facade. Storefront appears only slightly altered, with a double-leaf glazed wooden door entrance flanked by two square display windows with metal frames. Side elevation has a double-leaf door service entrance with boarded-up transoms. Transoms on facade have been sympathetically boarded over.

52 (C) 311 Second Street  
Western Auto  
c.1930

One-story, painted brick, freestanding commercial building with flat roof. Brick is Flemish bond, probably the only building in Columbia with such a bond. Upper wall is clad in standing-seam metal, and a flat metal awning spans the entire facade. The building originally housed three businesses, and thus has three distinct storefront areas, divided from each other by brick pillars. Each storefront is composed of a central single-leaf, glazed metal door and a fixed transom flanked by two metal-frame display windows. All bulkheads are brick. Interior retains its original pressed tin ceiling and skylights.

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53 (NC) 312 Second Street  
c.1955

One-story, painted rusticated concrete block building with flat roof and capped simple parapet. Main facade has two single-leaf glazed aluminum doors, equally spaced on the elevation. A poured concrete ramp with metal railings on either side leads to the door on the right. A wooden signboard extends across most of the facade on the upper wall. Side elevation has two single-leaf wooden doors toward the rear. A small window and a doorway appear to have been blocked in. A rear section of plain concrete block is probably a later addition.

54 (C) 314 Second Street  
The Columbian-Progress  
1939

One-story, blond brick, commercial building with flat roof and simple capped parapet. On the upper wall, four courses of brick on either side of "The Columbian-Progress" are a dark brown color. Storefront has a central double-leaf, glazed wooden door and double transom (1-light over 6-lights) flanked by two wood-frame display windows and transoms. A cloth awning covers the entranceway.

55 (C) 316/318 Second Street  
c.1930

One-story, brick and stucco commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet with cap. A rectangular signboard is outlined in stucco on the upper wall. A flat metal awning spans the 30-foot facade. The facade is divided into two identical storefronts, each with a single-leaf, glazed metal door and a double-paned display window.

56 (C) 317 Second Street  
formerly Yarborough's Columbia Cleaners  
1946

One-story, scored brick and concrete block, commercial building with flat roof and simple capped parapet. A flat metal canopy, supported by a central post projects from the middle portion of the facade. Storefront has a central single-leaf, glazed metal door with sidelights flanked by two groups of three metal-frame 6/9 windows with brick sills. Transoms are 2-light, but three of the four have air conditioners in them.

57 (C) 319 Second Street  
formerly Mississippi Employment Office  
1946

One-story, painted scored brick commercial building with flat roof and simple capped parapet. Upper wall has an oval signboard in the center, and a flat wooden awning spans the 30-foot facade. Storefront has a double-leaf, glazed wooden door in the center, flanked by two wood-frame display windows and four light transoms. Display windows have applied shutters. (Photo #22).

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58 (C) 320/322 Second Street  
c1935

One-story, painted brick, commercial building with flat roof and simple capped parapet. Upper wall is clad in asbestos shingles. A flat metal awning spans the 30-foot facade, separating a clearstory from the lower wall. Facade is divided into two storefronts of different lengths. Smaller storefront has a small display window and a single-leaf glazed wooden door with transom. Larger storefront has a single-leaf glazed metal door with transom flanked by three display windows. Bulkheads are black ceramic veneer.

59 (C) 321 Second Street  
1946, burned and repaired, 1954

One-story, stucco over large brick, commercial building with flat roof and simple capped parapet. A pent metal awning spans much of the 28-foot facade. Storefront has a central double-leaf, glazed metal door and 2-light transom flanked by two wood-frame display windows. A 6-light clearstory stretches over the windows. Original tin ceiling is said to still exist in the back half of the store and underneath the dropped ceiling in front.

60 (C) 324/326 Second Street  
c.1930

One-story, painted brick, commercial building with flat roof and stepped parapet with cap. Transoms have been boarded up, and a flat metal awning spans the 30-foot facade. The facade is divided into two mirror image storefronts, each with a metal-frame showcase window and a 3-light, 3-panel wooden door and transom. Transom over western door has been covered. (Photo #23).

61 (C) 326A/326B Second Street  
c.1930

One-story, stucco commercial building with flat roof and parapet. Upper wall is clad in raised-seam metal, and a flat metal awning spans the 32-foot facade. Storefront has a central entrance of wood-paneled, double-leaf door with sidelights and transoms flanked by two metal-frame display windows with concrete sills.

62 (C) 326C/326D Second Street  
originally Columbian Bakery  
c.1935

Two-story, painted brick and stucco commercial building with flat roof and capped parapet. Second floor has three bays, each with a single 6/6 double-hung sash, metal-frame window with concrete sill. Rectangular vents flank a central 6-light window above and may indicate another half story. Five stars adorn the area between the first and second stories, and a pent metal awning spans the 30-foot facade. First floor is divided into two storefronts of different lengths--the western store has a central, single-leaf, glazed wooden door flanked by two display windows with wooden bulkheads and a double clearstory (10-light over 10-light). Eastern store has a single-leaf wooden door and covered transom and a second-story entrance of single-leaf, glazed wooden door and covered transom. A double clearstory (5-light over 5-light) covers both doors. (Photo #24).

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63 (C) 328/330 Second Street  
1939

One-story brick commercial building with flat roof and plain parapet with cap. A pent metal awning spans the 30-foot facade. The eastern storefront has two metal-frame display windows and a double-leaf, glazed metal door and transom. Western storefront has three display windows flanking a double-leaf, glazed metal door and transom.

64 (NC) 332/336 Second Street  
c.1960

One-story, brick and concrete block, corner-lot commercial building with flat roof and capped parapet. A flat metal awning wraps around both main elevations. Second Street elevation is divided into two storefronts, each with a large metal-frame display window with concrete sills and a single-leaf, glazed aluminum door. Center Avenue elevation has three storefronts, each with a single-leaf, glazed aluminum door flanked by 6-light Miami awning windows.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Downtown Columbia Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the areas of community planning and development and commerce, and under Criterion C in the area of architecture. Columbia's downtown buildings form a locally significant and well-preserved collection of commercial, industrial, and governmental structures, thus providing visual evidence of the growth of Marion County and Columbia, its county seat and largest town. All contributing buildings in the district were built between 1899--when the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad brought railroad service to Columbia, beginning a period of intense growth in the city--and 1947, fifty years before this nomination.

Although the town of Columbia was founded as the county seat of Marion County (originally comprising all the area of present-day Marion, Lawrence, Pike, Walthall and parts of Covington, Lincoln, Lamar, Pearl River, and Jefferson Davis counties<sup>1</sup>) in the early nineteenth century and actually served as the temporary state capitol from February 27, 1821 to November 28, 1821, it did not begin its period of rapid growth until the very end of the nineteenth century, and no commercial buildings dating before circa 1900 survive today. Through much of the nineteenth century, Columbia served as the primary trading center connecting the agriculture of Marion County to the keel boats and steamboats which plied the Pearl River from Jackson, Mississippi to the Gulf Coast.<sup>2</sup> The land surrounding Columbia was never good enough to support many large plantations, but small farms were able to prosper by growing cotton and corn as cash crops and food crops for the family.<sup>3</sup>

Thus, even though Columbia was small, its position as the largest town in Marion County and its situation on the Pearl River gave it a fairly stable economy--stable enough, at least, that in 1880, the five Lampton brothers--Thad, W.E., Iddo, Lucius, and Walter--decided to found a mercantile company on Main Street, a block away from the courthouse square and about a fourth of a mile from the Pearl. This frame building was later torn down in 1901 to make way for the present structure (which today has an Art Deco facade), one of the oldest buildings in the downtown district.<sup>4</sup> The Watts Company, another mercantile store, opened its doors in 1893, in a building which formerly stood at 625 Main Street, on the corner of Second

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<sup>1</sup> Marion County Historical Society, *History of Marion County, Mississippi*. Walsworth Publishing: Marceline, Missouri, p.2

<sup>2</sup> WPA Historical Research Project for Marion County. "History," p. 2; "Transportation."

<sup>3</sup> WPA Historical Research Project for Marion County. "Agriculture."

<sup>4</sup> Marion County Historical Society, p. 162. *See also* "Columbia Bank, 1899-1974: The History of 75 Years of Service to Columbia and the Surrounding Trade Area." p.2.

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Street and Main Street.<sup>5</sup> Clearly, the town was beginning to go somewhere, but exactly where was not clear until 1899, when the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad, later a part of the Illinois Central system, built a branch line from Columbia to Maxie (later from Mendenhall, through Columbia, to Maxie), connecting with the main line from Jackson to Gulfport.<sup>6</sup> This event effectively brought a close to Columbia's days as a small steamboat center on the Pearl River and began its transformation into a booming railroad and lumber mill town.

The first three decades of the twentieth century marked Columbia's most intense period of development, for with the railroad came industries intent on taking advantage of the vast pine and other natural resources of Marion County. In only thirty years, Columbia population soared from 500 to over 5,000, and its downtown area sprouted buildings, mills, warehouses, and factories.<sup>7</sup> In 1905, the frame courthouse was moved from the courthouse square to be replaced by the present imposing stone Classical Revival structure. Such a large and ornate courthouse reflected the aspirations of the citizens of Columbia and of Marion County. Columbia's leaders, especially the Lampton family, ascribed wholeheartedly to the New South ideal of progress, and they put their philosophy into practical action by forming the Commercial Club of Columbia, a forerunner of the present Marion County Chamber of Commerce, in 1907. This same year, a second railroad, the New Orleans Great Northern (later the Gulf, Mobile, and Northern, and then the Gulf, Mobile, and Ohio) built its line across the Pearl River into Columbia, connecting Columbia with New Orleans and Jackson, Mississippi.<sup>8</sup> Columbia now had access to two major Southern ports, but its exports were still mainly agricultural. The Commercial Club aimed to rectify this situation, and in 1912, it won its first victory by bringing the J.J. White Lumber Mill from McComb in Pike County, Mississippi--where the timber resources were quickly disappearing--to Columbia--where the virgin pine forests were still almost untapped.

The decade from 1900 to 1910 saw several major structures built on Main Street, most of which still stand as prominent landmarks in Columbia. The two buildings now comprising the Bill's store at 722 Main were completed, originally serving as small shops and a general store. The Hill Hardware/Masonic Lodge building at 717 Main, the two-story buildings across the street (Inv. #41 & #43), originally Quin's Drug Store and a clothing/dry goods store, and several other fine one-story stores were established during this optimistic time. And the architect-designed Lampton Warehouse (Inventory #49), on Second Street

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<sup>5</sup> "84 Pairs of Shoes Convinces John Watts to Open Own Store," *The Columbia-Progress(?)*, nd.

<sup>6</sup> Corliss, Carlton J. *Main Line of Mid-America: The Story of the Illinois Central*. New York: Creative Age Press, p.381.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-7. WPA Historical Research Project for Marion County. "History," p. 1.

<sup>8</sup> See Brieger, p.327; "Columbia Bank," p.3, 6; Dunbar Rowland. *History of Mississippi: The Heart of the South*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing, I:514.



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behind the Lampton Company store, was built in 1910, clearly showing the pride Columbia's business leaders had in their town's new-found prosperity.

Even more wealth came to Columbia when the White Lumber Mill moved into town in 1912 and set up a huge facility a mile south of the courthouse square.<sup>9</sup> Either by previous agreement with Columbia's leaders, or by buying up the necessary property, the mill had a branch railroad line run from a spot north of Church Street, down Beef Alley, and through the western side of the courthouse square. This probably accounts for Columbia's odd pattern of development northward from the square along Main Street, rather than surrounding the square itself. Even today, the southern part of the square is almost completely devoid of commercial buildings.

Although growth slowed slightly during World War I, Columbia continued to prosper along with the White Mill. In 1913, The Rankin Company, another large mercantile business, constructed its building, a late example of commercial Italianate style, on the block just north of the courthouse (Inventory #22), and the two buildings on either side were also constructed within the same year (Inventory #20, 23). The Citizen's Bank/Post Office (Inventory #25), on the southeast corner of Main and Second Streets, was also built in 1913. By the time the first Sanborn Fire Insurance map was drawn in 1915, Columbia's downtown stretched 2½ blocks northward from the courthouse, with only a few vacancies. In 1916, the Commercial Club helped bring the Mississippi Industrial and Training School to the town, and in 1917, Columbia's first hospital was established.

Growth continued unabated into the Roaring Twenties. The 1925 Sanborn map shows commercial and industrial buildings expanding outward from Main Street along Second Street, with the two-story Columbia Hotel (non-extant)--just down the block from the G&SI depot--ready to receive visitors from the 12 passenger trains which passed through Columbia daily. The town even had its own baseball team, the Red Devils.<sup>10</sup> From 1927 to 1929, under the leadership of mayor Hugh White (president of the J.J. White Lumber Mill), the downtown area underwent a facelift with the installation of electric streetlights and brick pavement on the previously dirt streets. Altogether, by the end of the decade, Columbia boasted eight major industries besides the White company, including the Columbia Compress Company (across the tracks from the G&SI depot, now non-extant) and Columbia Ice and Power Company (just north of the current city hall, soon to be demolished).<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> See Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1915.

<sup>10</sup> "Columbia Bank." p.6.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p.7. See also Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1925.

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Hard times followed quickly on the heels of prosperity, however, for in 1929, the J.J. White Lumber Mill closed down due to the depleted supply of timber in Marion County. This threw almost a thousand people out of work, but Columbia's Commercial Club (which had changed its name to the Marion County Chamber of Commerce in 1927)<sup>12</sup> was unwilling to accept the Great Depression. With its mantra of "Balance Agriculture with Industry"--later, Hugh White's slogan in his campaign for governor of Mississippi--the Chamber set out to bring new industries to Columbia. Due to its efforts, in fact, many new businesses moved into the town during the depression, and the town not only survived, it actually experienced slow but stable economic growth.

One of the most important achievements of the Club during the thirties was convincing the Reliance Manufacturing Company of Chicago to locate in Columbia in 1933. Reliance agreed to come if the town would provide a building suitable for its operations. This the townspeople did, raising the money to build a huge plant north of Church Street (Inventory #11).<sup>13</sup> Other businesses also built in Columbia during the 1930s, including the Dorgan-McPhillips Packing Corporation, located south of town on High School Avenue, the Columbia Knitting Mill, the Kentucky Lumber Company (just north of the former White mill), and the Southern Naval Stores Company. Although none of these buildings appear to have survived in any recognizable form, and thus are not part of the district, they played an important role in Columbia's development through the 1930s because of the jobs they provided for the local economy during the Great Depression.

During the thirties, many modest one-story buildings were constructed in Columbia's commercial district, most of them on Second Street to the east of Main Street. This trend toward less-ornate commercial buildings was no doubt a reaction to the Great Depression nationally and to the stable, yet unspectacular economy locally, and it continued into the 1940s. An exception to this trend was the Newsom Building (Inventory #46), a three-story, Art-Moderne office building on the corner of Church Street and Main Street. By 1947, all of the buildings within the district had been constructed, and indeed, few commercial buildings were constructed in the downtown area during the 1950s. Thus, the year 1947, in addition to being fifty years prior to this nomination, serves as an appropriate termination point for Columbia's period of significance.

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<sup>12</sup> WPA, "Industry," p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> "Columbia Bank," p. 7.

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**GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION**

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Downtown Columbia Historic District is an irregularly shaped district with boundaries as delineated on the accompanying Marion County Tax Maps 164 and 165 (scale 1"=100').

Boundary Justification:

The district includes a group of contiguous commercial, industrial, and public buildings that represent the historical and architectural development of Columbia during the period of significance, 1899-1947.

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**PHOTOGRAPH LIST**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Downtown Columbia Historic District  
Columbia, Marion County, Mississippi  
Photographed by: Jennifer Opager, Harrison Stamm  
Date: November 18, 1997; November 27, 1997  
Negatives: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

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|----------------|--|
| Photo 1 of 24: | View of 603-609 Beef Alley, looking southwest.         |
| Photo 2 of 24  | View of 611 Beef Alley, looking east-southeast.        |
| Photo 3 of 24  | View of 225A Broad Street, looking north-northeast.    |
| Photo 4 of 24  | View of 231 Church Street, looking north-northwest.    |
| Photo 5 of 24  | View of 246-248 Church Street, looking west-southwest. |
| Photo 6 of 24  | View of 616 Honey Alley, looking east-northeast.       |
| Photo 7 of 24  | View of 617-621 Main Street, looking west-southwest.   |
| Photo 8 of 24  | View of 624 Main Street, looking east.                 |
| Photo 9 of 24  | View of 625 Main Street, looking west.                 |
| Photo 10 of 24 | View of 701 Main Street, looking west-northwest.       |
| Photo 11 of 24 | View of 704-710 Main Street, looking east.             |
| Photo 12 of 24 | View of 712-716 Main Street, looking east.             |
| Photo 13 of 24 | View of 717-717½ Main Street, looking west.            |

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| Photo 14 of 24 | View of 718-720 Main Street, looking east.           |
| Photo 15 of 24 | View of 719 Main Street, looking west.               |
| Photo 16 of 24 | View of 722 Main Street, looking east-northeast.     |
| Photo 17 of 24 | View of 723-725 Main Street, looking west-northwest. |
| Photo 18 of 24 | View of 800-802 Main Street, looking northeast.      |
| Photo 19 of 24 | View of 331 Meak Alley, looking north-northeast.     |
| Photo 20 of 24 | View of 217-221 Second Street, looking northwest.    |
| Photo 21 of 24 | View of 227 Second Street, looking northeast.        |
| Photo 22 of 24 | View of 319 Second Street, looking north.            |
| Photo 23 of 24 | View of 324-326 Second Street, looking south.        |
| Photo 24 of 24 | View of 326C-326D Second Street, looking southeast.  |