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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 Helena Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number parts of Highway 261 and Helena Road; parts of 1st-3rd Ave.; 200 block 3rd St. not for publication N/A
city or town Helena vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Shelby code 117 zip code 35080

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] March 6, 2006
Signature of certifying official Date

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):

[Signature] 4/15/06
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Helena Historic District

County and State Shelby County, Alabama

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check only one box.)

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>56</u>	<u>15</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>59</u>	<u>15</u> Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Commerce/Trade</u>	Sub: <u>Specialty Stores</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u> </u>	<u>Multiple Dwelling</u>
<u>Park</u>	<u>Outdoor Recreation</u>
<u>Religion</u>	<u>Religious Facility</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>School</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Road-Related</u>
<u>Social</u>	<u>Meeting Hall</u>
<u>Industry/Processing/Extraction</u>	<u>Waterworks</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Commerce/Trade</u>	Sub: <u>Specialty Stores</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u> </u>	<u>Multiple Dwelling</u>
<u>Recreation/Culture</u>	<u>Outdoor Recreation</u>
<u>Religion</u>	<u>Religious Facility</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>School</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Road-Related</u>
<u>Social</u>	<u>Meeting Hall</u>
<u>Industry/Processing/Extraction</u>	<u>Waterworks</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Late Victorian
- Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival
- Tudor Revival
- Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation concrete block
- roof asphalt
- walls weatherboard
- brick
- other rock

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

USDI/NPS Registration Form

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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 1880s -1954

Significant Dates N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Rosamond, William A.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- 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
Bham Public Library; Helena City Hall

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property approximately 50

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	514170	3684080	3	16	514780	3683880
2	16	514660	3684530	4	16	514390	3683360
				5	16	514170	3683350

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.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Pamela Sterne King, Historic Preservation Consultant and Christy Anderson (AHC Reviewer)

organization PSKing Associates date 2-15-2005

street & number 3307 Altaloma Way telephone 205-823-1679

city or town Birmingham state Alabama zip code _____

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Additional Documentation

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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)

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Property Owner

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

name Multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 2.7 Page 1 Name of Property: Helena Historic District
County and State: Shelby County, Alabama

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Addresses

1st Avenue West
109, 110, 118, 122, 129, No # (Inv. # 7), 130 corner with Rollingmill Street (Housing Project/ now Lee Apartments)

2nd Avenue West
Corner with Branch Street (Helena M. E. Church), 516

2nd Street
725, 731, 733, 747, 753, 757, 761, 767, 769, 771, 773, 775-779, 781, 782, 783, No # (Inv. # 27)

3rd Street
100, 167, 187, No # (Inv. # 31), 201, 209, 211, 212, 217, 218, 219, 222, 225, 228

Branch Street
733, 735, 737

Davidson Drive
902

Helena Road
No #, 3782, 3830, 3853, 3871, 3929, 3956, No # (Masonic Lodge), 3965, 4035, 40404052, No # (City Hall), 4075, 4079, 4085, 4114, No #, No #, 4161

Highway 261
Park and Dam, Highway 261 Bridge, 4436

Section 7. Architectural Classification, (con't)

Modern Movements: Ranch
Minimal Traditional

Other: Center Hall
Double Pen
One and two story commercial blocks

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Section 7 Page 2

Name of Property: Helena Historic District
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Narrative Description

The Helena Historic District is in the small town of Helena in north Shelby County, Alabama. Shelby County is contiguous to Jefferson County, where dozens of affluent "bedroom community" suburbs of Birmingham have sprung up in the last 15 years making it the second fastest growing county in the state. More significantly, the pace of sprawl has been so relentless and quick that small towns like Helena have become literally surrounded by new residential, commercial, and industrial development.

Until the 1990s, the town of Helena was in a predominantly rural part of the county where the terrain is slightly hilly. Buck Creek runs east and west along the northern end of the Helena Historic District while the historic town itself travels a north-south direction. The District includes 74 residential, commercial, education, religious, social, governmental, industrial, transportation and communication, and recreational and culture resources that document the town's growth and development from c. 1880s- 1953. Fifty-nine are contributing and 15 are non-contributing. Only three houses (Inv. #s 46, 71, 74) lie north of Buck's Creek, which also includes a fabulous c. 1910 concrete dam (Inv. # 72). The best view of the Buck Creek dam is along the Highway 261 bridge, which was built c. 1910 and renovated c. 1955 with a beautiful iron rail (Inv. # 73). Upon exiting the bridge at its south end, the Neoclassical Revival c. 1910 Helena Telephone and Exchange Building (Inv. # 70) is located on the L & N railroad across the highway on the right (west) side.

Across the railroad are the District's remaining 53 resources. At that point, Highway 261 becomes Helena Road (formerly Main Street), which is the spine of the District. There are nine c. 1880s- c. 1950 commercial resources including 2 two story c. 1880s structures (Inv. #s 66, 68) and 2 c. 1910s- 1920s stores (Inv. #s 62, 67); a 1925 Tudor Revival style school (Inv. # 30); a vernacular 1934 African American church (Inv. # 10); a 1953 Art Moderne city hall (Inv. # 61); a c. 1945 Masonic Lodge (Inv. # 59); c. 1910 Neoclassical style telephone and exchange building (Inv. # 70); a c. 1910, c. 1955 car bridge (Inv. # 73); and one city park with a c. 1910 dam (Inv. # 72). The remaining 36 resources are residential including a c. 1940 triplex (Inv. # 23) and a federally funded housing project built in 1953 (Inv. # 9). Single family houses were built between c. 1890s and 1954 and include seven c. 1890 s- 1910 Victorian era cottages, one raised cottage (Inv. # 43), four hipped cottages, several center hall structures (Inv. # 35), a Neoclassical style mansion (Inv. # 6), a fine two story c. 1910 asymmetrical Victorian era house (Inv. # 44), and one c. 1950 Ranch style house (Inv. # 40). The remaining houses are essentially evenly divided between c. 1920s-1940 bungalows including a few Craftsman style (Inv. # 21, 29, 33), and Minimal Traditional styles including one with Tudor Revival influences (Inv. # 48).

Eight of the commercial resources are one or two story buildings brick or weatherboard structures built from c. 1880s - c. 1950. They are clustered on Helena Road along approximately 2 ½ blocks on both sides of the street (Inv. #s 55, 60, 62, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69) where, in the 1980s, new sidewalks were built. The only other commercial building is the c. 1940s one story building that sits on the back side of a vacant lot on Helena Road facing 2nd Street (Inv. # 25). In addition, Helena's Art Moderne style City Hall (Inv. # 61) was built in 1953 between two historic commercial buildings, and the c. 1945 Masonic Lodge was built between an historic commercial block (Inv. # 60) and a c. 1940s bungalow (Inv. # 52). There are also five additional residential structures downtown including three Minimal Traditional houses one with Tudor Revival influences (Inv. #s 47, 48, 50), an outstanding

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INVENTORY

1ST Avenue West

1. House. 109 1st Avenue West. (c. 1940s; 1960).
One story Minimal Traditional house that was completely refaced c. 1960 with cedar and synthetic stone. There is a side gable roof, c. 1940s 6:6 double hung wood windows, and a concrete block foundation. (NC)
2. House. 110 1st Avenue West. (c. 1940).
One story bungalow with asbestos shingles, front gable, 6:6 double hung wood windows, screened front porch with a gable, concrete block columns and wall, and a concrete block foundation.
3. House. 118 1st Avenue West. (c. 1940; c. 1970s).
One story bungalow with c. 1970s vinyl siding, front gable, 8:1 double hung wood windows, end brick chimney, brick foundation, and a full façade front porch with wood posts, decorative milled braces, and a concrete floor. There is also a one-story weatherboard storage shed with a front gable.
4. House. 122 1st Avenue West. (c. 1940; c. 1970s; c. 2004).
One story Minimal Traditional house with c. 1970s vinyl siding, c. 2004 metal side gable roof, c. 1970s 6:6 double hung aluminum windows, concrete foundation, and a full facade front porch with square wood columns on concrete piers, and a wide stucco over concrete porch wall.
5. House. 124 1st Avenue West. (c. 1970s).
One story weatherboard Minimal Traditional house with a side gable roof, 1:1 double hung aluminum windows, and a concrete block foundation. (NC)
6. M. C. Davidson House/ now Magnolia Manor. 129 1st Avenue West. (c. 1910).
Two-story weatherboard Neoclassical Revival style house with a hip roof, central double veranda with pairs of full height square wood posts on the ends, very decorative wood rail on the second floor balcony, and a flat roof. There is a c. 1940s two-story right side wing with a hip roof and 6:6 double hung windows that is set back from the front, and a one-story porch on the left side with a very decorative balustrade that matches the balcony rail. There are 9:1 double hung wood windows, two decorative brick chimneys, and a brick foundation. The house is set back from the street on a hilly lot, with a professionally landscaped yard including a series of approximately 8 concrete steps leading from the lower portion of the yard to the upper. There is also a simple driveway on the right side of the house that goes to the rear of the property.
7. McDonald House Foundation and Cheek walls. No # 1st Avenue West. (c. 1920).
Nice rubble stone foundation wall and cheek walls from a house that is no longer extant.

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c. 1890-1900 Victorian era cottage (Inv. # 49), a fine c. 1890 center hall house that was refaced with brick c. 1970s and is now non-contributing (Inv. # 58), and a c. 1920s center hall house that now has a commercial use (Inv. # 51). Four contributing residential structures retain a residential use and two have a commercial use.

While there are several non-contributing mostly c. 1990s commercial resources on Helena Road within this 2 1/2 block concentration, they are all small one or two story structures with a sale, height, materials, and setback that is compatible with the historic resources. As a result, the visual integrity of the commercial core remains intact.

The Helena Historic District extends only one block east of Helena Road where the 1953 federally funded housing project, now the Lee Apartments, remains intact (Inv. # 9) and which represents its eastern most boundary. It includes five one-story brick buildings well laid out around a spacious, well-kept lawn. East, north and south of the boundary are c. 1960s-2004 middle class houses with only a few historic houses scattered throughout.

West of Helena Road, the District becomes predominantly residential and includes 2^d Street, 3^d Street, and the east side of 4th Street. Cross roads are 2^d and 3^d Avenues, as well as 1st Avenue which then branches off onto Branch Road. Branch Road is perhaps the most charming street with only three houses nestled into a cove-like setting; two are one or two story c. 1910 Victorian era cottages with fine milled trim (Inv. #s 43, 44), and the other is a c. 1940 bungalow (Inv. # 45). This residential area, moreover, contains a rich variety of c. 1900- c.1954 houses including hipped cottages, three of which are nearly identical and cluster on 2^d Street directly behind the commercial street (Inv. # 16, 17, 19); a very well articulated two story Neoclassical style mansion, the only grand house in the District (Inv. #6); a number of simple, but charming, c. 1900- 1910 Victorian era weatherboard cottages (Inv. # 8, 11, 12, 44, 40, 41); nice center hall styles (Inv. # 35); one c. 1900 single pen house (Inv. # 22); simple c. 1920s-1940s bungalows including one constructed with beaded board (Inv. # 20); and several fine Craftsman bungalows including especially one on 3^d Street that includes excellent rubble stone details (Inv. # 33). There are also many c. 1940s- c. 1954 Minimal Traditional houses including one brick house (Inv. # 38); and an interesting c. 1950 Ranch style house with a large central rounded porch with a rounded marquis-style awning (Inv. # 40). This predominantly residential neighborhood also includes the District's only school, a 1925 Tudor Revival style building on 3^d Street (Inv. # 30), and the only church, a 1934 African American Methodist Episcopal church (Inv. # 10).

West of 4th Street, the area becomes vacant land or c. 1960s- 1980s scattered housing. North and south of the District, the town becomes increasingly dense with new commercial, residential, and industrial development. The Helena Historic District, however, remains very much intact and the town is taking aggressive steps to protect its historical resources, and plan for appropriate future growth.

Archaeological Component

Although there has been no comprehensive archaeological survey for the area, it is likely that there are subsurface remains.

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8. House 130 1st Avenue West. (c. 1910; c. 1940s).
One story Victorian era cottage with c. 1940s asbestos shingles, front gable with very decorative Victorian era milled trim in the point, original 2:2 fixed wood windows and a wood transom (now a wood vent, c. 1940s) in the attic, 1:1 double hung windows on the front and c. 1940s 2:2 double hung windows on the sides, and a brick pier foundation with concrete block infill. There is also a full façade front porch with Victorian era turned wood posts, very decorative milled trim and a concrete block foundation. This is a charming house that successfully blends its original Victorian era features with a c. 1940s renovation.
9. Public Housing Project/ now Lee Apartments. Corner with Rollingmill Street. (1953; c. 1980s).
Nine one story brick Modern style buildings. Each have a central entrance bay with an entrance door on the left end that is flanked by a freestanding brick wall; and to its left is a large 6paned aluminum window. The central bay has a side gable and a wing on each end that begins under the central gable; there is also an end gable. There are c. 1980s metal roofs, concrete foundations, c. 1980s 2:2 double hung aluminum windows, rear storage bays. The buildings front 1st Avenue and Rollingmill Street and are situated around a large open grassed yard. Designed by William A. Rosamond, and built by Southeastern Manufacturing Co. both from Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

2nd Avenue West

10. Helena Methodist Episcopal Church So./now Pentecostal Church. Corner 2nd Avenue West and Branch Street. (1934; c. 1970s; c. 1990s).
One story church with a front gable. It has c. 1970s vinyl siding, 9:9 double hung wood windows with a wood surround, off center entrance with a divided wood transom and gable, and a basement with 6:6 double hung wood windows. There is a rock foundation on the middle front bay, but the rest of the front has c. 1990s brick, and there is a rear wing with concrete foundation and 9:9 double hung wood windows.
11. Cahoon House. 516 2nd Avenue West. (c. 1900; c. 1940s; c. 1960s).
One and one half story weatherboard Victorian era cottage with a two front gables, full façade front porch with milled wood posts and a hip roof, and exposed wood rafters and dentils at the roof line. There are also c. 1940s 2:2 double hung wood windows throughout, and fixed c. 1960s 2:2 aluminum windows at the attic. There is also a concrete block foundation, and a secondary structure with c. 1980s weatherboard, front gable, and 4:4 double hung wood windows.

2nd Street

12. House. 725 2nd Street. (c. 1910; c. 1940s).
One story weatherboard Victorian Era cottage with a side gable, right side chimney, front central gable with wood shingles, full front porch, c. 1940s 2:2 double hung wood windows, and a brick foundation.

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13. House. 731 2nd Street. (c. 1954).
One story wood Minimal Traditional house with a side gable, front stoop with decorative gable, 1:1 fixed aluminum windows, and a concrete block foundation.
14. House. 733 2nd Street. (c. 1954).
One story concrete block Minimal Traditional house with a side gable, fixed wood windows, right side recessed porch with simple square wood posts and wood rail, and concrete block foundation.
15. House. 747 2nd Street. (c. 1980s).
One story bungalow with aluminum siding, 6:6 double hung aluminum windows, concrete foundation, and a front gable. (NC)
16. House. 753 2nd Street West. (c. 1910; c. 1980s).
One story hipped roof cottage with a c. 1980s tin roof and vinyl siding, hipped wood dormer vent, brick chimney, 4:4 double hung wood windows, central entrance, and a full façade front porch with square wood columns, and plaster over brick foundation on the front and concrete block foundation at the rear.

This house is virtually identical to Inv. #s 17 and 19.
17. House. 757 2nd Street. (c. 1910; c. 1940s; c. 1960s).
One story hipped roof cottage with c. 1960s vinyl siding, hipped wood dormer vent, brick chimney, c. 1940s 2:2 double hung wood windows, and a concrete block foundation. There is a central entrance, and a full façade front porch with a hip roof that was enclosed c. 1960s with vinyl siding and 2:2 double hung aluminum windows, but the original end square wood columns remain visible.

This house is virtually identical to Inv. #s 16 and 19.
18. House. 761 2nd Street. (c. late 1940s; c. 1960s).
One story L-shaped Minimal Traditional house with a hip roof, a right extended bay with a hip, and c. 1960s vinyl siding. There are 2:2 double hung wood windows, concrete block foundation, and a large c. 1960s cut stone chimney, front exterior planter and two front steps.
19. House/ now Taffy's. 767 2nd Street. (c. 1910).
One story weatherboard hipped roof cottage, central entrance with front sidelights, 6:6 double hung wood windows, full façade front porch with a shed roof, and brick and concrete block foundation.

This house is virtually identical to Inv. #s 16 and 17.
20. House/ now David B. Aizenman, M. D. 769 2nd Street. (c. 1920s; c. 1940s).
One story beaded board bungalow with a side gable tin roof, full façade front porch with a wood floor, original wood and glass front door, c. 1940s 2:2 double hung wood windows, and a concrete block foundation.

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21. House/ now Humane Society. 771 2nd Street. (c. 1920s; c. 1990).
One story weatherboard Craftsman style bungalow with exposed wood rafter tails, front gable, 6:1 double hung wood windows, full façade front porch with a c. 1990 brick porch wall, and a concrete block foundation.
22. House/ now Angel Adoptions. 773 2nd Street. (c. 1900).
One story beaded board double pen house with a central entrance with a wood transom, side gable, 1:1 double hung wood windows, concrete block foundation, and a full façade front porch with a shed roof, exposed wood rafter tails and wood rail.
23. Apartment Building. 775-779 2nd Street. (c. 1940).
One story weatherboard triplex apartment house with a hiproof, metal casement windows, hip roof, concrete block foundation, and three entrance bay only porches with a hip roof.
24. House. 781 2nd Street. (c. 1920).
One story L shaped weatherboard house with a tin cross gable roof, 2:2 and 1:1 double hung wood windows, central entrance with a wood transom, full façade front porch with decorative molded concrete block porch columns and wall, and a stucco foundation.
25. UMS. 782 2nd Street West. (c. 1940).
One story concrete block and brick (front façade) commercial building with, two central entrances flanked by fixed metal casement windows, and a concrete block foundation.
26. C. T. Davidson House. 783 2nd Street. (1895; c. mid-1930s; c. 1970s).
One and one half story center hall house that was originally built as a two-story Second Empire style house. In the 1933 tornado, the second story was blown away, and c. mid-1930s, it was renovated to include a new ½ story attic in a Craftsman style.

There is c. 1970 vinyl siding, c. mid-1930s cross gable roof with wood brackets, original central entrance with side lights and transom, and a full façade front porch with original turned milled wood posts and very decorative mill wood braces. There are original 4:4 and c. mid1930s 2:2 double hung wood windows, two original brick chimneys, and an original stucco foundation. There is also a decorative wood window in the c. mid- 1930s attic.
27. Firehouse. No # 2nd Street West. (possibly c. 1940s; c. 1980).
One story weatherboard hut with a front tin gable and a concrete foundation. There are no windows. This building may have been built earlier, c. 1940s, and moved onto this site c. 1980. (NC)

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3rd Street West

28. Nash House. 100 3rd Street West. (1933; c. 1980s).
One story brick and c. 1980s vinyl siding Craftsman bungalow that sits on a very large corner lot. There is a front gable roof, two decorative brick chimneys, brick foundation with rectangular vent holes, and 3:1 and 9:1 double hung wood windows. The full front porch was enclosed c. 1980s with vinyl siding and 1:1 double hung aluminum windows, leaving the brick porch wall and the brick cheek walls at the left side entrance visible. (NC)
29. House. 167 3rd Street West. (c. 1920s; c. 1940s; c. 1970).
One story weatherboard Craftsman style bungalow with a front gable with wood shingles, full façade front porch that was enclosed c. 1970 but with original brick columns visible, brick cheek walls, c. 1940s 2:2 double hung wood windows, and a stucco foundation.
30. Helena School. 187 3rd Street West. (1925; c. 1980s).
One story brick Tudor Revival style school with three bays. The central bay has an arched entrance with a decorative arched surround, and the two end bays have prominent projecting gabled parapets. There are 9:9 double hung wood windows, hip roof, brick foundation, and an exterior rock wall. There is also a c. 1980s brick wing on either side of the original structure.
31. House. No # 3rd Street West. (c. 1940).
One story asphalt shingle bungalow with a cross gable roof, central bay screened porch with a hip roof that extends from the front gable, 6:6 double hung wood windows, and a concrete block foundation.
32. Penhale House. 201 3rd Street West. (c. 1954; c. 1970s).
One story Ranch style house with c. 1970s aluminum siding, c. 1970s 6:6 double hung aluminum windows, side gable roof, end chimney, right bay porch with round concrete columns, and a concrete block foundation.
33. House. 209 3rd Street West. (c. 1920s; c. 1960s).
One story Craftsman style bungalow with a basement and a rear wing that is situated on a large hilly lot. There is c. 1960s vinyl siding, cross gable roof, 6:6 double hung wood windows, full front porch with large rubble stone columns, rubble stone porch wall and cheek walls, and ten front steps with rubble stone in the risers. There is also a c. 1940s two-car garage with c. 1960s vinyl siding.

This house makes exceptional use of rubble stone in its construction.
34. House. 211 3rd Street West. (c. 1940; c. 1960s).
One story weatherboard Minimal Traditional house with a cross gable roof, c. 1960s vinyl siding, 2:2 double hung wood windows, and a brick foundation. There is a left bay recessed porch with square wood columns, decorative wood rail, and brick cheek walls with limestone caps.

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35. Sweat/Anderson House. 212 3rd Street. (c. 1910; c. 1960s).
One story weatherboard center hall house on a corner lot. It has a hipped roof with hipped wood dormer vents on its front and right sides, c. 1960s vinyl siding, 2:2 double hung wood windows, decorative end brick chimney, brick foundation, and a full façade front porch with decorative split wood posts on brick piers. Mr. Sweat, the original owner, was a prominent miner.
36. House. 217 3rd Street West. (c. 1920s; c. 1940s; c. 1980s).
One story bungalow with c. 1980s vinyl siding, c. 1940s 2:2 double hung wood windows, central bay porch with wrought iron columns that was enclosed with vinyl siding c. 1980s, and a concrete block foundation. This house is located next to a spring fed creek and according to current owners, the original owners allowed the Helena police to water their horses there. (NC)
37. House. 218 3rd Street West. (c. 1970s).
One story brick Ranch style house with 12:9 double hung aluminum windows, side gable tin roof, and a concrete foundation. (NC)
38. House. 219 3rd Street West. (c. 1950).
One story brick Minimal Traditional house with a side gable roof, 2:2 double hung wood windows with brick sills, brick foundation with rectangular vents, and a left side open garage with concrete round posts and pine wood interior walls.
39. House. 222 3rd Street. (c. late 1940s; c. 1970s).
One story Minimal Traditional house with asphalt shingles, side gable roof, 6:1 double hung wood windows, two brick chimneys, concrete block foundation, and a small left wing with c. 1970s vinyl siding and original 2:2 double hung wood windows. There is also an off center entrance bay porch with a gable and decorative split wood columns on brick piers, right end screened porch, and a one story weatherboard shed with a gable.
40. House. 223 3rd Street West. (c. late 1940s).
One story Ranch style house with weatherboard on the upper portion and brick on the lower and they are separated by a brick belt course. There is a side gable roof, brick foundation with rectangular vents, and a rounded central bay porch with a marquis style curved awning and wrought iron posts.
41. House. 225 3rd Street West. (c. 1940s).
One story L-shaped Minimal Traditional house with asphalt shingles, cross gable roof, fixed aluminum windows, left bay screened porch, and a 1 story c. 1910 weatherboard shed with a front gable.
42. House. 228 3rd Street West. (c. 1940).
One story bungalow with asphalt shingles, cross gable roof with two front gables, brick chimney, 6:6 double hung wood windows, entrance bay porch with decorative wood posts, original wood and glass door, and a concrete foundation.

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Branch Street

43. Murphree House. 733 Branch Street. (c. 1910).
One story weatherboard raised cottage with a pyramidal roof. There are 6:6 double hung wood windows with a fixed transom on the left side and an entrance on the right side with the original decorative wood and screen door, a full façade front porch with a series of square wood columns, wood porch rail, and wood stairs with a wood rail. There is also a wide brick foundation.
44. Methodist Parsonage/ now House. 735 Branch Street. (c.1910; c. 1940).
Two story asymmetrical Victorian era house with c. 1940 asphalt shingles. It has a hip roof with a two story front extended left bay with a gable, a wrap around porch with wood posts and rail and decorative milled wood trim, and an entrance with a fixed transom in the recessed portion. As the porch ends on the right side, there is an octagonal bay with a hip roof and 1:1 double hung wood windows. There are 1:1 double hung wood windows throughout, concrete block foundation, low exterior concrete block wall, and a white picket fence.
45. House. 737 Branch Street. (c. 1910; c. 1960s).
One story hipped cottage with c. 1960s aluminum siding, dormer vent with a shed roof, c. 1960s 1:1 double hung aluminum windows, concrete block foundation, and a full façade front porch with square wood posts.

Davidson Drive

46. House. 902 Highway 261. (c. 1940).
One story bungalow with c. 1960s vinyl siding, front gable, full façade front porch with square wood columns on brick piers, concrete foundation, and 2:2 double hung aluminum windows.

Helena Road

47. House. No # Helena Road. (c. 1940s).
One story weatherboard Minimal Traditional house with a side gable roof, right entrance bay only porch with a gable and wrought iron posts, 2:2 double hung wood windows, off center brick chimney, and a concrete block foundation.
48. House. 3782 Helena Road. (c. 1940).
One story Minimal Traditional house with Tudor Revival influences. It has c. 1960s aluminum siding, two brick chimneys, side gable roof with two gables on the right side, recessed arched entrance bay, 1:1 double hung wood windows, brick chimney, and a concrete foundation.
49. House. 3830 Helena Road. (c.1890-1900).
One story Victorian era weatherboard cottage with cross gable roof, prominent eave returns, rear gable with eave returns, exposed wood rafter tails, and full façade front porch with a hip roof and series of round wood columns, brick pier foundation, and brick front steps.

This is an excellent Victorian era vernacular cottage and the most intact turn-of-the-century resource in the District.

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Statement of Significance

Architecture

The Helena Historic District is significant under Criterion C, Architecture, for its rich diversity of types and styles of small-town Alabama architecture from c. 1880s– 1953. Architectural types include residential, commercial, educational, religious, government, transportation, recreation and culture, industry and technology, and social. In addition to many excellent vernacular resources, there are Neoclassical style residential and non-residential buildings (Inv. # 6, 67), Tudor Revival (Inv. # 30), Craftsman (Inv. # 21, 29, 33), and Art Moderne designs (Inv. # 60). Residential resources include several nice c. 1900 hipped cottages (Inv. #s 16, 17, 19), c. 1890s– 1910 center hall houses (Inv. # 35, 58- NC), c. 1900 single pen (Inv. # 22), c. 1910 raised cottage (Inv. # 43), and weatherboard or beaded board bungalows (Inv. # 20). There is one outstanding example of a c. 1910 Neoclassical style mansion (Inv. # 6), a fine two story asymmetrical Victorian era house (Inv. # 44), excellent one story c. 1890-1910 Victorian era weatherboard cottages (Inv. # 8, 11, 12, 44, 49, 40, 41), and c. 1940s– 1950 brick or weatherboard Minimal Traditional styles (Inv. # 3, 18, 34, 38, 39, 47) including one with Tudor Revival influences (Inv. # 48). There are also simple c. 1940s asphalt or asbestos shingle bungalows (Inv. # 31, 50), one interesting late 1940s Ranch style house with a curved marquis-style awning (Inv. # 40), a c. 1940s triplex (Inv. # 23) and a 1953 federal housing project designed by William A. Rosamond (Inv. # 9). Commercial architecture includes a two story c. 1880s weatherboard commercial building with decorative posts (Inv. # 68), a two story c. 1910 stippled brick building with arched windows (Inv. # 66), two c. 1910– 1920 weatherboard stores with front gables (Inv. # 62, 67), a c. 1910 rock store (Inv. # 69), c. 1910 brick commercial block (Inv. # 65), and a three bay c. 1950 commercial block (Inv. # 60). In addition to residential and commercial, there is a c. 1925 Tudor Revival style school (Inv. # 30), 1934 African American church (Inv. # 10), 1953 Art Moderne style City Hall (Inv. # 61), c. 1910 Neoclassical style telephone exchange building (Inv. # 70), and c. 1950 Masonic Lodge (Inv. # 59). There is also a fabulous c. 1910 automobile bridge with a decorative c. 1955 iron rail (Inv. # 73), and a c. 1910 park including a c. 1910 concrete dam (Inv. # 72) built to run the gristmills.

Commerce

The Helena Historic District is significant under Criterion A, Commerce, for its documentation of Helena's commercial and industrial development c. 1880s– c. 1950. It was during these decades that the town's mining economy combined with the opportunities afforded by the railroad to emerge as an important trade and commercial hub for Shelby County. Eight of the nine contributing commercial buildings (Inv. #s 55, 60, 62, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69) front Main Street (now Helena Road or Highway 261). The other is a c. 1940s freestanding commercial building that sits directly behind Main Street and faces 2nd Street (Inv. # 25). Those along Main Street include a c. 1910 rock store (Inv. # 69), two c. 1910s-20s weatherboard stores (Inv. #s 62, 67), one c. 1880s-1890s two story weatherboard commercial building (Inv. # 68), two story c. 1910 brick commercial block (Inv. # 65), c. 1910 two story stipple brick building (Inv. # 66), and a c. 1950 commercial block (Inv. # 60). As the railroad crosses Buck Creek, three additional c. 1910 resources remain to document the importance of automobile transportation (Inv. # 73), water power necessary to operate the important grist mills (Inv. # 72), and telecommunication (Inv. # 70, the Telephone Exchange Building) to Helena's commercial development.

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67. Griffin's Store/now Anna Caitlin for Children. 4093 Helena Road. (c. 1880s).
One story weatherboard store with a front gable, 1:1 double hung wood windows with a fixed wood transom, concrete foundation, and a central door with a fixed wood transom.
68. L. P. Leonard's Store. No # Helena Road. (c. 1880s; c 1990s).
Two story weatherboard building with a c. 1990s metal hip roof. There is a 2nd floor wood veranda, full height narrow twin wood columns and decorative wood caps, c. 1990s central wood entrance door flanked by wood storefronts and a wood door, 2nd floor central entrance, 1:1 double hung wood windows with a wood surround, and concrete foundation.
69. T. L. Wallace Store. 4114 Helena Road. (c. 1910).
One story rock building with a tin front gable and a projecting roof parapet with a central arch and a row of brick dentils. There is a pair of original wood central doors, with a vented transom, flanked by fixed wood windows. There is also a shed type tin awning at the sidewalk with a series of four decorative wood posts with decorative wood braces, and a low loose rock retaining wall at the side. This building is charming and remains very intact.

Highway 261

70. Helena Telephone and Exchange/now Vacant. 4161 Helena Road. (c. 1910).
One story one bay brick building with a two-story rear wing. There is a hip roof and a front gable with a wood vent. There are 8:8 double hung wood windows, wide wood fascia, left side original wood door with a fixed wood transom and wood shutters, and a brick foundation.
71. House. 4436 Highway 261. (c. 1940).
One story weatherboard and asphalt shingles (on front) Minimal Traditional house with a hip roof, exposed wood rafter tails, 4:1 double hung wood windows with wood shutters, left side screened porch, right corner screened porch with the main entrance, and a concrete block foundation.
72. Park and Buck Creek Dam. Highway 261. (c. 1910)
City park that runs under the Highway 261 Bridge and along Buck Creek. It has large areas of open grassed space, and a c. 1910 one tier concrete dam on the east side of the park that is approximately 30 feet high with concrete side walls that abut the land. There is a c. 2000 small open wood amphitheatre on the west side of the park, and a c. 2000 small aluminum building.
73. Highway 261 Bridge. (c. 1910; c. 1955).
Concrete and concrete pier bridge with very decorative c. 1955 iron rail. This bridge runs north and south across Buck Creek, and is the north entrance into downtown Helena.
74. House. 4453 Highway 261 (c. 1960).
One story Minimal Traditional house with ply wood siding, side gable roof, 4:4 double hung aluminum windows, concrete block foundation, front porch enclosed bay with a front gable, and a double right front garage. (NC)

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58. House/now Bead Biz. No # Helena Road. (c. 1895; c. 1960s; c. 2000).
One and one half story center hall house with a c. 2000 side tin roof, two front gable dormers with 6:6 double hung wood windows, 6:6 double hung windows throughout, concrete foundation, central entrance with original screen door, and a full façade front porch with a flat roof, decorative exposed wood rafters, and square wood columns. (NC)
59. Masonic Lodge # 410 F & AM. No # Helena Road. (c.1945).
Two story building with asphalt shingles, front gable, side exposed rafter tails, 2:2 double hung wood windows with simple wood surrounds, central entrance with original wood door and a fixed shed awning with wood braces and exposed wood rafters. There are operable wood shutters on the 2nd floor, brick chimney, brick pier foundation with concrete block infill, and a low exterior front rock wall. This is a very simple, but intact, building.
60. Commercial Building. 4040-4052 Helena Road. (c.1950; c. 1990).
One story brick and c. 1990 weatherboard commercial block with a flat roof and a c. 1990 projecting wood parapet. There are four bays with original wood entrances flanked by fixed wood storefronts. There are stucco end pilasters, fixed shed wood awning with simple wood posts, and a rock retaining wall at the sidewalk. The end bays have a brick façade, while the central two bays have c. 1990 weatherboard.
61. City Hall. No # Helena Road. (1953).
One story brick building with Art Moderne influences. There is a flat roof with a parapet and terra cotta coping, and a central recessed squared entrance
62. Store. 4075 Helena Road. (c. 1910).
One story weatherboard store with a front tin gable, central entrance with a fixed wood shed awning with exposed rafter tails flanked by fixed wood windows, and a concrete foundation.
63. Bullpen Leathers. 4079 Helena Road. (c. 1920s; c. 1990).
One story, one bay, brick commercial block with a c. 1990s weatherboard front. There is a front gable with a projecting parapet, and a central entrance flanked by c. 1990 1:1 fixed wood windows. (NC)
64. Big Mountain Coffee Company. 4085 Helena Road. (c. 1910; c. 1990s).
One story brick commercial block with c. 1990s weatherboard front, three c. 1990s entrances with transoms, and a concrete foundation. (NC)
65. Store. No # Helena Road. (c. 1910; c. 1980s).
Two story, one bay, brick commercial block with a flat roof and projecting parapet. There is a central entrance with a c. 1980s wood door, right side entrance, 9:9 double hung wood window on the left storefront side, and fixed wood awning with simple wood posts.
66. Hayes & Sons/ now Old Towne Emporium. 4044 Helena Road. (c. 1910).
Two story stippled brick commercial block with a flat roof. There are 2^d floor arched 1:1 double hung wood windows with arched brick headers and brick sills, decorative brick below the roof line, and a central entrance flanked by wood storefronts.

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50. House/ now The Gazebo. 3853 Helena Road. (c. 1940s).
One story weatherboard Minimal Traditional L-shaped house a rear rubble stone basement with 4:4 double hung wood windows. There is an extended left bay with a gable, wood shingles, and octagonal wood vent. There is a central brick chimney, 8:8 double hung wood windows, front porch with a rock wall, and a right bay fixed front window that is a single pane in the middle flanked by 2:2 fixed windows. There is also a rubble stone foundation, and a c. 1990 wood gazebo.
51. House/ now Wine Room. 3871 Helena Road. (c. 1920; c. 1940s; c. 1990s).
One story weatherboard center hall house with a c. 1990s metal hip roof, wood rafter tails, central multiple bay porch with a hip roof, large brick columns and porch wall, c. 1940s 2:2 double hung wood windows in pairs on the front, and a concrete block foundation.
52. House. 3956 Helena Road. (c. 1940s; c. 1960s).
One story bungalow with c. 1960s vinyl siding, front gable, brick pier foundation with concrete block infill, stucco chimney, and full façade front porch with a series of four concrete block columns, and concrete block foundation and cheek walls.
53. Mimi's. 3965 Helena Road. (c. 1980s).
One story free standing commercial building with vinylsiding, 6:6 double hung aluminum windows, tin roof with a slight side pitch, and a concrete foundation. (NC)
54. House/ now Fine Accents and Accessories. 3980 Helena Road. (c. 1950; c. 1990s).
Two story house with c. 1990s vinyl siding, brick on the bottom ½ of the rear, large brick end chimney, 2:2 double hung wood windows, brick foundation, and a right side porch that was enclosed c. 1990s with vinyl and aluminum windows. (NC)
55. Commercial Building/ now vacant. No # Helena Road. (c. 1950; c 1980s).
One story free standing commercial building with c. 1980 vinyl siding and tin hip roof, central double door entrance flanked with two fixed wood windows, and a full front flat awning with square wood posts.
56. Doodles. No # Helena Road. (c. 1940; c. 2000).
One story unfinished weatherboard hut with a front gable on hip roof, fixed c. 2000 9pane aluminum windows, off center entrance with a shed roof, and concrete foundation. This appears to be a c. 1940 building that was moved to this located c. 2000. (NC)
57. Commercial Building. 4035 Helena Road. (c. 2004).
One story L-shaped wood bungalow style commercial building with a tin front gable, aluminum 9:9 double hung windows, concrete foundation, and a full front porch. (NC)

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Between 1900 and 1910, the town of Helena experienced its most important development – until the present unprecedented phase of the last 15 years. In that period, Helena transitioned from a manufacturing and mill town to a center for commerce and trade in Shelby County. New stores were built on Main Street (now Helena Road) including two extant one story weatherboard stores with front gables that are almost identical to each other (Inv. # 62, 67), and the rock T. L. Wallace Store (Inv. # 69), and houses were built one or two streets west of downtown.

Several nearly identical hipped cottages remain including three that are clustered on 2^d Street (Inv. #s 16, 17, 19). A few center hall houses remain, as well, most notably the Sweat House, built by Hillary Sweat, a prosperous miner (Inv. # 35). Two prominent families built on tiny Branch Alley (now called Branch Drive) including the Murphrees, a husband and wife railroad agent team. Mr. Murphree, it seems, was blind a predicament that demanded that his wife work with him on his job. (Interview) Next door to their nice pyramidal roof cottage (Inv. # 43), the Methodists built a two-story parsonage (Inv. # 44). Nearby, M. C. Davidson built the town's most lavish house, a two story Neoclassical style mansion (Inv. # 6).

This newfound prosperity was tied to several business decisions made c. 1910 to move Helena forward. That year, prominent manufacturer and businessman, C. T. Davidson built the Neoclassical style Helena Telephone and Exchange Building just north of the tracks (Inv. # 70), though it was three more years before his first switchboard was installed. Helena Grist Mill rebuilt its old 1880s dam and increased its water power capacity (Inv. # 72), and a modern concrete and iron bridge was built across Buck Creek for burgeoning automobile traffic (Inv. # 73).

By the late 1910s, the town hummed from the sound of telephones, rushing water, and ambitious car traffic. Streets had become electrified and business could not have been better. Or, so it seemed. But, in 1920, the Helena mines closed and the town's new confidence and ambitions took a serious blow. For the next thirteen years, development slowed way down although some new center hall houses, or simple bungalows were constructed including a few with nice Craftsman style workmanship. Most importantly, however, in 1924, the town floated \$9,000.00 worth of bonds and broke ground for its new school (Inv. # 30). By the next year, it was finished (Heritage of Shelby County, p. 73).

For the most part, though, the town experienced a major downturn after the mines closed. At its height, and during the awful years of the country's economic Depression, the town suffered another big hit. In 1933, a powerful tornado ripped through the town killing twelve and destroying dozens of houses, stores, and churches. Some structures survived including the 1st floor of the Davidson House, and the brand new Nash house, which had been completed earlier that year for one of the town's prominent druggists (Inv. # 28). The next year, Helena's African American Pentecostal community built a nice weatherboard and rubble stone church on 1st Avenue (Inv. # 10). According to one source, African American families were scattered throughout Helena's residential neighborhoods, which were predominantly white, until the 1960s (Interview with Ken Penhale). Located in the heart of the District, the church represents the only religious structure and the only African American resource in the District.

After the tornado, primarily from c. 1940– 1954, the town rebuilt its neighborhoods. Most new houses were simple asphalt shingle and asbestos shingle houses, or modest one-story weatherboard or shingle Minimal Traditional houses. In addition, a simple triplex apartment house was built on 2^d Street (Inv. # 23) c. 1940, and within a few

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Historical Narrative

The town of Helena got its start during the late 1840s when it was known simply as Cove. By the early 1850s, Helena mines, built by Monk, Edwards and Co., and managed by William A. Goold, was the most important enterprise in the area; and by 1856 Cove had become Hillsboro. By the early 1860s, there were two grist mills located along Buck Creek, coal had been discovered in the area, and by c. 1862, a new rolling mill had been built by Hannon, Offutt & Company of Montgomery. By c. 1863, Thomas A. Alvis, who had built the Selma Iron Works, had converted the rolling mill into the Central Iron Works with a production capacity of 15 tons. Within two years, though, civil war and Wilson's Raiders had destroyed the mill (Penhale, An Early History of Helena).

Once the devastation of the Civil War subsided, the Hillsboro community started to rejuvenate. In 1871, George N. Gilmer and A. J. Noble decided to operate their Red Mountain Company Mines, the Helena Mines, on Buck Creek. Two years later, Joseph Squire prepared the first of several surveys of the area including an underground survey of the Eureka Company Mines nearby (Everse and Penhale, Images of America). That same year, 1873, R. W. Cobb, B. B. Lewis, and Richard Fell bought the old Central Iron Works operation at a tax sale and reopened it where its most famous patent, the Alabama Loop Cotton Tie, was manufactured (AHA marker).

By the late 1870s, the post-War horizon had brightened considerably. In November 1877, the town of Helena was incorporated, and about the same time, the L & N Railroad completed its lines along Buck Creek connecting the town to the Helena Mines, the Eureka Coke Ovens and beyond. By 1878, Helena had a bustling Main Street where eight stores, a barbershop, two doctor's offices, and several residences had been constructed. The first depot had been built, it had its first Masonic Lodge (c. 1876), and several additional stores and dwellings existed on 2nd Street (Map, 1878, reproduced). None of these resources remain.

By 1880, the town was described in one newspaper as a "mining and manufacturing town." By then, according to one account, there were "six stores doing a dry goods and grocery business, one drug store, two hotels, and several boarding houses." Prominent merchants included the Griffins, Torys, Winfields, and the Leonards. Two stores remain from this period including Leonard's Store (Inv. # 68), a two-story weatherboard building with decorative wood posts, and a two-story stippled brick store with arched windows and leaders (Inv. # 66). Within a decade additional businesses and homes had been built.

Three extant houses remain from c. 1890-1900. One was an elaborate 1895 two-story Second Empire style house built by C. T. Davidson on 2nd Street just behind Main Street. Davidson was the town's most prominent manufacturer, gin owner and, perhaps, visionary. In 1933, however, a determined tornado swirled through Helena killing twelve and destroying many buildings including the second story of Davidson's house. The house was saved but without its impressive mansard roofs and decorative trim (Everse and Penhale, Images of America). Two other c. 1890s houses were built including one in the heart of Main Street, a fine center hall house, that was refaced with brick c. 1970s and is now non-contributing (Inv. # 58). The most intact extant house from this period is located just south of the downtown commercial core. It is a wonderful vernacular Victorian era weatherboard cottage with front, side and rear gables with eave returns (Inv. # 49).

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years, a large fashionable Ranch style house was built on 3^d Street (Inv. #40). In c. 1945, Helena's Masons built a new two-story lodge on Main Street (Inv. # 59), and in c. 1950 a three bay one story commercial block was constructed almost adjacent to it (Inv. # 60).

In 1953, the town finished two especially ambitious projects. One was City Hall built on Main Street near the near commercial block (Inv. # 61), and the other was a big new federally funded housing project built just behind east Main Street (Inv. # 9). Built for low-income whites, it was developed by the Housing Authority of Columbiana, the county seat, in cooperation with the City of Helena. Its financing came from the Housing Administration and the Home Finance Agency, begun during the Truman Administration, William A. Rosamond of Tuscaloosa, Alabama was hired as architect. General contractors were the Southeastern Manufacturing Company also of Tuscaloosa. (building cornerstone) The complex included nine modern style brick buildings laid out around a large lawn. Today, the complex is known as the Lee Apartments and is privately owned.

Until the 1990s, Helena continued to grow at a predictable small town pace. Since then, however, development has spilled over from Jefferson County into north Shelby County at an alarming pace. The city of Helena has taken hold of the resulting advantages and has developed modest weekend tourist trade during which it hosts music festivals and outdoor events. New restaurants and small businesses have opened and have actively welcomed new trade. At the same time, however, the traffic and development pressures the small scale downtown and casual pace of its historic neighborhoods. In an effort to control this pressure, town leaders have published histories of Helena, promoted designation of a historic district, and are working toward a comprehensive plan.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Helena Historic District is shown on the accompanying map entitled "Helena Historic District," drawn to scale 2005.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Helena Historic District has been drawn to include as many contiguous contributing resources as possible and to exclude as many non-contiguous buildings as possible. The boundaries were also drawn to create a solid district. Included in the boundary are several buildings on Helena Road (previously named Main Street), in the heart of the district, that are less than fifty years old or that no longer retain their historic appearance. The new buildings were built with a set back identical to adjacent historic buildings, and in a style, size, and scale that is quite compatible with other historic buildings in the district. The altered buildings have been covered with inappropriate materials, but the changes appear reversible. In general, these buildings do not detract from the overall character of the district. Because of the terrain, Helena developed in a linear fashion, to carve out the non-contributing buildings at the core would have compromised the overall character of the district.

Photographs

1. L. P. Leonard's Store
No # Helena Road
Helena, Alabama
Shelby County
View of front façade facing NW
Pamela King; 2005
2. Griffin's Store/now Anna Caitlin for Children
4093 Helena Road
View of front façade facing NW
3. Hayes & Sons/ now Old Town Emporium
4044 Helena Road
View of front façade facing West
4. Big Mountain Coffee Company/Helena Road Streetscape
4085 Helena Road
View of front façade facing SW
5. Bullpen Leathers/ Helena Road Streetscape
4079 Helena Road
View of front façade facing SW
6. Store
4075 Helena Road
View of front façade facing SW
7. House.
3782 Helena Road
View of front façade facing NE

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8. Buck Creek Dam
Highway 261
View facing NE
9. Highway 261 Bridge
Highway 261
View facing NW
10. Highway 261 Bridge
Highway 261
View facing NE
11. Park
Highway 261
View facing West
12. Helena Telephone and Exchange
4161 Helena Road
View of front façade facing SW
13. House
753 2nd Street West
View of front facade facing NW
14. Penhale House
201 3rd Street West
View of front façade facing NW
15. House
209 3rd Street West
View of front façade facing NW
16. House
219 3rd Street West
View of front façade facing West
17. Sweat - Anderson House
212 3rd Street West
View of front façade facing NE
18. Methodist Parsonage/now House
735 Branch Street
View of front façade facing NW
19. Methodist Parsonage/now House
735 Branch Street
View of front porch, bay window facing NW

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20. Murphree House
733 Branch Street
View of front façade facing West
21. Branch Street Houses
View facing NW
22. M. C. Davidson House/ now Magnolia Manor
129 1st Avenue West
View of front façade facing West
23. M. C. Davidson House/ now Magnolia Manor
129 1st Avenue West
View of double veranda, windows facing West
24. Public Housing Project/ now Lee Apartments
SW corner 1st Avenue West and Rollingmill Street
View of front facades, lawn facing SE
25. Public Housing Project/ now Lee Apartments
SW corner 1st Avenue West and Rollingmill Street
View of front facades, lawn facing SW
26. 2nd Street West Streetscape
View facing SW
27. House
130 1st Avenue West
View of front, side facing NW
28. Helena Methodist Episcopal Church South/ now Pentecostal Church
Corner 2nd Avenue West and Branch Street
View of front, side facing SW

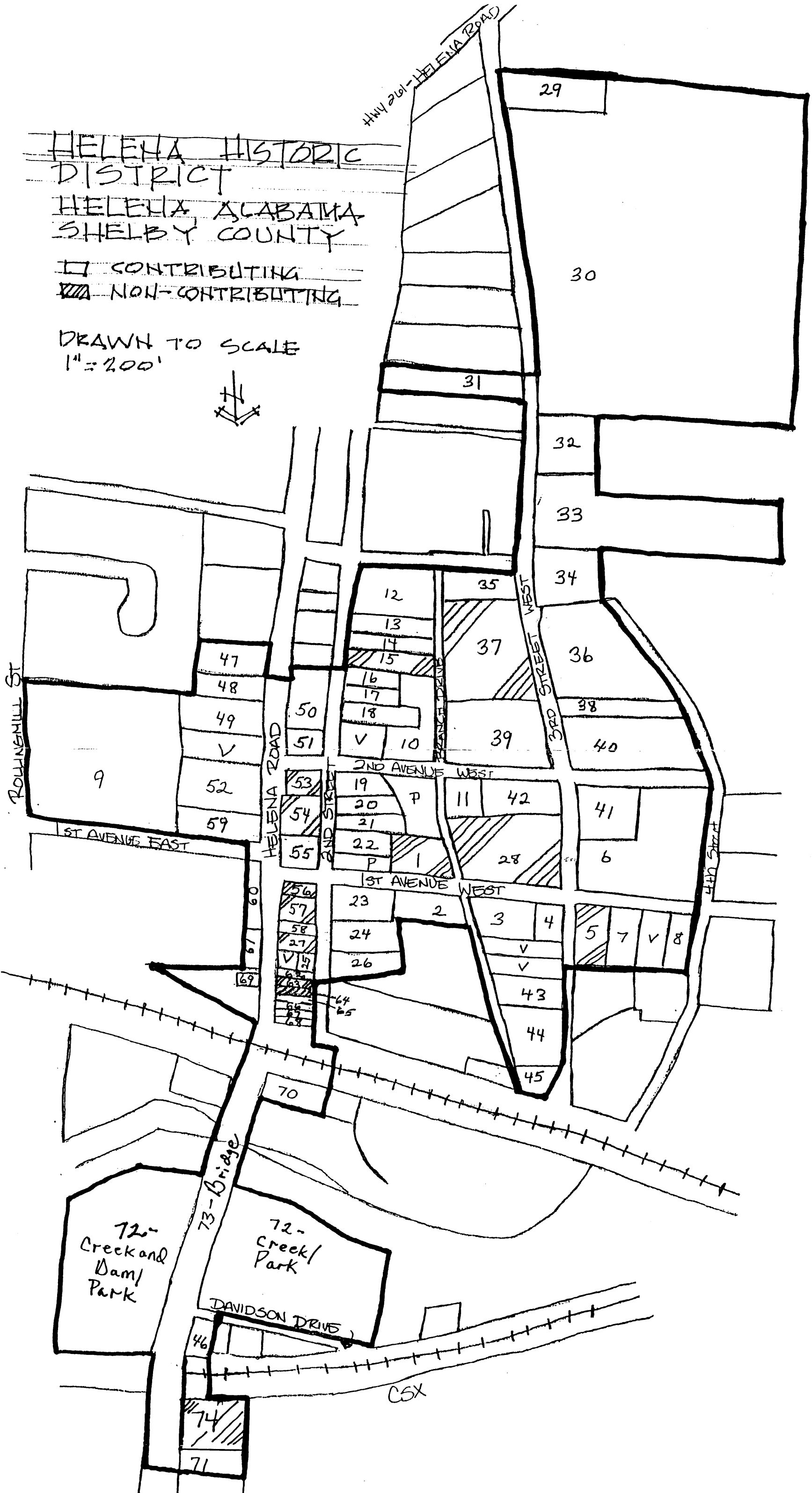
HELENA HISTORIC DISTRICT
HELENA, ALABAMA
SHELBY COUNTY

□ CONTRIBUTING
▨ NON-CONTRIBUTING

DRAWN TO SCALE
1" = 200'



HWY 261-HELENA ROAD



72-Creek and Dam Park

72-Creek Park

DAVIDSON DRIVE

CSX