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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

historic name: Roanoke "Downtown" Historic District

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Includes the central business district of roughly those areas south of White Street, west of Vaughn Street, north of and including the warehouses, and east of and including Genuine Auto Parts.

city/town: Roanoke

not for publication: N/A
vicinity: N/A

state: AL county: Randolph

code: 111

zip code: 36274

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private/public-local

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>69</u>	<u>14</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>70</u>	<u>16</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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Section number 6 Function or Use Roanoke Downtown Historic District Page #1
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HISTORIC USE:

COMMERCE/TRADE	Sub. warehouse
COMMERCE/TRADE	financial institution

CURRENT USE:

COMMERCE/TRADE	Sub. department store
COMMERCE/TRADE	financial institution
VACANT/NOT IN USE	

=====
7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Richardsonian Romanesque
Italian Renaissance

Other Description: Early 20th-Century Commercial Style

Materials: foundation brick roof unknown
walls brick other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local

Applicable National Register Criteria: C,A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Commerce

Period(s) of Significance: 1890-1940

Significant Dates : 1890-1940

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreeage of Property: approximately 18 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>16</u>	<u>651930</u>	<u>3669120</u>	B	<u>16</u>	<u>651750</u>	<u>3668900</u>	E	<u>16</u>	<u>651460</u>	<u>3669150</u>
C	<u>16</u>	<u>651500</u>	<u>3668100</u>	D	<u>16</u>	<u>651400</u>	<u>3668980</u>				

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Chloe S. Mercer/National Register Intern. Alabama Historical Commission (1992)
Melanie A. Betz/AHC Reviewer (1992)
Jeffrey Pruitt/Governmental Aids Coordinator (1984)
Linda Townsend/Development Association East Regional Planning & Develop. Com. (1984)
Michael Bailey/Historian, Alabama Historical Commission (1984)

Organization: Alabama Historical Commission Date: November 19, 1992

Street & Number: 725 Monroe Street Telephone: (205)242-3184

City or Town: Montgomery State: AL ZIP: 36130

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Section number 7 Description Roanoke Downtown Historic District Page #1
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The Roanoke Downtown Historic District has been the city's commercial center since the late 1800s through the early 1980s. The area consists of a large number of small commercial buildings and a warehouse complex clustered around a six-point intersection in the center of town. The railroad and the cotton industry caused Roanoke to develop a large commercial district and maintain its center in its downtown.

The district consists of small, brick commercial blocks that range in height from one to three stories. There are 83 buildings, including three churches and one chapel, and one cemetery located in the district, and most of the buildings form one-story commercial blocks. These blocks align six intersecting streets in downtown Roanoke. These streets are in a generally radial layout which causes unusual circulation patterns. Most of the original buildings are still standing; unfortunately, due to deterioration and fire damage, several of the buildings have been razed or completely or partially altered. Only 14 out of 82, or 17%, of the buildings are noncontributing because of heavily altered storefronts. Examples of store front alterations that do not contribute to the character of the district include the use of sheet metal, vinyl, or wood siding over the original facade.

Upon entering Roanoke from the east, two churches and the 1935 City Hall emerge on spacious and naturally landscaped blocks. Following Main Street through town allows glimpses of a busy commercial downtown street. As Main Street gradually widens, the main intersection boasts the presence of several focal points. These include the three-story First National Bank Building (#21), which emerges from the corner of Main Street and Knight Street. This is the only building with rusticated treatment on the first level; details include arched windows, paired windows, and a decorative balustrade motif. The two-story Beaux Arts Bank Building (#52) occupies a wedge-shaped lot at the intersection of Main Street, Chestnut Street, and West Point Street. Probably the most detailed building, it has arched entrances, banded pilasters, brackets with acanthus leaves, and leafy garlands. The Old Auto Sales Garage & Filling Station (#30) is another focal point that is seen at the far west end of Main Street. It has a beautifully detailed pressed metal store front. Roanoke's focal points are usually the buildings with more than one story or those with more stylistic details.

Most of the buildings make up one-story commercial blocks of similar setback. Of 11 buildings that are more than one story, 9 contribute to the district. The buildings in Roanoke's commercial district vary in the amount of decorative detail, which ranges from heavy Richardsonian Romanesque to sleek Art Moderne. One interesting building is the Old City Hall (#43), built ca. 1890, which has Romanesque stylistic components. Formed out of handmade red brick, the city hall has an arched entrance and windows, which complement the round upper window and the corbelled, rounded parapet. Another interesting building is the First Baptist Church (#69A), built ca. 1901, which has Romanesque and Victorian Gothic influences. Cross gable roof, towers and spires, and arched windows create an interesting form. Holly trees line the Main Street sidewalks to bring the color and texture of the landscape to the built environment.

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Section number 7 Description Roanoke Downtown Historic District Page #2
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CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

1. First Methodist Church (151 E. Main Street) 1906; Simplified Gothic; brick on wood exterior walls with buttresses; pointed arch stained glass windows and doors; crenelated tower at west end; wood truss and wood deck gable roof; attached mid-1950s educational building addition at east end.
2. U.S. Post Office (75 E. Main Street) ca. 1940; one-story, five-bay brick building with arched windows and a hipped roof.
4. Old Express Office/Tin Shop Building (53 E. Main Street) ca. 1920; two-story brick commercial building with wood truss roof.
5. Commercial Building (51 & 47 E. Main Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick building with soilder course in upper facade; brick pier divides into two units; recessed entrance on west unit; ashlar panel with builder's name, C.J. Sudduth.
6. Old Bottlingworks & Furniture Store Building (45 & 43 E. Main Street) 1913; one-story brick commercial building with soilder course in upper facade; brick coping at top of parapet; west unit has recessed entrance with pressed tin ceiling; 45 E. Main was Coca-Cola Bottling and then Lime Cola Bottling; 43 E. Main was Dry Goods Store.
7. Old Merchants & Farmers Bank Building (41 E. Main Street) ca. 1909; one-story brick commercial building with flat roof and arched parapet with drip corbelling; brick pilasters above street level; altered store front; originally used as bank, and later used as motion picture theater ca. 1930.
8. General Store Building (30 E. Main Street) ca. 1909; one-story brick commercial building with flat roof and soilder course in upper facade; coping on parapet; altered store front.
9. Old Post Office Building (37 E. Main Street) ca. 1903; one-story brick commercial building with brick piers in facade and corbelled parapet; altered store front; originally used as post office, and later used as insurance office (ca. 1913) and store (1930).
10. Telephone Exchange Building (35 E. Main Street) ca. 1891; one-story brick commercial building with arched entrance flanked by arched windows; corbelled cornice above windows topped with corbelled parapet of flat roof; originally used as bank and insurance office, later used as Telephone Exchange (ca. 1920).
11. Barber Shop and Grocery Store Building (33-31 E. Main Street) ca. 1913; one-story brick commercial building with soilder course above stone course that separates display front from upper facade; basket weave pattern in upper facade; parapet with soilder course topped by rowlock; metal awning over street level store front.

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Section number 7 Description Roanoke Downtown Historic District Page #3
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CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

12. Phillips Brothers Hardware (20/27 E. Main Street) ca. 1940; two-story brick commercial building; pigmented glass trim around store front; original neon sign on facade.
13. Commercial Building (25 E. Main Street) ca. 1930; one-story brick commercial building with flat roof and basket weave pattern in upper facade; denticulated parapet; pigmented glass trim around an altered store front.
14. Martin Theater Building (23 E. Main Street) ca. 1940; Art Moderne; brick one-story lobby and two-story theater section; glass block and rounded corner entrance obscured by plywood panel and mural; interior fire damage.
16. J.J. Awbrey Building (19 E. Main Street) 1924; two-story brick commercial building; four bays with contrasting string courses of sills and lintels; shallow gabled parapet capped by stone coping; ashlar panel with 1924 date in upper facade; two sets of double hung 2/2 windows grouped in twos; pigmented glass trim around altered store front; aluminum panel hung over entrance and display windows.
17. Old Warehouse Building (28 Knight Avenue) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building with recessed entrance and large display glass area.
18. Old Furniture Storage Building (22 Knight Avenue) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building with wood lintel above original entrance, now altered.
19. Old Auto Repair Building (20 Knight Avenue) ca. 1925; one-story brick commercial building with central garage door, transomed door on left; 9/9 window on right.
- 20A. Furniture Storage Building (16 Knight Avenue) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building with corbelled parapet.
21. First National Bank Building (1 N. Main Street) 1920; three-story brick Neoclassical commercial building with modillioned cornice; rusticated treatment of first level with series of arched windows; six-bay main facade has four double inset windows flanked by slightly advanced end pavilions each containing a single window on the second and third levels; cornice capped by masonry block course with balustrade motif; triple windows in end elevation with muntins bearing bas-relief guilloche-like motif.
22. Old Hardware & Furniture Store Building (N. Main Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building with facades on two streets.
23. Commercial Building (7 N. Main Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building; remodeled and recessed entrance; originally used as Dry Goods Store.

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Section number 7 Description Roanoke Downtown Historic District Page #4
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CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

24. Old Hardware Store Building (11 N. Main Street) ca. 1915; one-story brick commercial building with double entry on first level covered with metal canopy supported by iron suspension rods; traverse windows above canopy are heavily reworked; upper facade divided into two parts by pilaster and flanked on either corner by matching pilasters; corbelled brick on crenelated parapet; pigmented glass trim over street level facade; right half of awning has pressed tin ceiling.
25. Old Office Building (13 N. Main Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building.
27. Grocery and Office Building (9 N. Main Street) ca. 1909; one-story brick commercial building with upper facade divided into two halves by pilaster and flanked on either corner by matching pilasters; corbelled brick on crenelated parapet.
28. General Store & Grocery Building (55/59 N. Main Street) ca. 1909; one-story brick commercial building with recessed panels in upper facade and corbelled parapet; pressed tin on interior ceiling.
29. Old Carriage Depository (31 N. Main Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building with corbelled brick parapet and end pilasters.
30. Old Auto Sales Garage & Filling Station (50 N. Main Street) ca. 1915; one-story brick commercial building with pressed metal store front with modillioned cornice and finials; used as auto repair, sales & piano & phonograph shop, and garage & musical instrument storage (1930); shed addition.
31. Old Wholesale Grocery Building (20 N. Main Street) ca. 1909; two-story brick commercial building; five-bay upper facade divided into two, two-bay units with center bay that functions as second level entrance; arched windows on second level; brick piers on corners and flanking second level entrance and are found on corners; metal casement windows replace original second level windows; corbelled arched central entrance on street level; new two-story front porch; used as wholesale grocery, bakery, shoe repair, auto repair, and office building.
33. General Store, Dry Goods, & Drug Store Building (N. Main Street) 1913; one-story brick commercial building with brick pilasters; brick parapet with drip corbelling and brick pilasters; central pilaster divides building into two units (right facade painted).
34. Commercial Building (34 Chestnut Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building with corbelled brick parapet and corbelled corner pilasters; garage door off center; display glass in front; pressed tin interior ceiling; ca. 1930 neon Chevrolet sign.
35. Commercial Building (34 1/2 Chestnut Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick garage with corbelled parapet and central garage door.

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CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

36. Old Dry Cleaning Building (29 Chestnut Street) ca. 1930; one-story brick commercial building with center pilaster in upper facade and corner pilasters; new offset garage door flanked by display glass; pressed tin interior ceiling.
- 37A. Old Auto Repair Building (25-27 Chestnut Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick garage with plain brick facade; garage door and large display windows flank entrance.
- 37B. Commercial Building (23 Chestnut Street) ca. 1920-30; one-story painted brick building with display windows and an offset garage door. A multi-sash transom crowns the windows and garage door.
38. Old Bus Depot Building (17 & 15 Chestnut Street) 1930; one-story brick commercial building with plain facade in three units; lintel above traverse windows of store front; corrugated tin awning above left unit.
39. Old Bottling Works (13 Chestnut Street) 1920; one-story brick commercial building with corbelled parapet and corner pilasters; heavily altered store front under metal awning.
40. Masonic Building (11 Chestnut Street) 1914; three-story brick commercial building with facade divided into three sections by two brick piers; brick piers at each corner; street level store front altered; second level has single 1/1 sash windows with stone lintels and central paired 1/1 sash windows with stone lintels; third level has arched windows with keystones in arches; corbelled parapet with coping; first level was originally Chero-Cola Bottling Works and second level was Masonic Temple.
41. Roanoke Leader Building (9 Chestnut Street) 1913; two-story brick commercial building of Flemish bond with parapet and coping; pressed metal cornice; stone course above first level and below cornice; five bays on second level with stone sills; first level originally used as print shop and second level as photographic studio.
42. Commercial Infill (7 Chestnut Street) ca. 1925; one-story brick commercial infill; space originally held stairs between #41 and #43.
43. Old City Hall (5 Chestnut Street) ca. 1890; two-story brick building exhibiting Richardsonian Romanesque influence; corbelled arched parapet flanked by two full-height pilasters; second level has a pair of arched windows now enclosed; circular opening above arched windows now enclosed with brick; altered store front; first level altered for commercial purposes; original use as Roanoke City Hall with City Jail next door, now demolished.
46. Old Furniture Storage Building (West Point Street) ca. 1910; one-story brick commercial building.

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CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

- 48 Roanoke Warehouse Company Warehouses #1-#9 (28-40 West Point Street) ca. 1920; one-story A-I brick contiguous warehouse buildings with arched entrances and windows and corbelled parapet; warehouse E has later office entrance with plate glass and traverse windows.
49. St. Barnabas Church (57 West Point Street) ca. 1909; wood frame, steep-gabled roof with cross gables and tower.
51. Old Electrical Supplies Warehouse (West Point Street) ca. 1913; one-story brick commercial building with flat roof; garage entrance way with door front and single window.
52. Bank Building (2-6 E. Main Street) ca. 1909; two-story brick Beaux Arts commercial building with arched entrance flanked by banded brick pilasters; decorative bracket and garland above arch; keystone lintels above windows flanking entry; banded pilasters on corners of building and denticulated cornice with modillions; Mannerist pediment with stone cartouche above entry; two units and entrances; wood shingle awning on right entrance; "City Cafe" neon sign.
56. General Store Building (24 E. Main Street) ca. 1913; one-story brick commercial building with angled wick course; corbelled brick topped by brick course on upper facade; altered store front.
- 57A. Commercial Building (26 E. Main Street) 1913; one-story light colored brick commercial building with corner pilasters and soldier course in upper facade; brick parapet with coping.
- 57B. Commercial Building (28 E. Main Street) 1913; one-story brick commercial building with corner pilasters and soldier course in upper facade; brick parapet with coping; altered store front.
58. Dry Goods and Millinery Clothing Store Building (28 E. Main Street) ca. 1913; one-story brick commercial building with soldier course in upper facade and corner pilasters; parapet with coping and altered street level store front.
59. Old Jewelry Store Building (30 E. Main Street) ca. 1909; one-story brick commercial building with corbelled parapet and coping; brick course in upper facade and glass block windows above display area.
- 60A. Commercial Building (32 E. Main Street) ca. 1909; one-story brick commercial building divided into two units by a central pilaster; corner pilasters; soldier course in upper facade; altered street level store front.
61. Commercial Building (36 E. Main Street) ca. 1909; one-story brick commercial building with corbelled parapet and plain facade; pigmented glass trim; altered street level store front; originally used as clothing and dry goods store, general store, fruit stand, and restaurant.

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CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

64. Grocery Store Building (48 E. Main Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building with plain facade; pigmented glass trim; street level store front altered with wood shingle awning over display windows.
65. Commercial Building (50 E. Main Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building with plain facade and corner pilasters; street level store front altered with pigmented glass trim and large display windows.
66. Commercial Building (52 E. Main Street) ca. 1915; one-story brick commercial building that was originally one establishment; ca. 1920 addition of off-center pilaster which divided into two units; corner pilasters also topped with lighter colored brick; soldier course in upper facade as well as corbelled parapet with coping; altered street level store front.
67. Commercial Building (115 E. Main Street) ca. 1926; one-story brick commercial building with denticulated cornice; corner pilasters and two central pilasters; altered street level store front.
68. Old Automobile Garage (Church Street) ca. 1926; one-story brick garage; wood truss roof; concrete and wood floor; denticulated cornice and corbelled parapet; original windows infilled; original capacity 50 cars.
- 69A. First Baptist Church (102 E. Main Street) ca. 1901; brick church with hip and gable roof; late Victorian eclectic mixture of Romanesque and High Victorian Gothic.
- 69B. First Baptist Chapel (Church Street) 1934; one-story brick chapel with front end gable roof; arched porch.
- 69C. First Baptist Church Cemetery (Church Street) small plot of land with Civil War era and later grave markers; wrought iron fence.
- 70A. Roanoke City Hall (112 E. Main Street) 1935; Art Moderne; one-story building with basement; front oriented parapet gable with cross parapet gables; inset entrance with rounded corners; horizontal and vertical decorative lines on walls.
- 70B. Roanoke City Hall Garage (112 E. Main Street) 1935; one-story block construction with gabled roof.

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NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS:

3. Roanoke Foods (55/57 E. Main Street) 1950; two-story stuccoed brick walls with steel truss roof.
15. Belk's Building (15/21 E. Main Street) ca. 1930; two-story brick commercial building with extremely altered facade.
- 20B. Old Blacksmith & Wheelwright Building (16 Knight Avenue) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building with aluminum panel over original facade; used as furniture storage building ca. 1930.
26. Grocery, Dry Goods, & Clothing Store Building (15 N. Main Street) ca. 1913; one-story brick commercial building with vinyl siding over original facade.
32. Old Post Office Building (N. Main Street) ca. 1940; one-story stuccoed brick commercial building.
44. Vacant lot.
45. Vacant lot.
47. Office Building (41-43 West Point Street) ca. 1910; one-story brick commercial building with sheet metal over original facade.
50. Roanoke Taxi Service (56 West Point Street) ca. 1950; one-story concrete block service building.
53. Brown-Danner Drug Company (8 E. Main Street) ca. 1913; one-story brick commercial building with sheet metal and pigmented glass over original store front.
54. Vacant Building (E. Main Street) ca. 1920; original building destroyed by fire; facade removed and replaced by glass curtain wall.
55. Commercial Bank (22 E. Main Street) ca. 1913; one-story brick commercial building with wood over original facade; newer tile also on street level.
- 60B. Commercial Building (34 E. Main Street) ca. 1909; one-story brick commercial building with sheet metal over most of original facade.
- 62A. Commercial Building (42 E. Main Street) ca. 1909; one-story brick commercial building, one of two units, with sheet metal over original facade.
- 62B. Commercial Building (44 E. Main Street) ca. 1909; one-story brick commercial building, one of two units, with sheet metal over street level facade.
63. Clothing Store Building (46 E. Main Street) ca. 1920; one-story brick commercial building heavily altered with vinyl siding over original facade.

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CRITERION C (ARCHITECTURE):

Roanoke Downtown Historic District contains good and intact examples of late 19th-century and early 20th-century small town commercial architecture. With buildings as early as ca. 1890, there is a mixture of styles that influenced their design including Richardsonian Romanesque, Beaux Arts, Italian Renaissance, and Art Moderne. However, many of the buildings are utilitarian in nature and have no stylistic qualities. The architecture of this town reflects the local interpretation of the high styles and the development of the downtown from the 1890s to the 1940s.

CRITERION A (COMMERCE):

Roanoke Downtown Historic District is significant as a late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial downtown. Characteristic of commercial growth in Alabama from 1890 to 1940, Roanoke embodies agricultural and industrial advancement in eastern Alabama. Its growth correlated with the economic development in Alabama caused by agricultural production, railroad expansion, and the presence of industry. Cotton production and the establishment of the textile mill caused the sudden growth that transformed Roanoke into a thriving mill town.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The period of significance for the Roanoke Downtown Historic District extends from the construction of the oldest contributing building in the district (c. 1890; the old City Hall) to the construction of the most recent contributing buildings in the district (c. 1940; the U.S. Post Office, 75 E. Main St., the Martin Theater, 23 E. Main, and Phillips Brothers Hardware, 20/27 E. Main St.).

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

Roanoke was settled in the 1830s by emigrants from Georgia. It grew slowly and had only a post office and two stores by the time of the Civil War.(1) After the war was over, the town became an agricultural center in eastern Alabama producing over 28,000 acres of cotton and over 27,000 acres of corn and other crops. The Central of Georgia Railroad extended its line from Opelika to Roanoke by 1887 and was later joined by the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic Railroad.(2) Roanoke became a major cotton center and, in 1887, became the location for one of the largest cotton warehouses in the state.(3) According to the agricultural census of 1890, 28,387 acres of Randolph County was cotton acreage, and 10,348 bales were produced for a value of \$468,958. Furthermore, approximately 27,330 acres of corn produced 331,213 bushels. Roanoke was incorporated in 1900 and had grown to a population of 1,155.

In 1901, the W.A. Handley Company established its textile mill in Roanoke(4), and by 1920 the town's population grew to 3,841. The Handley mill suffered a major shutdown in 1920, which caused a slow growth period in Roanoke. It reopened in the mid-20s with capital from New York investors and continued as the town's major industry and employer until its closing in the early 1980s. Other industries that settled in Roanoke include Truline Mills, Cotton Seed Oil Company, Fertilizer Company, Wylie-Reaves Lumber Company, and Roanoke Candy Company.(5)

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The downtown's business area continued its growth through the 1940s, when a new city hall and post office were constructed. In the past two decades, the town has begun to grow again with the presence of new industries. Unfortunately, like most downtowns across the United States, these new businesses of Roanoke formed alternative traffic arteries that routed business away from the downtown area.

EARLY 20TH-CENTURY COMMERCIAL STYLE:

The buildings of downtown Roanoke, Alabama, are good representations of the late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial style. The advent of the railroad to towns all across America was responsible for the influx of people that caused a boom in the development of rural towns. Builders interpreted the high styles and constructed common commercial buildings with stylistic details. Many commercial buildings in Roanoke bear Romanesque, Beaux Arts, Italian, and Modern details that add interest and texture to the downtown store fronts.

Late 19th-century and early 20th-century commercial buildings are characteristically rectangular, one- or two-story masonry buildings. Of course, most facades have their own distinguishing details, but many typically have recessed entrances and large display glass areas as well. The buildings usually have a parapet flat roof or one with a slight slope for runoff. Brick detailing includes molded brick, patterned brickwork, pilasters, and corbelling.

Roanoke is full of characteristic examples of turn-of-the-century to mid-20th-century commercial buildings. The Telephone Exchange Building of 35 E. Main Street, built ca. 1891, is richly detailed with Italian Renaissance type arched entrance and windows, corbelled brackets, and corbelled dentils. The Old City Hall of 5 Chestnut Street was built ca. 1890 and has several Richardsonian Romanesque details including the rough and textured surface of handmade brick and round arch windows. Finally, the Bank Building of 2-6 E. Main Street, built ca. 1909, has Beaux Arts detailing that makes it one of the most interesting buildings in Roanoke. The light colored brick building has banded pilasters, arched entrances, denticulated cornice with modillions, and garlands and brackets. These buildings and others in Roanoke created a tapestry that has both deteriorated and been repaired.

1

Smith, Eugenia Elizabeth. A History of Randolph County. Roanoke, Alabama: The Roanoke Leader, 1938, pp. 12-13.

2

Barefield, Marilyn Davis (compiled by). Historical Records of Randolph County, Alabama 1832-1900. Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1985, pp. 7.

3

Smith, pp. 13.

4

Barefield, pp. 7.

5

Smith, pp. 13.

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Section number 9 Bibliographical Ref. Roanoke Downtown Historic District Page #1
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the district are delineated on a scale map of Roanoke. Travelling west on Main Street beginning with the First Methodist Church on the right, the district includes the post office and the commercial block on the right and the City Hall & Garage, First Baptist Church and chapel and cemetery, and the commercial block on the left; turning right on Knight Street, the district includes the commercial block up until White Street; returning to Main Street the district includes the commercial block on the right and left up until and including Genuine Auto Parts. From Main Street, the district includes the garage complex and commercial block on Chestnut Street; it includes the commercial block and warehouses on West Point Street including the rear warehouses accessible from La Monte Street; it includes St. Barnabas Church and the taxi service on West Point Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries of the Roanoke Downtown Historic District have historically included the downtown commercial district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

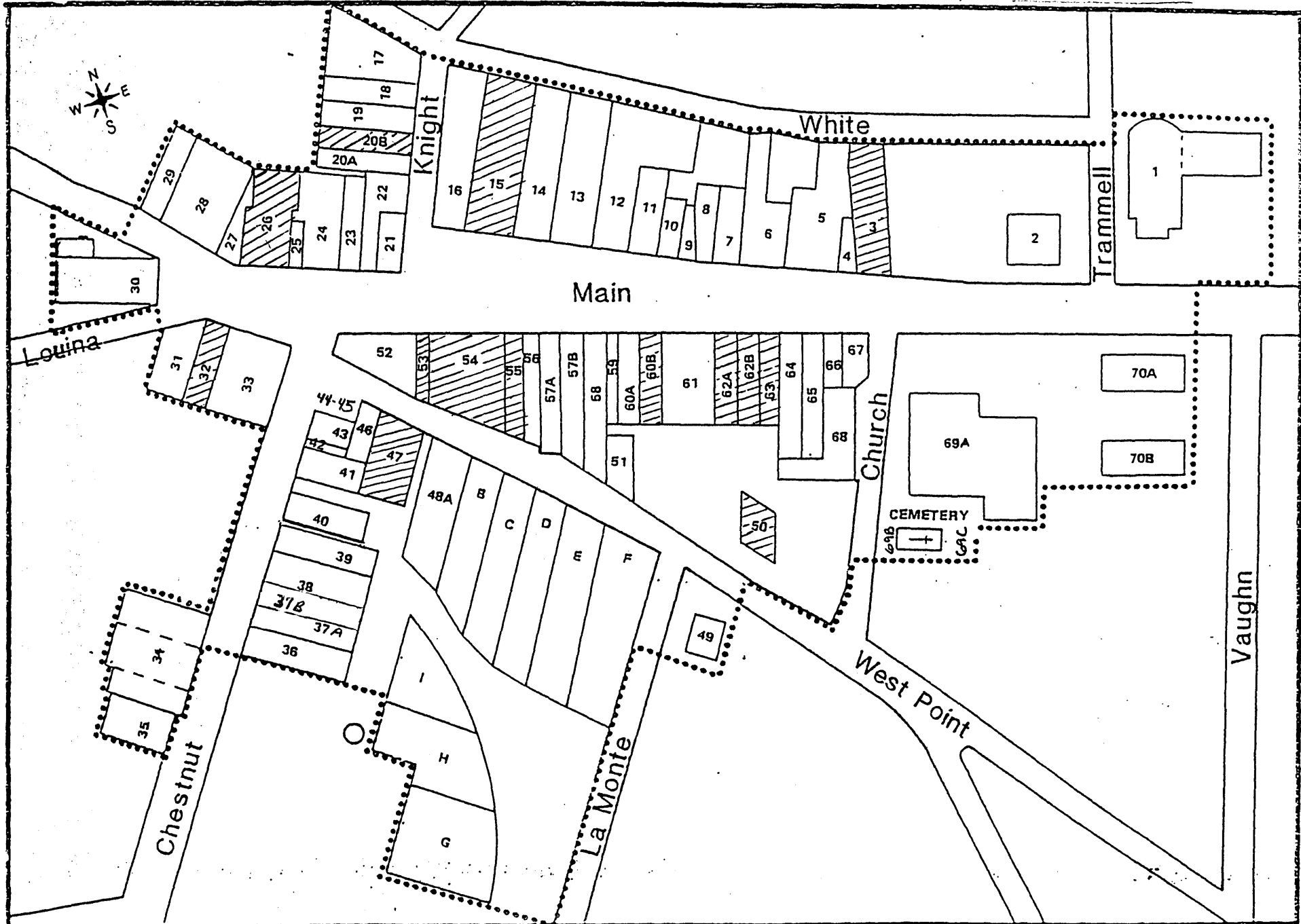
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Roanoke "Downtown" Historic District
Roanoke, Alabama
Randolph County
Melanie Betz (AHC), Photographer
July 1992
Negatives at Alabama Historical Commission

- 1) Looking south at City Hall.
- 2) Looking south at First Baptist Church.
- 3) Looking NE at U.S. Post Office and First Methodist Church.
- 4) Looking NW at Main Street streetscape.
- 5) Looking NW at Main Street streetscape.
- 6) Looking NE at Main Street streetscape.
- 7) Looking NW at Main Street streetscape.
- 8) Looking NW at First National Bank Building.
- 9) Looking north at Knight Street streetscape.
- 10) Looking NE at Main Street streetscape.
- 11) Looking east at Main Street streetscape.
- 12) Looking west at Old Auto Sales Garage & Filling Station.
- 13) Looking SE at Beaux Arts Bank Building.
- 14) Looking south at Chestnut Street streetscape.
- 15) Looking SW at Chestnut Street streetscape.
- 16) Looking NE at Chestnut Street streetscape.
- 17) Looking NE at Chestnut Street streetscape.
- 18) Looking west at Main Street streetscape.
- 19) Looking SE at Main Street streetscape.

NONCONTRIBUTING

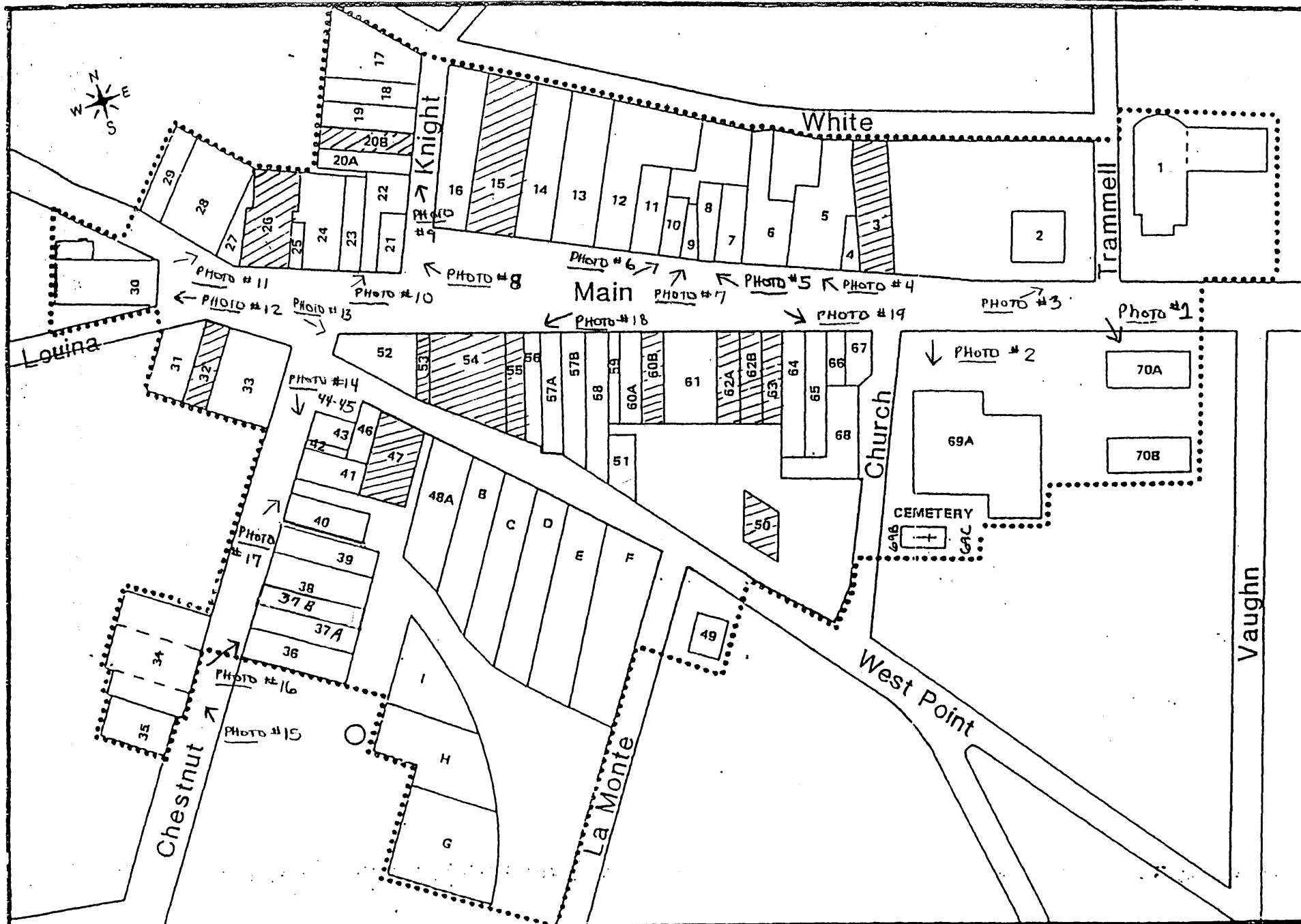


Roanoke, Alabama
SCALE 1" = 150'

RANDOLPH COUNTY
"DOWNTOWN" ROANOKE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PHOTOGRAPHS

NONCONTRIBUTING



Roanoke, Alabama
SCALE: 1" = 150'

RANDOLPH COUNTY
"DOWNTOWN" ROANOKE HISTORIC DISTRICT