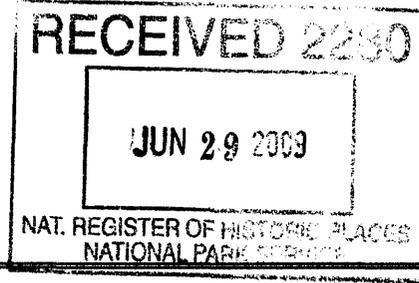


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

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

2. Location

street & number see continuation sheet Section 2,7 Page 1 not for publication N/A
city or town Monroeville vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Monroe code 099 zip code 36461

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Eizabeth Sunbrown 24 June 2009
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall 9-16-09

[Signature] _____
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>51</u>	<u>12</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>51</u>	<u>12</u> Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:
1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>Professional</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>Financial Institution</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>Specialty Store</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>Department Store</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>Warehouse</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Post Office</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Courthouse</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	Sub: <u>Business</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>Professional</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>Specialty Store</u>
<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	<u>Restaurant</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Post Office</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Courthouse</u>
<u>RECREATION & CULTURE</u>	<u>Museum</u>
<u>VACANT/NOT IN USE</u>	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival
LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman
MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne; OTHER: One Part & Two Part Commercial Blocks

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Brick
roof: METAL: Tin & Aluminum
walls: BRICK; WOOD
other: STONE; CONCRETE

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____
COMMERCE _____

Period of Significance c. 1873, 1903-c. 1955

Significant Dates 1903

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

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Bryan, Andrew (Architect) _____
Lewman, M. T. (Contractor) _____

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 40 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>16</u>	<u>468825</u>	<u>3488200</u>	4	<u>16</u>	<u>468810</u>	<u>3487660</u>
2	<u>16</u>	<u>469465</u>	<u>3488200</u>	5	_____	_____	_____
3	<u>16</u>	<u>469470</u>	<u>3487660</u>	6	_____	_____	_____

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan Enzweiler, AHC NR Coordinator; David Ray, former AHC NR Coordinator; Pamela King, Consultant

organization Alabama Historical Commission; PSKing Associates date 3-26-2009

street & number 468 S. Perry Street telephone 334/230-2644

city or town Montgomery state AL zip code 36104

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name Multiple Property Owners

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 2, 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Monroeville Downtown Historic District
County and State: Monroe, Alabama

2. Addresses/Locations of Resources

North Alabama Avenue: 16, 31, 32, 36-46, 50-54, 58, 60-64, 65, 78, 86

North Alabama Avenue Alley: Resource #11 (the northernmost building on the east side of North Alabama Avenue Alley) and Resource #12 (on the east side of North Alabama Avenue Alley and just south of Resource #11)

South Alabama Avenue: 31

East Claiborne Street: 8 (Resources #14 & #15), 18, 22, 28, 42, 54-56

West Claiborne Street: 5, 11, Resource #26 (1st building west of 11 W. Claiborne), 20, 25, 27, 31, 36, 38, 44, 46, 74, 90, 101, 107, 108

North Mount Pleasant Avenue: 5, Resource #40 (1st building north of 5 N. Mt. Pleasant), 13, 19, 27, 29, 35, 39, 53, 63, 71, 87, 107, 125, 135, 173

South Mount Pleasant Avenue: 27-33

Pineville Road: 25, 29, 65, 75, 79, 85, 89, 92 (Resources #64 & #65), 95

7. Description of Historic District

Monroe County is located in southwest Alabama where the Appalachian foothills taper out to meet the coastal plain. The hilly northern part of the county gives way to gently rolling land as one travels south/southwest. Monroe County is bordered on the north by Wilcox, on the east by Butler and Conecuh, on the south by Escambia and Baldwin and on the west by Clarke Counties. Its western boundary generally follows the Alabama River except for in the county's northwest corner where it crosses over the river. As the county seat, Monroeville is located approximately in the center of the county and, with just under seven thousand residents, is by far its most populous town.

The Monroeville Downtown Historic District is dominated by the central courthouse square and its two courthouses; the first (Resource #2) is a contributing resource dating from 1903 and the second (Resource #8) was built directly north of it sixty years later. The square is bordered by E. Claiborne Street (State Route 47) on the south, N. Alabama Avenue (State Routes 21 & 41) on the east, Pineville Road (State Routes 21 & 47) on the north and N. Mount Pleasant Avenue (State Route 41) on the west. The district boundaries extend out along W. Claiborne Street to the west, north along N. Mount Pleasant Avenue, along Pineville Road to the east and south on S. Alabama and S. Mount Pleasant Avenues for a block or less to take in additional contributing resources. Outside the district boundaries lie historic neighborhoods or noncontributing buildings.

The courthouse square was surveyed in the early 1830s when the county seat was moved from Claiborne on the Alabama River to a more central location that became the town of Monroeville. Although the square is a rectangular block surrounded by streets on four sides, it is not the nucleus of a downtown grid pattern where square or rectangular blocks delineated by straight streets that meet at right angles surround it. Rather this courthouse square comprises the entire city center of the county seat. In looking at a street map today, it seems that in Monroeville's initial development lots or even regular blocks were not surveyed and systematically laid out. The growth of the town occurred much more casually. Traditionally, a courthouse is located in the middle of its square, but in Monroeville the 1903 courthouse and the 1963 courthouse (Resources #2 & #8/Photo 1) sit side by side. It is not known where the original 1830s log courthouse stood.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 2

Name of Property: Monroeville Downtown Historic District
County and State: Monroe, Alabama

In any case, it burned down and was replaced later by a two story, frame building in 1840. This building was in turn replaced by a brick courthouse in the 1850s which burned down in 1928. Consequently, for most of the twentieth century Monroeville's courthouse square had two courthouses, a unique situation for Alabama. Commercial buildings now enclose the square on all sides, but this was not always the case.

Historically, the buildings surrounding the square or just outside of it served a variety of functions, including governmental, retail, financial, religious, recreational, residential and office space. Law offices occupied space in some of these buildings. An early post office was in Resource #21 on E. Claiborne Street. Such businessmen as dry cleaners, druggists, grocers and printers set up shop on or near the square. Law offices, a dentist office, a drugstore, the public library and a bank were located in the antebellum courthouse after 1903. By the 1930s there were several auto-related establishments around the square. Among them were gas stations (no longer extant) on Claiborne Street at its intersections with Alabama and Mt. Pleasant Avenues, repair shops on E. Claiborne and Pineville and car dealers on N. Mt. Pleasant and S. Alabama Avenues. There were two banks (Resources #10 & #39) on opposite corners of the square. A lodge hall comprised the second story of Resource #39. There was a movie theater on Pineville Road next to Resource #64 but it burned down in the 1970s. The last residence on the square, the antebellum Yarbrough House, was demolished in the mid-1930s to make way for Monroeville's new post office (Resource #1). The Baptist Church on Pineville Road that looked down N. Alabama Avenue was razed sometime after 1964. The Presbyterian Church formerly on the west side of N. Mount Pleasant Avenue just below its junction with Pineville Road is also no longer extant. The First Methodist Church was located just off the square on the southeast corner of E. Claiborne Street and S. Alabama Avenue. Constructed in 1917, it burned down in 1929.

The earliest contributing resource is the F. Metts Store (Resource #12/Photo 3), a free-standing, wood-frame building that was constructed c. 1873, but moved to its current location on N. Alabama Avenue Alley c. 1909. Contributing resources from the early twentieth century include the 1903 courthouse, a warehouse on N. Alabama Avenue Alley (Resource #11) and a two part, brick, commercial block building (Resource #3) at 32 N. Alabama Avenue (both constructed in 1905) and three buildings dating from 1909. The latter three buildings are also two part, brick, commercial block buildings. One is at 58 N. Alabama Avenue (Resource #6). The other two (Resources #39 & #40) share a party wall and occupy the northwest corner of N. Mt. Pleasant Avenue and W. Claiborne Street.

The overwhelming majority of the contributing resources in the Monroeville Downtown Historic District consist of one story, brick buildings that directly front the sidewalk and share brick party walls with each other. Most of these were built in the 1920s. They exist in the greatest concentration along the south side of E. Claiborne Street (Photo 5) and on both sides of W. Claiborne Street (Photos 6 & 9) and on the north side of Pineville Road (Photo 13) just off the square. They can also be found along the east side of N. Alabama Avenue (Photo 2) and the west side of N. Mt. Pleasant Avenue (Photo 10). The north side of Pineville Road in the courthouse square area was not densely developed until after 1950. In 1930 there were four free-standing, one story buildings--two houses and two shops--plus the Baptist Church. Twenty years later all of these buildings were gone except for the church. Next to it was a two story building (Resource #58).

Construction activity slowed down considerably after the 1920s due to the Great Depression and World War II. It picked up again in the late 1940s and the 1950s. Only a handful of buildings were constructed in the 1930s, the most architecturally significant being the U. S. Post Office. Others were the Lee Motor Company (Resource #13/Photo 4) at 31

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 4

Name of Property: Monroeville Downtown Historic District
County and State: Monroe, Alabama

Constructed as the Monroe County Courthouse, this resource was individually listed on the NRHP in 1973. The irregularly massed, tripartite, multi-story, brick building illustrates the Classical Revival style. The eastern section is essentially a 2½ story, three by five bay, rectangular block with a 2½ story, projecting, gabled wing. This wing's side walls do not meet the block at right angles but are beveled. These beveled corners contain paired, paneled, wooden doors on the first elevation and a balustrade in front of two 2/2 DHS windows on the second story. This section of the courthouse is crowned by a gable roof and a tall, octagonal, domed clock tower with four clocks, one facing each direction. Its first and second floors have cross halls with lobbies at their intersections and triangular shaped rooms which historically served as offices. The 3 story, oval-shaped central section of the courthouse has a low pitched, multi-sided roof capped by a low, louvered structure that appears to be an attic vent. The first story on the exterior features curved porches with brick parapet walls with stone coping and substantial brick pillars. Upstairs in this section is the 2 story, oval courtroom made famous by the film *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The western section of the courthouse is a simple, 3 story, rectangular block (smaller than the eastern section) which historically housed offices and witness and jury rooms.

The courthouse was designed by Andrew Bryan and constructed by M. T. Lewman in 1903. A replica of its courtroom was created as a movie set for the film in the early 1960s. The movie and a play were based on the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, a lifelong resident of Monroeville. The movie was released in the USA on December 25, 1962. In 1996, three replicas of weatherboard shotgun houses were built on the courthouse grounds as props for the town's annual production of the play and as storage for smaller props. Even with the construction of the new courthouse, this building remained in use, housing a small museum collection, the Chamber of Commerce, a barber shop and offices for lawyers and the county extension agency. Today it is a heritage museum. [Photo 1]

3. Computer Support and Palmer Petroleum 32 N. Alabama Ave. c. 1905 C

This 2 story, 4 bay wide, two part commercial block, brick building has 3 modern storefronts of aluminum sash and glass doors and display windows plus a fourth such door which accesses the staircase to the 2nd floor. A large, metal awning spans the front façade, visually dividing these storefronts from the 2nd story windows which have been altered. Each of these tall, rectangular windows has a single pane of glass and narrow shutters which are later additions. Above the windows stretches a stuccoed, recessed sign panel and a plain parapet. The parapet is stepped along the side elevations.

At one time this building reportedly had a two-tiered gallery and housed the millinery shop of Jennie Faulk who was a relative of Truman Capote. Capote stayed with Faulk when he visited Monroeville. The 1930 Sanborn map for Monroeville indicates that frame partitions on the interior divided the building into office space, a shop and a drugstore. There may also have been a two-tiered gallery on its rear elevation at that time. In later years, the building housed the Morgan Furniture Company as evidenced by the sign panel on the front façade.

4. Federal Landbank Association & Attorneys' Offices 36-46 N. Alabama Ave. c. 1945 NC

Here is a one story, 2 bay wide commercial block capped by a parapet with terra cotta coping. Each bay consists of a central entrance with an arched transom, brick headers and sidelights that is flanked by aluminum sash 6/6 windows. A flat, metal awning spans the front façade and above it metal paneling covers the façade.

This commercial building does not appear on the 1930 Sanborn map. A vacant lot sits directly north of 32 N. Alabama Avenue.

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 5

Name of Property: **Monroeville Downtown Historic District**
County and State: **Monroe, Alabama**

5. Dickie Williams Museum 50-54 N. Alabama Ave. c. 1925 C

The front façade of this one story, brick commercial building displays two modern storefronts, each with a double-leaf entrance and aluminum sash and glass display windows. The storefronts are divided by a projecting pilaster. Above the flat, metal awning is a straight parapet with terra cotta coping.

A frame partition ran down the center of this building in 1930 dividing it into an office on the south side and a shop on the north side.

6. The Framery 58 N. Alabama Ave. c. 1909 C

This 2 story, 3 bay wide, two part, brick, commercial building retains a high degree of architectural integrity. Its original storefront retains the central, recessed entrance of double wood doors that is flanked by large display windows with wooden framing. Spanning the front façade is a flat, modern awning and, above it, the storefront's transom windows are hidden behind metal paneling. The three round arched, 1/1 DHS windows display decorative arches, brick headers and paneled stone sills. A brick sign panel and straight parapet with coping crown the front façade.

According to the 1930 Sanborn map for Monroeville this building was a shop. It originally housed the Barnett and Jackson Hardware Store. The sign panel for this establishment still graces the front façade. [Photo 2]

7. Southern Sign Company & Harrigan Insurance Agency 60-64 N. Alabama Ave. c. 1925 C

This 1 story, 2 bay, brick, commercial building has two very altered storefronts. The southern one features a pair of paneled, wooden doors flanked by pilasters and display windows. An oversized gable peak is located above the doors. The transom windows above the display windows are covered up. The northern storefront is similar (but lacks the gable peak) with a pair of paneled, wooden doors flanked by pilasters and display windows. Its transom windows are also hidden behind panels. Above both storefronts are brick sign panels, a denticulated cornice of brick corbelling and a straight parapet.

This building housed retail space according to the 1930 Sanborn map but it seems that no walls divided the space into separate shops. [Photo 2]

8. Monroe County Courthouse 65 N. Alabama Ave. 1963 NC

This 2 story, yellow brick courthouse features steel casement windows and 2 main entrances, one on North Alabama Avenue and the other on North Mount Pleasant Avenue. It has 2 story pillars on its main (east and west) elevations and is crowned by a standing seam metal roof. It occupies the northern section of the courthouse grounds.

It was designed by the architectural firm of Sherlock, Smith and Adams and constructed by S. J. Curry and Company. [Photo 1]

9. Economy Shop 78 N. Alabama Ave. c. 1925, c. 1935 C

The storefront of this wide, 1 story, brick commercial block features a central entrance flanked by large display windows, all of aluminum sash and glass construction. Below the display windows is wooden paneling. Across the front façade is a flat, metal awning and just above it the transom windows are hidden behind metal paneling. The front façade retains its

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 6

Name of Property: **Monroeville Downtown Historic District**
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brick and stucco sign panel, its 4 vent openings (that are now blocked up) and its parapet which is accented by brick corbelling and terra cotta coping.

In the past this building housed the Bedsole Dry Goods Company as evidenced by the sign panel on the front façade. It doubled in size at some point after January 1930. On the Sanborn map of that date the area now occupied by Resource #17 had a narrow, 1 story store on its south half and a vacant lot on its northern half. Since the front façade is so similar in treatment to the facades of the c. 1925 buildings the assumption is made that this façade was probably completed in the 1930s. [Photo 2]

10. George C. Elbrecht's Attorney Offices 86 N. Alabama Ave. c. 1925 C

Here is a 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick building. The central entrance is comprised of a paneled, wooden door and sidelights and is flanked by wooden sash windows (all modern replacements). All three bays display round arches of radiating brick voussoirs with stone keystones and stone end blocks. The windows have stone slipsills. The corners of the front façade are marked by brick pilasters. A stuccoed water table runs across the façade and down the north (side) elevation of the building. The upper half of the front façade features a brick sign panel shaped almost like the Chevrolet bowtie, brick dentils and a stuccoed parapet. The north elevation has six windows of glass block, all with stone slipsills. The end bay windows have the same round arch treatment as the front windows. The four central windows have straight tops.

This building was a bank at least as early as 1930. [Photo 2]

North Alabama Avenue Alley

11. Warehouse East side of N. Alabama Ave. Alley c. 1905 C

This long, low warehouse of wood and corrugated tin construction sits on wood pilings. One story in height, the building has a hipped roof clad in corrugated tin, a wood loading dock on its west side and a shed awning of tin.

Located between the railroad tracks (which are no longer extant) and the alley, this warehouse appears on the 1930 Sanborn map where it is marked as "storage".

12. Vacant Store East side of N. Alabama Ave. Alley & South of Resource #11 c. 1873 C

Here is a 1 story, 3 bay wide, square building of wood frame construction that is capped by a hip roof clad in corrugated tin. On its south (side) elevation is a wood shed with a shed roof. An integral porch with a wood balustrade and plain wood pillars spans the front façade. The steps to access the porch are on its north side. In the porch area, the original, centrally located, wooden, paneled doors are flanked by shallow bay windows that are 6/6 DHS. The building sits on round wood pilings.

This building was built as the F. Metts Store c. 1873 in Monroeville. It was purchased by the Barnett & Jackson Hardware Company and moved to this site c. 1909. On the 1930 map it is marked as "storage". [Photo 3]

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 8

Name of Property: Monroeville Downtown Historic District
County and State: Monroe, Alabama

16. Finishing Touches 18 E. Claiborne St. c. 1925 C

This one story, brick commercial building has a modern storefront comprised of a double-leaf entrance flanked by large, aluminum sash and glass display windows. Above the storefront, the front façade features green Carrara glass.

On the 1930 Sanborn map for Monroeville this building appears to have been a drugstore. [Photo 5]

17. Coxwell & Coxwell 22 E. Claiborne St. c. 1925 NC

This one story, brick commercial building was remodeled less than fifty years ago and now has a "Colonial Revival" front façade. Its recessed central entrance is flanked by multi-paned, wood sash windows. A metal facing and a flat metal awning are located above the storefront. [Photo 5]

18. My Time is in His Hands Christian Bookstore 28 E. Claiborne St. c. 1925 NC

Here is a one story, brick commercial building with a modern aluminum sash and glass storefront that features a central, double-leaf entrance, large display windows and a metal awning. The rest of the front façade has been covered with panels painted grey. [Photo 5]

19. Hainjes Complete Home Furnishers 42 E. Claiborne St. c. 1925 C

This one story, brick commercial building has a centrally located, recessed, double-leaf entrance flanked by large display windows with fake muntins. Above this storefront, the front façade is not covered by later wall treatments and retains its original brick corbelling and brick sign panel.

The Sanborn map from 1930 indicates that this building housed an auto repair shop. In recent decades, this building was joined with the two directly east of it to create a large furniture store. [Photo 5]

20. Hainjes Complete Home Furnishers 42 E. Claiborne St. c. 1940 C

Here is a one story, three bay wide, brick commercial building. Its storefront features an off-center, double-leaf, aluminum sash and glass door and large display windows with fake muntins. Above this storefront, the front façade has a stucco wall treatment and a flat parapet with metal coping.

This area appears as a vacant lot on the 1930 Sanborn map. At a later date, a 1 story, brick building was constructed on this site. It was joined with the two buildings flanking it in recent decades to create a large furniture store. [Photo 5]

21. Hainjes Complete Home Furnishers 42 E. Claiborne St. c. 1925 C

Here is a one story, three bay wide, brick commercial building. It has no front door but does have three large display windows with fake muntins. Wooden pilasters are interspersed between these windows. Above these windows is a flat, metal awning and above this the front façade has a stucco wall treatment along with brick corbelling and a brick sign panel. The transom windows of the original storefront have been covered up.

This building housed Monroeville's post office in 1930. In recent decades, this building was joined with the two directly west of it to create a large furniture store. [Photo 5]

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 9

Name of Property: **Monroeville Downtown Historic District**
County and State: **Monroe, Alabama**

22. Pharr Photography & Johnson Jewelers 54-56 E. Claiborne St. c. 1925 C

This 1 story, 7 bay wide, brick commercial building features two modern storefronts because it houses two separate businesses. The 2 bay wide storefront for Pharr Photography (54 E. Claiborne St.) has a single-leaf, aluminum sash and glass door and a display window with a board-and-batten wall treatment below it. The door is flanked by sidelights and molded pilasters. The Johnson Jewelers storefront at 56 East Claiborne Street is five bays wide, and, though larger, features the same treatment. Its single aluminum sash and glass doors and display windows are interspersed between molded pilasters. Below the display windows is a board-and-batten wall treatment. Due to its location on the southwest corner of East Claiborne Street and North Alabama Avenue, this building also has a beveled northeast corner accented by a large display window with a flat metal awning. The two businesses share a flat, metal awning, covered up transom windows, a recessed brick panel, attic vents with decorative grates, a denticulated cornice and a flat parapet.

This building was divided up into retail space and offices by "frame partition" walls according to the 1930 Sanborn map. [Photo 5]

West Claiborne Street

23. David F. Steele Law Office 101 W. Claiborne St. c. 1928 C

This 1 story, brick building occupies the southwest corner of W. Claiborne Street and S. Mount Pleasant Avenue and lies just outside the courthouse square. Its beveled northeast corner comprises the 3 bay wide front façade and features a centrally located, single-leaf door flanked by wood framed windows. Above them is a wide, canvas awning. Also, accenting the top of this façade, and continuing down the side (east) elevation, are recessed brick panels, a corbelled brick cornice and a parapet with terra cotta coping. The east elevation also has three DHS windows with the same style of awning as appears on the front façade.

A building with a beveled northeast corner is marked on the 1930 Sanborn map and identified as a "filling station" and a shop.

24. Sweet Tooth Bakery 5 W. Claiborne St. c. 1928 C

Here is a 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick commercial building. Its altered storefront consists of a centrally located, double-leaf, aluminum sash and glass door that is flanked by small display windows. The transom windows are covered up. Above the storefront are a flat, metal canopy, a recessed brick sign panel, brick denticulation and a flat, brick parapet.

This has been retail space since at least 1930. [Photo 6]

25. Beehive Coffee and Books 11 W. Claiborne St. c. 1928 C

This 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick commercial building features a 1930s storefront. Its recessed, centrally located, double-leaf, wood and glass door is flanked by large display windows that angle back toward the door. Transom windows span the top of the storefront. Above these windows are a brick sign panel, a denticulated cornice and a flat parapet.

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According to the current owner, this building housed a furniture store in the 1930s. Sometime after that the building was divided down the middle and became offices for the water company and the power company. In the 1970s it was a beauty supply store. In the 1990s it was home to the Herb Hut. [Photo 6]

26. Vacant 1 building west of 11 W. Claiborne St. c. 1928 C
Here is a 2 story, 3 bay wide, two part, brick commercial building. Its original storefront consists of central, double-leaf, wooden doors flanked by wood sash display windows. Its transom windows are covered in wooden siding. This storefront is shaded by a flat, metal canopy. The second story of the front façade features two sets of paired windows that are boarded up. Brick corbelling accents the parapet. All the doors and windows on the side (west) elevation are boarded up. The windows have brick sills. [Photo 6]

27. Office Building 20 W. Claiborne St. c. 1925 C
This 1 story, 4 bay wide, brick duplex has a deeper setback from the public sidewalk than the commercial buildings to the west of it. Its front gable roof has a wooden vent in its gable peak. Each end bay of the front façade is comprised of a wooden door. Between these doors are two paired 6/1 DHS, wood frame windows.

This building may have been associated with the feed warehouse and the grist mill which were located on or very near this site in 1930.

28. McKenzie Offices 25 W. Claiborne St. c. 1945 C
Here is 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick, commercial building. Its central, single-leaf, wood and glass door has sidelights and a transom and is flanked by large display windows with transoms. This window-door configuration is the same at 27 W. Claiborne Street. On its side (east) elevation is a stepped parapet. [Photo 6]

29. Courthouse Café 27 W. Claiborne St. c. 1945 C
This 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick restaurant building features on its front façade a centrally located, single-leaf, wood and glass door with a transom and sidelights, which is flanked by wood sash windows with transoms. This window-door configuration is the same at 25 W. Claiborne Street. A canvas awning shades these three bays. Decorative brickwork accents the corners of this façade. Brick corbelling delineates the flat parapet of the front façade and the stepped parapets of the side elevations. [Photo 6]

30. Lambert's Barber Shop 31 W. Claiborne St. c. 1950 C
This small, brick, commercial building has a deeper setback from the public sidewalk than the commercial buildings surrounding it. Its two front bays consist of a large, single paned window in the eastern bay and a single-leaf, wooden, paneled door in the western bay. Above these bays is a canvas awning. The flat parapet of the front façade becomes stepped on the side elevations and has terra cotta coping.

31. Robert C. King & Jack Weaver, Attorneys 36 W. Claiborne St. c. 1945 C
The lower half of the front façade of this 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick office building was remodeled in recent decades. It now features a new brick wall treatment and a central, single-leaf, paneled, wooden door that is flanked by new, wooden

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sash windows with narrow shutters. Above is a flat, metal canopy. The upper half of the front façade displays a slightly recessed, brick sign panel and a flat parapet. The east (side) elevation is not a party wall and has no windows or doors. [Photo 9]

32. The Embroidery Factory 38 W. Claiborne St. c. 1925 C
Here is a 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick, commercial building with an aluminum sash and glass storefront. On the east side of the front façade is a single-leaf door with a narrow display window to its east and large display windows to its west. Above this door and the windows are transom windows and a flat, metal canopy. The upper half of this façade features a brick sign panel and a flat parapet. [Photo 9]

33. Vacant 44 W. Claiborne St. c. 1925 C
This 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick, commercial building has a modern storefront of anodized aluminum sash and glass. The centrally located, double-leaf doors are flanked by large display windows with a brick wall treatment beneath them. Above the storefront is a flat, metal canopy, a brick sign panel and a flat parapet with terra cotta coping. [Photo 9]

34. Danice's Bridal & Formals 46 W. Claiborne St. c. 1925 C
This 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick, commercial building has an aluminum sash and glass storefront. The recessed, centrally located, single-leaf door is flanked by large display windows with a brick wall treatment beneath them. These windows bevel back to the recessed entrance. Above the storefront is a flat, metal canopy, a brick sign panel and a flat parapet with terra cotta coping. [Photo 9]

35. Darby's Red & White 74 W. Claiborne St. c. 1955 C
This grocery store is set back quite deeply from the street to accommodate an L-shaped parking lot which wraps around its south (street) and east elevations. This gives it a "suburban commercial" feel as opposed to the "downtown commercial" feel of the rest of the district where most of the buildings directly front the public sidewalks and share party walls. This low, free-standing, 1 story, brick building has its aluminum sash and glass entrances at the southeast corner. Its window types include large display and clerestory windows with aluminum sash. [Photo 8]

36. Dee Feaster Insurance 90 W. Claiborne St. c. 1925 C
This 1 story, 3 bay wide, wood frame bungalow sits on a brick foundation and is crowned by a front gable roof. There is a rectangular, louvred attic vent in the gable peak. The attached front porch covers the two eastern bays. It features multiple, slender pillars atop brick piers that support the gabled porch roof. The single-leaf front door is flanked by paired 4/1 DHS windows with narrow lights in the upper sashes. The house is now clad in vinyl siding. Its front yard is divided from the public sidewalk by a parapet wall.

Its architecture clearly indicates that this resource was once a residence which has since been converted into offices. [Photo 8]

37. Central Farm Supply 107 W. Claiborne St. c. 1950 C
Here is a 1 story, Art Moderne brick building with a slightly pitched, front gabled roof over the front half of the building. There is a central entrance with two very large, multi-paned wooden sash windows to its east. A similar, but narrower

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window is on the east (side) elevation. The entrance and these windows are separated from clerestory windows to the west by a perpendicular brick wall that projects out from the front façade and juts up through the roof. The store's sign is attached to the portion of this wall that is above the roof. Four-light clerestory windows run along the west side of the front façade and along the west (side) elevation. There are garage bays at the rear of this elevation along with a service entrance.

It's believed that this building was constructed to be a Pontiac car dealership. [Photo 7]

38. Doug Moorer Business Machines 108 W. Claiborne St. c. 1925 C

This 1 story, 3 bay wide, wood frame bungalow sits on a brick foundation and is crowned by a front gable roof. There is a louvred attic vent in the gable peak. The attached front porch covers the two western bays. It features wrought iron posts atop a brick parapet wall which support the gabled porch roof. The single-leaf front door is flanked by paired 4/1 DHS windows with narrow lights in the upper sashes. The house is now clad in aluminum siding. Its front yard is divided from the public sidewalk by a brick parapet wall.

This resource was originally a residence but has since been converted into offices. [Photo 8]

North Mount Pleasant Avenue

39. On the Square 5 N. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1909 C

This brick, two part commercial block occupies a prominent corner on Monroeville's courthouse square. The 2 story, 3 by 5 bay structure's original windows have been replaced with single panes of glass and the storefront has been altered. It now has recessed, double-leaf, aluminum sash and glass doors beneath a flat canopy in its south bay and small display windows. A flat canopy spans the front facades of this building and Resource #40. A stone beltcourse wraps around the front façade and the south (side) elevation for 1 bay. The 2nd story, front windows retain their dog ear hood molds and lugsills. Above them, a bracketed full entablature delineates the parapet. In the center of the parapet an original sign panel reads "BANK". The full entablature wraps around the south elevation for 1 bay. The rest of the parapet on this elevation is stepped and has coping. Also on this side of the building is a single-leaf, aluminum sash and glass door with a transom window and a segmental brick arch. To either side of it is a single window with a brick sill. The 2nd story windows also have brick sills and brick segmental arches. Two brick chimneys pierce the roofline.

According to the 1930 Sanborn map this building housed a bank on the first floor and a "lodge hall" on the 2nd floor. A. C. Lee, the father of novelist Harper Lee, also had his law office in this building. [Photo 9/rear of building]

40. Commercial Building 1st building north of Resource #39 c. 1909 C

This brick, two part commercial block is 2 stories tall and 3 bays wide. The first story of its front façade is similar in design to that of Resource #39. The stone beltcourse on Resource #39 appears to have been removed from this building, however. Its second story, round arched windows have been replaced with single panes of glass but they still retain their stone sills and decorative brick arches. Above them, corbelled brick accents the flat parapet.

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Here is a 1 story, 3 bay wide, wood-frame building with a flat roof. Its storefront comprises a centrally located, single-leaf, paneled, wooden door that is flanked by large display windows with wood paneling below them. Above the storefront are transom windows. The porch which spans the front façade has simple wooden posts.

46. The Printery Printing and Signs 39 N. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1925 C

This 1 story, 2 bay wide, brick, commercial building has a recessed entrance in the south bay of the front façade. The entrance consists of a single-leaf, aluminum sash and glass door. The second bay is a large display window with a stone sill. A flat awning covers both bays. The upper half of the front façade features 3 recessed, brick sign panels and brick corbelling along its parapet.

In 1930 this building housed "auto sales and service" according to the Sanborn map.

47. The Stallworth Building 53 N. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1985 NC

Encased in this wide, 5 bay, brick building is a 2 story, L-shaped printers' shop that was on this site as early as 1930. It is not known when resource #47 was first constructed, but it was extensively altered in the 1980s and now has the appearance of a building from that period. Its central entrance has two single-pane windows to either side of it, all of which are spaced very far apart.

48. Frank R. Smith Timber Co. & Smith Realty 63 N. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1965 NC

Here is a 1 story, brick office building with a single-leaf, paneled, wooden door and large display windows. Above this storefront is a pent roof clad in wood shingles. [Photo 11]

49. My Favorite Things 71 N. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1950 C

The front façade of this tall, 1 story building has a stucco wall treatment and a modern, aluminum sash and glass storefront consisting of a centrally located, double-leaf entrance flanked by large display windows. Above the storefront is a flat, metal canopy with scalloped edges. The façade's flat parapet is stepped along the side elevations. It hides a front gable roof clad in standing seam tin. On the north (side) elevation are four garage openings.

This building once housed the Chambers-Lazenby Ford Company. On the 1930 Sanborn map there is a building marked as "auto sales and service" in this location. [Photo 11]

50. Owens Hardware 87 N. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1925 C

This 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick commercial building has a modern, aluminum sash and glass storefront consisting of a double-leaf door with large display windows to one side of it. A flat, metal canopy spans the front façade. Above the canopy are three brick sign panels and a parapet accented by brick corbelling. To the rear of this building stands a concrete block warehouse with a front gable roof clad in tin. Because it is only an ancillary, utilitarian building to Resource #50, it is not counted as a resource. [Photo 11]

51. Womack's Hardware & Sporting Goods 107 N. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1940 C

This 2 story, 4 bay wide, two part commercial block is of brick construction and has a centrally located entrance flanked by large, aluminum sash and glass display windows. Above this storefront, a modern awning visually divides the first

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story from the second story. The upper half of the front façade features four 6/6 DHS, aluminum frame windows, a stuccoed sign panel and a plain, flat parapet. The parapet is stepped on the south (side) elevation. On the north elevation is an open wood-frame shed with a shed roof. There is also a tin warehouse with a front gable roof clad in tin. Because it is only an ancillary, utilitarian building to Resource #51, it is not counted as a resource.

52. Commercial Building 125 N. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1955 NC
Here is a 1 story, concrete block building with a front façade displaying an aluminum sash and glass storefront, board-and-batten wall treatment, a pent-style awning clad in wood shingles and a parapet with terra cotta coping. The parapet is stepped on the south (side) elevation.

53. Monroeville Radiator & Starter Repair Co. 135 N. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1950 C
Very utilitarian in design, this 1 story, 8 bay wide, brick commercial building has a front façade comprised of two single-leaf doors and large windows and a stepped parapet with terra cotta coping. On the north (side) elevation are six garage bays.

This resource was once home to the Tri Motor Company and the Plymouth Oldsmobile Company.

54. Pottery by Williams 173 N. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1950 C
This 1 story, 6 bay wide building is of concrete block construction. Once divided into two separate retail spaces, it is now one large shop. The front façade is clad in brick and features a window—double-leaf door—window—window—single-leaf door—window fenestration. The stepped brick parapet hides a low pitched gable roof with exposed rafter ends. A gabled, concrete block addition with two garage bays is attached to the northwest corner of the building.

South Mount Pleasant Avenue

55. AA Pawn Shop/ Nichols & Cobb PL 27-33 S. Mount Pleasant Ave. c. 1925 C
Here is a 1 story, 6 bay wide, brick commercial building that houses two separate offices. The north storefront has an aluminum framed glass door flanked by large, wooden framed 6-light windows with brick sills. The south storefront has a wood door with a small window flanked by the same type of windows. Above each storefront are a set of boarded up transom windows and a brick sign panel. A flat, metal canopy, a denticulated cornice and a parapet span the upper half of the front facade. There is a stepped parapet on the south (side) elevation. [Photo 12]

Pineville Road

56. Mickey Womble, Attorney 25 Pineville Rd. c. 1970 NC
This 1 story, brick building has two off-center entrances, one is a single-leaf, wooden door and one is an aluminum sash and glass door and three 9/6 aluminum sash DHS windows. On the west (side) elevation is a stepped parapet.

57. Cecillia's Boutique 29 Pineville Rd. c. 1970 NC

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This 1 story, 3 bay wide building is of concrete block construction but its front façade is clad in variegated brick. Its central entrance is flanked by multi-paned, wood sash windows and has a wooden, pent-type awning above it.

58. Omni Real Estate Agency/PTAC Engineering Consultants 49 Pineville Rd. c. 1935 NC
The front façade of this commercial building was completely altered c. 2006. The 3 bay wide façade now features a "New Orleans" style two-tiered gallery with a hipped metal roof. On the 1st story are 3 pairs of wooden and glass doors with transoms. The second story has two single-leaf wooden and glass doors that access the gallery. On the 7 bay wide, west (side) elevation is a stepped parapet. The second story of this elevation features new, aluminum sash 6/6 DHS windows and a single-leaf door which accesses a porch with steps down to the ground level. A shed roof supported by brackets is above the door.

59. 201 Office Park 65 Pineville Rd. c. 1985 NC
Here is a 1 story, brick office building with aluminum sash and glass front windows and door. Metal caps the roofline of the front façade.

60. Covin Builders 75 Pineville Rd. c. 1925 C
This is a 1 story, brick, commercial building with a stuccoed front façade. A parapet crowns the right 2/3rds of this façade. The aluminum sash and glass storefront has a recessed entrance with a single-leaf door. The storefront windows angle back towards the entrance and those windows flanking the door may have been ticket booth windows for a movie theater as they have high bulkheads beneath them. There is a sign panel above the storefront.

According to the January 1930 Sanborn map, this building is a shop.

61. Robert McMillan, Attorney / The Gallery Agency/ Vacant 79-85-89 Pineville Rd. c. 1925 C
This building is a 1 story, brick, commercial building with three distinct storefronts, each two bays wide. The original storefront at 79 Pineville Road comprises a single-leaf, wood and glass door in the west bay and a large display window with wooden sash and a brick sill in the east bay of the front façade. It shares a flat, metal awning and a parapet capped by coping with 85 Pineville Road. The original storefront at 85 Pineville Road comprises a single-leaf, wood and glass door in the east bay and a large display window with wooden sash and a brick sill in the west bay of the front façade. The east bay of the storefront at 89 Pineville Road has a single-leaf door with a sidelight and a transom. The west bay is a large display window. A flat, metal canopy spans the front façade and above it is a parapet with coping.

On the 1930 Sanborn map, this building housed two shops and an "auto repairing" garage. [Photo 13]

62. Aaron White Photography 92 Pineville Rd. c. 1935 C
This resource was constructed as a historically separate building from the 2 story structure directly to the west of it. Today, they comprise one photography shop. It is a 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick, commercial building with a centrally located, single-leaf wooden door and sidelight that are flanked by wooden framed display windows with covered up transoms. The front façade is crowned by a flat parapet with terra cotta coping.

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This building does not appear on the January 1930 Sanborn map. However, it is the same building typology and features the similar design elements as many of the commercial buildings in this historic district that were constructed c. 1925. Therefore, it is presumed that this building was built shortly thereafter in the 1930s. [Photo 14]

63. Aaron White Photography 92 Pineville Rd. c. 1925 C

This resource was constructed as a historically separate building from the 1 story structure directly to the east of it. Today, they comprise one photography shop. It is a 2 story, two part, brick, commercial block with a flat, brick parapet. Its storefront, if still extant, is hidden completely behind plywood panels. Above, on the second story of the front façade are two 6/6 DHS wood framed windows with brick segmental arches.

In January 1930 this building housed a dry cleaning business. [Photo 14]

64. Ambience Day Spa 95 Pineville Rd. c. 1925 C

This 1 story, 3 bay wide, brick, commercial building features an aluminum sash and glass storefront comprised of a display window flanked by single-leaf doors with transoms. A fabric awning shades the storefront. The flat parapet is accented by brick denticulation. On the east (side) elevation there is a series of shallow, brick buttresses. The original flat roof is covered by a new, steeply pitched metal roof.

According to the January 1930 Sanborn map, an "electric repairing" venture was housed in this building. [Photo 13]

Archaeological Component

There has been no systematic archaeological survey in this area, but it is possible that important subsurface remains are present within the footprint of the district, although they would be buried beneath building sites and, thus, likely would have been disturbed.

8. Statement of Significance

The **period of significance** for the Monroeville Downtown Historic District is c.1873, 1903-c. 1955. The first date is the construction date of the F. Metts Store (Resource #12) which was built on N. Alabama Avenue. It was moved to its present location c. 1909. There are no other contributing resources in this district dating from the nineteenth century. The second oldest contributing building is the 1903 courthouse and the rest of the district's contributing resources were constructed after 1903 up through c. 1955.

The Monroeville Downtown Historic District is significant under **criterion A: commerce** for its representation of the commercial development of Monroeville from 1873 and then from c. 1903 through c. 1955. The F. Metts Store is a rare example of a late nineteenth century, wood frame store in small town Alabama. Across the state these buildings either succumbed to fire or were torn down either for fire safety reasons or to make room for larger, more impressive, brick commercial buildings as a town's economy expanded. Contributing commercial resources dating from c. 1905 through c. 1955 include two part, commercial buildings constructed in the first decade of the twentieth century, one part, commercial

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blocks from the 1920s and 1930s and auto-related businesses dating from both before and after WWII. In addition, there are two government buildings that were central to the development of Monroeville's commercial prominence: the 1903 courthouse, which is unquestionably the most visually prominent building in the district, and the 1937 post office.

The Monroeville Downtown Historic District is significant under **criterion C: architecture** for its documentation of all of Monroeville's downtown commercial and governmental architecture c. 1873, 1903-c. 1955. The centerpiece of the district is unquestionably the two-story, Classical Revival county courthouse of 1903, which occupies the courthouse square and includes a striking octagonal dome. It is surrounded by early twentieth century one and two story, flat-roofed commercial blocks, some of which include excellent details such as beveled corner entrances, arched 2nd story windows, decorative metal vents and diamond insets. There is also the Classical Revival post office and two Art Moderne influenced former car dealerships. The district also includes two c. 1925 bungalows. Their historic use was obviously residential, but now both have commercial uses.

Narrative History

David Holmes, the Governor of the Mississippi Territory, created Monroe County by proclamation in June 1815. The county comprised all of the Creek lands ceded to the United States by the Treaty of Ft. Jackson the previous year. It was named for James Monroe who was then the secretary of state under President James Madison. Monroe County achieved its present shape by late 1821. Its first county seat was Claiborne, a prosperous and populous shipping point on the Alabama River. By 1832 the county seat had been moved to Monroeville because of its central location within the county.

By the 1810s small but significant numbers of pioneers had begun settling in southwest Alabama. They usually arrived in the area that would become Monroe County by way of the Alabama River or the Federal Road which connected Georgia to New Orleans. There was also the Old Wolf Trail, an Indian path that led from St. Stephens on the Tombigbee River through Claiborne and the future site of Monroeville to Burnt Corn and points east. Major Walker first settled here in 1815 and within a few years had established a store, tavern and grist mill. Soon the future location of the county seat was known as Walker's Mill and Store. He was joined by other settlers, most notably the Grace, Lee, Morrisette, McDuffy, Hunter, Burns, Warren and Bagby families.

Little else is known of the development of the Monroeville area until the early 1830s when the Federal government gave Probate Judge Henry W. Taylor a land grant of 80 acres, three acres of which were reserved exclusively for a public square, and the town of Monroeville was officially founded. The county seat was moved from Claiborne to Monroeville and was also named for James Monroe. In 1833, the new log courthouse burned down. In 1840, a two story, frame building was erected, but it too burned in 1849. Three years later, the county got its first brick courthouse, which was likely built by slaves and used for various public purposes until 1903. In 1854, a two story county jail was erected on the west side of the courthouse square. It was constructed with bricks made from local red clay deposits and, according to local sources, built by slaves. In a 2003 report by the Monroe Area Chamber of Commerce, the "bricks were irregular in size and relatively soft due to inferior locally built brick kilns."

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According to preservationist Harriet Swift, antebellum Monroe County “hover[ed] on the southern edge of the old slavery and cotton-growing region called the Black Belt With its western boundary interwoven with the Alabama River, the county developed a strong agricultural and riverboat shipping culture With a mixed terrain of both coastal plain and the last gasp of the Appalachian foothills, the county evolved into a big farm-small plantation economy. Slavery was common but not universal in antebellum Monroe, where blacks made up a majority of the population before and after the Civil War.”

Monroeville’s population and economy both grew slowly in the last half of the nineteenth century. It had approximately 500 residents during the Civil War years. By 1872, its population had dropped to 250 but then rose to 400 by 1880. This population figure remained steady until 1900 when it rose to 422. Monroeville’s population would continue to grow throughout the period of significance.

In 1869 the *Monroe Journal* moved its offices from Claiborne to Monroeville. A few years later, in 1873, the F. Metts Store was built on North Alabama Avenue, but was moved to its current site on North Alabama Avenue Alley in 1909. Monroeville acquired daily postal service in 1884 and telephone service in 1898.

One reason for Monroeville’s slow development was the lack of a railroad in Monroe County. By 1890, the Mobile and Birmingham Railroad traversed Clarke County to the west and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad ran through Butler, Conecuh and Escambia Counties to the east. The L&N also wanted a railroad line through Conecuh and Wilcox Counties to connect Flomaton with Selma. It had acquired 34 miles of track that connected Selma to Pine Apple (Wilcox County) and by 1881 had constructed 30 miles of track from Flomaton to Repton (Conecuh County). The last 44 miles from Repton to Pine Apple which passed through eastern and central Monroe County, however, would not be completed until 1900.

Monroeville was connected to the L&N line via the Manistee and Repton Railroad Company in 1912 when this logging line which originally ran from the Bear Creek Mill Company in Manistee to Repton was extended five miles into the county seat. The following year the M&R connected Monroeville with the Gulf, Florida and Alabama Railway which was absorbed into the St. Louis-San Francisco Railway in 1924. Later, a new connection was built between Monroeville and the L&N main line when the M&R was abandoned.

The coming of the railroad spurred growth in Monroeville. The community was incorporated on March 4, 1901. Around the same time, Probate Judge Nicholas Stallworth hired the Lewman Brothers of Louisville, Kentucky to design a new courthouse. He thought the antebellum courthouse was architecturally uninteresting and wanted a landmark building to dominate the square. He got his wish in 1903 with the completion of Monroeville’s Classical Revival courthouse. In 1909, the Barnett & Jackson Hardware Company constructed a fine, two story, brick building with arched windows and corbelling on N. Alabama Avenue (Resource #6/Photo 2). Behind the courthouse on the corner of North Mount Pleasant Avenue and Claiborne Street, the Monroe County Bank built a similar block building with decorative window headers and a corner entrance, with a simple first floor cornice and a projecting iron cornice above the second floor. A third two story, brick building was constructed adjacent to the bank (Resources #39 & #40). The town’s population reached 616 in 1910 and 1,000 by 1916, just a few years after Monroeville’s connection to both the L&N and the GF&A lines.

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A number of other buildings were built downtown during the 1910s, including the now demolished First Methodist Church, and the Morrissette Buick Motor Company, which was destroyed by fire in 1929.

Monroeville's courthouse square was booming in the 1920s. At the beginning of the decade, the town had no public utilities but had acquired city water and electricity by 1923. A citywide sewage system was up and running by 1930. The economy focused on railroad accessibility and the automobile as well as the multiplicity of goods and services made available. During the 1920s a wide variety of enterprises developed around the square including the 1925 First National Bank, the Strand Theatre in 1927 (which burned in 1977), Meyer Katz's department store (Resource #14), the Bedsole Dry Goods Company (Resource #9/Photo 2), an "auto sales and service" business in the present-day Printery Printing and Signs (Resource #46), the dry cleaner in the current Aaron White Photography shop (Resource #63/Photo 14) and the "auto repairing" and "electric repairing" ventures in Resource #61/Photo 13 on Pineville Road.

Ten years after the Katzes opened their store, they decided to expand into the building next door (Resource #15). Perhaps at that time—or maybe a few years later—they added fashionable black Carrara glass to the storefronts. The Katz Department Store remained in business until 1986.

Following the devastating fire that destroyed the Morrissette Buick Motor Company, Lee Motor Company (Resource #13/Photo 4) constructed its building on the same site c. 1935. Nevertheless, with the onset of the Great Depression, most private enterprise had stalled or stopped altogether. Between 1930 and 1937, commercial growth in Monroeville was rare.

On the other hand, public investment became widespread in Alabama in the 1930s through the Roosevelt administration's New Deal programs—due largely to the influence of key Alabama New Dealers. In many ways, perhaps, this was the glue that held many local economies together, at least until they could right themselves during and after World War II.

In 1934, the City of Monroeville constructed its first sidewalks on the west and south sides of the square (pavement was extended downtown in 1943), and three years later, a New Deal agency funded construction of a new post office. Inside is a mural named "Harvesting" painted by Arthur L. Bairnsfather in 1939. He was hired to paint the picture after winning an open competition conducted by the Treasury Section of painting and sculpture for which he earned \$680. The mural was restored in 1985 by Birmingham native, John Bertalan.

While the new post office likely shored up flagging confidence and pumped some new energy into the downtown, it was undoubtedly the arrival of Vanity Fair that really impacted Monroeville's economy. In 1937, just outside the downtown core, the company built a major sewing plant. Until it began downsizing local operations in the 1990s, Vanity Fair, according to various local studies, was the town's economic engine and benefactor. The company built the 70-acre Vanity Fair Park in 1949 and added several amenities to it, including a lake and a community house with a swimming pool, a few years later.

By 1950, Monroe County's economy was based on industry, diversified agriculture and beef cattle. Monroeville, with a population of several thousand, had an industrial base that included not only Vanity Fair but also lumber and wood products manufacturing facilities. Prior to the construction of I-65, the town benefitted from its location on the shortest route from Montgomery to Mobile via State Highways 11, 47 and 100. Nevertheless, Monroeville retained its small town

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charm throughout the 1950s. A c. 1950 aerial photograph of the city center reveals the 1903 courthouse near the southeast corner of an informally landscaped square dotted with trees. Concrete sidewalks delineate as well as traverse the square. Retired men gathered here to whittle and to play checkers or dominoes. By 1958, Probate Judge E. T. Millsap had moved a small, wood-frame building onto the square to accommodate their activities in inclement weather. This structure was probably lost when the 1963 courthouse was constructed.

Contributing buildings from the late 1940s and 1950s that illustrate this postwar period include one part commercial blocks (Resources #28/Photo 6 and #31), a small restaurant (Resource #29/Photo 6), a grocery store (Resource #35/Photo 8) and car dealerships (Resources #37/Photo 7, #49 and #53).

In 1960, worldwide celebrity hit Monroeville when native daughter, Harper Lee, published To Kill a Mockingbird, for which she won the Pulitzer Prize. A movie based on the book and starring Gregory Peck was released in 1962 and won an Academy Award. While no filming took place in Monroeville, the 1903 courthouse was replicated as the focus of the intense courtroom battle between the forces of justice and Southern racism. The next year, ironically, a new courthouse was built. Until the mid-1980s, the old building saw reduced use and activity, and came dangerously close to demise via the wrecking ball.

Today, the town of Monroeville has close to 7000 residents and has been designated Alabama's "Literary Capital." The 1903 courthouse is now home to a heritage museum and the former courtroom is open for tours. Moreover, each year in May, the town hosts a production of To Kill a Mockingbird which features local talent.

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10. Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Monroeville Downtown Historic District is shown on the accompanying map entitled "Monroeville Downtown Historic District" drawn to scale, 2009.

The district boundary begins at the southeast corner of the parcel for Resource #13 on S. Alabama Avenue and continues north along the eastern property lines of Resource #13 and the vacant lot north of it, crosses E. Claiborne Street and then follows the rear property lines of Resources #1, #3, #12 and #11 and crosses Pineville Road. At a point on the northern right-of-way of Pineville Road approximately 37.5 feet east of Crook Street, the boundary turns west following the northern right-of-way of Pineville Road and crossing Crook Street to the southeast corner of the lot for Resource #64. Here the boundary heads north approximately 169 feet to the northeast corner of the parcel for Resource #60. At this point, the boundary heads west, following the rear property lines of Resources #60, #59, #58, #57 and #56 and then crosses N. Mount Pleasant Avenue to a point on the eastern property line of Resource #51. The boundary heads north to the northeast corner of the lot for Resource #54 and then west to the northwest corner of this same property. The boundary turns south at this point, traveling along the rear property lines of Resources #54, #53, #52, #51, #50, #49, #48 and #47 to the southwest corner of the lot for the latter resource. Here it heads west along the rear property lines of Resources #32, #33, #34, #35, #36 and #38 to the northwest corner of the lot for the latter resource. The boundary then heads south at this point, following the western property line of Resource #38, crossing W. Claiborne Street and wrapping around the western, southern and eastern property lines of Resource #37. The boundary continues east along the southern right-of-way of W. Claiborne Street to the northwest corner of the parcel for Resource #30. Here it follows the western property line of Resource #30 and then continues east along the rear property lines of Resources #30, #29, #28, #26, #25, #24 and #23 and crosses S. Mount Pleasant Avenue to the southwest corner of the lot for Resource #55. From this point, the boundary travels along the southern property line of Resource #55 and the rear property lines of Resources #16, #17, #18, #19, #20, #21 and #22, crosses S. Alabama Avenue, and continues along the southern property line of Resource #13 to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Monroeville Downtown Historic District has been drawn to include all of the contiguous, contributing, commercial buildings in downtown Monroeville. In addition, two c. 1925 bungalows (Resources #36 and #38) are included in the boundary because they have been converted to commercial use. North, south, east and west of the boundary are residential neighborhoods, and south of the boundary are also c. 1965-2000 suburban style commercial buildings.

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Photo Log

1. Monroeville Downtown Historic District
2. Monroe County, Alabama
3. Susan Enzweiler
5. Alabama Historical Commission

Photo 1: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0001
Old Courthouse Museum, 31 N. Alabama Ave., and Monroe County Courthouse, 65 N. Alabama Ave.
17 February 2009
Camera facing NW

Photo 2: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0002
58, 60-64, 78, 86 N. Alabama Ave.
29 January 2009
Camera facing NE

Photo 3: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0003
F. Metts Store, East side of N. Alabama Ave. Alley and South of Resource #11
29 January 2009
Camera facing E

Photo 4: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0004
Lee Motor Company, 31 S. Alabama Ave.
17 February 2009
Camera facing SE

Photo 5: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0005
18, 22, 28, 42, 54-56 E. Claiborne St.
29 January 2009
Camera facing SE

Photo 6: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0006
5, 11, 1 building West of 11 W. Claiborne St., 25, 27 W. Claiborne St.
29 January 2009
Camera facing SE

Photo 7: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0007
Central Farm Supply, 107 W. Claiborne St.
29 January 2009
Camera facing SW

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Photo 8: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0008
74, 90, 108 W. Claiborne St.
29 January 2009
Camera facing NW

Photo 9: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0009
36, 38, 44, 46 W. Claiborne St. and the rear of 5 N. Mount Pleasant Ave.
29 January 2009
Camera facing NE

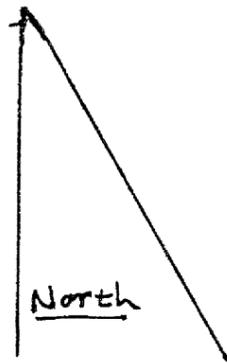
Photo 10: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0010
13, 19, 27 N. Mount Pleasant Ave.
29 January 2009
Camera facing W

Photo 11: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0011
63, 71, 87 N. Mount Pleasant Ave.
29 January 2009
Camera facing NW

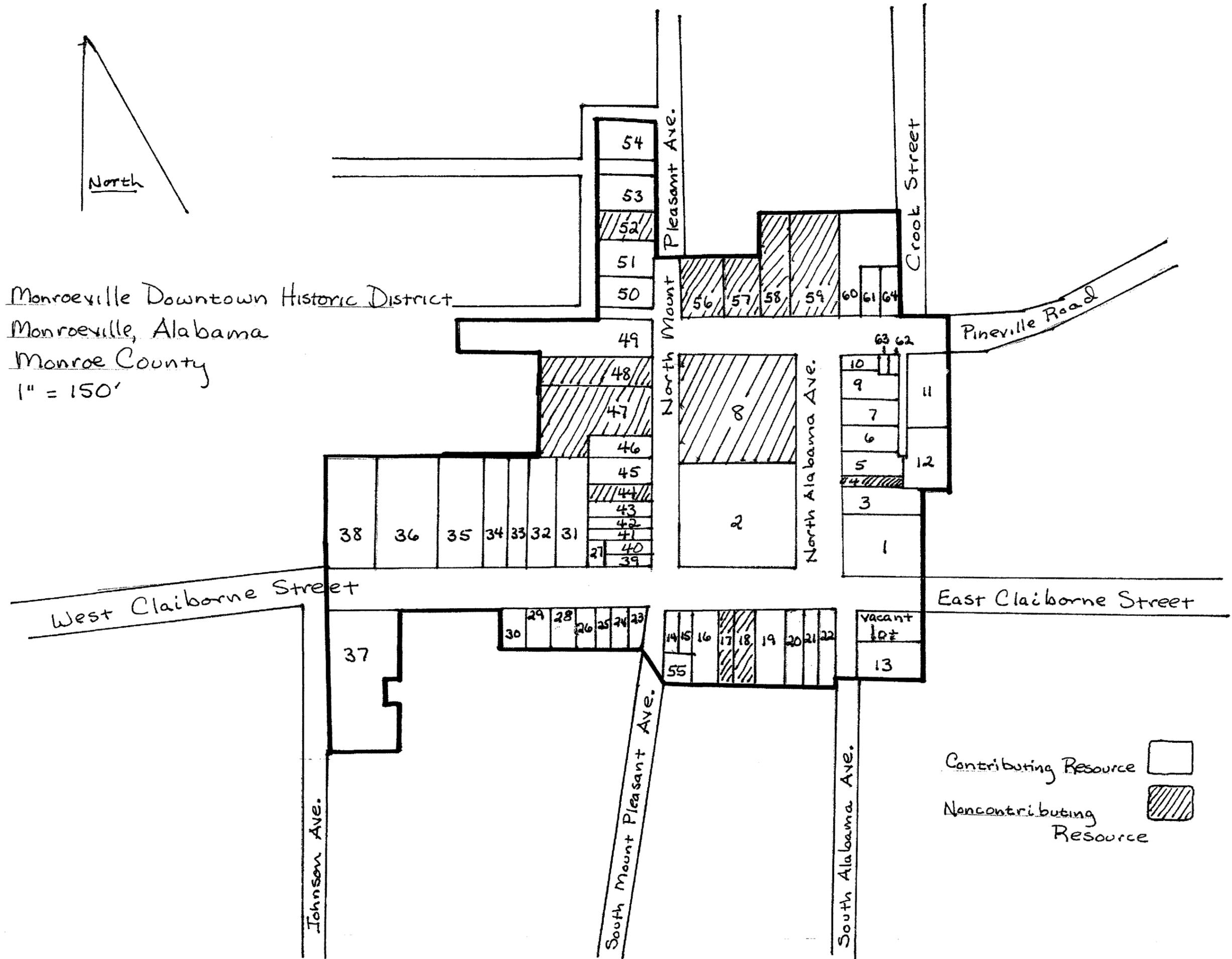
Photo 12: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0012
27-33 S. Mount Pleasant Ave.
17 February 2009
Camera facing NE

Photo 13: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0013
79-85-89, 95 Pineville Rd.
17 February 2009
Camera facing NE

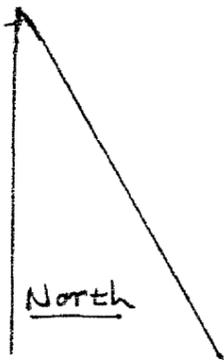
Photo 14: AL_Monroe County_Monroeville Downtown Historic District_0014
92 Pineville Rd.
17 February 2009
Camera facing S



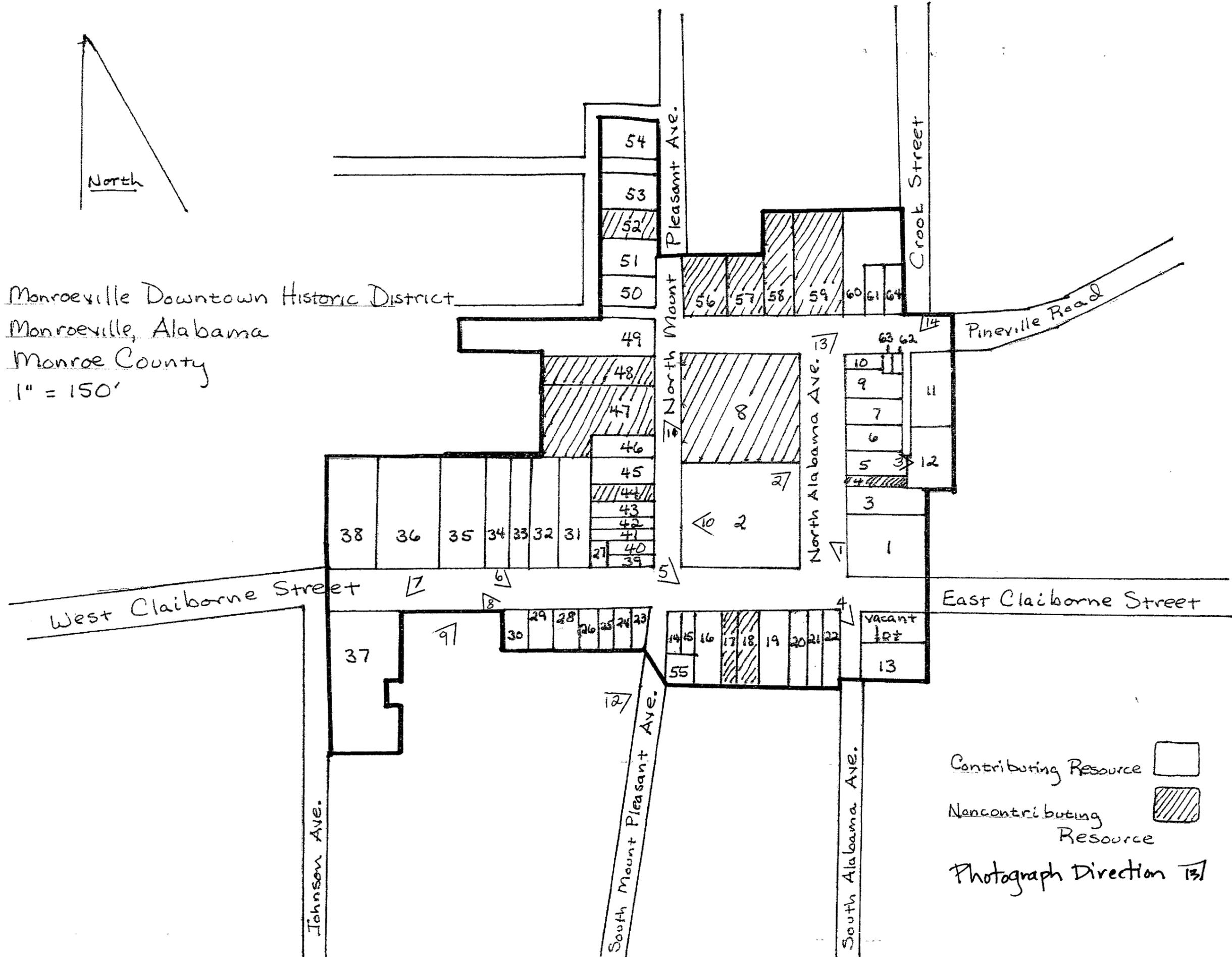
Monroeville Downtown Historic District
Monroeville, Alabama
Monroe County
1" = 150'



Contributing Resource 
Noncontributing Resource 



Monroeville Downtown Historic District
 Monroeville, Alabama
 Monroe County
 1" = 150'



Contributing Resource 
 Noncontributing Resource 
 Photograph Direction 