

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

..... Name of Property
..... County and State
..... Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Page _____ 1

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100002349

Date Listed: 4/23/2018

Property Name: Stephenville Downtown Historic District

County: Erath

State: TX

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation


Signature of the Keeper

4/27/2018
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Resource Count:

The Resource Count is revised to *add one (1) contributing resource and subtract one (1) noncontributing resource*. [Building 46-150 S. Belknap is now contributing.]

Description:

The discussion of Resources #154 and #155 is revised to note that associated Resources #157 and #156 have recently been covered and are non-contributing (as noted in the Inventory).

The TEXAS SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

56-2349

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Stephenville Downtown Historic District
Other name/site number: NA
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: Roughly bounded by McNeil St. to the south, Tarleton St. to the north, Barton Ave. to the west, and Devine Ave. to the east
City or town: Stephenville State: Texas County: Erath
Not for publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (nomination request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance: national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Mark Wolfe State Historic Preservation Officer 3/6/18
Signature of certifying official / Title Date
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain: _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

4/23/2018
Date of Action

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private; Public-Local

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
66	42	buildings
0	1	sites
1	0	structures
1	1	objects
68	44	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 2 (Erath County Courthouse, Resource No. 1; First National Bank Building, Resource No. 43)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: See Continuation Sheet 9

Current Functions: See Continuation Sheet 9

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

- **Late Victorian:** Romanesque Revival
- **Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:** Neoclassical, Beaux Arts
- **Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements:** Commercial Style, Craftsman
- **Modern Movement:** Art Deco, Moderne, International Style
- **No Style**

Principal Exterior Materials: Brick, Stone, Metal/cast iron, Wood, Stucco, Concrete, Glass

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 10-59)

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations: NA

Areas of Significance: Community Planning and Development, Commerce, Architecture

Period of Significance: 1873-1968

Significant Dates: 1873, 1891-92

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architects: James Riely Gordon, J.J. Kane, Mark Lemmon, Wyatt Hedrick, Joe V. Line, Stanley Brown

Builders: Heck and Baker, Vernon Gunn Construction, K.A. Sparks, Williams and Young

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 60-75)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 76-81)

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 (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University—Special Collections, Dick Smith Library, Tarleton State University
- Other -- Specify Repository: Stephenville Historical House Museum

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 23 acres

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. 32.223766° -98.202304°
2. 32.221880° -98.199570°
3. 32.221607° -98.199393°
4. 32.219780° -98.200672°
5. 32.218744° -98.202759°
6. 32.218654° -98.204590°
7. 32.219181° -98.204976°
8. 32.220769° -98.205110°
9. 32.221730° -98.204810°
10. 32.223587° -98.202700°

Verbal Boundary Description: See Continuation Sheet 82

Boundary Justification: See Continuation Sheet 82

11. Form Prepared By (with assistance from NR Coordinator Gregory Smith)

Name/title: Mary G. Saltarelli, Consultant
Organization: for the City of Stephenville
Street & number: 410 Heritage Trail
City or Town: Granbury State: TX Zip Code: 76048
Email: maryestellegott@sbcglobal.net
Telephone: 817-559-1596, 817-573-2787
Date: November 1, 2017

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 83-84)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 85-94)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 95-123)

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photograph Log

Stephenville Downtown Historic District
Stephenville, Erath County, Texas
Photographer: Mary G. Saltarelli
Photographed: Dec. 30, 2016 except as noted

Photo 1

Resource No. 1, Erath County Courthouse
100 W. Washington St.
Camera facing south

Photo 2

Resource No. 2, Erath County Honor Roll
100 W. Washington St.
Camera facing southeast

Photo 3

Resources No. 4—7, South Side of Erath County
Courthouse Square
148-190 W. College St.
Camera facing southeast

Photo 4

Resources Nos. 8 and 9, Gentry and Shelton Building
and Auto Garage
104 E. College St. and 221 S. Graham Ave.
Camera facing southeast

Photo 5

Resources Nos. 8 and 10, Gentry and Shelton Building
and Gentry Building
104-118 E. College
Camera facing south

Photo 6

Resource No. 11, Higginbotham's Lumber Building
164 E. College
Camera facing south

Photo 7

Resources No. 12—14
193 E. Graham Ave., 141-151 E. College
Camera facing northeast

Photo 8

Resource No. 15, Farmers National Bank Building
181 S. Graham Ave.
Camera facing east

Photo 9

Resource No. 12 and Resources Nos. 15-20, East Side
of Erath County Courthouse Square
193 E. Graham Ave., 107-181 S. Graham Ave.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 10

Resources Nos. 19 and 20
107-119 S. Graham Ave.
Camera facing east

Photo 11

Resources Nos. 21 and 22, Tatum and Sons Building
148-154 E. Washington St.
Camera facing south

Photo 12

Resource No. 23, W. W. Rutherford Building
160 E. Washington St.
Camera facing south

Photo 13

Resources Nos. 30 and 31, Cage and Crow Building-
Crow Opera House and Theo Bauer Building
171-187 W. Washington St.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 14

Resources Nos. 30-35, North Side of Erath County
Courthouse Square
115-187 W. Washington St.
Camera facing northwest

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 15

Resources Nos. 40 and 41
153-199 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing southeast

Photo 16

Resource No. 42
147 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing east

Photo 17

Resource No. 43, First National Bank Building
198 S. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing northwest

Photo 18

Resources Nos. 43—50, West Side of Erath County
Courthouse Square
116-198 S. Belknap Ave., 200 W. Washington St.
Camera facing northwest

Photo 19

Resource No. 50, F.A. Schnabel Building
200 W. Washington St.
Camera facing southwest
Photographed April 21, 2017

Photo 20

Resource No. 53
257 W. College St.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 21

Resources Nos. 55 and 56
200-216 W. College St.
Camera facing southwest

Photo 22

Resources Nos. 56 and 57
216-230 W. College St.
Camera facing south

Photo 23

Resource No. 58 and 59, Miller Photography Studio
240-250 W. College St.
Camera facing south

Photo 24

Resources Nos. 60 and 62, Altaras Medical Clinic
Building and Dental Clinic Building
270-290 W. College St.
Camera facing southeast

Photo 25

Resource No. 61
299 S. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 26

Resource No. 63 and 64, "Rock Barn" Livery Stable
272 N. Belknap Ave. and 211 W. McNeil St.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 27

Resource No. 63
272 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing northwest

Photo 28

Resource No. 65
254 S. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing west

Photo 29

Resource No. 89, Bus Station
223 E. College St.
Camera facing northwest

Photo 30

Resource No. 90, Long Hotel
221 E. College St.
Camera facing northwest

Photo 31

Resource No. 92
265 E. Washington St.
Camera facing northwest

Photo 32

Resource No. 91
129 N. Virginia Ave.
Camera facing northeast

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 33

Resources Nos. 93 and 94, Waterworks Pump House
and Feed Mill Building
351 N. Virginia Ave., 240 E. Green
Camera facing north

Photo 34

Resources Nos. 95 and 96
227-241 E. Mason St.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 35

Resource No. 98
211 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 36

Resources Nos. 99—102
221-299 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing southeast

Photo 37

Resource No. 103
234 N. Belknap
Camera facing west

Photo 38

Resource No. 106
280 N. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 39

Resource No. 107, First Baptist Church
334A W. Green St.
Camera facing south

Photo 40

Resource No. 108, First Baptist Church Education
Building
334 W. Green St.
Camera facing southeast

Photo 41

Resource No. 109
210 N. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing north

Photo 42

Resource No. 110, U.S. Post Office Building
174 N. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing west

Photo 43

Resource No. 111
309 W. Washington St.
Camera facing northwest

Photo 44

Resource No. 113, First United Methodist Church
328 W. Washington St.
Camera facing northeast

Photo 45

Resource No. 115, First United Methodist Church
Education Building
328 W. Washington St.
Camera facing east

Photo 46

Resource No. 114, Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall
110 S. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing northwest

Photo 47

Resources Nos. 116 and 117
132-142 S. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing west

Photo 48

Resource No. 128, Stephenville Savings and Loan
Building
422 W. Washington St.
Camera facing southwest

Photo 49

Resource No. 129, Jake and Dorothy's Café Building
406 E. Washington St.
Camera facing south

Photo 50

Resource No. 139, Stephenville City Hall
354 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing northwest

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 51

Resource No. 137, Cornelia Graves School
252 E. Tarleton St.
Camera facing northwest
Photographed April 21, 2017

Photo 52

Resource No. 138, James Beech House
252 E. Tarleton St.
Camera facing north

Photo 53

Resource No. 148, Heffley Building
374 E. Washington St.
Camera facing southwest

Photo 54

Resource No. 149
306 E. Washington St.
Camera facing northeast
Photographed April 21, 2017

Photo 55

Resource No. 158
291 E. Tarleton St.
Camera facing south

Photo 56

Resource No. 163, Graham Street Church of Christ
312 N. Graham Ave.
Camera facing west

Photo 57

Resource No. 164
313 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing east

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Section 6

Historic Functions

Commerce: professional, financial institution, specialty store, department store, restaurant, warehouse, auto-related business, livery stable

Domestic: single dwelling, multiple dwelling, hotel

Education: school

Government: county courthouse, city hall, fire station, police station, post office

Recreation and Culture: theater, auditorium, monument/marker

Religious: church, education hall

Social: meeting hall

Transportation: bus depot, streets

Industry: waterworks, mill, machine shop, milk depot

Vacant

Current Functions

Commerce: professional, financial institution, specialty store, restaurant, warehouse

Domestic: single dwelling, apartments

Government: county courthouse, city hall, police station

Recreation and Culture: monument/marker

Religious: church, education hall, administrative offices

Social: meeting hall

Transportation: streets

Landscape: Walk of Fame

Vacant

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Description

Stephenville's Downtown Historic District is the traditional commercial and civic core of the city, which is the seat of Erath County. Situated along a bend in the Bosque River, Stephenville is located in the center of the county where the North Central Texas Grand Prairie meets the Western Cross Timbers. Stephenville is 68 miles southwest of Fort Worth and 89 miles northwest of Waco on generally flat terrain with an elevation of 1,273 feet. Stephenville's downtown historic district contains 22 full blocks and parts of three contiguous blocks, or approximately 23 acres, around the Erath County Courthouse Square. The district features a concentration of significant commercial, civic, and religious resources that reflect the historic and architectural development of Stephenville, including streets paved with Thurber brick during the 1920s. Most of the resources that contribute to the historic district are located in the six blocks immediately around the 1891 Romanesque Revival courthouse designed by J. Riely Gordon. The contributing buildings represent a variety of architectural styles from the late nineteenth century through the 1960s, including Classical Revival, Beaux Arts, Art Deco, Art Moderne, and International, but most of them are one- and two-part commercial blocks constructed of limestone or brick with retail storefronts. Business owners modernized some contributing buildings during the period of significance and these resources reflect changing styles in architecture and retailing concepts. There are some late twentieth century and early twenty-first century intrusions into the district, but it retains its overall historic appearance and character of a Texas commercial center during the period of significance (1873-1968). The district includes 110 buildings, one structure, two objects, and one site. Of these 114 resources, 61 percent contribute to the significance of the district.

General Overview

Stephenville is in the center of Erath County, Texas, where the North Central Texas Grand Prairie meets the Western Cross Timbers. Set along a bend in the Bosque River, Stephenville is 68 miles southwest of Fort Worth and 89 miles northwest of Waco on generally flat terrain with an elevation of 1,273 feet.

The Stephenville Downtown Historic District contains 18 of the original 25 blocks platted by surveyor George B. Erath in 1855, plus an additional four blocks. Erath planned Stephenville following the "Shelbyville Plan," (named after a city in Tennessee), in which the courthouse square was laid as a central block, bounded by four streets and surrounded by a grid of square city blocks of the same size. Although the courthouse square is not oriented to true cardinal points, for the purpose of this nomination, "north" is approximately 30 degrees west of true north. Four roads frame the courthouse square: Belknap Ave. and Graham Ave. run north and south, with Belknap on the west side and Graham on the east, and Washington St. and College St. travel east and west, with Washington on the north and College on the south. Washington St. is U.S. Highway 377 Business and Graham St. is State Highway 108.

Because Erath platted the courthouse square along a bend in the Bosque River, it is not in the exact center of the historic district. South of the district and west of Belknap Ave., are a block of houses, the riverbed, and the city park (est. 1910). Although the terrain of the district is mostly flat, the streets slope downward south toward the river, and on the west side of the district, there is a drop into a creek bed.

Flooding to the south and the construction of railroad tracks to the north and west of the courthouse square promoted commercial growth to the northwest. Railroad tracks bisect Washington St. nine blocks west of the courthouse. Five blocks to the northwest is the original location of the passenger and freight depots and industries like the cottonseed oil mill, built during the 1890s. Although improved transportation influenced the growth of the downtown commercial area, the railroad tracks are not within the Stephenville Downtown Historic District. John Tarleton Agricultural College, now Tarleton State University, developed ten blocks west of the courthouse at the end of the nineteenth century. As the college grew and prospered, it also affected the development of the city's commercial center.

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

As Stephenville expanded, the community maintained the simple square-and-grid pattern of Erath's Shelbyville plan. Maps created by King in 1931 and 1952 illustrate the continuation of the plan. The historic district reflects this design except in the northeastern area, which originally developed as a housing addition and became the city's African-American neighborhood.

To the south of the Stephenville Downtown Historic District are houses built during the late nineteenth century through the twentieth century. Just south of the houses are the Bosque River and riverbed, where there are clusters of trees. To the west are non-contributing commercial buildings, houses, the historic school grounds with a contemporary school, and the railroad tracks. To the north are non-contributing commercial buildings including the contemporary hospital and associated businesses. To the northeast are a few houses remaining from the traditional African-American neighborhood. To the east are non-contributing commercial buildings constructed or altered during the twentieth century and the Stephenville Historical House Museum grounds, centered around the 1869 Berry House, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Center Section

The Stephenville Downtown Historic District will be described in four sections: central, eastern, western and northern. The center contains the Erath County Courthouse and the eight blocks immediately surrounding it (Blocks 1 through 8). These high-density blocks feature most the contributing resources, including the Romanesque Revival Erath County Courthouse. All the buildings within the center section are arranged in rows fronting sidewalks, except the courthouse, which is freestanding and set on a lawn. The overall design of the square has not changed since George B. Erath created it in 1855. It remains the center of commerce and government and the focal point of the landscape and urban activities in the city of Stephenville. Both the county and the city have kept their central governmental functions in the courthouse or on the blocks surrounding the courthouse.

Like a typical Shelbyville-style square, the four blocks around the Erath County Courthouse feature rows of buildings with no setbacks facing the courthouse. Most of the buildings around the courthouse square were built during the 1880s and 1890s. Constructed of limestone and brick, they are examples of one- and two-part commercial blocks as identified by Richard Longstreth in his book *The Buildings of Main Street*. Businessmen used them as retail stores or service businesses, so most of them feature first floors of glass windows and inviting entryways, some with cast-iron details. Businessmen used the second floors of the two-part commercial block buildings around the square for offices, social and entertainment gathering spaces, or hotels and living quarters. Many of the buildings feature ornamental cornices or parapets. There are 13 contributing buildings facing the courthouse that retain integrity to the period of significance. Two were built during the 1880s, ten during the 1890s, and one in the early years of the twentieth century. Eight of these contributing buildings facing the courthouse are two-part commercial blocks and five are one-part commercial blocks.

Significant buildings anchor outside corners of the courthouse square, and all but one are two-part commercial blocks. Northwest of the courthouse, at the intersection of Washington St. and Belknap Ave., the limestone Cage and Crow Building and Crow's Opera House, built in 1890, commands the northeast corner as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL). The southwest corner of the intersection features the Schnabel Building, constructed of brick in 1898. Southwest of the courthouse, at the intersection of College St. and Belknap Ave., the limestone First National Bank Building, built in 1889 on the northwest corner, features a temple front and turret. The bank building is individually listed in the National Register and is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL). On the southwest corner, the limestone Lawyers Building, constructed during the 1890s, features distinctive arcaded windows on its second floor. On the southeast corner, the one-part commercial block limestone Dawson Saloon Building, constructed during the 1890s, is an RTHL. Southeast of the courthouse, at the intersection of College St. and Graham Ave., is the

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Gentry-Shelton Building, the oldest extant building in the district, constructed of limestone in 1873. A two-part commercial block, this building on the southeast corner of the intersection is an RTHL.

During the 1920s to 1960s, owners modernized buildings in Stephenville to present a more streamlined appearance, reflecting Art Deco, Moderne and post-war modern design movements. There are two contributing examples on the square of early- to mid-twentieth century modernization that incorporated two or three existing buildings to create enframed window-wall stores (old Beall's Department Store on the east half of the north side and the old Perry Brothers Variety Store in the middle of the south side).

Some owners simply covered original façade details with slipcovers, some of which remain, like the Ben Franklin Store on the west side of the square, with its upper façade covered in vertical wood planks. After 1968, a few buildings were adorned with inappropriate architectural features or covered with stucco or concrete panels that obscured their original facades. There are seven examples of these types of non-contributing buildings around the courthouse square. On the south side of the square, at the southwest corner of the intersection of College St. and Graham Ave., is the non-contributing Donald R. Jones Justice Center, built in the late 1980s.

The four blocks around the courthouse square also feature buildings on lots not facing the courthouse. Block 3 on the east side of the courthouse square contains a row of five buildings facing north along E. Washington St. that were built of limestone and brick between 1902 and 1907. Four of these buildings are contributing to the historic district. On the south side of Block 3, there is one contributing building along W. College St. The largest part of the building is a tin shop built of limestone between 1902 and 1907. Adjacent to it to the west is a narrow building constructed of Thurber brick during the twentieth century that enclosed an original alley opening. Block 7 to the west of the courthouse contains two non-contributing buildings covered in stucco facing north along E. Washington St. There are two buildings on the south side of Block 7, along W. College St. One of these buildings, constructed of Thurber brick, is contributing. On Block 5, located north of the courthouse, a row of three contributing buildings faces west along N. Belknap Ave. The two larger buildings were constructed of brick between 1902 and 1921. Between them and the rear of Crow's Opera House is another narrow building constructed in an original alleyway between 1930 and 1949. On the east side of Block 5, there are three non-contributing buildings in a row facing N. Graham Ave. These buildings, constructed between the 1880s and 1920s were altered and do not retain integrity.

Of the four blocks located across from the corners of the courthouse square, Block 8 (off the southwest corner) is the most developed and contains nine contributing buildings. The north side of Block 8 features a row of five buildings facing north along W. College St., anchored by the Lawyers Building on the corner of W. College St. and S. Belknap Ave. The Lawyers building and two of the four buildings to its west are contributing resources constructed during the 1890s of limestone and brick. Across the alleyway to the west are two contributing buildings facing north along W. College St. These two one-part commercial buildings were constructed of brick during the middle of the twentieth century and they both display post-war modern stylistic influences. Behind them, on the southwest corner of Block 8 is a post-war modern building constructed of hollow clay tile. To its east, along W. McNeil St. is another building constructed of clay tile in the mid-twentieth century. East of it is a contributing limestone livery stable on the corner of W. McNeil St. and S. Belknap Ave. To its north is a contributing concrete one-part commercial block building facing S. Belknap Ave. Constructed during the early twentieth century, it connects with the Lawyers Building on the corner.

Block 2 off the southeast corner of the courthouse square features a row of contributing buildings on its north side along E. College Ave. On the corner of E. College and S. Graham is the Gentry-Shelton Building. To its east are the two-part commercial limestone Gentry Building, constructed during the late nineteenth century, and a brick one-part commercial lumberyard building constructed between 1908 and 1912. Block 4 off the northeast corner of the square contains four non-contributing buildings and Block 5 off of the northwest corner is home to Stephenville's Cowboy Walk of Fame, opened in 1998, and a non-contributing contemporary building.

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

The roads around the courthouse square were the first to be paved of brick in the city in 1924, but today they are covered with asphalt. In a large improvement project in 1929, the city paved many of the streets downtown with vitrified brick manufactured in Thurber, located 27 miles northwest of Stephenville in Erath County. In addition to the streets, there are a few contributing buildings within the downtown historic district constructed of Thurber brick.

Eastern Section

To the east, the historic district extends one block from the courthouse square and includes four full blocks that run north from E. College St. to E. Tarleton St. (Blocks 15 through 17 and Block 32). The eastern section also includes portions of one additional block to the north (Block 63) and two to the east (Blocks 33 and 34). Within this section are 13 contributing buildings. Historic brick streets extend east on E. College St. from N. Graham Ave. through to the district border at N. Floral Ave. They also run north along Virginia Ave. from E. College St. to E. Mason St. Block 15, just behind the east side of the square, was home to Stephenville's public "Jokey Yard" or "Jockey Yard," where the community hosted large First Monday Trade Days. The contributing Wyatt Hedrick-designed Art Deco Long Hotel, constructed in 1938 to 1939, is located there, facing south along W. College St. The large, three-story hotel was built of brick and hollow clay tile. To its east is a contributing Streamline Moderne bus station constructed of brick during the 1930s to 1949.

Along E. Washington St., or U.S. Highway 377 (Business), which leads into the square from the east, are five contributing buildings and one non-contributing building constructed during the 1930s to 1940s. These buildings do not have sidewalks in front of them. On the south side of E. Washington St. are three contributing buildings and one non-contributing resource on Blocks 15, 16, 33 and 34. On the north side of the street are two contributing buildings on Block 16. The contributing resources include three auto-related buildings and two buildings that were restaurants. The auto-related buildings include a petrified wood service station, a large brick garage, and a non-contributing concrete-block service station enclosed in brick after 1966. The restaurants are Jake and Dorothy's Café, a mid-twentieth century diner still in business, and a small brick-and-concrete building used by Stephenville's cheese plant as a restaurant.

To the north, Block 17 contains four contributing resources and one non-contributing building. On the south side of the block, along E. Mason St., is a row of three buildings constructed during the 1930s and 1940s. Two of the buildings originally had industrial uses as a milk depot and a machine shop. The milk depot on the corner of W. Mason St. and N. Virginia Ave. has been altered and is non-contributing. To its east is a contributing building constructed of brick that was a furniture store, and to its east is a clay-tile building that was a machine shop. Block 17 was the longtime home of a mill and gin and the city's first waterworks and power plant. On the block's northwest corner is the contributing waterworks pump house, constructed of limestone during the early twentieth century. Behind it is a contributing brick feed mill building constructed in the 1930s to 1940s.

Block 32, north of Block 17, was once part of Stephenville's African-American neighborhood. In 1949, there were four houses and four outbuildings on the block. During the 1950s, Stephenville's business district encroached on the neighborhood and Anderson Feed Mill replaced three of the houses with four large galvanized metal feed storage buildings, two of which are contributing. On the northwest corner of Block 32, one of the houses remains and is non-contributing, because of changes made to its exterior. This is one of two domestic resources included in the district. Across the street to the north on Block 63, at the corner of E. Tarleton St. and N. Floral Ave., is the contributing limestone folk Beech House built during Stephenville's early settlement period. Behind it is a row of three buildings along the west side of N. Floral Ave. At the north end of the row is the Cornelia Graves School, the African-American community's school, constructed in 1951. These resources are included in the downtown historic district because they

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

are some of a few that remain of Stephenville's historic African-American community, which has been giving way to the city's commercial development. This neighborhood does not have sidewalks.

Northern Section

The northern section of the Stephenville Downtown Historic District extends one to two blocks north of the courthouse square and contains five blocks with 8 contributing buildings and four non-contributing buildings (Blocks 18 through 20 and Blocks 29 and 30). Historic brick streets run through the northern section of the district along Mason St. from Virginia Ave. on the east to Columbia Ave. on the west and along Green St. from Graham Ave. on the east to Columbia Ave. on the west.

Block 19, directly behind the north side of the courthouse square, features a row of five buildings facing west along N. Belknap St. with no setbacks. A brick two-part commercial block building constructed between 1902 and 1907 anchors the corner of W. Mason St. and N. Belknap Ave. To its north is a row of one-part commercial block retail buildings constructed between 1930 and 1966 of hollow clay tiles or concrete masonry units faced with bricks or stucco. Block 18 to the east contains one contemporary non-contributing building. Block 20, to the west, features two buildings constructed during the 1930s and 1940s along the west side of N. Belknap St. with no setbacks. To the south is a contributing two-part commercial building built of hollow-clay tile faced with brick. To its north is a one-part commercial block non-contributing building. Around the corner to the northwest is a one-part commercial block non-contributing building facing W. Green St. On the northwest corner of the block is a contributing Streamline Modern-style one-story brick office building constructed between 1930 and 1949.

North of W. Green St., on Block 29, is the Post-War Modern City Hall building, designed by Stanley Brown of Dallas and constructed in 1954. To its east is Block 30, home of the Graham Street Church of Christ, constructed in 1949 and early 1950s on the west side of N. Graham Blvd, facing east. Also on Block 30 is a contributing two-part commercial block building along the east side of N. Belknap Ave. that was built of brick during the 1930s or 1940s.

Western Section

There are 11 contributing buildings and one non-contributing building on five blocks within the western section of the district (Blocks 21 through 23 and Block 111). The western section extends one to two blocks west of the courthouse square and runs north from W. College St. to W. Green St. This section features several freestanding large institutional and civic buildings that exhibit characteristics of high architectural styles. Historic brick streets in this section run north along Columbia Ave. from W. McNeil St. to W. Green St., east along W. College St. to Belknap Ave., and east along N. Mason St. and N. Green St. from N. Barton Ave. to N. Columbia Ave.

Block 23 features a row of commercial buildings on its west side facing east along S. Columbia Ave. These contributing buildings were constructed from 1930 through 1966. On the corner of W. Washington St. and S. Columbia Ave. is a two-part commercial building constructed of hollow clay tile with brick facing that functioned as an auto sales business with a lodge hall on the second floor. To its south is a contributing one-part commercial building constructed of concrete block with brick facing on the façade, and a one-part commercial building constructed of brick and concrete masonry units. On the northeast corner of Block 23 is the monumental Beaux Arts-style First United Methodist Church, built in 1917 of brick and limestone and its brick education center, built in 1925. Both buildings are contributing.

Block 22, north of W. Washington St. is home to two contributing buildings. A service station constructed of brick during the 1930s or 1940s faces south along W. Washington St. On the northeast corner of the block is the concrete Art Deco-style U.S. Post Office building, designed by Dallas architect Mark Lemmon and built in 1935. Block 21 to

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

the north features three contributing buildings. Facing north along W. Green St is the impressive Beaux Arts-style First Baptist Church, constructed of brick and limestone in 1925. Behind the church and facing west along N. Barton Ave is the church's brick-and-limestone education center, constructed in 1952. Behind the church, along W. Mason St, is a contributing brick two-part commercial building.

On Block 111 is the western-most contributing resource within the Stephenville Downtown Historic District, the International Style Stephenville Savings and Loan Building, designed by architect Joe Line of Cleburne and constructed in 1967. This modern movement building has a split-level form, because it is located on a hill along the south side of W. Washington St., where there is a drop to a creek bed.

Methodology

Students studying historic preservation in Dr. T. Lindsay Baker's public history classes at Tarleton State University conducted a survey of historic resources in downtown Stephenville in 2015. Based upon the survey results and data, staff members at the Texas Historical Commission proposed a historic district in downtown Stephenville, which they deemed eligible for listing in the National Register. The boundaries of the proposed district have been revised slightly to include additional resources, including a church and properties in Stephenville's traditional African-American neighborhood. Resource numbers assigned during the survey are retained. Students surveyed several resources, including houses, not included in the Stephenville Downtown Historic District, so the numbers used in the nomination are not always sequential.

Contributing means that a resource was present during the district's period of significance and adds to the significant historic associations and architectural qualities of the district. Buildings contributing to the Stephenville Downtown Historic District are not necessarily unaltered. During the early-to mid-twentieth century, business owners modernized their facilities to reflect changing trends in architecture and retail businesses. Some incorporated two or more buildings to create enframed-window-wall storefronts. These buildings retain integrity to the mid-twentieth century modern years of Stephenville's period of significance. Other building owners made less drastic changes such as installing new plate-glass metal windows, enclosing windows, or adding stucco finishes. Alterations made within the period of significance that remain sensitive to individual character and the unique character of the district do not detract from a building's integrity nor its ability to convey historic significance. In some cases, a building's relationship to adjoining resources, such as being part of a contiguous row with no setbacks, helps it convey historic integrity.

Non-contributing means that a resource does not add to historic associations or qualities because it was not present during the period of significance or has been altered to obscure its historic appearance. During the middle to late twentieth century, some building owners in Stephenville covered original façade details with slipcovers that hide architectural detail. After 1968, some owners adorned their buildings with inappropriate architectural features or completely sheathed them with stucco or concrete panels that obscured their original facades.

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Inventory Table, ordered by Map ID Number

Map No.	Add. No.		Street	Current Name	Historic Name	Date	Type/Style	C/NC
1	100	W.	Washington	Erath County Courthouse	Erath County Courthouse	1891-1892	Romanesque Revival	C
2	100	W.	Washington	Erath County Honor Roll	Erath County Honor Roll	1950	monument	C
3	100	W.	Washington	Texas Historical Marker	Texas Historical Marker	1997	monument	NC
4	190	W.	College	Greer's Ranch Café	Dawson Saloon	1891-1896	One-Part Commercial Block	C
5	160	W.	College		Drugstore	1891-1896	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
6	150	W.	College	Blue Eyed Buffalo	General Mercantile Building	1885-1896	Enframed Window Wall	C
7	148	W.	College	United Country Alliance Auction and Realty	Hardware and Harness Store	1896-1902	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
8 & 9	104	E.	College		Gentry - Shelton Building/Automobile Repair Garage	1873/ 1930-1949	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
10	118	E.	College	Senior Citizens Center	Gentry Building	1885- 1891	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
11	164	E.	College	Senior Citizens Center	Higginbotham's Lumber	1912-1921	One-Part Commercial Block	C
12	193	S.	Graham	FWB Attys.	Saloon and Billiards, General Merchandise, and Hardware	c. 1885	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
13 & 14	141 and 151	E.	College	FWB Attys.	Compton Tin Shop, Homer Nix Plumbing	1902-1907/ 1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
15	181	S.	Graham	Allen Firm Attys	Harness Store, Grocery Store, Farmers National Bank	c. 1885	Temple Front	C
16	159	S.	Graham	Kings Abstract	Oxford Building	c. 1891	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
17	157B	S.	Graham	Lewellen Law Firm	Oxford House	c. 1891	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
18	157A	S.	Graham	Lewellen Law Firm	Oxford Building	c. 1891	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
19	117-119	S.	Graham	Solar Nails and Spa	L.W. Chiles Building	1891-1896	One-Part Commercial Block	C
20	107	S.	Graham	Cowboy Way Travel	Grocery Store	1902-1907	One-Part Commercial Block	C
21	148	E.	Washington	Skinny's	Originally two buildings	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
22	154	E.	Washington		Tatum and Sons Building	1902-1907, 1920	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
23	160	E.	Washington	Literary Lion	W.W. Rutherford Building	1905	One-Part Commercial Block	C
24	140	S.	Virginia	Nance Chiropractic Clinic	Automobile Repair, Garage	1921-1930	One-Part Commercial Block	NC

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Map No.	Add. No.		Street	Current Name	Historic Name	Date	Type/Style	C/NC
25	144	S.	Virginia			1949-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
26	115	N.	Graham	Bank of America	Neblett Building	1902-1907	Two-Part Commercial Block	NC
27	160	E.	Mason	Hayden Real Estate	Stephenville Motor Company	1930-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
28	155	N.	Graham	Hayden Real Estate, LLC	Stephenville Motor Company	1949-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
29	127	W.	Washington	Bank of America	Grocery Store, Hotel Rooms	1907-1912	One-Part Commercial Blocks	NC
30	183-187	W.	Washington	Stephenville Chamber of Commerce, Law Firm of Scott Osman	Cage and Crow Building and Crow Opera House	1885-1891	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
31	171	W.	Washington	Lawyers Abstract and Title Co.	Theo Bauer Building	1898	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
32	157	W.	Washington	Bennett's Office Supply	Jake Wilson Building	1898	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
33 - 35	115 - 145	W.	Washington	Rockin' P	Grocery, Bakery, Lunch Room/Saloon and Confectionary/Grocery Store	1896-1902	Enframed Window Wall	C
36	105	W.	Washington	Edward Jones Investments	Harness and Farm Implements Store	1896-1902	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
37	154	N.	Graham	Raymond James Investment	Empire Printing, Harness Store	1885-1891	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
38	164	N.	Graham		Steam Laundry, Confectionery, Restaurant, Bakery	1896-1902	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
39	188	N.	Graham	Coan and Elliot Attorneys	Feed Store Building	1912-1921	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
40	199	N.	Belknap	Aloha Tanning, Island Cowgirl	Automobile Repair, Garage	1912-1921	One-Part Commercial Block	C
41	153	N.	Belknap	Stephenville Dance Center, Security Finance	Carriage Sales, Hardware Store, Movies, Dry Cleaning	1902-1907	One-Part Commercial Block	C
42	147	N.	Belknap	Austin Finance		1912-1921	One-Part Commercial Block	C
43	198	S.	Belknap	First National Bank Building	First National Bank Building, Telegraph Exchange	1889	Temple Front	C
44	166	S.	Belknap	Cross Timbers Title	Drugstore	1891-1896	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
45	160	S.	Belknap	Law Offices of Landon Northcutt	Dry Goods Store, Agricultural Implements	1891-1896	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
46	150	S.	Belknap	Kickin' Colt Boutique	Grocery Store, Movies	1896-1902	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
47	134-140	S.	Belknap	Ben Franklin Store	Drugstore	1885-1902	Two-Part Commercial Block	NC
48	128	S.	Belknap	Ben Franklin Store	General Mercantile Building	1885-1902	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
49	116	S.	Belknap	Ben Franklin Store	General Mercantile Building	1885-1902	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
50	200	W.	Washington	L Bar Western Art	F.A. Schnabel Building	1898	Two-Part Commercial Block	C

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Map No.	Add. No.		Street	Current Name	Historic Name	Date	Type/Style	C/NC
51	252-270	W.	Washington	City of Stephenville Council Chambers	Shoe Shop	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
52	298	W.	Washington	Stephenville City Hall	Stephenville State Bank	1953	Two-Part Commercial Block	NC
53	257	W.	College	The Vine		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
54	231	W.	College	Cowboy Capital Land Co., Stronghold Construction		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
55	200	W.	College	Scott's Flowers on the Square	Barber, Grocery, Hardware, Auto Repair, and Lawyers' Building	1891-1896	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
56	216	W.	College	Stephenville Counseling	J.H. Hatchett Building	1898	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
57	230	W.	College	Cellar Photo Frames, Southwest Properties	Printing Shop, Bakery	1896-1902	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
58	240	W.	College	Miller's Studio	Photography Studio, Optician	1902	One-Part Commercial Block	C
59	250	W.	College	Lone Star Insurance	Insurance Office Building	c. 1967	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
60	270	W.	College	Craig Beman Artwork	Altaras Medical Clinic	1949-1956	One-Part Commercial Block	C
61	299	S.	Columbia	McKeathan and Espinoza, Attys at Law	Commodity Credit Corp., Land Bank Bulding	1950	One-Part Commercial Block	C
62	290	W.	College		Dental Clinic	1949-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	C
63	272	S.	Belknap	In the Garden	"Rock Barn" Livery Stable Building, Garage, Auto Repair	1899	One-Part Commercial Block	C
64	211	W.	McNeill	Ruby's Texas Bistro		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
65	254	S.	Belknap	Willow's Gift Shop	Hardware Warehouse, Auto Repair Garage	1921-1930	One-Part Commercial Block	C
88	240	E.	Washington	Warren Building		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
89	223	E.	College		Bus Station	1930-1949	Streamline Moderne	C
90	221	E.	College	Long Hotel	Long Hotel	1938-1939	Art Deco	C
91	129	N.	Virginia	Paperback Lion	Triangle Produce Restaurant	1930-1949	Art Deco	C
92	265	E.	Washington	Fuzzy's Tacos	Marting Brothers Supply Co., Garage	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
93	351	N.	Virginia		Water Works Pump House	1907-1912	Industrial Building	C
94	240	E.	Green		Anderson Feed Mill	1930-1949	Industrial Building	C
95	241	E.	Mason	City Electric	Machine Shop and Welding	1930-1949	Industrial Building	C
96	227-239	E.	Mason			1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
97	201- 213	E.	Mason	Pendleton Law Offices	Milk Depot	1930-1949	Industrial Building	NC

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Map No.	Add. No.		Street	Current Name	Historic Name	Date	Type/Style	C/NC
98	211	N.	Belknap		Telephone Exchange, Auto Repair	1902-1907	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
99	221	N.	Belknap	Frames, Etc.	General Mercantile Building	1949-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
100	241	N.	Belknap	Sports Clothing and Trophy Store	General Mercantile Building	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
101	245	N.	Belknap	Castle's Furniture	General Mercantile Building	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
102	299	N.	Belknap	Castle's Furniture	Furniture Store	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
103	234	N.	Belknap	Kirbo's Office Systems	Wholesale Tire Sales	1930-1949	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
104	260-270	N.	Belknap	Brad Thompson Co. Storage		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
105	240	W.	Green	Keene Law Firm	General Mercantile Building	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
106	280	N.	Columbia	Parker and Associates Architects and Planners	Office Building	1930-1949	Streamline Moderne	C
107	334A	W.	Green	First Baptist Church	First Baptist Church	1923	Temple Front, Beaux Arts	C
108	334B	W.	Green	First Baptist Church Education Building	First Baptist Church Education Building	1952	Beaux Arts	C
109	210	N.	Columbia	Century Link, Embarq Building	Telephone Exchange	1949-1966	Commercial Building	C
110	174	N.	Columbia	Stephenville Public Library	Stephenville Post Office	1935	Art Deco	C
111	309	W.	Washington	Soup & More Café	Filling Station, Restaurant, Bus Station	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
112	375	W.	Washington	Fraser Agency, Inc.	Filling Station	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
113	328	W.	Washington	First United Methodist Church	First Methodist Episcopal Church South	1917	Temple Front, Beaux Arts	C
114	110	S.	Columbia		Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall	1921-1930	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
115	328B	W.	Washington	First United Methodist Church Education Building	First United Methodist Church Education Building	1925	Religious Building	C
116	142	S.	Columbia	First United Methodist Church		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
117	132	S.	Columbia	First United Methodist Church		1949-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	C
127				Brick Streets of Stephenville	Brick Streets of Stephenville	c. 1929	Structure	C
128	422	W.	Washington	Hutchison Annex, First United Methodist Church	Stephenville Savings and Loan Building	1967	International Modernism	C
129	406	E.	Washington	Jake and Dorothy's Café	Jake and Dorothy's Café	1948	One-Part Commercial Block	C
137	252	E.	Tarleton	Cornelia Graves School		1951	Community School	C
138	252	E.	Tarleton	Beech House		c. 1857	National Folk House	C

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Map No.	Add. No.		Street	Current Name	Historic Name	Date	Type/Style	C/NC
139	354	N.	Belknap	Stephenville Public Safety Bldg	Stephenville City Hall and Police Station	1954	International Modernism	C
148	374	E.	Washington		Heffley Building	c. 1946	One-Part Commercial Block	C
149	306	E.	Washington	Reynaldo's Mexican Restaurant	Petrified Wood Gas Station	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
150	112	W.	College	Erath County Courthouse Annex		1988	Government Building	NC
151	200		Block, W. Washington	Walk of Fame		1988	Site	NC
152	281	N.	Graham	Bank of America Motor Bank		1981	Drive-Through Facility	NC
153	202	N.	Graham			1981	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
154	351	E.	Tarleton			C. 1950s	Industrial Building	C
155	351	E.	Tarleton			C. 1950s	Industrial Building	C
156	351	E.	Tarleton	VB Orthapedics		C. 1950s	Industrial Building	NC
157	351	E.	Tarleton	VB Orthapedics		c. 1955-1966	Industrial Building	NC
158	291	E.	Tarleton			c. 1920	Craftsman-Style House	NC
159	252	E.	Tarleton			c. 1990s	No Style	NC
160	252	E.	Tarleton			c. 1990s	No Style	NC
161	244	S.	Columbia	Stephenville Lodge No. 267, AF & AM		1973	Meeting Hall	NC
162	199	N.	Columbia	Stephenville Bank & Trust		c. 1980	Drive-Through Facility	NC
163	312	N.	Graham	Graham Street Church of Christ		1949, 1954	Vault	C
164	313	N.	Belknap	Basic Needs Ministry		1930-1949	Two-Part Commercial Block	C

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Inventory Table – Ordered by Address

Map No.	Add. No.		Street	Current Name	Historic Name	Date	Type/Style	C/NC
127				Brick Streets of Stephenville	Brick Streets of Stephenville	c. 1929	Structure	C
40	199	N.	Belknap	Aloha Tanning, Island Cowgirl	Automobile Repair, Garage	1912-1921	One-Part Commercial Block	C
41	153	N.	Belknap	Stephenville Dance Center, Security Finance	Carriage Sales, Hardware Store, Movies, Dry Cleaning	1902-1907	One-Part Commercial Block	C
42	147	N.	Belknap	Austin Finance		1912-1921	One-Part Commercial Block	C
98	211	N.	Belknap		Telephone Exchange, Auto Repair	1902-1907	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
99	221	N.	Belknap	Frames, Etc.	General Mercantile Building	1949-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
100	241	N.	Belknap	Sports Clothing and Trophy Store	General Mercantile Building	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
101	245	N.	Belknap	Castle's Furniture	General Mercantile Building	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
102	299	N.	Belknap	Castle's Furniture	Furniture Store	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
103	234	N.	Belknap	Kirbo's Office Systems	Wholesale Tire Sales	1930-1949	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
104	260-270	N.	Belknap	Brad Thompson Co. Storage		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
139	354	N.	Belknap	Stephenville Public Safety Bldg	Stephenville City Hall and Police Station	1954	International Modernism	C
164	313	N.	Belknap	Basic Needs Ministry		1930-1949	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
43	198	S.	Belknap	First National Bank Building	First National Bank Building, Telegraph Exchange	1889	Temple Front	C
44	166	S.	Belknap	Cross Timbers Title	Drugstore	1891-1896	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
45	160	S.	Belknap	Law Offices of Landon Northcutt	Dry Goods Store, Agricultural Implements	1891-1896	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
46	150	S.	Belknap	Kickin' Colt Boutique	Grocery Store, Movies	1896-1902	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
47	134-140	S.	Belknap	Ben Franklin Store	Drugstore	1885-1902	Two-Part Commercial Block	NC
48	128	S.	Belknap	Ben Franklin Store	General Mercantile Building	1885-1902	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
49	116	S.	Belknap	Ben Franklin Store	General Mercantile Building	1885-1902	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
63	272	S.	Belknap	In the Garden	"Rock Barn" Livery Stable Building, Garage, Auto Repair	1899	One-Part Commercial Block	C
65	254	S.	Belknap	Willow's Gift Shop	Hardware Warehouse, Auto Repair Garage	1921-1930	One-Part Commercial Block	C

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Map No.	Add. No.		Street	Current Name	Historic Name	Date	Type/Style	C/NC
151	200		Block, W. Washington	Walk of Fame		1988	Site	NC
10	118	E.	College	Senior Citizens Center	Gentry Building	1885- 1891	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
11	164	E.	College	Senior Citizens Center	Higginbotham's Lumber	1912-1921	One-Part Commercial Block	C
8 & 9	104	E.	College		Gentry - Shelton Building/Automobile Repair Garage	1873/ 1930-1949	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
13 & 14	141 and 151	E.	College	FWB Attys.	Compton Tin Shop, Homer Nix Plumbing	1902-1907/ 1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
89	223	E.	College		Bus Station	1930-1949	Streamline Moderne	C
90	221	E.	College	Long Hotel	Long Hotel	1938-1939	Art Deco	C
4	190	W.	College	Greer's Ranch Café	Dawson Saloon	1891-1896	One-Part Commercial Block	C
5	160	W.	College		Drugstore	1891-1896	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
6	150	W.	College	Blue Eyed Buffalo	General Mercantile Building	1885-1896	Enframed Window Wall	C
7	148	W.	College	United Country Alliance Auction and Realty	Hardware and Harness Store	1896-1902	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
53	257	W.	College	The Vine		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
54	231	W.	College	Cowboy Capital Land Co., Stronghold Construction		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
55	200	W.	College	Scott's Flowers on the Square	Barber, Grocery, Hardware, Auto Repair, and Lawyers' Building	1891-1896	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
56	216	W.	College	Stephenville Counseling	J.H. Hatchett Building	1898	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
57	230	W.	College	Cellar Photo Frames, Southwest Properties	Printing Shop, Bakery	1896-1902	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
58	240	W.	College	Miller's Studio	Photography Studio, Optician	1902	One-Part Commercial Block	C
59	250	W.	College	Lone Star Insurance	Insurance Office Building	c. 1967	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
60	270	W.	College	Craig Beman Artwork	Altaras Medical Clinic	1949-1956	One-Part Commercial Block	C
62	290	W.	College		Dental Clinic	1949-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	C
150	112	W.	College	Erath County Courthouse Annex		1988	Government Building	NC
106	280	N.	Columbia	Parker and Associates Architects and Planners	Office Building	1930-1949	Streamline Moderne	C
109	210	N.	Columbia	Century Link, Embarq Building	Telephone Exchange	1949-1966	Commercial Building	C

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Map No.	Add. No.		Street	Current Name	Historic Name	Date	Type/Style	C/NC
110	174	N.	Columbia	Stephenville Public Library	Stephenville Post Office	1935	Art Deco	C
162	199	N.	Columbia	Stephenville Bank & Trust		c. 1980	Drive-Through Facility	NC
61	299	S.	Columbia	McKeathan and Espinoza, Attys at Law	Commodity Credit Corp., Land Bank Bulding	1950	One-Part Commercial Block	C
114	110	S.	Columbia		Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall	1921-1930	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
116	142	S.	Columbia	First United Methodist Church		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
117	132	S.	Columbia	First United Methodist Church		1949-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	C
161	244	S.	Columbia	Stephenville Lodge No. 267, AF & AM		1973	Meeting Hall	NC
26	115	N.	Graham	Bank of America	Neblett Building	1902-1907	Two-Part Commercial Block	NC
28	155	N.	Graham	Hayden Real Estate, LLC	Stephenville Motor Company	1949-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
37	154	N.	Graham	Raymond James Investment	Empire Printing, Harness Store	1885-1891	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
38	164	N.	Graham		Steam Laundry, Confectionery, Restaurant, Bakery	1896-1902	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
39	188	N.	Graham	Coan and Elliot Attorneys	Feed Store Building	1912-1921	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
152	281	N.	Graham	Bank of America Motor Bank		1981	Drive-Through Facility	NC
153	202	N.	Graham			1981	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
163	312	N.	Graham	Graham Street Church of Christ		1949, 1954	Vault	C
12	193	S.	Graham	FWB Attys.	Saloon and Billiards, General Merchandise, and Hardware	c. 1885	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
15	181	S.	Graham	Allen Firm Attys	Harness Store, Grocery Store, Farmers National Bank	c. 1885	Temple Front	C
16	159	S.	Graham	Kings Abstract	Oxford Building	c. 1891	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
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18	157A	S.	Graham	Lewellen Law Firm	Oxford Building	c. 1891	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
19	117-119	S.	Graham	Solar Nails and Spa	L.W. Chiles Building	1891-1896	One-Part Commercial Block	C
20	107	S.	Graham	Cowboy Way Travel	Grocery Store	1902-1907	One-Part Commercial Block	C
94	240	E.	Green		Anderson Feed Mill	1930-1949	Industrial Building	C
105	240	W.	Green	Keene Law Firm	General Mercantile Building	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
107	334A	W.	Green	First Baptist Church	First Baptist Church	1923	Temple Front, Beaux Arts	C
108	334B	W.	Green	First Baptist Church Education Building	First Baptist Church Education Building	1952	Beaux Arts	C
27	160	E.	Mason	Hayden Real Estate	Stephenville Motor Company	1930-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	NC

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Map No.	Add. No.		Street	Current Name	Historic Name	Date	Type/Style	C/NC
95	241	E.	Mason	City Electric	Machine Shop and Welding	1930-1949	Industrial Building	C
96	227-239	E.	Mason			1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
97	201-213	E.	Mason	Pendleton Law Offices	Milk Depot	1930-1949	Industrial Building	NC
64	211	W.	McNeill	Ruby's Texas Bistro		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
137	252	E.	Tarleton	Cornelia Graves School		1951	Community School	C
138	252	E.	Tarleton	Beech House		c. 1857	National Folk House	C
154	351	E.	Tarleton			C. 1950s	Industrial Building	C
155	351	E.	Tarleton			C. 1950s	Industrial Building	C
156	351	E.	Tarleton	VB Orthapedics		C. 1950s	Industrial Building	NC
157	351	E.	Tarleton	VB Orthapedics		c. 1955-1966	Industrial Building	NC
158	291	E.	Tarleton			c. 1920	Craftsman-Style House	NC
159	252	E.	Tarleton			c. 1990s	No Style	NC
160	252	E.	Tarleton			c. 1990s	No Style	NC
91	129	N.	Virginia	Paperback Lion	Triangle Produce Restaurant	1930-1949	Art Deco	C
93	351	N.	Virginia		Water Works Pump House	1907-1912	Industrial Building	C
24	140	S.	Virginia	Nance Chiropractic Clinic	Automobile Repair, Garage	1921-1930	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
25	144	S.	Virginia			1949-1966	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
21	148	E.	Washington	Skinny's	Originally two buildings	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
22	154	E.	Washington		Tatum and Sons Building	1902-1907, 1920	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
23	160	E.	Washington	Literary Lion	W.W. Rutherford Building	1905	One-Part Commercial Block	C
88	240	E.	Washington	Warren Building		1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
92	265	E.	Washington	Fuzzy's Tacos	Marting Brothers Supply Co., Garage	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
129	406	E.	Washington	Jake and Dorothy's Café	Jake and Dorothy's Café	1948	One-Part Commercial Block	C
148	374	E.	Washington		Heffley Building	c. 1946	One-Part Commercial Block	C
149	306	E.	Washington	Reynaldo's Mexican Restaurant	Petrified Wood Gas Station	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
33 - 35	115 - 145	W.	Washington	Rockin' P	Grocery, Bakery, Lunch Room/Saloon and Confectionary/Grocery Store	1896-1902	Enframed Window Wall	C

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Map No.	Add. No.		Street	Current Name	Historic Name	Date	Type/Style	C/NC
1	100	W.	Washington	Erath County Courthouse	Erath County Courthouse	1891-1892	Romanesque Revival	C
2	100	W.	Washington	Erath County Honor Roll	Erath County Honor Roll	1950	monument	C
3	100	W.	Washington	Texas Historical Marker	Texas Historical Marker	1997	monument	NC
29	127	W.	Washington	Bank of America	Grocery Store, Hotel Rooms	1907-1912	One-Part Commercial Blocks	NC
30	183-187	W.	Washington	Stephenville Chamber of Commerce, Law Firm of Scott Osman	Cage and Crow Building and Crow Opera House	1885-1891	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
31	171	W.	Washington	Lawyers Abstract and Title Co.	Theo Bauer Building	1898	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
32	157	W.	Washington	Bennett's Office Supply	Jake Wilson Building	1898	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
36	105	W.	Washington	Edward Jones Investments	Harness and Farm Implements Store	1896-1902	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
50	200	W.	Washington	L Bar Western Art	F.A. Schnabel Building	1898	Two-Part Commercial Block	C
51	252-270	W.	Washington	City of Stephenville Council Chambers	Shoe Shop	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
52	298	W.	Washington	Stephenville City Hall	Stephenville State Bank	1953	Two-Part Commercial Block	NC
111	309	W.	Washington	Soup & More Café	Filling Station, Restaurant, Bus Station	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	C
112	375	W.	Washington	Fraser Agency, Inc.	Filling Station	1930-1949	One-Part Commercial Block	NC
113	328	W.	Washington	First United Methodist Church	First Methodist Episcopal Church South	1917	Temple Front, Beaux Arts	C
115	328B	W.	Washington	First United Methodist Church Education Building	First United Methodist Church Education Building	1925	Religious Building	C
128	422	W.	Washington	Hutchison Annex, First United Methodist Church	Stephenville Savings and Loan Building	1967	International Modernism	C

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Resource No. 1
Erath County Courthouse
100 W. Washington St.
Central Section, Public Square

RTHL, SAL, National Register
Contributing
Romanesque Revival
Photo 1, Figures 1 and 2

J. Riely Gordon designed the Erath County Courthouse in a Romanesque Revival style with a striking polychromatic exterior of native limestone and Pecos sandstone. It features the rhythm of recessed planes and projecting pavilions common in Gordon's work. Contractor S.A. Tomlinson of Fort Worth constructed the three-story courthouse for a cost of \$59,173. Built in 1891 to 1892, the courthouse is the center of the Shelbyville-style Erath County Courthouse square and the commercial district of Stephenville and is the heart of the community.

The courthouse has been renovated twice and then restored. First, architect Wyatt C. Hedrick of Fort Worth supervised \$75,000 of renovations in 1950. In 1982, Phillips Swager Associates of Dallas prepared a preservation, renovation, and modernization study for the courthouse, and in 1988, a renovation project was completed. In 2002, the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, along with architect Norman Alston of Dallas, restored the Erath County Courthouse to its original picturesque composition. Its central clock tower has been the most prominent feature of the Stephenville landscape for 125 years.

Resource No. 2
Erath County Honor Roll
100 W. Washington St.
Central Section, Public Square

Contributing
Marble Monument
Photo 2

Dedicated on May 16, 1950, this marble shaft with a beveled face bears the names of 147 "Erath County Sons Who Lost Their Lives in World Wars I and II." The monument is located just off the northwest corner of the Erath County Courthouse and faces northwest. The rectangular pink marble base measures 50 inches square and six inches high with a steel flagpole mounted in a concrete footing at the rear, where an American flag flies continuously. The marble shaft measures 45 inches deep by 39 inches wide. The back is 47.5 inches high and slopes to 20.5 inches in the front.

The American Legion and the Turnbow-Higgs and Powell-Davidson Posts of Stephenville and Dublin and the Erath County Commissioners Court sponsored the monument and public dedication ceremony on a day that Judge Dale W. Harbin declared an official holiday. During the ceremony, the Tarleton State College band played the Star-Spangled Banner and the college Cadet Corps firing squad gave a salute to the county war dead being honored. Texas Attorney General Price Daniel delivered the dedication address before the monument was unveiled. At the conclusion of the monument dedication ceremony, the Erath County Courthouse reopened for tours after a \$75,000 rehabilitation project overseen by architect Wyatt C. Hedrick of Fort Worth.

Resource No. 3
Erath County Courthouse RTHL Marker
190 S. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Public Square

Noncontributing
Monument (1997)

This 1997 aluminum marker replaced the Erath County Courthouse's 1963 Recorded Texas Historic Landmark plaque (RTHL), sits atop a rectangular concrete base. The concrete monument, which measures 47.5 inches wide by 61 inches long and 21 inches high, rests upon a slightly larger concrete base. The monument and plaque are located on the southeast corner of the courthouse lawn and face northwest toward the courthouse. The Texas Historical Commission designated the Erath County Courthouse as an RTHL in 1963, and that date is inscribed in the marker, which is 27 inches wide by 42 inches long. The plaque is also inscribed with a description of the history and significance of the courthouse.

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Resource No. 4
Dawson Saloon
190 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 1

RTHL
Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 3, Figure 3

W.A. "Billy" Dawson's Saloon was the first occupant of this one-story native limestone building with a flat roof constructed between 1891 and 1896 on the southwest corner of the square. The façade, or north elevation, of this building features four large bays. During the 1950s, Novitt's Department Store occupied this building, which they modernized by removing its original limestone columns. Current owners rehabilitated the building in 2011, replacing its original limestone columns and large clerestory windows above a metal awning supported by rods. The front doors and windows were replaced with a setback wall of glass and metal, creating an open-air eating area.

Resource No. 5
Drugstore Building
160 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 1

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 3, Figure 3

Traditionally home to a drugstore for many years, this two-story native limestone building was constructed between 1891 and 1896. Its façade, or north elevation, features a first-floor concave double-door entry with four plate-glass windows topped by large transom windows. Four cast-iron pilasters support the second story and roof. Above the original entryway are four tall narrow bays filled with one-over-one wood windows.

Resource No. 6
General Mercantile Building
150 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 1

Contributing
Enframed Window Wall
Photo 3, Figure 3

Owners originally constructed this building between 1885 and 1896 as two separate buildings of native cut limestone that shared what appeared to be a common pressed tin cornice. During Stephenville's improvement boom of the 1920s, when roads were first paved with Thurber bricks, the two buildings became one building.

From the 1920s through the 1960s, as owners modernized buildings in Stephenville, this building's Victorian-influenced cornice was removed and the limestone front was covered with tan brick. The lower half of the building is one large bay or enframed window wall with fixed metal plate glass windows and two concave entries with double doors and transoms. A wide continuous border frames the windows and doors below. The rear wall is limestone and the building has a flat roof that drains to the rear. The window-wall appearance of the façade indicates modernization during the late 1920s through the 1940s, possibly when the two buildings were incorporated. In 1940, this large building was home to Perry Brothers Variety Store.

Resource No. 7
Hardware/Harness Store Building
148 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 1

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 3, Figure 3

Constructed between 1896 and 1902, this two-story building features native limestone on the first floor and red brick on the second floor. On the first floor, four bays are filled with metal-framed plate glass windows topped with large transoms. Three cast-iron pilasters support the second story, which contains four bays filled with one-over-one wood windows. A triangular pediment once topped the decorative brick cornice of alternating patterns. It was removed by 1993.

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Resources Nos. 8 and 9
Gentry and Shelton Building
104 E. College St.
Central Section, Block 2

RTHL
Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photos 4 and 5

Constructed in 1873, the two-story native limestone Gentry and Shelton Building was the first masonry building on the courthouse square and is the oldest extant building within the Stephenville Downtown Historic District. The first-floor façade features a three-bay central concave entryway surrounded by four metal plate-glass windows and topped by a narrow band of transom windows. The second floor has three arched bays filled with one-over-one wood windows topped with transoms. Atop the arched windows are distinctive decorative limestone eyebrows with central keystones. The east elevation along S. Graham Ave. features four of the same arched windows on the second floor. On the first floor, at the northeast corner of the building, a single wood door with a transom above faces west. On the southeast corner is a single one-over-one window. The east elevation also has four rectangular openings at ground level that serve to ventilate this building's rare basement. White plaster or stucco once covered all or part of this building and it was removed in 1993. The ground floor of this building was typically occupied by a mercantile store or restaurant, while the second floor has served as offices and lodge meeting space.

Between 1930 and 1949, a rectangular addition built of concrete block was added to the rear, or south elevation of the Gentry and Shelton Building. Built to house an auto repair garage, the addition has a double-vehicle wood-framed garage bay facing west toward Graham St., filled with a corrugated metal door. Its façade also features a wood pedestrian door with an enclosed transom on the building's north end. A cut through the curb on the sidewalk still exists for use of the garage door. The south side of the garage has two small wood double-hung windows. The building has a flat roof that drains into two downspouts on the south side. The north elevation of this building abuts the Gentry and Shelton Building. The 1949 Sanborn map depicts a doorway cut through the south wall of the Gentry and Shelton Building to provide access to the garage.

Resource No. 10
Gentry Building
118 E. College St.
Central Section, Block 2

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 5

Constructed between 1885 and 1891, this wide two-story native limestone building occupies two lots. The façade's lower floor features six bays, with a recessed door on the west end and a central concave entry on the east half of the building. Four large wood fixed plate-glass windows fill the remaining bays. Above the bays is a narrow band of transom windows, and seven cast-iron pilasters support the second story and roof. The second story has six tall narrow bays filled with six-over-six double-hung windows. A bracketed pressed metal cornice tops the façade. Stephenville's post office occupied the east half of the first floor from the 1880s through the 1920s, and the second floor hosted lodge meetings and community dances.

Resource No. 11
Higginbotham Brothers Lumberyard Building
164 E. College St.
Central Section, Block 2

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 6

Between 1912 and 1921, Stephenville's Higginbotham family constructed this large brick rectangular one-story building as part of their lumberyard that occupied the southern and eastern sides of Block 2. Located at the west end of a row of buildings along the south side of E. College St., this building has a flat roof. The façade features six bays; two doors on the east half of the building and four metal plate-glass windows. A contemporary metal awning tops the bays.

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The roofline features recessed panels in the brick walls. The front, or north elevation, and west elevation are painted with cream-colored paint.

Resource No. 12
Saloon-Billiards Building
193 S. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 3

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 7, Figure 7

This one-story limestone building was constructed as a saloon by 1885. According to local historian Wayne Sherrod, the front of this building originally extended into the public right of way. At some point, the front was cut back to align with the setbacks of the other buildings along the east side of the courthouse square. The 1907 Sanborn Map of Stephenville showed this building and the adjacent building to the north extending into the sidewalk area. The next map, published in 1912, indicated they are aligned with the setbacks of the buildings to the north. This building is at the corner of W. College St. and Graham Ave., and the east end of the south elevation features half of a window arch, reflecting the removal of part of the front of the building. Today the façade reflects renovations made after 1993 that include a brick front with three bays and a fabric awning over a central door. The south elevation features the original native limestone walls and an arched entry on the west end.

Resources Nos. 13 and 14
Thurber Brick Connecting Building and Compton Tin Shop
141 and 151 E. College St.
Central Section, Block 3

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 7

Constructed between 1930 and 1949 of Thurber paving brick, Resource No. 13 is a narrow building connecting the two limestone buildings to the east and west. The 1949 Sanborn map of Stephenville shows an interior door on each side of this small building connecting it to both adjoining existing buildings. During times of financial shortfalls, the City of Stephenville sold its downtown alleyways to raise money. This resulted in the construction of several narrow buildings that extended existing businesses or created new retail or office space.

This brick building is seven feet, nine inches wide with a single off-center door and a flat roof. Photos dated 1976 show it in its original dark brick color, but it has since been painted cream to match the buildings on either side. Today, this building is part of the offices of FWB Attorneys, along with the building to its west that faces the courthouse on Graham St, and the building to its east that faces south.

Constructed between 1902 and 1907 of native rough-quarried limestone, Resource No. 14 is a rectangular-plan building that housed a tin shop through 1930. Its façade, or south elevation, has one entryway on its west end covered by a fabric awning. This building has a flat roof that slopes and drains slightly toward the east. Sometime after 1976, owners covered its rough-quarried limestone exterior walls with cream-colored paint to match the two buildings to its west.

Resource No. 15
Farmers National Bank
181 S. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 3

Contributing
Temple Front
Photo 8, Figures 7 and 8

This limestone building on the east side of the courthouse square was constructed by 1885. Like resource No. 12 to its south, it is shown on the 1907 Sanborn map extending into what is now the sidewalk. By 1912, this building had been cut back to align with the buildings to its north and became home to Farmers National Bank. The bank added its distinctive stone temple front featuring four monumental fluted classical columns with Corinthian capitals that support a large pediment. Behind the columns the façade has three bays on the first floor with a central entry and three bays on

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the second floor. Two fixed-metal sash windows fill each bay. Behind this building, adjoining the east elevation, is a two-story brick-veneered addition and a metal carport.

Resources Nos. 16, 17, and 18

Oxford Building
159, 157A, and 157B S. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 3

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 9, Figure 7

These buildings on the east side of the courthouse square were built circa 1891 as one building with a mezzanine or gallery. The Sanborn maps of Stephenville identify these buildings as one and a-half stories. All three buildings shared a common ornamental cornice, which was removed by 1945. They also featured street-level glass storefronts topped by a common awning and tall transom or clerestory windows. Today, these buildings appear as two separate resources. Owners enclosed the transom windows on each section of the building and added their current non-contributing fronts. The two buildings to the north were given common Spanish Mission details. It is unknown how much of the original façade remains on each building. At the rear, or east elevation, of the southern-most building is a two-story frame addition covered with stucco and a metal carport. At the rear of the center building is a rectangular brick-veneered addition.

Resource No. 19

L.W. Chiles Building
117-119 S. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 3

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 9, Figure 7

Constructed between 1891 and 1896, this one-story building on the east side of the courthouse square is the width of two buildings. The brick façade features two identical storefronts. Each storefront has three bays containing a center entryway flanked by large fixed-metal plate-glass windows. Above each double door is a transom window and above each storefront are three transom windows. Eight cast-iron pilasters support the upper walls and roof and bear the maker's mark "Moore Iron Works, Fort Worth, Texas." The thresholds contain plates identifying the buildings as "L. W. Chiles Drugs," and "L.W. Chiles." The rear wall, or east elevation, is limestone and the roof is flat. Atop the façade are two identical stair-stepped parapets outlined in a brick pattern. During the 1960s, Western Auto occupied this building.

Resource No. 20

Grocery Store Building
107 S. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 3

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photos 9 and 10

This single-story native limestone building was constructed between 1902 and 1907 on the corner of W. Washington St. and S. Graham Ave. For years, it was home to local grocery stores. The façade features three bays, with a central entryway flanked by fixed-metal windows. Above the storefront is a row of transom windows. This building has four rectangular openings at the ground level of the north elevation along E. Washington St., indicating that it may have a rare basement.

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Resource No. 21

General Mercantile Building
148 E. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 3

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 11

Two separate resources combine to create this business space. After the city sold its alleyways, owners constructed a narrow building and combined it with the east end of an existing building to create a home for a new commercial business. The east one-fourth section of the business is a small building constructed between 1930 and 1949 by erecting two concrete block walls—the north and south elevations—to adjoining sidewalls of existing buildings. This created a narrow building with an entrance offset to the east and a flat roof. A wood transom window tops the door.

The larger portion of the business is the west section, which is the rear one-fourth of Resource No. 20, 107 S. Graham St., constructed between 1902 and 1907. This east end of Resource No. 20 was partitioned off between 1930 and 1949 at the same time the small building to the east was constructed. At an unknown date, someone added two entrances and a recessed wooden bay window facing East Washington St. Today, these two resources have been covered in stucco, creating one business front with three doors and a bay window.

Resource No. 22

Tatum and Sons Building
154 E. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 3

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 11

S.B. Watts constructed the first floor of the Tatum and Sons Building of native limestone between 1902 and 1907 to house a grocery store. In 1920, John Wesley Tatum purchased the building and, before 1921, he added a second floor of brick and masonry and opened Tatum and Sons Furniture Store, which remained in business for a few years. The added second story of brick and masonry visually separates the two parts of the Tatum and Sons building. Projecting limestone blocks surround two double shallow arched windows. A stair-stepped parapet tops the second floor and within the middle is the inscription “Tatum and Sons, 1920.” The lower floor features three bays with wood transom windows. At the floor of the center entry, black and white tiles spell out “J.W. Tatum.”

Located along East Washington St. or old Highway 10, the Tatum and Sons Building stood a half-block from the courthouse square, facing a major road into Stephenville from the northeast and towns like Bluff Dale, Tolar, Granbury, and Fort Worth. When Watts first constructed the building in 1907, it was one of two limestone stores standing side-by-side. By 1930, three additional adjoining buildings lined the sidewalk east to South Virginia Ave., creating a solid row of commercial businesses.

By 1930, Tatum and his family had moved to Wichita Falls. His building remained in commercial use through at least 1949, and, in 1940, Moser Grocery and Market occupied the Tatum and Sons Building. Today, the building has been adapted for use as apartments.

Resource No. 23

W.W. Rutherford Building
160 E. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 3

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 12

W.W. Rutherford had this limestone building with a brick front constructed in 1905. The façade features three bays with a central entry flanked by fixed wood windows. Above the bays are three transom windows that are now enclosed with signs. Two cast-iron pilasters support the upper wall and roof. At the top of the front wall is a brick-patterned cornice and a center brick parapet. Within the parapet is the name “W.W. Rutherford” and the date, 1905.

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Resource No. 24

Automobile Repair Garage
140 S. Virginia Ave.
Central Section, Block 3

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

Located at the corner of E. Washington St. and S. Virginia Ave., this large masonry building accommodated a filling station at the corner with two retail stores to the west toward the town square, facing along Washington St. Behind the filling station was an auto repair garage. Constructed between 1921 and 1930, the corner featured a diagonal cut-out entry so cars could enter the filling station. That corner has been enclosed with wall and windows. The façade, or north elevation along E. Washington St., now features several fixed plate glass windows and a central entry. An awning supported by tie rods extends across the façade and wraps around the corner to the east elevation. The north elevation and north end of the east elevation have been covered with a metal slipcover. The remainder of the east elevation is covered with stucco.

Resource No. 25

Brick Commercial Building
144 S. Virginia Ave.
Central Section, Block 3

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

Between 1949 and 1966, this building assumed the footprint it has today. There was a smaller building on this site that was enlarged or replaced by this building. Constructed of hollow clay tile, the façade or east elevation facing S. Virginia Ave. has been completely filled in with variegated brown brick. The south elevation had four windows that have been enclosed with brick. This building has a flat roof that drains to the rear or west.

Resource No. 26

Neblett Building
115 N. Graham
Central Section, Block 4

Non-Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block

This large two-story building was constructed of limestone and brick between 1902 and 1907 on the corner of E. Washington St. and N. Graham Ave. to house Charles Neblett's Dry Goods Store. The original building featured a first-floor storefront with transom windows facing west on S. Graham Ave. that wrapped around the corner to E. Washington St. The corner had the appearance of a tower with parapets atop. The entire building had large windows and was divided visually by vertical brick pilasters. Sometime between 1956 and 1980, Farmers-First National Bank enclosed most of the windows and covered the building's west and south elevations with stucco or concrete panels.

Resource No. 27

Stephenville Motor Co. Service Department Building
160 E. Mason St.
Central Section, Block 4

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

Constructed between 1930 and 1966, this brick building has two large bays to accommodate overhead garage doors on the north elevation along Mason St. and one on its east elevation. The westernmost bay on the north elevation has been filled with brick and a pedestrian door. The east elevation has five window openings that have been filled with brick.

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Resource No. 28

Stephenville Motor Co. Building
155 N. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 4

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

Constructed between 1949 and 1966, this masonry building is on the corner of W. Mason St. and N. Graham Ave. In 2014, owners extensively remodeled it and added two shades of grey stucco to the facade, or west elevation along N. Graham Ave., and to the north elevation along W. Mason St.

Resource No. 29

Grocery Store/Hotel Rooms Building
127 W. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 4

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Blocks

These two limestone and brick buildings were constructed along E. Washington St. as two-part commercial blocks between 1907 and 1912. By 1966, the second floors of these buildings had been removed. These buildings were incorporated into Resource No. 26 as part of a bank facility and their façades along E. Washington St. were covered with stucco or concrete panels and metal slipcovers. Large tinted windows and a recessed entry fill the storefront of the building to the east.

Resource No. 30

Cage and Crow Building and Crow Opera House
183-187 W. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 5

RTHL
Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Romanesque Revival
Photos 13 and 14, Figures 4 and 5

On the northeast corner of W. Washington St. and N. Belknap Ave., this limestone two-story building with a hipped roof was constructed between 1885 and 1891. Its distinctive Romanesque Revival-style design has been attributed to two different architects. The Texas Historical Commission, in its text for the Erath County Courthouse RTHL, attributed the design to J. Riely Gordon, who also designed the courthouse and the First National Bank building on the southwest corner of the town square. Local historian and native son C. Richard King wrote that J.J. Kane and son designed the Cage and Crow Building and Heck and Baker of Fort Worth built it. In 1886, Kane was the first president of the Texas State Association of Architects.

Dr. M. Crow and his partner, J.J. Cage, renovated this building in 1899 to accommodate their new bank, Cage and Crow. Upon the request of Dr. Crow's wife, Mollie, the second floor, identified as a "hall" on the 1891 Sanborn Map, became the Crow Opera House, where entertainers and musicians performed plays and concerts until after 1912.

The facade of this building is 46 feet wide along W. Washington St. The first floor features two storefronts and each has a central double-door entry flanked by two large fixed windows. Above the doors and windows are transom windows. Each storefront has two cast-iron pilasters that support the upper wall and roof. The second floor of the façade features a central arched three-part bay window with two tall narrow arched windows on either side. Atop the façade is a decorative limestone cornice topped by a triangular pediment containing the words "Crow Opera House." A small second-floor decorative turret projects from the corner of the building. Along the 80-foot depth of the west elevation on N. Belknap Ave., the first floor has 10 windows and an arched entry at each end. The second floor features a central arched bay with a row of five tall arched windows on each side.

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Resource No. 31

Theo Bauer Building
171 W. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 5

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photos 13 and 14, Figure 5

Merchant Theo Bauer had this two-story limestone building with a brick front constructed in 1898. Between 1960 and 1976, owners covered the upper wall with a metal slipcover that has since been removed, revealing much of the original façade. The first-floor storefront was remodeled about 1980. The second story features five original tall, narrow arched bays with limestone sills now filled with double-hung metal windows. The original arched eyebrows above the windows have been removed. Atop the wall is a decorative brick cornice containing the date “1898.” A rectangular parapet contains the name “Theo Bauer.”

Resource No. 32

Jake Wilson Building
157 W. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 5

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 14, Figure 5

Merchant Jake Wilson had this two-story limestone building with a brick front constructed in 1898. Between 1960 and 1976, owners covered the upper wall with a metal slipcover that has since been removed, revealing much of the original façade. The first floor of this building has a concave glass entryway featuring large fixed plate-glass windows that were installed about 1960. The second floor is almost identical to the Theo Bauer building to its west, featuring five original tall, narrow arched bays with limestone sills now filled with double-hung metal windows. The original arched eyebrows above the windows have been removed. Atop the wall is a decorative brick cornice containing the date “1898.” A rectangular parapet contains the name “Jake Wilson.”

Resources Nos. 33, 34, and 35

General Mercantile Building
115-145 W. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 5

Contributing
Enframed Window Wall
Photo 14, Figures 5 and 6

This building was originally constructed as three separate brick buildings between 1896 and 1902. Each building featured a stepped or ornamental brick parapet. Between 1949 and 1952, Beall Brothers of Texas combined all three buildings into one mid-twentieth century department store on the north side of the Stephenville courthouse square.

Beall’s removed all three parapets and covered the top half of their wide building with uniform tan brick, incorporating two existing pilasters on the eastern-most original building. A narrow wood awning creates a visual horizontal band separating the upper wall from the lower level. Below the band, Beall’s created an enframed window wall with a concave entry in the center of the two buildings to the west. Large plate-glass windows surrounded a glass double door. The section to the east featured plate-glass windows flush with the sidewalk.

In 1998, current owners converted the department store into a restaurant and bar. They replaced Beall’s glass door with a wood door and added limestone around windows on the bottom half of the façade. They enclosed two large windows east of the entrance with wood, added frosted glass to others, and painted the tan brick red. With these modifications, the building façade retains the integrity and the appearance of a mid-twentieth century department store.

Today, all three back walls are red brick and the building has a flat roof that drains to the rear. Current owner Carol Gibson said she and her employees discovered an underground room under the western-most building with a tunnel leading east toward Graham St. that is now collapsed. They believe that it is the remains of a speakeasy and tunnel that

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operated during prohibition in Erath County, but local historian Wayne Sherrod said that the building was home to Schnabel Bakery, and Mr. Schnabel did all of his baking in the basement.

Resource No. 36
Harness and Farm Implement Store
105 W. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 5

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

This building, located on the northwest corner of W. Washington St. and N. Graham Ave., was originally constructed of limestone walls and a brick façade between 1896 and 1902. After 1960, owners covered the façade, or south elevation along W. Washington St., with stucco or concrete panels and new brick. They also covered the east elevation along N. Graham Ave. with stucco or limestone panels and the rear or north elevation with stucco. The east elevation features its original stair-stepped parapet atop the wall.

Resource No. 37
Stephenville Empire Building
154 N. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 5

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

The Stephenville Empire had this one-story building constructed of quarried limestone between 1885 and 1891. A subsequent owner altered the front, covering it with a cut-limestone veneer. Between 1949 and 1966, someone added onto the rear or west elevation of this building using hollow clay tile. This building is separated from the building to its south by a narrow alleyway.

Resource No. 38
Steam Laundry Building
164 N. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 5

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

Constructed between 1896 and 1902, steam laundry building did not originally adjoin the one to the south, but a narrow connecting wall has been built between them. This building is constructed of native quarried limestone with a flat roof. The façade, or east elevation, has been covered with brown stone.

Resource No. 39
Feed Store Building
188 N. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 5

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

This building on the corner of W. Mason St. and N. Graham Ave. was constructed of limestone walls and a brick front between 1912 and 1921. Its façade, or east elevation along Graham Ave., and its north elevation along Mason St. were recently covered with cut limestone applied in a random pattern. The rear wall, or west elevation, has six window openings that have been enclosed with limestone. This building has a flat roof that drains to the rear.

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Resource No. 40

**Auto Repair Garage
199 N. Belknap Ave.
Central Section, Block 5**

**Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 15**

Built of brick between 1912 and 1921 on the southeast corner of W. Mason St. and N. Belknap Ave., this building has a stucco-covered façade. It features two storefronts facing west, each with a large bay of fixed metal windows and a glass door. Owners added connecting metal shed awnings across the tops of both bays. It was first built as an auto repair shop with a concrete floor on the north side and a restaurant and meat market on the south side. The north side of the building along Mason St. has a parapet that steps down to the rear or east elevation. The building has a flat roof that drains to the rear.

By 1930, owners cut a concave bay in the building at the corner of Mason and Belknap and created a filling station and garage with iron columns and a capacity of 40 cars. They also added gas-stove heat and electric lights to the building. By 1949, this building became two retail shops and the filling-station bay was filled in to create two slightly concave bays leading to the corner. Today, the walls meet at the corner at a 90-degree angle flush with the sidewalks.

In 1940, this building was home to Rivers Gift Shop, and, in March 1963, it was “modernized” to accommodate a Montgomery Ward catalog store, which is probably when it acquired its current façade appearance. The Virgil Gunn Construction company gave the store a “modern front, display windows, new lighting system, heat control and all other modern facilities,” according to the *Stephenville Empire Tribune*.

This corner building anchors a row of adjoining buildings extending south along the east side of N. Belknap St. Together, they convey the historic integrity of businesses constructed during the first six decades of the twentieth century.

Resource No. 41

**Carriage Sales Building
199 N. Belknap Ave.
Central Section, Block 5**

**Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 15**

This large building was constructed between 1902 and 1907 as one carriage sales building with limestone walls and a brick front. By 1921, it housed two different businesses, and the building now has the appearance of two storefronts side-by-side. By 1930, the south half of this building became an early movie theater and by 1940, it was known as the Palace Theater. Today, each storefront has four bays, with one entry on the north side storefront and two on the south. The bays on the north half of the building are filled with larger plate-glass windows that extend almost to ground level. Above both storefronts is a common metal awning. The brick on the façade, or west elevation, has been painted white, and atop the building’s upper wall is a stair-stepped parapet.

Resource No. 42

**Office/Store Building
147 N. Belknap Ave.
Central Section, Block 5**

**Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 16**

Built between 1912 and 1921, this building features a painted brick and stucco façade with a cast-iron storefront. Narrow openings filled with original Art Deco glass blocks flank both sides of the central entry, and the old cast-iron pilasters bear the marks “Mosher Manufacturing Co., Dallas.” The rear wall is rough-quarried limestone and the building has a flat roof that drains to the rear. This building is an example of the narrow buildings constructed in Stephenville as the city sold its alleyways.

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Sometime after 1976, owners extended this building's concave storefront toward the west so it is flush with the sidewalk and replaced a metal awning with a metal-framed fabric awning. Fixed metal windows now frame both sides of the center glass-and-metal door. Above the entry is a rectangular area filled with stucco, which gives the appearance that the glass entry area of this building was once taller and perhaps had transom windows.

The 1921 Sanborn map identifies this building as an office just off the courthouse square, located along a row of buildings lining the east side of North Belknap Ave., an entry to the courthouse square from the north. A retail store occupied this building in 1930, located between the Western Union office to the south and a movie theater to the north. In 1940, Hub Beauty shop operated in this building.

Resource No. 43
First National Bank Building
198 S. Belknap Ave.
Central Section, Block 7

RTHL, National Register
Contributing
Temple Front
Photos 17 and 18, Figure 11

This two-story building, prominently located on the corner of E. College St. and S. Belknap Ave., was constructed by the city's first sustained bank in 1889. J. Riely Gordon, who later designed the Erath County Courthouse, designed this building in a Romanesque Revival style with a distinctive corner entry. Romanesque features include its rough stone exterior walls, rough stone arched entry, arched storefront along S. Belknap Ave. filled with windows and cast-iron pilasters, and finials at the roof. In 1897, a fire damaged this building, and when the bank repaired it, they added a Neoclassical corner entrance portico with a Queen Anne-style turret above it. The portico features two pairs of blue marble columns supporting an entablature that bears the inscription "First National Bank" and a pediment above. In 1921, Farmers National Bank of Stephenville absorbed First National Bank. A new owner recently rehabilitated this significant bank building and individually listed it in the National Register.

Resources Nos. 44 and 45
Drug Store and Dry Goods Store Building
166-160 S. Belknap Ave.
Central Section, Block 7

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Blocks
Photo 18 and Figure 9

Built between 1891 and 1896, these two masonry buildings on the west side of the courthouse square have been combined into one office. Sometime after 1993, they were covered in limestone veneer and stucco or concrete panels that obscured their original architectural details.

Resource No. 46
Grocery Store Building
150 S. Belknap Ave.
Central Section, Block 7

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 18 and Figure 9

This limestone and brick building was constructed on the west side of the courthouse square between 1896 and 1902. In old photographs from 1908 to 1930, it was part of R.E. Cox Dry Goods Store and shared a common ornate brick cornice and parapet with Resources Nos. 44 and 45 to the south. Sometime between 1930 and 1949, this building was extended to the west, or from its rear wall. Today it features a plate glass storefront and an upper wall of tan brick, a much lighter shade than appears on this building in historic photos, with no cornice or parapet.

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Resources Nos. 47, 48, and 49

General Mercantile Buildings

116-140 S. Belknap Ave.

Central Section, Block 7

Non-Contributing

One- and Two-Part Commercial Blocks

Photo 18 and Figure 9

These three mercantile buildings on the west side of the courthouse square were constructed between 1885 and 1902. The building to the south, Resource No. 47, was built of limestone between 1896 and 1902 as a two-story building with a brick front. The façade featured a storefront on the first floor and four tall narrow windows with limestone sills on the second floor. The façade was topped with a decorative brick cornice and parapet topped by a triangular pediment. The two buildings to its north, Resources Nos. 48 and 49, were built of limestone between 1885 and 1891 as one-part commercial blocks. They featured identical storefronts and a common ornate pressed-metal cornice and parapet.

In 1963, M.A. Burgess opened a Ben Franklin Store in the two one-story buildings (Resources Nos. 48 and 49). By then, most of their decorative cornices and parapets had been removed. Burgess combined the two buildings and covered the upper walls with a flat surface that resembled stucco. Sometime between 1976 and 1993, the two-story building to the south was incorporated into the Ben Franklin Store and the upper walls of all three buildings were covered with vertical wood planks that reach to the flat roof of the two-story building. Today, the storefront features one central concave entry with two large bays on each side. The bays are filled with plate-glass windows separated by wood pilasters that were built to look like a cast-iron storefront. The glass bays and entry are surrounded by narrow strips of limestone wall space.

Resource No. 50

Schnabel Building

200 S. Belknap Ave.

Central Section, Block 7

**Texas Historic Subject Marker
Contributing**

Two-Part Commercial Block

Photos 18 and 19, Figure 9

F.A. Schnabel had this two-story brick building constructed in 1897 to 1899 for a total cost of \$6,000. Schnabel personally hauled the brick for this building to Stephenville from the Thurber manufacturing plant. In October 1899, the *Erath Appeal* wrote, "F.A. Schnabel's new building is being built as rapidly as a large force of workmen can raise the walls. It will be one of Stephenville's most beautiful business houses and will add a great deal to the appearance of the town."

Located on the southwest corner of the intersection of W. Washington St. and S. Belknap Ave., this building originally featured a decorative brick parapet that wrapped around the northeast corner of the building, creating the appearance of a corner tower. This parapet has been removed. The Schnabel building features a lower storefront along S. Belknap Ave. and an upper wall with four narrow arched windows. The building retains its decorative cornice of alternating brick, and its arched window eyebrows, but the windows have been filled with stucco material. Below the windows is a band of limestone visually separating the two parts of the building. Below the band, some of the original storefront has been filled with stucco and contemporary brick, but it retains its original corner entry. The north elevation of the building along W. Washington St. has a narrow band of contemporary brick veneer along the sidewalk and a band of brick that has been painted. Within the painted band, three porthole windows have been added. There is an original arched entry at the west end of the north elevation. The second floor of the north elevation features a row of 13 arched windows with their original eyebrows. The windows have been enclosed with stucco material.

This building housed drugstores from 1899 until 1994, and the Texas Historical Commission in 2009 approved a subject marker about the history of Stephenville Drugstores that stands at this site. A Rexall Drugstore sign from the 1960s still hangs from the corner of the building.

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Resource No. 51

Shoe Shop Building
252-270 W. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 7

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

This resource is actually three small adjoining one-story shops constructed of brick between 1930 and 1949 along W. Washington St. Originally, these buildings did not adjoin the buildings to their west or east. In 2005, the City of Stephenville incorporated these buildings into their city hall to serve as the city council chambers. During this remodeling, the buildings were covered with stucco and veneer panels, obscuring their original materials and architectural features.

Resource No. 52

Stephenville State Bank Building
298 W. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 7

Non-Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block

Stephenville State Bank built their headquarters in 1953 as a post-war modern building on the corner of W. Washington St. and S. Columbia Ave. It featured stone walls and a second-story narrow ribbon of continuous windows on the west half and architectural veneer panels on the east half. One large post on the west end supported a wide and deep awning that covered an off-center entry. In 2005, the City of Stephenville adapted this building for use as its offices. The city covered the building with stucco and veneer panels, obscuring many of its original architectural details, including covering some of the ribbon of windows.

Resource No. 53

General Mercantile Building
257 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 7

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 20

This brick building was constructed along W. College St. between 1930 and 1949. The façade, or south elevation, features tan bricks and two large bays. The west elevation and rear, or north elevation, are built of Thurber paving bricks. Some of the bricks on the west elevation have been painted.

Resource No. 54

General Mercantile Building
231 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 7

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

This small masonry building was constructed between 1930 and 1949. Its two small rectangular windows along the roofline are original. Since the inventory of Stephenville's historic resources was completed in 2015, this building has been covered with vertical wood planks and a metal awning has been added.

Resource No. 55

Lawyers Building
200 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 8

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 21, Figure 10

Lawyer Lee Young and his partners had this two-story limestone building constructed between 1891 and 1896. Located on the southwestern corner of W. College St. and S. Belknap Ave., their headquarters featured retail space on the first floor and six offices on the second. According to local historian Wayne Sherrod, each one of the offices had its own full

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fireplace, a sign of Young's affluence. Old photos show six chimneys along the roofline of the east elevation of the building, which have since been removed.

The appearance of the original storefront remains intact, featuring a recessed corner entry with sidelights and two large bays on either side of the entry. Each bay contains two large wood windows. Above the entry is a continuous band of wood transom windows. Three cast-iron pilasters and one cast-iron column support the upper wall and roof. The upper wall of the façade, which faces W. College St., features four tall and narrow arched windows and is topped by a limestone parapet. The west elevation has 12 tall and narrow arched windows on the second floor and six small square windows on the first floor. The south end of the west elevation has two arched entryways.

Resource No. 56
J.H. Hatchett Building
216 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 8

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photos 21 and 22

This one-story limestone building with a brick front features its date of construction, 1898, within its brick parapet. Sometime before 1993, someone filled this building's storefront with limestone and added a fixed shed-roofed awning made of wood. Above the awning is a band of stucco, which is probably not original. Above the stucco, the original upper wall, from a patterned brick band to a limestone cap and parapet, is intact.

Resource No. 57
Printing Shop and Bakery Building
230 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 8

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 2

This two-story limestone building with a stucco-covered brick front was constructed between 1896 and 1902. It housed a retail store on the ground level and a printing shop on the second floor. The original storefront is mostly intact, featuring a recessed central entry flanked by two bays. The east bay is filled with a wood window, while the west bay has been modified to include a second recessed entry door. Along the sidewalk is a narrow band of new brick under the window and between the doors. Two cast-iron pilasters within the storefront support the upper wall. The stucco on the façade has been there since at least 1976. Above the door and entries are three large transom windows, where wood-framed stained glass has replaced clear glass. The upper wall features two arched windows filled with wood shutters and topped with pronounced stucco-covered eyebrows. Above the windows is the original centered parapet.

Resource No. 58
Photography Studio
240 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 8

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 23

This one-story limestone building was constructed as a photography studio in 1902 and remained a photography studio until 2015. From the 1920s through the middle of the twentieth century, it was home to Baxley Studio, and then from 1956 to 2015, it was home to Miller Studio. From 1902 until 1924, this building had two storefronts. According to the February 1924 *Stephenville Tribune*, Baxley expanded his studio to incorporate the smaller store and created a "larger and more inviting entrance." His \$3,500 improvement project for the building also included enlarging and updating the interior photography studio.

The storefront now features a recessed concave entryway with a center door topped with a transom. Two wide bays of aluminum plate-glass windows surround the doorway. Below the unusually short windows are brick walls. Two ornate cast-iron columns support a shallow wood awning and upper wall. One column bears a plate marked "Gainesville Iron

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Works,” and “1902.” The upper wall is covered in stucco, which has been there since at least 1976. This building has a flat roof that drains to the rear.

Resource No. 59
Insurance Office Building
250 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 8

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 23

A one-story limestone building first appears in this location on the 1907 Sanborn Map. From 1907 through 1949, the limestone building extended more deeply toward the back of the lot than the current building, which has a tan brick exterior. In 1949, the limestone building on this lot is identified as a feed mill. Sometime after 1966, the building on this lot assumed half the depth shown on Sanborn Maps and an aerial photo taken that year. The current occupant, Letha Stegall, said that a fire occurred in the building sometime during the middle of the twentieth century. Blackened limestone walls exist on the south end of the west elevation of the adjoining building to the east. Today, this one-story building has tan brick on its north, west, and south elevations. It is unknown if it was constructed after 1966, or if it is the front half of the 1907 building with an added brick veneer.

Resource No. 60
Altaras Medical Clinic
270 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 8

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 24

Constructed of brick between 1949 and 1956, this one-story building is an example of post-war modern architecture. It features a low horizontal appearance with simple, straight lines. A recessed entry supported by three simple posts includes an upper wall ribbon of narrow metal casement windows. The façade of this building faces north along W. College St., but the entry door faces east. West of the entry is a three-part bay window filled with metal glass windows divided into eight panes on each window. This building has a flat roof that drains to the rear. An alleyway separates it from the row of buildings along W. College St. to the east.

Resource No. 61
Community Credit Corporation/Land Bank Building
299 S. Columbia Ave.
Central Section, Block 8

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 25

This one-story rectangular building on the corner of W. McNeil St. and S. Columbia Ave. was constructed in 1950 of hollow-clay tile with post-war modern characteristics. Its north, west, and south elevations are covered with rectangular white blocks that convey the appearance of limestone. A limestone cap tops the walls. The façade, or west elevation along S. Columbia Ave, features a slightly off-center metal entry door with a large fixed metal window on its south side. An off-center metal hipped-roof awning supported by wood posts has been added to the north half of the front of the building. There is a narrow, rectangular fixed-metal tinted window positioned horizontally on the south half of the façade. The north elevation features a band of four of these windows interrupted by wall space and entryways on the west and east ends. The south elevation has two of these rectangular windows and two smaller square windows.

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Resource No. 62

Dental Clinic Building
290 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 8

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 24

This post-war modern influenced building adjoins the west wall of the Altaras Medical Clinic building. It was constructed on the corner of W. College St. and S. Columbia Ave. between 1949 and 1966. With brick walls painted cream, it features an angled recessed entryway at the northwest corner of the building. The façade, or north elevation along W. College St., features narrow rectangular fixed metal windows positioned horizontally and a wood awning supported by a group of three metal posts. Four of the same narrow rectangular windows appear in an interrupted band along the west elevation, where there is a single door at the south end.

Resource No. 63

Rock Barn Livery Stable Building
272 S. Belknap Ave.
Central Section, Block 8

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photos 26 and 27

Faulkner and Faulkner constructed this large square building on the corner of W. McNeil St. and S. Belknap Ave. as a livery stable in 1899. Built of rough-hewn limestone, it replaced their livery stable destroyed by fire in August of that year. Their stable reopened in November and the *Erath Appeal* called it “one of the finest buildings in this city.” According to Wayne Sherrod, a long narrow room along the south side of the building was a stable for horses and the main section of the building housed buggies and wagons. By 1921, this building became an auto repair garage. New business owner Grundy Fenner replaced the wood floors with a concrete floor and covered the limestone walls with stucco. Fenner and his staff provided rides for patrons to and from the railroad depot and the college and rented cars to customers. During the 1930s to 1940s, Wayne Barham ran a produce company and small hatchery from this building. Barham added the doors and windows that exist today.

The façade, or east elevation, of this building along S. Belknap Ave., features two entries under arched bays, four arched bays filled with fixed-metal windows, and one large rectangular bay supported by a wood lintel and filled with fixed metal windows. Atop the façade is one large straight parapet with a curved side facing south. The south elevation along W. McNeil St. has four arched windows, an arched entryway and two small rectangular windows at the roofline. The curved parapet, stucco walls and arched bays convey a Mission Revival appearance to this building, which reflects the continuum of history from its use as a livery stable to auto garage to produce company.

Resource No. 64

General Commercial Building
211 W. McNeil St.
Central Section, Block 8

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 26

This one-story building was constructed of hollow-clay tile with a brick front between 1930 and 1949. The west elevation, located along an alleyway, is covered with stucco. The façade, which faces south along W. McNeil St., features a center entryway flanked by two large bays filled with fixed metal windows. Above the entryway is a metal awning supported by metal tie rods. Atop the façade is a continuous straight parapet that wraps around the southwest corner with a straight edge. The east elevation of this building adjoins the old livery stable building, Resource No. 63, on the corner of W. McNeil St. and S. Belknap Ave. When owners rehabilitated his building in 2014 to 2015, they painted the buff-colored brick on the façade a deep red and added a white metal railing to the sidewalk in front.

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Resource No. 65

Hardware Warehouse/Auto Repair Garage
254 S. Belknap Ave.
Central Section, Block 8

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 28

A building first appeared on this lot on the Sanborn Map of 1907 as an iron-clad wooden building used as a hardware store that remained on two subsequent maps dated 1912 and 1921. The 1930 Sanborn Map indicated an auto repair facility on this lot that had walls of poured concrete, concrete masonry units, and stone. It is unknown if this 1930 building was new construction or an adaptation of the previous building. This building adjoins the Lawyers Building to the north (Resource No. 55) and the old livery stable to the south (Resource No. 63). The façade, which faces east along S. Belknap Ave., is now covered with stucco. It features a concave central entryway with an off-centered door facing north. The remainder of the entryway is filled with wall space rather than glass. Two bays filled with fixed metal windows flank the entryway. Above the storefront is a new metal shed-roof awning.

Resource No. 88

Filling Station Building
240 E. Washington St.
Eastern Section, Block 15

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

A concrete block filling station was built here along E. Washington St. between 1930 and 1949. Between 1966 and 1987, it was enclosed inside a brick office building. According to the Erath County Appraisal District, the building was enlarged in 1982 and again in 1987. It now has a hipped roof and fixed metal windows, with a separate storage building in the rear.

Resource No. 89

Bus Station and Restaurant Building
223 E. College St.
Eastern Section, Block 15

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Streamline Moderne
Photo 29

This rectangular Streamline Moderne bus station was constructed of brick next to the Long Hotel between 1930 and 1949. Its rounded corners on the south elevation along W. College Street feature large wraparound bays of fixed glass block windows that provide a streamlined effect. There is a rounded cantilevered wood and metal awning projecting from the east elevation. A similar awning once existed on the west elevation. These awnings provided for unloading and loading of passengers on both sides of the building, but the awning on the west elevation was recently removed and replaced with a wooden portico to provide for outdoor dining. There are two doors on the west elevation, one door on the east elevation, and one on the south. The east and west elevations also have two bays filled with metal casement windows. The bus station has a flat roof and its exterior yellow-colored brick has been painted grey. A steel addition with a shed roof and elevated concrete loading dock were added to the north elevation, or rear of the building, between 1966 and 1987.

Resource No. 90

Long Hotel
221 East College St.
Eastern Section, Block 15

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Art Deco
Photo 30, Figure 16

Fort Worth architect Wyatt Hedrick designed this Art Deco-style hotel for Charles Long in 1938. Hedrick's original drawings for the Long Hotel are archived as Project No. 2577 at the Alexander Architectural Archive at the University

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of Texas Libraries in Austin. Built in 1938 to 1939 of fireproof construction, the Long Hotel features a three-story concrete frame with brick-faced curtain walls and hollow-clay tile partitions. The exterior walls are faced with cream-colored brick. Art Deco details include its horizontal linear composition and limestone horizontal line separating the building's lower floors from the rooms above. Vertical limestone parapet ornamentation and a cantilevered rounded metal canopy over the entry exhibit Art Deco influence. The Long Hotel has a flat roof that drains to the rear, and the current owner, Erath County, installed a rubber roof in 2006.

The façade, or south elevation of the hotel along W. College St., features a central entryway topped with a rounded canopy. The sidelights and transom around the door are enclosed with wood. Four bays flank each side of the entry and are now enclosed with wood, although first-floor windows on the west elevation are filled with double-hung wood windows. Nine bays on the second floor of the south elevation are filled with metal windows that feature a vertical fixed pane alongside a double-hung window. Nine bays on the third floor of the south elevation are either open to the elements or boarded up.

Built at a cost of \$35,000 and \$999 for the lot, the Long Hotel offered air conditioning, a first-floor grand lobby with terrazzo tile, a dining room, and kitchen. In 1948, 40 guest rooms accommodated visitors who paid \$2.25 and up per night to stay at the Long Hotel. The Art Deco hotel most likely replaced the two-story Long Hotel built in the late nineteenth century one block west of the courthouse square. The earlier hotel is no longer standing.

Located on Block 15, one block southeast of the Erath County Courthouse Square, the Long Hotel is next door to a bus station built between 1930 and 1949. Over the years, various cafes and restaurants served customers from the first floor of the hotel, and during the 1970s, a dinner club offered dining followed by dancing on the third floor. The hotel has been vacant since the late 1970s and is deteriorating from neglect. Before the hotel was built, Block 15 was Stephenville's "public square," where citizens gathered for decades at a "jockey yard" for trades days and entertainment.

Resource No. 91
Triangle Produce Restaurant Building
129 E. Washington St.
Eastern Section, Block 16

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Art Deco
Photo 32

This unusual Art Deco parallelogram-shaped building was constructed between 1930 and 1949 of stone and brick with a stucco veneer. It was constructed as a store and restaurant as part of Triangle Produce's cheese factory, which was located on the same block, one lot to the north. A filling station once stood south of this building, between it and E. Washington St., and its footprint is still visible. The façade, or west elevation, of this building faces N. Virginia Ave, and has three entryways separated visually by ornamental vertical pilaster-style features. Two of the entryways have two nearby wood-framed bays filled with fixed metal windows and transoms above the doors and windows. A three-part horizontal band runs across the upper façade. The building's angular composition and vertical features create a vernacular Art Deco appearance.

Resource No. 92
Martin Brothers Supply Company Building
265 E. Washington St.
Eastern Section, Block 16

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 31

Built of Thurber brick between 1930 and 1949, this large building was originally a garage with a capacity of 30 cars. It has a concrete floor and is supported by iron posts and pilasters in the walls. The façade, or south elevation along E. Washington St., features a large open portico supported by four brick columns. Three gasoline tanks were once located

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beneath the portico. Four large garage bays interrupt the facade, three of which have been filled with glass windows, metal, and doors. There is a center pedestrian door surrounded by two plate glass windows and each end of the building has a square bay with a stone sill containing a metal casement window. Sometime between 1949 and 1966, a shallow brick shed-roof addition was built along the rear or south elevation of the building.

Resource No. 93

Stephenville Water Works Pump House
351 N. Virginia Ave.
Eastern Section, Block 17

Contributing
Industrial Building
Photo 33

Between 1907 and 1912, this limestone building was constructed on the corner of E. Green St. and N. Virginia Ave. as a water works pump house for Stephenville. The city's first water system, constructed in 1898, was part of A.C. Baldwin's large industrial facility that occupied Block 17. It contained a cotton gin, a gristmill, the Stephenville Light Co., and a water works system for the city. In July 1912, the city assumed control of the water works system, and this pump house building appeared for the first time on the November 1912 Sanborn Map, so it could have been constructed by the city after it assumed control of the waterworks. That year, the system included two wells and an 80,000-gallon concrete reservoir for a community that consumed 40,000 to 60,000 gallons of water daily. By 1930, the city had relocated its waterworks and this building became part of a feed mill. By 1949, a large gabled roof covered it and a small ancillary office building constructed of Thurber brick to its south. Between the two buildings is an open area covered by the roof. The roof also covered two buildings constructed of Thurber brick behind the pump house.

Today, the roof is covered with sheets of corrugated metal. The façade, or west elevation, of the pump house features two doors and the faded remains of an advertising mural for Evergreen products. The north elevation has two doors and two window bays along the sidewalk that have been enclosed with stone. According to local historian Wayne Sherrod, the wood used to construct the pump house came from the old Blakney homestead that was once located along E. Washington St.

Resource No. 94

Brick Feed Mill Building
240 E. Green St.
Eastern Section, Block 17

Contributing
Industrial Building
Photo 33

This building was constructed of Thurber bricks between 1930 and 1949 as part of the A.L. Ward Gin. Block 17, where this building is located, was the home of local industry—cotton gins and grain mills—since N.C. Baldwin built his cotton gin there between 1885 and 1891. By 1898, Baldwin built a private water works for Stephenville at this location with two deep wells of 300 feet and two concrete reservoirs. By 1902, he also opened an electric company on Block 17. In July 1912, the city purchased the water system, making Block 17 the home of public services for several years.

By 1921, the Baldwin Gin Co. changed ownership and became A.L. Ward Gin Company. The city water works moved to a new location by 1930. This brick building is built on or adjacent to a deep-water well and pump jack that appeared on Sanborn Maps in 1912 and 1921. In 1949, the Sanborn Map identifies this building as part of a feed mill.

The north elevation of this feed mill building along Green St. features two bays, which are now open, supported by limestone lintels. The west wall extends toward the south, with three small window openings. The south wall extends parallel with just the east half of the north wall, and has one large open bay. There is a west elevation wall that extends from south to north, intersecting halfway along the north wall. This creates an empty space behind the west end of the north wall. The west elevation wall rises to a rounded peak at the top, and there is no existing roof over the building.

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Resource No. 95

Machine Shop/Welding Building
241 E. Mason St.
Eastern Section, Block 17

Contributing
Industrial Building
Photo 34

Owners constructed this building of hollow-clay tile with a concrete floor between 1930 and 1949 to accommodate a machine and welding shop in an industrial area. Its façade, or south elevation, along E. Mason St., originally featured eight bays, but two of the door openings have been enclosed, leaving one off-center entryway. Three of the five tall narrow window bays contain fixed wood windows covered with steel security bars and two are covered with metal and security bars. Most of the exterior tile walls are painted white, and this industrial building has a low-pitched, side-gabled roof covered with metal.

Resource No. 96

Commercial Building
227-239 E. Mason St.
Eastern Section, Block 17

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 34

Built between 1930 and 1949, this one-part commercial block building features walls of rusticated brick painted white and six bays, which have been enclosed. A metal cornice tops the façade. The bays retain their original form of two storefronts side-by-side. Each storefront features a center doorway flanked by large rectangular window openings.

The 1949 Sanborn Map identifies this building as a store, located between a milk depot to the west and a welding and machine shop to the east, in an agricultural industrial area two blocks northeast of the courthouse square. Sometime between 1949 and 1966, the rear or north wall of this building was extended to the north to make the building the same depth as the buildings to its east and west. Its low-pitched, side-gabled roof matches the roofs of the adjoining buildings. During the 1960s, this building was home to the U.S. Post Office in Stephenville while a new facility was being built. It was then home to Ratliff Furniture store.

Resource No. 97

Milk Depot Building
227-239 E. Mason St.
Eastern Section, Block 17

Non-Contributing
Industrial Building

This building was constructed on the corner of E. Mason St. and N. Virginia Ave. of hollow-clay tile as a milk depot between 1930 and 1949. Its façade, or south elevation along E. Mason St., and part of its west elevation along N. Virginia Ave, have been covered with stucco and brown brick. Contemporary windows and a door have been installed, covered by a wood shed-roof awning. These alterations obscure its integrity as an agricultural industrial building of the mid-twentieth century. This building has a low-pitched gable roof covered in metal.

Resource No. 98

Telephone Exchange Building
211 N. Belknap Ave.
Northern Section, Block 19

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 35, Figure 19

Built of brick between 1902 and 1907, this two-story building is located on the northeast corner of W. Mason St. and N. Belknap Ave. From 1907 through 1921, the local telephone exchange occupied the second floor of this building. The first floor was an office for Wells Fargo Express in 1912 and an auto repair facility in 1921. It was apparently not used as a retail store until 1930.

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The façade, or west elevation along N. Belknap Ave., does not have a typical early-twentieth century storefront appearance. In an undated old photo of women on horseback in front of this building, the storefront is obscured under a curved metal awning. Today, it features a central entrance with sidelights topped by a fanlight. On either side of the entryway are two especially narrow tall window openings filled with double-hung metal windows. Four cast-iron pilasters support the upper wall. The second floor retains its historic appearance and features four tall, narrow bays with double-hung metal windows. Above an ornamental horizontal line in the brick is a parapet with a raised center and corners. This building has a flat roof that drains to the rear.

Today, this building houses offices on the first floor and an apartment on the second. A metal balcony and balustrade has recently been added to the second floor of the façade and south elevation. At the rear southeast corner of the building, there is a metal stairway that leads to the balcony. Five metal poles across the façade and around the corner support the balcony.

Resource No. 99
General Mercantile Building
221 N. Belknap Ave.
Northern Section, Block 19

Noncontributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 36

This one-story mercantile building was constructed between 1949 and 1966. Its façade, or west elevation along N. Belknap Ave., is built of brick and its rear wall, or east elevation, is built of hollow-clay tile. It shares common walls with the two buildings on either side of it in this row of commercial buildings along the east side of N. Belknap Ave., two blocks north of the courthouse square. The façade features two storefronts side-by-side. The two entryways are in the center of the façade. On either side of them is a large bay filled with fixed metal plate-glass windows. The entryway to the south is recessed, while the one to the north is flush with the sidewalk. Above the storefront is a large metal shed-roof awning spanning both storefronts. The awning obscures the upper façade, making this building non-contributing to the historic district.

Resource No. 100
General Mercantile Building
241 N. Belknap Ave.
Northern Section, Block 19

Noncontributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 36

Built of concrete block between 1930 and 1949, this mercantile building, labeled as a store on the 1949 Sanborn map, has two bays facing west. The façade and rear wall are covered in stucco and owners added a metal shed awning over the bays. The awning obscures the upper façade, making this building non-contributing to the historic district. The metal entry door is on the south end of the façade, and to its north are four large fixed metal windows.

This building is located along a row of businesses two blocks north of the courthouse square on the east side of Belknap Ave., an entry to the courthouse square from the north. These buildings date from the first decade of the 20th century through the mid-1960s.

Resource No. 101
General Mercantile Building
245 N. Belknap Ave.
Northern Section, Block 19

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 36

Built between 1930 and 1949, this building features concrete block walls faced with a light ochre brick on the façade, or west elevation. Six bays on the front of the building face west, with a continuous fabric awning spanning across the top of the bays. The building retains its original configuration of two storefronts, with two glass and metal doors,

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surrounded by two bays filled with two metal fixed windows. The building has a flat roof that drains to the rear. In 1949, this building housed a printing shop in the store to the south and a mercantile store in the space to the north.

Resource No. 102
Furniture Store Building
299 N. Belknap Ave.
Northern Section, Block 19

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 36

Located on the southeast corner of W. Green St. and N. Belknap Ave., this large one-story building anchors the row of commercial buildings along the east side of N. Belknap Ave. between W. Mason St. and W. Green St. It was constructed of hollow-clay tile with steel posts and a concrete floor between 1930 and 1949. The tile is faced with tan brick on all four visible elevations. The façade, or west elevation, features a three-bay storefront. The south and north bays have a door and a fixed-metal plate-glass window. The center bay has a large fixed-metal plate-glass window. The storefront wraps around the corner along W. Green St., where there is a single bay with two fixed metal plate-glass windows. Atop the storefront is a black fabric awning that also wraps around the corner. The upper wall features a decorative rectangular panel in the brick above each bay. This store was built to house a retail furniture business and is occupied by a furniture store today.

Resource No. 103
Wholesale Tire Store Building
234 N. Belknap Ave.
Northern Section, Block 20

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 37

This large two-story building was constructed along the west side of N. Belknap Ave. between 1930 and 1949. It is built of hollow-clay tile faced with red brick. The façade, or east elevation along N. Belknap Ave., features a three-bay storefront along the sidewalk with a central entryway. A transom tops the metal glass door. To the south of the door is one large bay filled with three fixed-metal plate-glass windows. To the north of the door are two bays filled with fixed metal plate-glass windows. Above the storefront is a shed-roofed metal awning. Three square bays punctuate the second floor above the awning, each filled with two wood double-hung windows. The upper wall features four pilasters and extends up to a stair-stepped parapet.

On the south elevation, abutting the sidewalk next to the wholesale tire store building, is a small single-story adjoining ancillary building with stucco walls and a hipped roof. Behind it, along the south elevation, are two metal carports.

Resource No. 104
General Mercantile Building
260-270 N. Belknap Ave.
Northern Section, Block 20

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

This one-story building was constructed of concrete masonry units between 1930 and 1949 to accommodate two retail stores. It adjoins the wholesale tire store building, which is to its south. The façade features two storefronts side-by-side, but it has been altered to house two offices. By 1992, the front was covered with variegated tan brick. Today, it has a flat metal awning supported by suspension rods and a wide wood cornice. The north elevation is covered with stucco. Before 1966, a metal carport was added to the west, or rear, elevation.

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Resource No. 105

General Mercantile Building
240 W. Green St.
Northern Section, Block 20

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

Built of brick between 1930 and 1949, this one-story building features a concrete or limestone front. It originally housed two retail stores. The façade, or north elevation along W. Green St., currently features four bays, with an entryway in the westernmost bay. The two center bays extend all the way to the sidewalk and appear to have been garage bays at one time, but are now filled. The bay on the east end of the façade is filled with two narrow fixed-metal windows. The upper wall of the façade features a horizontal band or panel above the storefront and is topped by a full-width straight parapet.

Resource No. 106

Office Building
280 N. Columbia Ave.
Northern Section, Block 20

Contributing
Office Building
Streamline Moderne
Photo 38

Built between 1930 and 1949 of brick, this one-story, ell-shaped Streamline Moderne-style office building features four rounded corners with glass block windows and a hipped roof with composition shingles. Located on the southeast corner of W. Green St. and N. Columbia Ave., this building has two visible entryways, with the primary façade and entrance on the west elevation along N. Columbia Ave. The entry, which faces south, is under the main roof within a small porch supported by one wood post. In addition to the glass block windows, the façade also features two bays filled with metal casement windows. The north elevation along W. Green St. has an off-center door and two bays containing metal casement windows. This building was originally constructed to accommodate a commercial office and remains an office today.

Resource No. 107

First Baptist Church
334A W. Green St.
Western Section, Block 21

Contributing
Temple Front
Beaux Arts
Photo 39, Figure 14

In 1923, the congregation of Stephenville's First Baptist Church constructed this monumental Beaux Arts-style building of brick and limestone in the center of Block 21. The façade, or north elevation along W. Green St., features six classical columns of the Ionic order that support a projecting central pavilion topped by a pediment. The pavilion sits atop a broad staircase leading up from the sidewalk, giving the church an imposing appearance. The three-story church has a classical cornice with dentils, a flat roof, and corners accentuated by limestone quoins. In 1963, the church spent \$38,000 remodeling this building, replacing the roof and installing central heat. At some point, the original wood windows, doors, and transoms were replaced with fixed metal windows and metal doors. First Baptist organized in Stephenville in 1857 and this building replaced a church constructed in 1898.

Resource No. 108

First Baptist Church Education Building
334B W. Green St.
Western Section, Block 21

Contributing
Religious Building
Beaux Arts
Photo 40

In 1952, the congregation of First Baptist Church constructed this three-story, ell-shaped, brick-and-limestone education building. This building features a more subdued Beaux Arts stylistic influence than the church building,

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which it adjoins on the southwest corner. The education building's main entryway is there, where the buildings adjoin, facing northwest under a simple portico featuring a pediment supported by two classical columns. The portico leads into a connector shaped like half of a hexagon. Quoins accentuate each corner of the education building and a simple limestone cornice tops the exterior walls. In 1977, church members constructed a new sanctuary, and sometime later they built a raised walkway across N. Barton Ave., connecting the education center and the new church.

Resource No. 109

Automatic Telephone Exchange Building
210 N. Columbia Ave.
Western Section, Block 21

Contributing
Commercial Building
Photo 41

Gulf States-United Telephone Company constructed this ell-shaped telephone exchange building between 1949 and 1966, replacing an earlier telephone exchange building on this block. According to the Erath County Appraisal District, this three-story brick building was constructed in 1952. The south elevation, along W. Mason St., has five upper window openings enclosed with brick. Along the sidewalk, there are two doors. The east elevation, along N. Columbia Ave., features an enclosed large bay and one enclosed upper window, both filled with brick. The building has a flat roof. In 1966, Gulf States-United Telephone Company invested \$375,000 to construct a second telephone exchange facility in Stephenville because of the community's growth. They constructed the new facility in the northwestern area of the city.

Resource No. 110

U.S. Post Office Building
174 N. Columbia Ave.
Western Section, Block 22

Contributing
Government Building - Art Deco
Photo 42

Architect Mark Lemmon of Dallas designed this Art Deco U.S. Post Office building in 1935 during the New Deal. Constructed of reinforced concrete, Stephenville's Art Deco post office is two stories with a basement. The façade, or east elevation along N. Columbia Ave., features five vertical strips of windows separated by vertical fluted panels. The windows and center entryway are topped by spandrels decorated by geometric ornamentation. The entryway features a double door topped by a large transom. Two large Art Deco-style metal lanterns flank the entryway. The post office building has a flat roof that drains to the rear. The building is slightly set back from the sidewalk with landscaped gardens, a walkway, and a center staircase. The rear, or west elevation, faces a parking lot and features a center entryway under a small simple portico and an exterior chimney. In 1968, the U.S. government deeded the post office building to the City of Stephenville and it is now home to the community's library.

Resource No. 111

Filling Station Building
309 W. Washington St.
Western Section, Block 22

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 43

Located on the northwest corner of W. Washington St. and South Columbia Ave., this filling station was constructed of brick between 1930 and 1949. The façade, or south elevation facing W. Washington St., has an open portico supported by two brick columns on its east end to accommodate gas pumps and cars. Under the portico is a storefront bay with a door flanked by two fixed metal windows. The west end of the façade has two large garage bays filled with fixed metal windows. Between the garage bays and the storefront is a window with metal security bars. The east end of this building also served as a bus station, so the east elevation along N. Columbia St., has two pedestrian doors and one window. The rear wall, or north elevation of this filling station, is built of Thurber brick.

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Resource No. 112

Filling Station Building
375 W. Washington St.
Western Section, Block 22

Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block

Between 1930 and 1949, this building was originally constructed of hollow-clay tile as a filling station. Sometime between 1966 and 1987, the filling station was remodeled for use as an ell-shaped office building. The building was enlarged and covered in brick, and an arcaded façade was added.

Resource No. 113

First Methodist Church
328A W. Washington St.
Western Section, Block 23

RTHL
Contributing
Temple Front
Beaux Arts
Photo 44, Figure 13

In 1917, the 413 members of Stephenville's First Methodist congregation constructed this three-story, exuberant Beaux Arts-style church of brick and limestone. The church faces the southeast corner of W. Washington St. and S. Barton Ave. A copper-colored dome supported by two colossal Corinthian columns and two Corinthian pilasters surmounts the church's curved front. Three tall arched bays between the columns and pilasters contain three wooden double doors topped by stained-glass windows. A wide staircase leads up to the church entry from the corner sidewalk. On either side of the curved façade and domed entryway are two wings with gabled roofs. The east wing faces north along W. Washington St. and the west wing faces west along S. Barton. Large pediments surmount both wings within their gables. The façade of each wing features three upper arched windows and three lower rectangular windows separated by brick pilasters with Corinthian capitals. First Methodist, organized in 1854, was Stephenville's first church. This Beaux Arts building replaced a frame sanctuary constructed on the same location between 1895 and 1897.

Resource No. 114

Auto Dealer/Lodge Hall Building
110 S. Columbia Ave.
Western Section, Block 23

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 46

Located on the southwest corner of W. Washington St. and S. Columbia Ave., this two-story building was built of hollow-clay tile faced with brick between 1921 and 1930. It was originally constructed to house an auto dealership and garage with a concrete floor and a capacity of 40 cars. The second floor was a Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall. Between 1930 and 1949, the lower northeast corner of the building was opened at the intersection, probably to accommodate a filling station, because the 1949 Sanborn Map shows the opening and four gas tanks within it. Today, the corner has been filled with glass, wood, and brick. The first floor of the façade, or east elevation along S. Columbia Ave., has a door with three plate-glass wood windows in the bay on the northeast corner. There are transoms above the door and the windows. There are two additional doors on the south end of the lower façade. The upper wall or second story has three window openings supported by limestone lintels that are boarded up. The north elevation, along W. Washington St., features two large bays on the first floor at the east end near the intersection. They are filled with a short wall of brick at the sidewalk level and corrugated metal, with some glass remaining in the bay to the west. The west half of the first floor has a door with two boarded-up windows on each side. The second floor of the north elevation has five window openings supported by stone lintels. The two on the west end are enclosed with corrugated metal and the other three contain what appear to be two double-hung one-over-one metal windows separated by wood trim.

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Resource No. 115

First Methodist Church Education Building
328A W. Washington St.
Western Section, Block 23

Contributing
Religious Building
Photo 45 and Figure 13

First Methodist's congregation constructed this three-story brick-veneered masonry education building between 1925 and 1927. The façade, or west elevation facing S. Barton Ave., features a recessed arched entryway with center keystone. Each floor has three bays, which were originally filled with wood windows painted white. The roof is a low-pitched gable roof and at the top of the façade, within the gable, is a small arched window that mimics the arch of the door. The education building adjoins the church through a connector at the north elevation of the education building and the south elevation, or rear, of the church. In 1975, architects Joe V. Line and C. Douglas Cain of Cleburne prepared plans to renovate the education building and designed an addition to its south. There were two visible changes to the exterior of the education building. Some of the glass was removed from window openings and replaced with what appears to be wood, however, the original window openings are intact. A tall narrow tower, which probably housed an elevator, was erected on the south elevation of the education building. The added one-story Fellowship Hall to the south adjoins the education building through a connector that leads into the added tower. With the modifications made during the 1970s, the education building retains architectural integrity and conveys its historic identity. However, the 1975 addition adjoining the education to the south is not contributing to the historic district.

Resource No. 116

General Mercantile Building
142 S. Columbia Ave.
Western Section, Block 23

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 47

Constructed as a retail store between 1930 and 1949, this building has brick on its façade, or east elevation along S. Columbia Ave., and its south elevation. It shares a wall with the mercantile building to its north. Its rear wall, or west elevation, is built of concrete masonry units. The façade has three bays, with a door on its north end. The other two bays appear to have been windows, but they are now filled with wood. The upper wall extends to a straight parapet with raised corners on either end of the façade. This building has a low-pitched shed roof that drains to the rear, and is the south end of a row of three commercial buildings along the west side of S. Columbia Ave.

Resource No. 117

General Mercantile Building
132 S. Columbia Ave.
Western Section, Block 23

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 47

This building, constructed between 1949 and 1966, features a façade, or east elevation, of dark tan brick and wood infill within what appears to have been a large bay of windows. The front wall angles in to the door on the north end of the facade at a distinctive 45-degree angle, drawing customers in toward the door. Within the wood-infill area, there are now three metal double-hung windows. Above the bay is a wood awning that appears to be original, separating the lower bay and the upper brick wall. A wide metal cornice has been added to the top of the façade. The west, or rear wall of this building is constructed of concrete block and is also topped with an added metal cornice. The roof is a low-pitched shed roof that drains toward the rear of the building. This building is in the middle of a row of three commercial buildings along the west side of S. Columbia Ave.

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Resource No. 127
Brick Streets
Throughout District

Texas Historic Subject Marker
Contributing
Structures

Throughout the Stephenville Downtown Historic District are streets paved with bricks produced in Thurber located 27 miles northwest in Erath County. These high-quality vitrified bricks were laid over a macadam base and bonded with a tar-like substance. The streets were paved after the city council signed a contract with Thurber Construction Co. in March 1929. Several historic brick streets remain throughout downtown Stephenville, contributing to the commercial center's unique historic character. In 1978, residents applied for, received, and erected a Texas Historic Subject Marker about the community's brick streets. Historic brick streets remaining with the downtown historic district are indicated on Maps 1 and 2 and shown in photos.

Resource No. 128
Stephenville Savings and Loan Building
422 W. Washington St.
Western Section, Block 111

Contributing
International Modernism
Photo 48 and Figure 18

Architect Joe Line of Cleburne, who oversaw the remodeling of the First Methodist Church Education Building across S. Barton Ave. in the 1970s, designed this International-style bank building in 1966. He designed a horizontal split-level composition, built into a hill along W. Washington St. that was created by a naturally formed dry creek bed. The main entryway is on the upper level at the northeast corner of the building, facing north toward W. Washington St. It features a plate-glass wall of doors and windows that wraps around the northeast corner of the building under a broad concrete portico supported by concrete posts. There is a solid wing to the east that accommodated a drive-through facility. A concrete canopy extends from the east elevation toward S. Barton Ave., supported by two concrete posts. Under the canopy is a square window. The center of the building projects above the drive-through wing with a ribbon of clerestory windows along S. Barton Ave. The lower level of the façade along W. Washington St. features another wall of plate-glass windows with a door topped by a solid concrete upper wall that cantilevers out over the windows.

According to an article in *Stephenville Empire-Tribune* in 1966, Stephenville Savings and Loan spent \$200,000 to design and construct its new headquarters downtown, three blocks west of the courthouse square. Architect-engineer Joe Line was quoted as saying that "the most modern and durable materials available" would be used in the construction. Line designed the building to contain 6,500 square feet on the upper level and 6,000 square feet on the lower level, which originally included a community meeting room that seated 250 people. About 1,500 residents attended Stephenville Savings and Loan's open house for its new building on March 19, 1967. Today, this building is home to First Methodist Church's Hutchison Annex and is used as offices.

Resource No. 129
Jake and Dorothy's Café Building
406 E. Washington St.
Eastern Section, Block 34

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 49

Jake and Dorothy Roach had this masonry one-story building constructed in 1948 when they opened their restaurant. Because of the immediate success of their café, the building was enlarged three times between 1948 and 1953. Jake and Dorothy's Café presents a horizontal rectangular profile set back from E. Washington St. with a shallow parking lot in front. The façade, or north elevation along E. Washington St., features tan brick walls and a straight mansard roof covered with scalloped wood shingles. The off-center main entryway is under a dry-stacked stone portico with a shed roof and two glass and metal doors facing east and west. The façade features two other door openings; one has a glass and metal door and plate-glass window and one has a wood door surrounded by wood enclosures. There are three window bays filled with fixed-metal windows. A rear metal addition adjoins the southwest end of the building and

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houses kitchen facilities under a gabled composition roof, with a stair-stepped parapet facing west along S. Vine Ave. A rear addition on the southeast end of the building has vertical wood plank walls and a gabled metal roof. Jake and Dorothy's Café has been in continuous operation since 1948. In December 2008, *Texas Monthly* featured Jake and Dorothy's as one of Texas' 40 best small-town cafes.

Resource No. 137

Cornelia Graves School
436 North Floral St.
Eastern Section, Block 63

Contributing
Small Community School
Photo 51

Constructed in 1951, this building served as a school for children in Stephenville's African-American neighborhood, which was located for years northeast of the courthouse square—north of Mason St. and east of Virginia Ave. The school is named for Cornelia Graves, who taught African-American students in Stephenville from 1907 to 1926.

The Cornelia Graves School is built of red brick, with the brick on the front or east façade painted green. The south half of the school's facade features wood-framed plate-glass windows and a wood-framed double-door. Above the door-and-window bay are five transom openings covered with wood louvers. The north half of the building's façade has two doors, one wood and one enclosed, and two enclosed bays, which once contained metal casement windows. Along the roofline is a deep wooden eave. Metal poles support a wood awning that features an underside of bead bo

The north elevation of the school has two metal casement windows and the south wall was removed to open the school up to a contemporary metal building with a wooden front. The rear, or west elevation of the school building has a wide ribbon of metal casement windows running across the top half of the brick wall. The rear roofline also features a deep wooden eave.

In 2012, Thetis Edwards, a resident of the community who lives across N. Floral Ave. from the school, applied for and received a Texas Historic Subject Marker honoring Cornelia Graves. Members of the Erath County Historical Commission dedicated the marker at the site of the Bethesda School on College Farm Road, where Graves taught students. Two teachers taught students of all ages at Cornelia Graves School until 1959, when the local school district bused high school students to Fort Worth for secondary schooling. In 1963, the school district integrated and this school building closed and became a community center. Today, it is privately owned.

Resource No. 138

Beech House
252 E. Tarleton St.
Eastern Section, Block 63

Contributing
National Folk House
Photo 52

Three local historians have identified this house as the oldest building in Stephenville, which would make it older than the 1869 Berry House on E. Washington St. In 1991, the late professor C. Richard King wrote in an article entitled "Inside History" in the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune* that this house was home to James Beech, an early miller, ginner and liquor dealer. In 1975, the late professor O.A. Grant told the *Erath Observer* that his research led him to conclude that Beech had this house built in 1857. Grant also said that while rehabilitating the house to serve as a gift shop, he and his wife found a penny dated 1866 behind one of the baseboards.

Local historian Wayne Sherrod said he has documentation that the Beech House was built in 1857. Sherrod said that the Beech House neighborhood, located northeast of the courthouse square, was the first housing addition in Stephenville, where the city's most prominent citizens lived. This addition developed after settlement around the courthouse square, where there were once five or six folk houses similar to the Beech House. Later, the housing addition where the Beech House is located became Stephenville's African-American neighborhood.

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Tax records first indicate Beech living in Erath County in 1873 and paying \$1 in poll tax, but no property tax. By 1877, he owned Block 63, where this house is located, and paid an evaluation of \$600, which indicates the land was improved, probably with this house. Beech was born in England in 1846, and by 1878 he owned and operated James Beech City Flour Mills and Cotton Gin, one-fourth mile southeast of the courthouse square along the Bosque River.

Erath County Census records in 1880 show that Beech was a 34-year-old widower living with his four-year-old son and nine-month-old daughter. King wrote that in 1899, Beech estimated his annual income from the mill and gin at \$12,000, along with \$15,000 he made from a saloon he owned in Stephenville. However, in 1899, Beech sold his property in Erath County and moved to Stillwater, Oklahoma.

This National Folk Hall-and-Parlor House features thick native limestone walls and a side-gabled roof with a chimney on each end. Today the house is covered with a standing-seam metal roof, and features a shed-roof front porch supported by wood posts. An undated old photograph shows this house with a wood shingle roof and shed-roof porch supported by turned wood posts.

The façade of this house, which represents a traditional British folk form, features a center doorway leading to a center hall with two double-hung wood sash windows on either side of the door. On the east and west elevations, there are double-hung wood sash windows on either side of each chimney. This house first appears on Stephenville's 1921 Sanborn Maps, because earlier maps, which dated from 1885, did not record its neighborhood. The map shows a shed addition from the center of the rear or north elevation. Today, there is a shed addition on the east end of the north elevation and an ell-addition on the west end.

Resource No. 139

City Hall

354 N. Belknap Ave.

Northern Section, Block 29

Contributing

International Modernism

Photo 50

Architect Stanley Brown of Dallas designed this post-war modern building for the City of Stephenville in 1954 and K.A. Sparks constructed it. According to a grand-opening invitation printed by the city, this building is constructed of cement tile faced with brick and a front wall of stone. Asphalt tile floors were installed upon a cement slab except in the lobby, which featured terrazzo tile, and the restrooms, which had ceramic tile floors. The roof was fireproof poured gypsum over steel joists covered with a 20-year bonded tar and gravel finish. The total cost of the building was \$78,531. In 1962, Stephenville enlarged their city hall, which also accommodated the fire station and police department. Stanley Brown designed the expansion and Williams and Young did the construction for the addition.

Brown designed the Stephenville City Hall with a horizontal composition and deep overhanging eaves. It is set back from N. Belknap Ave., with a shallow parking lot in front. The façade, or east elevation, features a central solid stone wall and an off-center entrance to the north. The double door is beneath a cantilevered canopy. The south end of the façade has a row of metal casement windows along the roofline. A two-story wing in the rear of the building extends over the façade with a narrow ribbon of windows facing east along its roofline. The south elevation along W. Green St. has one simple pedestrian door. The west end of the south elevation is a large garage with two large vehicle bays that accommodate fire trucks. There are no windows on the south elevation of the building. Today, this building is home to Stephenville's Police Department.

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Resource No. 148

Heffley Building
374 E. Washington St.
Eastern Section, Block 33

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 53

This one-story building was constructed circa 1946 of brick and hollow-clay tile. It is set back from E. Washington St. with a shallow parking area in front. The façade, or north elevation along E. Washington St., features a polychrome arrangement of brick and tile and a brick dentil cornice. Below the cornice, the name “Heffley” is painted on the wall. The central entry contains a metal double door topped by a transom. Square wood-framed display windows flank the door. Above the storefront are wood remnants of an awning. The 1949 Sanborn Map shows this building as adjoining a two-story auto dealership, and remnants of its concrete foundation remain to the east of the Heffley Building.

Resource No. 149

Petrified Wood Service Station
306 E. Washington St.
Eastern Section, Block 33

Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block
Photo 54

According to Sanborn Maps of Stephenville, this service station was built between 1930 and 1949. Featuring large chunks of petrified wood and pieces of other fossils, like ammonites and tufa, it was built during the era when residents of neighboring Glen Rose constructed houses and businesses of “wood turned to stone” that was so plentiful in the region. During the same period, Ross Wolfe created “the house that time built,” in Stephenville as an office for his business, Wolfe Nursery. Unfortunately, his elaborate building of petrified wood and fossils has been demolished.

But this 1930s service station built of fossils remains along old Highway 10, the entrance into Stephenville’s business district from the northeast. Some of the large pieces of petrified wood in the station feature bits of shimmering silica and chunks of isinglass, or pieces of translucent, white quartz. Along the east elevation, large logs of petrified wood support two window openings and a door, and the west side features two of these petrified wood lintels. Throughout the exterior walls, petrified wood is interspersed with other stones, mostly limestone, laid in a random, or mosaic pattern with beaded white mortar.

The front of the service station had a recessed entry protected by the building’s gabled roof, supported by two petrified wood and stone columns. Recent owners enclosed this open area, where the gas pumps were located, with wood and vinyl windows, and added two limestone planters along the front and east side. With this enclosure of contemporary materials, the original façade remains evident.

Inside the enclosure, the station’s front wall of petrified wood and stone is intact, with a central door flanked by two window openings. Pieces of petrified wood and fossils project from the wall. The window openings along the east and west elevations are still trimmed in wood, but metal windows have been installed. Under the same gabled roof is a rear addition built of wood, which is shown on the 1949 Sanborn Map.

Resource No. 150

Donald R. Jones Justice Center
112 W. College St.
Central Section, Block 1

Non-Contributing
Government Building

Erath County constructed this justice center on the southeast corner of the courthouse square in 1987 to 1988. Architect Fred Parker designed the brick and concrete building and contractor Vernon Gun constructed it. The façade, or north elevation along W. College St., features a projecting center section and recessed entryway on the west end.

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Resource No. 151

**The Cowboy Capital Walk of Fame
200 Block, W. Washington St.
Central Section, Block 6**

**Non-Contributing
Site**

The Walk of Fame recognizes Stephenville's cowboy heritage by honoring individuals who have made contributions to the community's Western way of life. A paved walk through a park-like setting contains bronze plaques honoring inductees who were named in 1988 and 2000. A wood pergola frames the entrance to the Walk of Fame along W. Washington St. The Walk of Fame is on the northwest corner of W. Washington St. and N. Belknap St., where the G.M. Carlton and Brothers large two-story brick department store was once located.

Resource No. 152

**Bank of America
281 N. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 18**

**Non-Contributing
Drive-Through Facility**

This motor bank or drive-through facility was constructed in 1981 and features eight drive-through banking lanes facing west along N. Graham Ave. It also has pedestrian doors on its south and east elevations.

Resource No. 153

**Automobile Dealership
202 N. Graham Ave.
Central Section, Block 19**

**Non-Contributing
One-Part Commercial Block**

This contemporary auto dealership building was constructed on the northwest corner of W. Mason St. and N. Graham Ave. in 1981. It features a wall of plate-glass windows on its façade, or east elevation along N. Graham Ave.

Resources Nos. 154 and 155

**Metal Feed Storage Buildings
351 E. Tarleton St.
Eastern Section, Block 32**

**Contributing
Industrial Buildings**

During the 1950s, Anderson Feed Mill constructed four large metal buildings on this block where there were once four houses and several outbuildings and garages that were part of the city's African-American neighborhood. These two mill buildings remain intact, reflecting the mid-twentieth century growth of agricultural industry in Stephenville. Recently, Resource No. 157 has been covered with brick and renovated as an orthopedic office.

Resource No. 158

**Saddler House
291 E. Tarleton St.
Eastern Section, Block 32**

**Noncontributing
Craftsman House
Photo 55**

Built circa 1920, this frame Craftsman-style house has a hipped roof with exposed rafter tails and an inset porch on the west side of its façade. Sometime after 1949, someone enclosed the east side of what once was a full-width front porch. Simple wood posts support the porch, and the house has double-hung windows that appear to be wood. From the 1920s through 1949, this house was home to Chester and Josephine Saddler and shared Block 32 with three other houses and several outbuildings and garages, a bustling part of Stephenville's African-American neighborhood. After 1949, all of the other houses on Block 32 were demolished, and large metal buildings were erected for use in the community's agribusiness.

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This house and the nineteenth-century James Beech House across the street are the only two houses included in Stephenville's National Register Commercial District. Today, with the growth of Stephenville's downtown business area, they are both on its northern edge, along with the Cornelia Graves School. These houses and the school are reflections of the neighborhood that developed northeast of the courthouse square that is now giving way to commercial growth. Enclosure of the front porch and addition of new materials have made this house non-contributing to the historic district.

Resources Nos. 159—160
Business Storage Buildings
291 E. Tarleton St.
Eastern Section, Block 32

Non-Contributing
No Style

These two structures adjoin the Cornelia Graves School to the south and were constructed by Donald Sparks, who was a previous owner of the property, before 2006. Resource No. 160 is a metal building and Resource No. 159 is a wood building constructed to look like a historic house, with vertical plank wood walls and a porch covered by a shed roof portico.

Resource No. 161
Masonic Lodge
244 S. Columbia Ave.
Western Section, Block 24

Texas Historic Subject Marker
Non-Contributing
Meeting Hall

Stephenville Masonic Lodge No. 267 formed in 1860, shortly after the community was established. They built their first lodge hall in 1912 to 1913 on the site where Erath County's first jail was located, on the corner of W. College St. and S. Columbia Ave. In 1973, the lodge replaced that two-story limestone building with the one-story brick ell-shaped building with a hipped roof that is their meeting hall today. The lodge building's entryway is at the bottom of the ell, on the façade, or east elevation facing S. Columbia Ave. A single door is located under a flat metal awning. There are no windows on the east elevation. The north elevation along W. College St. has no doors or windows. In 2012, the lodge erected a Texas Historic Subject Marker that honors their rich history in the community.

Resource No. 162
First Financial Bank
199 N. Columbia Ave.
Central Section, Block 6

Non-Contributing
Drive-Through Facility

This small motor bank or drive-through facility was constructed on the corner of W. Mason St. and S. Columbia Ave. in 1980. The brick and concrete building has three drive-through lanes. It shares Block 6 with Stephenville's Cowboy Capital Walk of Fame.

Resource No. 163
Graham Street Church of Christ
312 N. Graham Ave.
Northern Section, Block 30

Contributing
Vault
Photo 56 and Figure 15

Residents organized Stephenville's Graham Street Church of Christ before 1887 and by 1888 members joined together and constructed a wood frame church on N. Graham St. near the intersection of W. Green St. In 1949, the church built the current building and auditorium around the old frame church. Constructed of tan brick, the north end of the new

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facility is three stories tall and features an 800-seat auditorium with five tall narrow metal windows on the façade, or east elevation.

Just to the south of the auditorium is the main entry, with two metal double doors flanked by sidelights topped by a flat concrete awning. Above the entry is a recessed concrete wall featuring the design of a cross and a circular window filled with stained glass. The west elevation, or back of the auditorium and entry, is nearly the same as the façade. There, the auditorium has five tall narrow windows and there is a rear entry topped by a concrete wall with a circular window filled with stained glass.

South of the front entry on the east elevation is a two-story office area with five bays on each floor filled with original metal casement windows. Above and below the bays are horizontal bands of concrete. This office area was actually built around the church's 1888 building and featured its old hipped roof. The original 1949 church contained just three sections—the auditorium, the entry, and the two-story, five-bay office area.

According to church members Deborah Robinson and Alta Lois Pipes, the east third of the existing wing along Green St. was built as an addition in 1954. This addition is built of the same tan brick and features two bays on each floor facing Graham St. On the south elevation along W. Green St., there are five bays on the second floor and three bays on the first floor. All of these bays are filled with the same metal casement windows in the original building. When the church added this wing, members replaced the old hipped roof over its original offices with a flat roof.

In 1974, the congregation had the old city hall and fire station behind the church torn down. Then they extended the existing wing along Green St. west to North Belknap St. From the second doorway along Green St. to the west is the newer addition. Although the church continued to use the same color brick and compatible mass and scale, this newer addition is not contributing to the National Register historic district.

Resource No. 164
Tax Appraisal Office
313 N. Belknap Ave.
Northern Section, Block 30

Contributing
Two-Part Commercial Block
Photo 57

This two-story brick building features a three-bay storefront on the first floor with a central wooden door and an enclosed transom. On each side of the door are two sets of three fixed wooden windows, vertically stacked. The top windows on each side have been enclosed with wood. A metal standing-seam awning now covers the windows and door.

The second floor has three metal casement windows surrounded by stucco and is separated from the brick below by a limestone band. A wood cornice tops the façade, and the building has a hipped roof. The brick on the façade or west elevation of this building is red, but the brick on the rest of the building is terra cotta. The north and south elevations feature six bays filled with metal casement windows. On the south elevation, one of the bays is covered with plywood.

This building first appears on Stephenville's Sanborn Map in 1949, built next door to old city hall, which has since been demolished. It is identified as an office. Erath County Tax Appraisal records indicate it was built in 1941, and it once served as home to local tax appraisal offices. Nurses who worked at the Stephenville Hospital lived on the second floor of this building. Today, this building is the home of Graham Street Church of Christ's Basic Needs Ministry.

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Statement of Significance

Nestled in a bend of the Bosque River, the Stephenville Downtown Historic District in Erath County, Texas, reflects the continuum of history and development in this Central Texas ranching gateway from the platting of the city in 1855 through the design and construction of modern-influenced buildings in the 1960s. Most of the resources in the district are one- and two-part commercial blocks, constructed of limestone and brick. However, several noteworthy buildings designed by professional architects exhibit influence of higher styles of architecture such as Romanesque Revival, Neo-Classicism, Art Deco, and International. From the 1920s through the 1960s, some buildings in Stephenville were modernized to present a more streamlined appearance, and they still retain their twentieth century modern design. Most of the resources within the district, including its original brick streets, retain their integrity to the period of significance. The overall cohesive appearance of the downtown historic district still reflects this city's roots in the Upland South and subsequent late- nineteenth and early- to mid-twentieth century development as the commercial center of the community. The district is nominated under Criterion A at the local level of significance in the areas of Commerce and Community Planning and Development. Because most the buildings in the district still exhibit historic and architectural integrity from the period of significance (1873-1968, ending at the 50-year point), thereby reflecting local and regional trends in commercial architecture, the district is also nominated at the local level of significance under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture.

Settlement and Establishment

In 1854, pioneer John M. Stephen set out to locate land he had recently acquired from the estate of Alamo hero John Blair, which was located on the edge of the Texas frontier. He brought with him surveyor and scout George B. Erath, who described Stephen's settlement as "the farthest west of any on the waters of the Brazos." The following year, Erath led 30 pioneers who dreamed of settling the lush land in the Western Cross Timbers back to Stephen's land to start a settlement. The location they chose along a bend of the Bosque River was once the site of a Caddo Indian village.

Like many of the settlers who surged into Texas after it became a state, Stephen hailed from the Upland South, an area encompassing Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri and Arkansas. Of the 24 original members of Stephenville's Masonic Lodge, 12 came from Tennessee.¹ On July 4, 1855, Erath laid out the town of Stephenville as a Shelbyville, Tennessee-style square, reflecting the Upland South heritage of most of its early settlers. Stephen donated the land for the center of the town square and for the streets. The simple square-and-grid pattern featured 25 blocks one acre in size and streets 50-feet wide. County Clerk George W. Gentry copied Erath's original plat in the Erath County Deed Records in 1871. Stephen also donated lots around the square to his fellow settlers. By 1859, there were a handful of log and rawhide lumber buildings in Stephenville, including two stores, a hotel, a whiskey shop and a cabin. In 1856, the Texas Legislature created Erath County from parts of Bosque and Coryell County. Residents chose the settlement on the Bosque as the county seat and christened it "Stephenville" in honor of the man who donated land for its establishment. In 1857, settlers built the first courthouse of rawhide lumber. Stephen became postmaster and established the first post office, where a horseback rider delivered mail once a week.

During the Civil War, Erath County lost residents and Stephenville grew slowly, but Reconstruction brought new settlers into Texas looking for a fresh start. By 1870, approximately 300 residents called Stephenville home, and the courthouse square featured 12 frame business buildings. Businesses included two hotels, a barbershop, a grist and sawmill, a photography shop, a newspaper, a meat market, a livery stable and blacksmith shop, a gun shop, and three saloons.

¹ C. Richard King, "By the Square in Stephenville," (n.p.: May 16, 1987), 3.

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Cattle ranching became Erath County's first lucrative agricultural pursuit because of the abundance of lush prairie grasslands and open-range grazing. Texas Longhorns were left out to graze and ranchers gathered to brand cattle each spring. By 1865, local cowboys drove their cattle to markets in Shreveport, Louisiana, and later to Abilene, Kansas. As the center of the county and its seat, Stephenville served as a natural place for ranchers and residents to gather, socialize, and purchase supplies brought to town by ox-drawn wagons from bigger cities.

During the 1870s, the Chidester Stage Line arrived in Stephenville from Fort Worth, opening up connections to the outside world. Residents built their first limestone courthouse in the center of the town square and, on the southeast corner, the first building of limestone, which still stands today (Resource No. 8—Gentry and Shelton Building, Contributing). They also built a schoolhouse, which is no longer standing, five blocks west of the courthouse square. James Beech, who purchased Stephenville's first flour mill, brought his young family to Stephenville during its establishment and set up their home in a limestone folk hall-and-parlor house, located in the northeastern portion of the downtown district (Resource No. 138—Contributing).

The city had one or two water wells and James Mansker delivered water to homeowners and residents from a barrel in his horse-drawn cart. Several businessmen joined together and established the city's first bank in 1872, and W.J. Brockett delivered a hand-operated printing press to town and published the first newspaper called the "Texas Pacific," which new owners later changed to "The Stephenville Empire."

By 1880, Erath County grew to a population of 11,596 and open rangeland was giving way to cotton farms enclosed with wire fencing.² Railroads arrived in Dublin and Alexander during the early 1880s, providing transportation to cotton markets for area farmers. The *Dallas Morning News* wrote: "A large immigration has come to this and adjoining counties during the present fall, and many have purchased homes."³ An immigration committee met in Stephenville and coordinated recruitment of more settlers to Erath County.

In Stephenville, James Beech installed new roller mill equipment at his flour mill and enlarged it to include the city's first cotton gin in order to process crops of area farmers. In 1888, N.C. Baldwin built a gin three blocks northeast of the courthouse square that could accommodate unloading of 12 wagons under a shelter. Designed in Little Rock, Arkansas, Baldwin's gin featured "all the latest modern ideas of gins," including elevating and cleaning machinery and fireproof construction.⁴ Today, one brick industrial building remains from the mill and gin located on Block 17, though it was built during the early twentieth century (Resource No. 94—Contributing).

In 1885, Stephenville's first Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. map indicated a population of 1,200 and detailed Erath's original 25 blocks, with development concentrated in just six blocks, including the courthouse square and one block off each corner.⁵ Before 1891, businessmen built nine stone buildings that still remain around the square, all but one facing the courthouse in a typical Shelbyville style. Buildings that remain on the square from the 1880s include the Gentry Building, adjacent to the southwest corner (Resource No. 10—Contributing); and Farmers National Bank on the east side of the square (Resource No. 15—Contributing).

In 1882, the editor of *The Stephenville Empire* complained of pistol shooting at night in downtown Stephenville, writing that "such outrageous and promiscuous night shooting should be stopped."⁶ Sheriff R.T. Long, who served from 1860 to 1880, once arrested 36 cowhands who wanted to "shoot up" the village. As early as 1882, the community held

² *Texas Almanac*, "Population History of Counties from 1850–2010," <https://texasalmanac.com/sites/default/files/images/topics/ctypophistweb2010.pdf>.

³ "Stephenville," *Dallas Morning News*, Dec. 5, 1885, 7.

⁴ *The Stephenville Empire*, June 30, 1888, 4.

⁵ Sanborn Map Co., "Stephenville, Erath County, Texas" (New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., Limited, March 1885).

⁶ *The Stephenville Empire*, Nov. 25, 1882, 4.

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a prohibition election, with prohibitionists seeking to close businesses like the Palace Saloon and Billiard Hall and Sol's Saloon, both located on the east side of the courthouse square. The local paper wrote that the effort failed, causing saloon patrons to "fire anvils," while prohibitionists "coaxed out their sorrows by the slow, measured tolling of the church bell."⁷ Before 1885, the county built its first jail of limestone, located on Block 24, one block southwest of the square.

Church congregations formed early in the settlement of Stephenville, and by 1885, Methodists and Baptists constructed frame churches within a block of the courthouse. During the 1880s, churches and fraternal groups organized picnics and barbecues, traditionally held near the river just south of the town square. Periodic flooding prohibited permanent construction to the south, so the area south of Long Street and Crow Street became an early social gathering spot for the community. City and county leaders organized the Erath County Fair in 1888, held along the river to the south, and built a racetrack at the fairgrounds.

Infrastructure improvements arrived slowly. In 1882, Sheriff Long drilled a well on the east side of the courthouse square, where it reached 206-feet deep with 20 feet of water pumped by a "self-regulating, vane-less pattern windmill made by Powell and Douglas."⁸ He added a 100-barrel tank and bathhouse with hot and cold running water for ladies and gentlemen. In January 1886, a new telephone line connected Stephenville to Alexander, a small Erath County town 13 miles south.⁹ By 1891, Stephenville could boast of two new lumberyards, each located just one block from the square.

As early as 1882, speculation began about the Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railroad coming through Stephenville on its route from Fort Worth to Brownwood. In 1879, representatives of the Texas Central Railroad came to town and asked residents to donate right-of-way for tracks and pay a bonus to secure the railroad line. Because residents believed the railroad would have to go through the county seat, they did not agree upon incentives to lure the Texas Central and lost the line to nearby Dublin. From 1882 until 1889, excitement and anticipation waxed and waned as the Fort Worth and Rio Grande Railroad slowly progressed westward from Fort Worth to Granbury in 1887, and then on to Stephenville in 1889. As the railroad company threatened to bypass Stephenville because of the terrain, community leaders united and paid more than \$30,000 in right-of-way donations and cash to bring the railroad to town.¹⁰

With the tracks just a few miles east of Stephenville in 1889, the *Dallas Morning News* featured a story entitled "Stephenville on the Jump" about the town's lively appearance. "The sound of the hammer and of the saw is heard from early morn to dewy eve," wrote the newspaper's regional reporter. "On every hand improvements are going on. Substantial residences and magnificent business houses are going up—some just completed and many others to follow, mostly of building stone. Now everything is on a boom. Real estate in town has trebled its value."¹¹ One of the magnificent business houses going up in 1889 was the First National Bank Building on the southeast corner, designed by architect J. Riely Gordon (Resource No. 43—Contributing).

Post-Railroad Boom

After the Fort Worth and Rio Grande reached Dublin 15 miles to the southwest of Stephenville in 1891, the little town with two railroads challenged Stephenville for designation as the seat of Erath County. Commissioners called for a county-wide election. On Aug. 1, 1891, the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune* proudly reported that the election results were

⁷ *The Stephenville Empire*, Dec. 23, 1882, 3.

⁸ King, "By the Square in Stephenville," 63.

⁹ "Stephenville," *Dallas Morning News*, Jan. 1, 1886, 2.

¹⁰ "We Challenge Comparison," *Stephenville Empire*, Aug. 8, 1891, 4.

¹¹ "Stephenville on the Jump, High onto Prosperity and Developing Rapidly," *Dallas Morning News*, July 22, 1889, 8.

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a resounding victory for Stephenville. After the election, Stephenville developed into the commercial and banking center of the region's agricultural market.

By 1890, cotton was king in Erath County, where farmers produced 17,390 bales. During the 1890s, a cottonseed oil mill was built along the railroad tracks six blocks northeast of the courthouse square, along with a cotton compress and roundhouse for servicing locomotives. Other new development near the railroad tracks included another cotton gin, an ice plant, and a beer warehouse. This area is not within Stephenville's Downtown Historic District, but new agricultural industries and residential services created a thriving trading center downtown and brought the city new citizens.

Historian and native son C. Richard King called 1890 to 1900 "the decade of building" in Stephenville, which began with Masons laying a cornerstone in December 1891 for the Romanesque Revival Erath County Courthouse, designed by architect J. Riely Gordon (Resource No. 1—Contributing). Built in the center of the square using some of the foundation of the 1876 courthouse, the dramatic and vividly polychromatic native limestone and Pecos sandstone courthouse remains the center of the city's downtown and the heart of the community. Most of the existing buildings around Stephenville's courthouse were built between 1891 and 1902, which "suggested permanence and beauty," and "give the square some of its personality," wrote King.¹² The L.W. Chiles Building on the east side (Resource No. 19—Contributing) is a remaining example.

King also called the final decade of the nineteenth century "the Phoenix years," because the town rose from the ashes resulting from devastating fires downtown. In January 1891, a fire destroyed all of the frame buildings on the north side of courthouse square along Washington Street. After this fire, the *Stephenville Empire* reported that a number of businessmen considered building on land near the railroad depot for passenger convenience. But this proposal brought a strenuous objection from the paper's editor, who wrote: "The town is now around the square," and business owners around the courthouse "would not allow their business center to be changed without a contest."¹³ All of the masonry buildings located on the north side today were built after the fire, from 1891 to 1902, including the Cage and Crow Building and Crow Opera House on the northwest corner (Resource No. 30—Contributing), the Theo Bauer Building (Resource No. 31—Contributing), and the Jake Wilson Building (Resource No. 32—Contributing.) In 1891, brick supplier and contractors Taylor & Smith offered complimentary bricks to the first business built of brick, and Bauer and Wilson added brick fronts to their buildings in 1895.

Three months later, fire erupted on the south side of the square, starting in the "Bachelor's Hangout," where 12 single men lived. This fire spread through the block and adjoining blocks, destroying ten business buildings valued at \$20,000 and merchandise valued at \$30,000. The masonry buildings located along the south side of the square today were built after this fire, from 1891 to 1902. They include Dawson's Saloon on the southwest corner, (Resource No. 4—Contributing), the drug store building, (Resource No. 5—Contributing), and the hardware and harness store building (Resource No. 7—Contributing).

Although residents valiantly fought against these large fires, their effectiveness with buckets brigades was limited. Residents and the Stephenville Board of Trade began to call for a waterworks system and fire department, and in a petition signed by a majority of residents in 1895, they signified their willingness to pay more taxes to finance them. In 1886, the county commissioners agreed to pay half of the cost of a waterworks system if the city would join them. In 1897, another fire erupted, damaging the beautiful new First National Bank Building on the southwest corner of the square. After that fire, the city established a waterworks and volunteer fire department and purchased two hand-drawn carts with 50 feet of hose each. The well and carts cost \$5,000. The new waterworks system was located at N.C. Baldwin's gin and mill, two blocks northeast of the courthouse square, along with an electric light plant, approved by the city council in 1896, that provided power to the courthouse and buildings around the square. By 1902, the privately

¹² C. Richard King, "To Every Thing There is a Season...A Time to Break Down, and a Time to Build Up," (n.p, n.d.), 19.

¹³ C. Richard King, "Inferno on Square Almost Killed City in 1891," *The Erath Observer*, Dec. 4, 1975, 1B.

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owned waterworks system had two 300-foot wells with a pumping capacity of 85,000 gallons and a 75,000-gallon reservoir.¹⁴ The old limestone waterworks pump house remains standing in the northeast portion of the downtown historic district at the corner of N. Virginia Ave. and E. Green St. (Resource No. 93—Contributing).

W. College St. developed during the 1890s, with a row of buildings off the southwest corner of the square. Several buildings remain there, including the prominent Lawyers Building on the southwest corner, (Resource No. 55—Contributing). In 1899, the final major fire of the decade occurred. It started in the Faulkner and Faulkner livery stable along S. Belknap St. behind the new limestone Lawyer’s Building. The new fire department fought the fire and saved the Lawyer’s Building. The livery stable was a total loss, but owners rebuilt it of limestone, and it still stands one block off the courthouse square today (Resource No. 63—Contributing).

In July 1899, *The Erath Appeal* called the previous 12 months “a year of greater improvement in Stephenville than has been before experienced since the founding of the city,” boasting of \$150,000 in development.¹⁵ The city’s first cement sidewalks and an expansion of telephone service to cities to the north and west are two improvements touted. Businessmen constructed new brick buildings downtown that year, including the two-story Schnabel Building at a cost of \$6,000, which is still standing on the northwest corner of the courthouse square (Resource No. 50—Contributing).

In 1889, Stephenville organized as a city and elected its first mayor and city council. After building their first waterworks, council members turned their eyes toward other improvements, including purchasing the city’s first dumping ground and approving the purchase and installment of 32 streetlights around the town square, powered by the electrical plant at Baldwin Gin, for which they paid \$24 per month. The city initiated its first street improvement program when it paid to put gravel on Washington St., and its first public safety policy when the council outlawed breaking wild horses on the town square.

The citizens of the community raised \$6,500 to establish Stephenville College in 1893. They purchased six acres of land located 10 blocks west from courthouse square along W. Washington St., erected a building and established a preparatory school known as a college, which closed by 1895 to 1896. In 1895, wealthy rancher John Tarleton passed away, leaving an \$85,000 endowment for a college that would bear his name. In September 1899, John Tarleton College admitted its first students on the former campus of Stephenville College. The school has grown into Tarleton State University, since 1917, part of the Texas A&M University System. “Tarleton State College has meant more to Stephenville than any other institution,” wrote author Arden Jean Schuetz in 1965.¹⁶

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, community leaders set aside Block 15, two blocks east of the courthouse, as a public hitching lot. This block, located within the downtown historic district, developed into what has been called a “jockey yard” or “jockey yard,” where people came from miles around to trade horses, livestock, and other items. “First Monday” trades days became a custom on Block 15 through the late 1930s, when the lot became home to the Long Hotel. The jockey yard featured musical entertainment and medicine shows, where carnival barkers called out selling their latest miracle cures. Musician Milton Brown grew up in Erath County and visited the Stephenville jockey yard often. There he was influenced by the banter and cadence of barkers and musicians, developing the stage presence that helped him become an original member of the Light Crust Doughboys and developer of Texas swing music. In October 1899, the jockey yard hosted the “biggest day” and “largest trade” Stephenville had ever seen. *The Erath Appeal* reported that people came into town from all directions and spent more than \$6,000 on merchandise. Horse traders were in Stephenville “in plenty,” 1,240 visitors ate dinner in the city, and First National Bank transacted \$60,000 in business.¹⁷

¹⁴ Sanborn Map Co., February 1902.

¹⁵ “One Year’s Growth,” *The Erath Appeal*, July 27, 1899, 1.

¹⁶ Arden Jean Schuetz, *People-Events and Erath County, Texas*, (Stephenville, TX: Ennis Favors, 1965), 83.

¹⁷ “Monday, Oct. 2nd,” *The Erath Appeal*, Oct. 5, 1899, 1.

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In 1894 to 1895, *The Texas State Gazeteer and Business Directory* described Stephenville as processing considerable shipments of cotton, livestock, wheat, corn, oats, sorghum, wool hides, flour, rye, and fruits. The directory listed 98 businesses and professionals in town, including a telephone system and Western Union Express.¹⁸ In 1902, Stephenville's Sanborn Map indicated a population of 2,000 with four lumberyards, two cotton yards, a bottling works, two large wagon yards, five churches, and one public school.¹⁹ One of the largest cattle deals made in Stephenville occurred in 1897 when banker Otho S. Houston sold 1,500 head of steers for \$19,000.

The decade of building ended in Stephenville with a demand for more housing for new residents. Developers subdivided 16 acres west of John Tarleton College with plans to create "one of the prettiest residence portions of the city."²⁰ In his annual address to the city in 1899, Mayor James Collins called for a public health officer, a street engineer, extended water mains, horse watering troughs downtown for the convenience of shoppers, and for a law requiring landowners to build sidewalks on their property along principal streets. He especially called for sidewalks along W. Washington St. from the courthouse square to Tarleton College.

During the early twentieth century, Stephenville's downtown development extended three blocks north and three blocks west, away from the river and toward the railroad tracks and new college. Businesses opened along either side of Belknap Ave. north of the square, where, in 1899, a lot along the avenue, 30-foot wide by 125-foot deep, sold for \$1,000. Businesses built along Belknap Avenue still standing include the limestone and brick carriage sales building (Resource No. 41—Contributing) and two-story brick telephone exchange building (No. 98—Contributing). Business owners also constructed buildings along E. Washington St., the main thoroughfare into the courthouse square from the east and bigger cities like Fort Worth. Early twentieth-century buildings remaining along E. Washington St. include the limestone grocery building on the northeast corner (Resource No. 20—Contributing), the Tatum & Sons Building (Resource No. 22—Contributing), and the W.W. Rutherford Building (Resource No. 23—Contributing). Lumber yards like Higginbotham's supplied this extensive post-railroad building boom. Part of its large facility is still located along W. College Ave., just off the courthouse square (Resource No. 11—Contributing).

In 1910, Erath County cotton production reached its peak at 57,673 bales.²¹ The same year, the county reached a twentieth century population high of 32,095, and Stephenville boasted 2,501 residents. City residents turned their attention toward needed improvements like those proposed by Mayor Collins at the turn of the century. In 1900, the county installed a sanitary sewage system for the courthouse, and, in 1912, the city laid two miles of sewage pipe and extended its water mains about 6,000 feet for a total cost of \$12,000. At the same time, Stephenville assumed control of the water system, but the electric company, identified as Stephenville Light Co. on the 1912 Sanborn Map, remained part of Baldwin Gin. In 1919, Texas Power and Light Company purchased the city's electrical system and Gulf States Telephone took over phone service.

Streets and sidewalks became a major concern for practical, safety, and aesthetic reasons. In October 1899, the editor of *The Erath Appeal* wrote of wet and muddy streets throughout Stephenville's downtown: "For days it was almost impossible for men to get to their places of business. Shopping was suspended. Ladies would not leave their homes. Farmers were kept away from town. Every road whether graded or un-graded was impassable."²² When weather was dry, the fire department sprinkled the roads with hoses to keep down dust. In 1906, Mayor Collins estimated there were 100 miles of streets in Stephenville and they were not in good condition. In 1905, the city employed a street

¹⁸ *Texas State Gazeteer and Business Directory*, "Stephenville," in *Grand Ol' Erath, The Saga of a Texas West Cross Timbers County, Vol. I*, written by H.G. (Grady) Perry (Stephenville, TX: 1974), 219-220.

¹⁹ Sanborn Map Co., February 1902.

²⁰ *The Erath Appeal*, Dec. 1899, 1.

²¹ M.L. Auten, "A History of Erath County, Texas" (master's thesis, Hardin-Simmons University, 1951), 123.

²² *The Erath Appeal*, Oct. 5, 1899, 3.

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maintenance supervisor whose department owned one grader, two first-class scrapers, one drill bar, a five-foot chain, and a wrench.²³

Beginning in 1899, individual building owners constructed sidewalks of cement or limestone outside their businesses downtown. In May 1900, stonemasons laid a rock sidewalk in front of the Cage and Crow Building on the northwest corner of the square, while next door, Theo Bauer installed a cement sidewalk. In October of that year, First National Bank tore up its stone sidewalk and poured one of cement.

In 1900, *The Erath Appeal* lobbied for a public park in the “pretty grove” south of the courthouse square near James Beech’s mill and gin, where public barbecues and picnics had been held for years. Mrs. Mollie Crow led a community effort to raise money and purchase the property, which the city did in 1910. Citizens also raised \$900 to build a large pavilion in the park. This early picnic grounds and park, located just two to three blocks south of the courthouse square, has remained Stephenville’s traditional recreational center.

Automobile and Roadway Development

W.H. Grouce, who owned Stephenville’s telephone company, purchased the first automobile in town, a 1907 Ford with red leather upholstery. By 1912, Stephenville had its first auto-related commercial enterprise, a repair business owned by Henry Cole located along E. Washington St., one block from the courthouse. By 1921, the city had 12 new auto-related businesses, including two auto sales dealers, 10 repair shops, an accessories shop and one gas station. In 1930, Stephenville had 27 auto-related businesses and the number of filling stations had risen to 12. By 1949, the city boasted 39 auto-related businesses, including 15 service stations. Automobile-related resources within the downtown historic district that retain integrity include the lodge hall and auto dealership building on the southwest corner of W. Washington St. and S. Columbia St. (Resource No. 114—Contributing), the filling station building directly across W. Washington St. on the northwest corner of the intersection with Columbia St. (Resource No. 111—Contributing), the petrified wood filling station on the corner of E. Washington St. and S. Floral Ave (Resource No. 147—Contributing), the large garage built of Thurber brick on the north side of E. Washington St. between N. Virginia Ave. and N. Floral Ave. (Resource No. 92—Contributing), and the automobile repair garage on S. Graham Ave., built as a rear addition to the Gentry and Shelton Building on the southeast corner of the square (Resource No. 9—Contributing).

In 1912, the editor of the *Stephenville Tribune* wrote that “autos are getting so plentiful in Stephenville that a man must be on the lookout when he turns corners or saunters across the square.”²⁴ In a sign of the times that automobiles were becoming more commonplace, the county’s street committee voted in 1924 to remove the horse-hitching rack from the courthouse lawn. With so much auto traffic, the need for better streets became urgent and residents joined the statewide good roads movement. In 1923, the Stephenville city council decided to begin with improving the public square, or heart of the city, by “raising, filling, grading, and paving it with vitrified brick.”²⁵ In order to lower property insurance rates, the city decided early the next year to improve its water system by laying eight-inch mains to the central plant, so road paving waited for the new water mains to be buried in April 1924. In 1928, Stephenville residents approved a \$75,000 street bond issue and in March the next year the city signed a \$208,000 contract with Thurber Construction Company for a massive paving project for several streets around the courthouse square using 2 ½-inch vitrified brick on an eight-inch water-bound macadam base. The brick was manufactured in Thurber, which is 27 miles northwest of Stephenville in Erath County. Although the 1920s brick streets around the courthouse have been covered in asphalt, many of the other original brick streets remain within the downtown historic district and are included as one historic resource (map 1 and 2). Before the brick paving, the city built sidewalks in most areas in 1919 and 1920.

²³ C. Richard King, “Stephenville Streets,” (n.p., n.d.), 1,2.

²⁴ King, “By the Square in Stephenville,” 111.

²⁵ King, “Stephenville Streets,” 3.

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In 1917, residents began a concerted effort to advocate for paving the road from Fort Worth to Stephenville, and then to Brownwood. By 1922, a road district improved Erath County's stretch of the highway, known as State Highway No. 10, making it one of the best-graveled highways in Texas. In Stephenville, Highway No. 10 ran through downtown across the north side of the courthouse square as Washington St. The increase of heavy truck traffic eventually damaged the gravel highway, and by 1935, it was paved from Bluff Dale through Stephenville as U.S. Highway 377. Texas State Highway 108 also runs through the Stephenville Downtown Historic District as Graham St. This was originally the old road to and from Thurber, which became a state highway in 1929, but was not paved until 1947.

As early as 1910 and 1911, Erath County farmers began to realize that their single-crop system was seriously deteriorating the land and affecting their profits. The great "plow-up" with motorized tractors during the 1920s accelerated soil erosion. This deterioration, along with the effects of the boll weevil, which hit from 1916 to 1920, led to a steady decline in cotton crops. In 1928, before the Great Depression began, the county cotton production dropped by more than half to only 12,429 bales.

As cotton-related business faced declining profits in Stephenville, businessmen formed a local chamber of commerce in 1911 to attract industries. The next year, the group helped bring a creamery to the city, a harbinger of the growth of the county's dairy business. In 1917, the Texas Legislature voted to make John Tarleton College a state college and part of the Texas A&M University system, which ensured its future stability.

As the state reveled in the frenzy of the Petroleum Age, Stephenville was not immune. In 1918, prospectors discovered oil in Desdemona in Eastland County, 21 miles to the west of town and one mile west of the Erath County border. In 1920, prospecting in Exray, 14 miles northwest of Stephenville, led to the discovery of natural gas. These finds led to great local excitement and plans for an oil refinery in the city, which never materialized. However, Stephenville became a distribution center for oil and oil-related products. By 1921, Stephenville had four petroleum depots and an oil-supply warehouse adjacent to the railroad tracks. "Skinners" like John Hampton prospered by hauling boilers, rigs, and pipes aboard eight-wheeled wagons drawn by as many as 12 horses and mules from Stephenville to Desdemona.

During this era of improvements and prosperity in Stephenville, the congregations of First Methodist Church and First Baptist Church replaced their frame sanctuaries with monumental brick buildings featuring the exuberance of detail and colossal columns of Beaux Arts Classicism. These magnificent churches remain in their original locations near the courthouse square, just two blocks west and two blocks northwest, within the area of development during the early twentieth century (Resource No. 107, Contributing, and Resource No. 113, Contributing). In 1926, citizens of Stephenville joined together and donated a lot three blocks north of the courthouse square to Dr. J.C. Terrell, who built the community's first hospital, a brick building with 16 rooms, for \$20,000. By 1929, Dr. Terrell built an annex, doubling its size. These original medical buildings are no longer standing, but the hospital has grown to become Texas Health Harris Methodist Hospital.

Great Depression, New Deal, World War, and Post-War Growth

The reduction in cotton production caused by soil deterioration and the boll weevil resulted in a loss of population in Erath County, which by 1930 had declined by more than 9,000 residents from its high of 1910. When the Great Depression and drought hit Texas, local farmers were in desperate conditions and the diversification efforts they had already undertaken accelerated. They planted peanuts and fruit and pecan orchards, turned to dairy farming, poultry raising and ranching, and engaged in soil conservation practices.

As the rural population in Erath County declined, Stephenville as a town continued to grow. By 1930, it increased to 3,994 residents. Rural residents were moving to cities looking for jobs, and Stephenville was striving to attract

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businesses and industries. John Tarleton Agricultural College was growing, and so was the new hospital. By 1940, 52 percent of Erath County's labor force worked in agriculture and 48 percent in trade and commerce.²⁶

During the 1930s, New Deal programs positively affected quality of life and development in Stephenville and Erath County. In 1935, the federal government began a soil conservation project on 30,000 acres in the upper watershed of Green Creek between Stephenville and Dublin, where 25 to 75 percent of topsoil had been lost to erosion. This model restoration project employed members of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and 185 local men, who worked on conservation efforts. National Park landscape architect Norfleet Bone designed a short-lived Stephenville State Park, which was built in 1933 by members of the corps 12 miles north of town.

In Stephenville, the U.S. Post Office built a new concrete Art Deco facility within the business district, two blocks northwest of the courthouse. The Post Office, which Dallas architect Mark Lemmon designed as one of the New Deal's "public works of enduring character," still stands today and is used as the city library (Resource No. 110—Contributing).²⁷ In 1938, the Works Progress Administration built a new City Recreation Hall two blocks south of the courthouse square, on the site of the city park pavilion built by citizens in 1910. Architect Wyatt Hedrick of Fort Worth designed the two-story rustic limestone recreation hall, which still serves residents today.

The City of Stephenville received aid from the WPA with roadwork and local leaders agreed to hire a superintendent for federally funded projects in 1940. During times of limited funds like the Great Depression, the city sold its alleyways downtown to raise money. This resulted in the construction from 1912 to 1949 of several especially narrow buildings that filled alleyway openings along rows of businesses. Three of these buildings remain in the downtown district (Resource No. 13—Contributing, Resource No. 21—Contributing, and Resource No. 42, Contributing).

Diversification efforts of county farmers were reflected in new agricultural industries in Stephenville in 1930, including a new poultry business and peanut warehouse. By 1935, the county's cotton production dropped to 7,479 bales, causing Stephenville's cottonseed oil mill to convert to a peanut oil mill. In 1937, farmers grew crops on 197,384 acres in the county and livestock grazed on 409,525 acres. That same year, three Stephenville nurseries were selling fruit trees and the Fort Worth Poultry and Egg Company opened a cheese factory in the city, two blocks northeast of the courthouse square. The new cheese factory processed 5,000 gallons of milk a day into 3,000 to 4,000 pounds of cheese. In 1936, there were more than 8,000 dairy cows on farms and ranches in Erath County and milk production exceeded 3.5 million pounds.²⁸ The only remaining structure related to the cheese plant is a brick and concrete Art Deco building that the company operated as a restaurant on the northwest corner of E. Washington St. and N. Virginia Ave. (Resource No. 91—Contributing).

By 1940, five highways entered Stephenville from seven directions, and the *WPA Guide to Texas* described Stephenville as a ranching gateway where visitors could buy cowboy boots downtown. Besides Santa Fe Railway passenger and freight service, four bus lines and four freight lines served Stephenville. The city had grown to encompass 2,112 acres, or 3.3 square miles, and contained 1,505 dwelling units. John Tarleton Agricultural College had an annual enrollment of 1,300 students in 1940 and employed 85 administrative and academic employees in 1942. New construction in Stephenville in 1939 was valued at more than \$500,000, mostly financed with private capital. The chamber of commerce boasted that the city was "known as a retail shopping center and for its progressive merchandising methods. The large volume of business reflects a high standard of living."²⁹

²⁶ "1948 Economic Survey of Erath County Produced for the Texas and Pacific Railway Co.," (Austin, TX: University of Texas, 1948), Section 3, p. .0201-03.

²⁷ Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, "Preserving Historic Post Offices: A Report to Congress," March 20, 2014, www.achp.gov/docs/Preserving%20Historic%20Post%20Offices.pdf.

²⁸ Valerie Eoff, "A History of Erath County," (master's thesis, University of Texas, 1937), 110, 121, 122, 133.

²⁹ W.B. Sansing, "Stephenville, Texas, Where the West Begins," *The Baldwin Stephenville Texas ConSurvey Directory* (Parsons,

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Part of the late 1930s building boom included the construction of the Long Hotel, which Wyatt C. Hedrick designed for businessman Charles Long in 1938. The three-story Art Deco hotel, built for \$35,000 upon the public block where Stephenville held its jockey yard market for decades, is still standing and retains integrity, although it has recently suffered from neglect (Resource No. 90—Contributing). Next door to the east is a Streamline Moderne-style bus station built during the 1930s to 1940s that is being adapted for use as a restaurant (Resource No. 89—Contributing).

During World War II, many members of the community joined the military. Lyndsay W. Phillips, manager of the chamber of commerce, wrote regular letters to local men and women serving overseas, including his son. In a November 1942 letter to 41 service members, he described the business district in Stephenville as lively and filled with activity related to the war effort:

You could not buy a gallon of gas or a 10-gallon hat, a pack of cigarettes or a coke, a hamburger or cash a check from 1 to 6 p.m. on Oct. 27—everything closed to gather scrap. Big junk piles on the square everywhere. There is so much passenger traffic you can hardly get in the bus station, dozens of buses going through each day. Gas and tire rationing, that's okay with us, too. Trains whistling all through the night. Airplanes flying low over the square—a Stephenville boy likely giving us a farewell buzz.³⁰

In ten years, from 1940 to 1950, Stephenville's population increased by 50 percent, even though the city did not benefit from military-related manufacturing. After the GI Bill passed in 1944, student enrollment at Tarleton spiked, prompting the college to bring in mobile homes as housing. By 1947, Stephenville had 18 manufacturers that employed from 200 to 350 people, including the Swift and Company Peanut Shelling Plant, which was the largest and employed the most workers. The chamber of commerce was proud of the community's diversity in industry, which included a women's clothing manufacturer, cheese plant, automobile accessories manufacturer, tin-ware shop, mattress manufacturer, and pecan shelling plant. The city's peanut products and auto-related goods shipped to international markets. Area nurseries prospered and employed a large workforce; Wolfe Nursery became a nationally known company for its hybrid pecan trees. Stephenville's hospital, just north of the historic district boundary, had grown to 55 beds, with a full-time staff of 46. The hospital's total assets in 1947 were \$252,025.³¹ Some of the hospital's nurses lived on the second floor of a two-part commercial office building that remains on N. Belknap St., two blocks north of the courthouse square (Resource No. 164—Contributing).

In its November 1947 issue, *West Texas Today* attributed Stephenville's growth to a "Wide Variety of Productive Assets of the Soil." Author J.W. Clements wrote, "Many modern business buildings have been constructed and occupied with new business, and others are being planned." Like cities throughout the country, sudden growth and prosperity led to an acute housing shortage in Stephenville. Every carpenter in the city was busy constructing new houses. By then, the city had 15 miles of paved roads and was engaged in an extensive paving program and construction had started on a loop highway around downtown.³²

Most of the "modern business buildings" constructed within the downtown historic district between 1930 and 1949 were built north and west of the courthouse square, along the path of development toward industry near the railroad tracks and Tarleton College. They included a row of general mercantile buildings along the east side of N. Belknap

KS: Robert Morton Baldwin, 1940), 7-8.

³⁰ Lyndsay W. Phillips, Letter to 41 service members, November 1942, Local history vertical files in Local History Room, Special Collections Suite, Dick Smith Library, Tarleton State University.

³¹ "1948 Economic Survey of Erath County," 4.05-4.06.

³² J.W. Clements, "Erath a Top Diversifying County—Growth of Stephenville, the County Seat, is Founded on a Wide Variety of Productive Assets of the Soil," *West Texas Today*, November 1947, 12.

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Ave. between Mason St. and Green St., anchored by a traditional furniture store on the corner (Resources 101 and 102—Contributing). Across the street was a two-story brick building that was originally used for tire sales (Resource No. 103—Contributing). On the same block, along W. Green St., is a Streamline Moderne brick office building (Resource No. 106—Contributing). One block north, along the northern border of the downtown district, is the Graham Street Church of Christ, constructed in 1949 to accommodate an expanding congregation (Resource No. 163—Contributing).

West Texas Today noted that with all of Stephenville's burgeoning growth during the 1940s, the community was planning together for a dynamic but orderly future. "Exceptional educational advantages, churches, the network of modern highways, progressive civic organizations and an alert Chamber of Commerce are assets that should be conducive to a sound and sane future growth," wrote Clements.³³

African-American Community

Stephenville's first African-American residents were slaves brought to the settlement by early pioneers. Because most of the settlers in Erath County were yeoman farmers from the Upland South, only a few of them owned slaves. John M. Stephen left a small group of slaves under a grove of trees in 1854 until he and George B. Erath returned in 1855 to survey the settlement. By 1860, Stephen identified himself as a planter who owned \$25,000 in real estate and a \$30,000 personal estate that included 15 slaves and four slave cabins.³⁴

As early as 1894, descendants of freed slaves attended a separate school in Stephenville. The city's public school building first appeared on the 1891 Sanborn Map, located one-fourth mile west of the courthouse square along W. College St. By 1921, white students attended a large public school at the same location west of the courthouse square and a high school, located several blocks northwest. None of those historic school buildings remain intact.

African-American residents clustered in an early settlement addition northeast of the courthouse square and built a thriving neighborhood of houses, churches, lodge halls and schools, including a CME Church north of the downtown district on the southwest corner of Frey St. and N. Miller Ave. that remains active today. Between 1912 and 1921, when several Texas towns were passing segregation laws, additional separate facilities for African-Americans appeared on Stephenville's Sanborn Maps within their neighborhood. The community built an African-American school on the southwest corner of Tarleton St. and Vine St., and an African-American lodge hall along Vine St.

In 1922, Stephenville's West End Cemetery Association purchased land to help the "Colored Cemetery Association" establish a separate burial ground. Residents buried in the African-American section of Stephenville's West End Cemetery were exhumed and reburied in Mount Olive Cemetery, which is located along College Farm Road, north and east of the courthouse square. The Bethesda School, where Cornelia Graves taught African-American students for 19 years, was also located along the same road. When the Bethesda School closed, the school district constructed a new "colored" school along Floral Ave. in 1951 and named it for longtime teacher Cornelia Graves. This small school is still standing today on the northeast edge of the downtown district. (Resource No. 138—Contributing).

In 1955, the Stephenville school board voted to hire a part-time teacher to instruct three junior high school students and three high school students at the Cornelia Graves School, but, by 1959, the African-American school only taught students through the eighth grade. High school-aged students had to go out of town to receive an education. According to an article in the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune* in July 1963, the Stephenville school district sent African-American high school students to Fort Worth for their education, at "considerable expense to the local system."³⁵

³³ Ibid, 26.

³⁴ Ricky L. Sherrod, *Images of America, Stephenville*, (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2010), 8.

³⁵ "Local Schools to Integrate," *Stephenville Empire-Tribune*, July 5, 1963, 1.

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In October 1958, the Chamber of Commerce printed “Industrial Facts About Stephenville.” This publication included the following information about the city’s schools: two white elementary schools with 742 students enrolled, one “colored” elementary school with 10 students enrolled, one white junior high school with 253 students enrolled, and one white high school with 503 students enrolled. The industrial-recruiting tool also printed that two-tenths of one percent of the city’s labor force was African-American and the city had “no racial problems.”³⁶

In September 1963, Stephenville integrated its schools, several years after the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1954 landmark ruling, *Brown versus the Board of Education*, which mandated integration in the country’s schools. In an article entitled “No Problems at the Public Schools,” the *Empire-Tribune* wrote that “14 colored children enrolled and there was no embarrassment to anyone.”³⁷ After desegregation, Cornelia Graves School became a community center for Stephenville’s African-American neighborhood, where about 100 residents gathered for meals, games, and social interaction. During the 1990s, the Stephenville Independent School District sold the Cornelia Graves School building.

Today, just a few homes and the privately-owned school building are what remain of a once-thriving neighborhood. Stephenville’s business district has encroached and replaced many of the houses and lodge halls. One of the remaining African-American neighborhood homes is located within the northeast area of the downtown historic district, surrounded by galvanized metal feed mill storage units constructed during the 1950s (Resources Nos. 154 and 155—Contributing).

Mid-Twentieth Century

During the 1950s, Stephenville grew less drastically than it did in the years immediately after the end of World War II. The city’s chamber of commerce attributed its rapid post-war growth to “the educational, religious, recreational and highway advantages, together with a favorable and healthy year-round climate,” which made Stephenville attractive. The chamber also touted the city’s highway advantages as making it the “Crossroads of Texas,” where U.S. 281, “The American Legion Memorial Highway,” from Canada to Mexico intersected with U.S. 67, “The Big Bend Trail,” from Texarkana to Mexico, and U.S. Highway 377, “The Old Camp Bowie Highway.” Chamber leaders wrote, “Thus it is seen that a tourist can travel through Stephenville on a wide, safe, U.S. designated highway.”³⁸

In 1950, the county undertook \$75,000 of “improvements” to its 58-year-old courthouse, supervised by architect Wyatt C. Hedrick of Fort Worth. Upon completion of the project in May, the county and the American Legion Halls of Stephenville and Dublin dedicated a memorial monument to 147 Erath County service members who lost their lives in World Wars I and II. Although a loop around downtown along U.S. Highway 377 was being planned, citizens erected this monument at the northwest corner of the county courthouse, which they still considered the heart of Stephenville. In 1954, citizens celebrated the centennial of their city with several activities, including a parade, the Erath County Fair, and a pageant entitled “Stephenville in Review, One Hundred Years of Progress.”

In July of 1954, the City of Stephenville dedicated its post-war modern City Hall and Fire Station, designed by architect Stanley Brown of Dallas and constructed by K.A. Sparks of Hamilton for a total cost of \$78,033, which the city paid in cash. The new building, erected on the site of a large house built before 1881, housed city offices, the fire department, and the police department. Today, the building houses the Stephenville Police Department at its original location three blocks north of the courthouse square and along the northern border of the downtown district. (Resource No. 139—Contributing).

³⁶ “Industrial Facts About Stephenville,” (Stephenville: Chamber of Commerce, 1958), 1,3.

³⁷ “No Problems at Public Schools,” *Stephenville Empire-Tribune*, Sept. 6, 1963, 1.

³⁸ “Stephenville, Texas, Educational, Highway and Diversified Farming Center,” (Stephenville: Chamber of Commerce, 1950) 2, 3.

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One block southwest of the courthouse, businessmen had two other post-war modern buildings constructed during the early 1950s. At the corner of S. Columbia Blvd. and W. McNeil St. is a one-part commercial building constructed of hollow clay tile blocks faced with limestone blocks (Resource No. 61—Contributing). Along W. College St. is a one-part commercial block built of red brick for doctors who opened the Altaras Medical Clinic adjacent to the courthouse square rather than near the hospital (Resource No. 60—Contributing).

From the 1920s through the 1960s, buildings in Stephenville, as in other North Central Texas communities, were modernized to present a more streamlined appearance, reflecting Deco, Moderne and post-war modern design movements. Two examples remain on the Stephenville Courthouse Square of mid-twentieth century modernization that incorporated two or three existing buildings to create enframed window-wall stores. On the north side of the square, Beall Brothers adapted three nineteenth century buildings to create a department store in the early 1950s (Resources Nos. 33, 34, and 35—Contributing). On the south side of the square, Perry Brothers Variety Store adapted two nineteenth century buildings to create a modern storefront (Resource No. 6—Contributing).

In 1959, the Texas Legislature voted to make John Tarleton Agricultural College a four-year school and changed its name to Tarleton State College. Effective in 1961, the college's first students to earn bachelor's degrees graduated in 1963. This improvement guaranteed sustainability and growth for Tarleton and increased its economic impact upon the Stephenville community. According to research economists at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, colleges and universities boost local economies by spending money in their communities, employing workers, educating local workers, and helping businesses create jobs for skilled workers. They also contribute stability to a region because higher education is less susceptible to economic downturns than other sections of the economy. For example, the education sector continued to expand before, during, and after the Great Depression.³⁹ Since its inception in 1899, the college, now known as Tarleton State University, has grown and improved, and so has Stephenville. From 1950 to 1970, enrollment at Tarleton increased 42 percent from 900 to 3,027, while the population of Stephenville increased 29 percent from 7,155 to 9,277.⁴⁰ During the same period, Tarleton added seven new buildings and remodeled several others on its campus.

During the 1960s, as Stephenville grew, plans materialized for a loop highway around the city on its south side, which was completed in two phases. In 1963, developers promoted "quiet suburban living" in Stephenville's newest addition west of the college campus, near where the new loop connected with U.S. Highway 377. Called Park Terrace, its spacious, lush lots were priced at \$795 and quality homes started at \$7,950. Even as suburban development blossomed, businessmen continued to construct important buildings downtown, including an International-style dental clinic on the corner of W. College St. and S. Columbia St., one block southwest of the courthouse (Resource No. 62—Contributing). In February 1964, the *Stephenville Empire-Tribune* reported that bank deposits were up and new building was brisk. During 1963, 88 residences and eight commercial buildings were constructed for a total of \$912,525. Among the new buildings was the Erath County Jail, designed in an International style by the office of Fort Worth architect Wyatt C. Hedrick and opened in 1964 two blocks southwest of the courthouse square on Block 24, the traditional location of the county jail since 1880.

With new suburban building and development underway, the community and its leaders never lost focus on Stephenville's downtown business district. Like the rest of the country, residents became aware of preserving their heritage, and in 1963, the county erected a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark plaque for the Erath County Courthouse

³⁹ Jason R. Abel and Richard Deitz, "How Colleges and Universities Can Help Their Local Economies," *Liberty Street Economics*, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, accessed March 26, 2017, <http://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2012/02/how-colleges-and-universities-can-help-their-local-economies.html>.

⁴⁰ *Handbook of Texas Online*, J. Thomas Davis and Nancy Beck Young, "Tarleton State University," accessed March 26, 2017, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kct02>.

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on a concrete monument on the southeast corner of the courthouse lawn. (Resource No. 3—Non-Contributing). In 1966, preservationists formed the Stephenville Historical House Museum to preserve the history of the Cross Timbers region, and set about honoring and restoring the 1869 Berry House, located four blocks east of the courthouse square and just outside the downtown business district. The Gothic Revival Berry House is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

In 1965, downtown business owners formed a merchants' association and worked with a city comprehensive development committee to prepare plans for improvements to the courthouse square and the surrounding area. Their plans focused on retaining the square as the city center by doubling available parking, erecting lights for traffic flow, and making the downtown more aesthetically pleasing through plantings. The city council approved the \$200,000 plans in 1967. The same year, Stephenville Savings and Loan decided to keep its headquarters in the downtown business district, rather than moving to developing suburban areas around the loop. The savings and loan designed and built a split-level International-style building three blocks west of the courthouse square along W. Washington St. (Resource No. 128—Contributing).

The 1960s ended in Stephenville with 14 industries; a growing university; \$1.45 million in building permits; three banks; a 70-bed hospital; clean, pure water from 18 deep wells; five paid and 27 volunteer firemen with eight pieces of mobile equipment; nine policemen; 22 churches; four schools; one railroad; four motor-freight companies; two bus companies; and an appreciation for a thriving downtown.⁴¹ In recognition of the significance of the courthouse square in Stephenville to all of Erath county, dairy farmers in 1972 erected "Moola" the Holstein cow on the northwest corner of the courthouse square to tout and advertise the contributions of their industry to the community.

Commerce and Community Planning and Development (Criterion A)

This continuing recognition of the significance of the Erath County Courthouse square and downtown Stephenville as a center of business from its inception in 1855 qualifies the downtown district for listing in the National Register in the area of Commerce. This recognition continues through today, because the downtown merchants have formed a new association to promote commerce and the chamber of commerce maintains an electronic sign along Washington St. on the courthouse square that notifies residents of ongoing commercial and community activities and special events.

As the Stephenville Downtown Business District grew beyond its original 25 blocks designed by George Erath, city staff and businessmen maintained its original orderly square-and-grid pattern throughout the period of significance. Maps created by abstractor King in 1931 and 1952 reflected this orderly development. Infrastructure development during the period of significance included water systems from cart delivery through 18 wells, streets from dirt through brick to more than 15 miles of pavement, and electricity from a 12-volt Edison electric system through Texas Power and Light Co. and three transmission line feeds. This organized growth and improvement qualifies the Stephenville Downtown Business District for listing in the National Register in the area of Community Planning and Development.

Architectural Significance (Criterion C)

The Stephenville Downtown Historic District contains a majority percentage of contributing buildings that retain integrity, along with several established landmarks, that altogether convey local architectural significance from 1873, the date of the oldest extant building, through 1967. Within the district, there are two buildings individually listed in the National Register for architectural significance (Resource No. 1—Erath County Courthouse and Resource No. 43—First National Bank) and six Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (Resources Nos. 1 and 43, Resource No. 4—

⁴¹ "Prosperity and Leisure Unlimited, Stephenville, Texas," (Stephenville: Chamber of Commerce, 1969-1970), 2, 3, and "Stephenville Chamber of Commerce Growth, 1950—1967," (Stephenville: Chamber of Commerce, 1968-1969).

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Dawson's Saloon, Resource No. 8—Gentry and Shelton Building, Resource No. 30—Cage and Crow Building and Crow Opera House, and Resource No. 113—First Methodist Church).

Although the majority of the buildings within the Stephenville Downtown Historic District retain architectural integrity to the period of significance, some unsympathetic rehabilitation and new construction within the district has occurred, mostly after the 1960s, when buildings were covered with slipcovers or stucco or adorned with inappropriate architectural features.

Most of the buildings within the district were constructed during Stephenville's post-railroad decade of development from 1890 through 1902 (22 resources) and during the New Deal, World War II and immediate post-war era from 1930 to 1949 (26 resources). Because they do not exhibit characteristics of high architectural styles, most buildings in Stephenville's Downtown Historic District are commercial one-part and two-part commercial blocks as identified by Richard Longstreth in his book, *The Buildings of Main Street*.

One-part commercial block buildings were usually designed for use as retail stores. One-story tall, they featured narrow fronts with windows and an entry topped by transom windows. Above the windows was a wall space for signage and the building was often topped with parapet or cornice. In Stephenville, one-story commercial block buildings are in rows among other one- and two-story commercial blocks along streets, but several free-standing examples were built. They were usually built of limestone or brick, but several brick- or limestone-faced clay tile and stucco-covered examples exist. Late nineteenth century examples of one-part commercial block buildings include Resource No. 19 on the east side of the courthouse square and Resource No. 57 on W. College St. During the early to mid-twentieth century, owners modernized some typical one-part commercial block examples by combining one or more buildings, removing Victorian-era cornices and parapets, and creating enframed window walls. Examples of enframed window-wall retail buildings include Resource No. 6 on the south side of the courthouse square and Resources Nos. 33, 34, and 35 on the north side. Some examples of one-part commercial block buildings constructed during the twentieth century exhibit characteristics of modern architectural movements, including Resources Nos. 60 and 62 located adjacent to each other on W. College St.

Longstreth called two-part commercial block buildings "the most common type of composition used for small and moderate-sized commercial buildings throughout the country."⁴² Usually two- to four-stories tall, these buildings featured a horizontal division into two distinct zones reflecting differences in use. First floors of these buildings were most often used for retail, while upper floors were offices, meeting halls, hotels, or apartments. In Stephenville, two-part commercial block buildings were most often located in rows. They were usually built of limestone or brick, but several brick- or limestone-faced clay tile and stucco-covered examples exist. Late nineteenth century examples of two-part commercial block buildings include Resource No. 55, the Lawyers Building on the southwest corner of the square; Resource No. 50, the Schnabel Building on the northwest corner of the square; and Resource No. 30, the Cage and Crow Building and Crow Opera House, also on the northwest corner. Some late-nineteenth-century examples were modified right after the turn of the twentieth century to exhibit Neoclassical architectural features, becoming temple-front buildings, including Resource No. 43, First National Bank Building on the southwest corner of the square, and Resource No. 15, the Farmers National Bank Building on the east side of the square.

Several institutional and civic buildings within the district exhibit characteristics of high architectural styles, including Resource No. 113, the 1917 Beaux Arts-style First Methodist Church, and Resource No. 107, the 1923 Beaux Arts-style First Baptist Church. Several of these high-style buildings were designed by professional architects including Resource No. 1, the 1891 Romanesque Revival Erath County Courthouse designed by J. Riely Gordon; Resource No. 110, the 1935 Art Deco-style U.S. Post Office building designed by Mark Lemmon of Dallas; Resource No. 139, the

⁴² Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street, A Guide to American Commercial Architecture* (Walnut Creek, CA: Alta Mira Press, 2000), 24.

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1954 Post-War Modern City Hall designed by Stanley Brown of Dallas; and Resource No. 128, the 1967 International-style Stephenville Savings and Loan designed by Joe V. Line of Cleburne.

Fort Worth architect Wyatt C. Hedrick had a marked influence on Stephenville through his designs of four major buildings, one of them contributing to the downtown historic district. In 1938, Hedrick first designed Resource No. 90, the Art Deco-style Long Hotel, located one block west of the courthouse square. Hedrick also designed three institutional buildings outside the boundaries of the historic district, including the WPA Rustic-style Stephenville Recreation Hall in 1938, the American Legion Hall on E. Washington St. in 1939, and, in 1963, shortly before he died, his associates designed the International-style Erath County Jail along S. Barton Ave.

Conclusion

The Stephenville Downtown Historic District features historic sites, buildings, structures, and objects that retain architectural integrity and reflect the special sense of place and continuum of history through commercial, civic, and institutional development in this North Central Texas town from its platting in 1855 through 1968. Because it served as the city's primary commercial center for over a century, the district meets Criterion A in the area of Commerce at the local level. As an outstanding example of small town planning and growth in Texas during the period of significance, the district meets Criterion A in the area of Community Planning and Development at the local level. And because the district contains an excellent cohesive collection of late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century commercial and civic architecture, it meets Criterion C at the local level of significance.

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Section 10

Geographical Information

Verbal Boundary Description

Each block in Stephenville is one acre, and the historic downtown district is 22 full contiguous blocks along with parts of two additional contiguous blocks, so it is approximately 23 acres. The boundaries are delineated on attached maps. The district roughly extends from McNeil St. south of the Erath County Courthouse Square to Tarleton St. north of the square, and from Devine Ave. east of the square to Barton Ave. to the west. Although the courthouse square and historic district are not situated along true north and south directions, this description uses north, south, east and west, rather than variants. In the following description, north is approximately 30 degrees west of true north.

Beginning at the northwest corner of the intersection of E. McNeil St. and S. Virginia Ave., proceed west to the southeast corner of W. McNeil St. and S. Columbia Ave. Proceed north to the northwest corner of W. College St. and S. Columbia Ave. Proceed west along W. College St. to the west property line of 422 W. Washington St., then proceed north to W. Washington St. and east on W. Washington St. to the northwest corner of the intersection of W. Washington St. and Barton Ave., encompassing the property known as the Hutchison Annex of First Methodist Church (Resource No. 128). Proceed north to the northwest corner of the intersection of W. Green St. and N. Barton Ave. Proceed east one block to the northwest corner of W. Green St. and N. Columbia Ave. Proceed north one block on N. Columbia Ave. to the northwest corner of W. Tarleton St. and N. Columbia Ave. Proceed east to the northwest corner of W. Tarleton St. and N. Graham Ave. Proceed south one block to the northeast corner of Green St. and N. Graham Ave. Proceed east on E. Green St. one block to the northwest corner of E. Green St. and N. Virginia Ave. Proceed north one block to the northeast corner of E. Tarleton St. and N. Virginia Ave. Proceed east to the west property line of 252 E. Tarleton St. Proceed north to the north boundary of 252 E. Tarleton St. Proceed east along the north boundary of 252 E. Tarleton St. to N. Floral Ave., encompassing the building known as the Cornelia Graves School (Resource No. 137). Proceed south along N. Floral Ave. to the northeast corner of the intersection with E. Washington St. Proceed east to the east property line of 406 E. Washington St. Proceed south along the east property line of 406 E. Washington St. to the south property line of 406 E. Washington St., encompassing the building known as Jake and Dorothy's Café (Resource N. 129). Proceed west to S. Floral Ave., along the south property lines of 406 E. Washington St., 374 E. Washington St. (Resource No. 148), and 306 E. Washington St. (Resource No. 149). Proceed south along S. Floral Ave. to the northwest corner of the intersection of E. College Ave. and S. Floral Ave. Proceed west one block to the northwest corner of the intersection of E. College Ave. and S. Virginia Ave. Proceed south one block to the northwest corner of W. McNeil St. and S. Virginia Ave., or the beginning point.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Stephenville Historic District contain the largest collection of historic resources that represent the development and growth of the city since its founding in 1854. Significant resources include landmark civic, commercial, and institutional buildings dating throughout the city's history, from the 1870s through the late 1960s. The south-central area of the district includes the Erath County Courthouse and the commercial development around it. The northern, eastern, and western areas of the district include commercial, civic, and religious buildings. The northeastern section of the district encompasses significant resources from the city's African-American neighborhood, which has been giving way to the business district since the mid-twentieth century. These resources include a school and two houses, one of which was built during the 1850s by an early settler.

Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Google Map

Accessed December 1, 2017



1. 32.223766° -98.202304°
2. 32.221880° -98.199570°
3. 32.221607° -98.199393°
4. 32.219780° -98.200672°
5. 32.218744° -98.202759°
6. 32.218654° -98.204590°
7. 32.219181° -98.204976°
8. 32.220769° -98.205110°
9. 32.221730° -98.204810°
10. 32.223587° -98.202700°

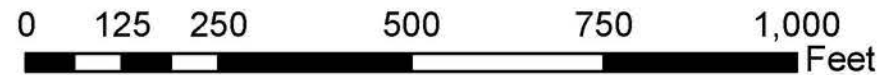


Legend

- Historic Area
- Type**
- Contributing
- Non-Contributing
- Brick Roads

9, 2 Block Numbers

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong) Community



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Historic Photographs

Figure 1: Aerial Photograph of Stephenville Downtown Historic District and Surroundings. True North is Straight Toward Top of Photograph. Circa 1966 Photograph Courtesy of Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Figure 2: Erath County Courthouse, 100 W. Washington St., Resource No. 1. Undated Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Figure 3: South Side of Erath County Courthouse Square Along W. College St, Resources Nos. 4 through 7. Undated Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Figure 4: North Side of Erath County Courthouse Square Along West Washington St., Resources Nos. 30-36. Undated Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Figure 5: Cage and Crow Building and Crow Opera House, Resource No. 30, 183-187 W. Washington St., North Side of Erath County Courthouse Square. Undated Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Figure 6: Beall's Department Store, Resources Nos. 33-35, 115-145 W. Washington St., North Side of Erath County Courthouse Square. Circa 1960 Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Figure 7: East Side of Erath County Courthouse Square Along S. Graham Ave, Resources Nos. 12 and No. 15-20. Undated Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum. Paving Bricks Stacked in Front of Buildings.



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Figure 8: Farmers National Bank, Resource No. 15, 181 S. Graham Ave., East Side of Erath County Courthouse Square. Circa 1924-1929 Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Figure 9: Schnabel Building and West Side of Erath County Courthouse Square Along S. Belknap Ave., Resources Nos. 50-44. Undated Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Figure 10: Lawyers Building, 200 W. College St. Undated Photo Scanned from 1981 Town and Country Bank, "A Calendar of Erath County History," by Dan Young.



Figure 11: First National Bank Building, Resource No. 43, 198 S. Belknap, West Side of Erath County Courthouse Square. Undated Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Figure 12: Beech House, Resource No. 102, 252 E. Tarleton St. Undated Photograph Courtesy Erath County Historical Commission.

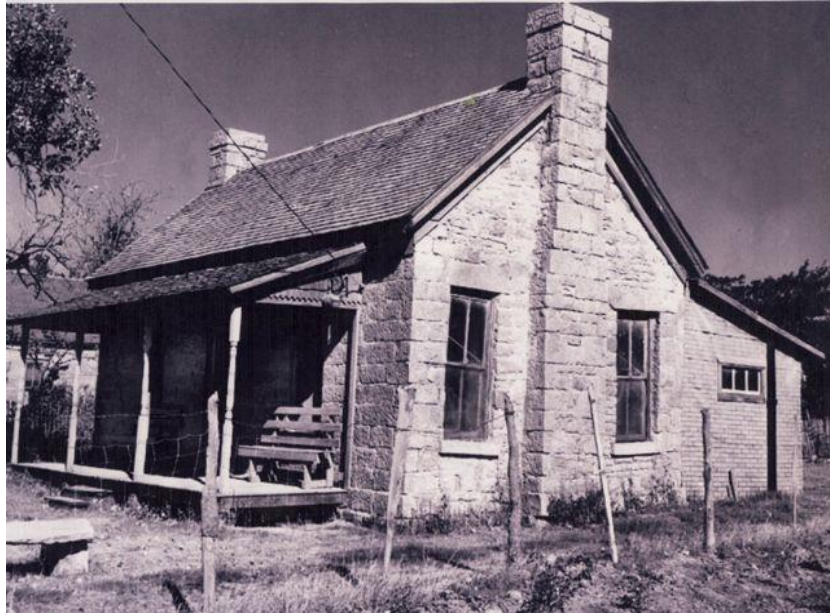


Figure 13: First United Methodist Church and Education Building, Resources Nos. 113 and 115, 328 and 328B W. Washington St. Undated Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Figure 14: First Baptist Church, Resource No. 107, 334A W. Green St. Circa 1920 Photograph Courtesy Cross Timbers Historic Images Project.



Figure 15: Graham Street Church of Christ, Resource No. 163, 312 N. Graham Ave. Circa 1940 Photograph Courtesy Cross Timbers Historic Images Project.



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Figure 16: Long Hotel, Resource No. 90, 221 E. College St. Designed by Architect Wyatt C. Hedrick. Undated Photograph Courtesy of Stephenville Resident.



Figure 18: Stephenville Savings and Loan, Resource No. 128, 422 W. Washington St. Circa 1967 Photograph Courtesy Stephenville Historical House Museum.



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Figure 19: Telephone Exchange Building, Resource No. 98, 211 N. Belknap St., Undated Photograph Courtesy Cross Timbers Historic Images Project.



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 1

Resource No. 1, Erath County Courthouse
100 W. Washington St.
Camera facing south



Photo 2

Resource No. 2, Erath County Honor Roll
100 W. Washington St.
Camera facing southeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 3

Resources Nos. 4—7, South Side of Erath County Courthouse Square
148-190 W. College St.
Camera facing southeast



Photo 4

Resources Nos. 8 and 9, Gentry and Shelton Building and Auto Garage
104 E. College St. and 221 S. Graham Ave.
Camera facing southeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 5

Resources Nos. 8 and 10, Gentry and Shelton Building and Gentry Building
104-118 E. College
Camera facing south



Photo 6

Resource No. 11, Higginbotham's Lumber Building
164 E. College
Camera facing south



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 7

Resources No.12—14

193 E. Graham Ave., 141-151 E. College

Camera facing northeast



Photo 8

Resource No. 15, Farmers National Bank Building

181 S. Graham Ave.

Camera facing east



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 9

Resource No. 12 and Resources Nos. 15-20, East Side of Erath County Courthouse Square

193 E. Graham Ave., 107-181 S. Graham Ave.

Camera facing northeast



Photo 10

Resources Nos. 19 and 20

107-119 S. Graham Ave.

Camera facing east



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 11

Resources Nos. 21 and 22, Tatum and Sons Building
148-154 E. Washington St.
Camera facing south



Photo 12

Resource No. 23, W. W. Rutherford Building
160 E. Washington St.
Camera facing south



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 13

Resources Nos. 30 and 31, Cage and Crow Building-Crow Opera House and Theo Bauer Building
171-187 W. Washington St.

Camera facing northeast



Photo 14

Resources Nos. 30-35, North Side of Erath County Courthouse Square
115-187 W. Washington St.

Camera facing northwest



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 15

Resources Nos. 40 and 41
153-199 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing southeast



Photo 16

Resource No. 42
147 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing east



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 17

Resource No. 43, First National Bank Building

198 S. Belknap Ave.

Camera facing northwest



Photo 18

Resources Nos. 43—50, West Side of Erath County Courthouse Square

116-198 S. Belknap Ave., 200 W. Washington St.

Camera facing northwest



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 19

Resource No. 50, F.A. Schnabel Building
200 W. Washington St.
Camera facing southwest
Photographed April 21, 2017



Photo 20

Resource No. 53
257 W. College St.
Camera facing northeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 21

Resources Nos. 55 and 56
200-216 W. College St.
Camera facing southwest



Photo 22

Resources Nos. 56 and 57
216-230 W. College St.
Camera facing south



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 23

Resource No. 58 and 59, Miller Photography Studio
240-250 W. College St.
Camera facing south



Photo 24

Resources Nos. 60 and 62, Altaras Medical Clinic Building and Dental Clinic Building
270-290 W. College St.
Camera facing southeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 25

Resource No. 61
299 S. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing northeast



Photo 26

Resource No. 63 and 64, "Rock Barn" Livery Stable
272 N. Belknap Ave. and 211 W. McNeil St.
Camera facing northeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 27

Resource No. 63

272 N. Belknap Ave.

Camera facing northwest



Photo 28

Resource No. 65

254 S. Belknap Ave.

Camera facing west



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 29

Resource No. 89, Bus Station
223 E. College St.
Camera facing northwest



Photo 30

Resource No. 90, Long Hotel
221 E. College St.
Camera facing northwest



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 31

Resource No. 92
265 E. Washington St.
Camera facing northwest



Photo 32

Resource No. 91
129 N. Virginia Ave.
Camera facing northeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 33

Resources Nos. 93 and 94, Waterworks Pump House and Feed Mill Building

351 N. Virginia Ave., 240 E. Green

Camera facing north



Photo 34

Resources Nos. 95 and 96

227-241 E. Mason St.

Camera facing northeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 35

Resource No. 98
211 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing northeast



Photo 36

Resources Nos. 99—102
221-299 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing southeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 37

Resource No. 103
234 N. Belknap
Camera facing west



Photo 38

Resource No. 106
280 N. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing northeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 39

Resource No. 107, First Baptist Church

334A W. Green St.

Camera facing south



Photo 40

Resource No. 108, First Baptist Church Education Building

334 W. Green St.

Camera facing southeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 41

Resource No. 109
210 N. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing north



Photo 42

Resource No. 110, U.S. Post Office Building
174 N. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing west



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 43

Resource No. 111
309 W. Washington St.
Camera facing northwest



Photo 44

Resource No. 113, First United Methodist Church
328 W. Washington St.
Camera facing northeast



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 45

Resource No. 115, First United Methodist Church Education Building
328 W. Washington St.
Camera facing east



Photo 46

Resource No. 114, Knights of Pythias Lodge Hall
110 S. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing northwest



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 47

Resources Nos. 116 and 117
132-142 S. Columbia Ave.
Camera facing west



Photo 48

Resource No. 128, Stephenville Savings and Loan Building
422 W. Washington St.
Camera facing southwest



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 49

Resource No. 129, Jake and Dorothy's Café Building

406 E. Washington St.

Camera facing south



Photo 50

Resource No. 139, Stephenville City Hall

354 N. Belknap Ave.

Camera facing northwest



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 51

Resource No. 137, Cornelia Graves School

252 E. Tarleton St.

Camera facing northwest

Photographed April 21, 2017



Photo 52

Resource No. 138, James Beech House

252 E. Tarleton St.

Camera facing north



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 53

Resource No. 148, Heffley Building

374 E. Washington St.

Camera facing southwest



Photo 54

Resource No. 149

306 E. Washington St.

Camera facing northeast

Photographed April 21, 2017



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 55

Resource No. 158
291 E. Tarleton St.
Camera facing south



Photo 56

Resource No. 163, Graham Street Church of Christ
312 N. Graham Ave.
Camera facing west



Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

Photo 57

Resource No. 164
313 N. Belknap Ave.
Camera facing east



-end-







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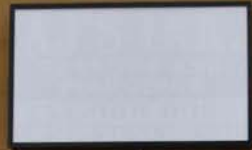
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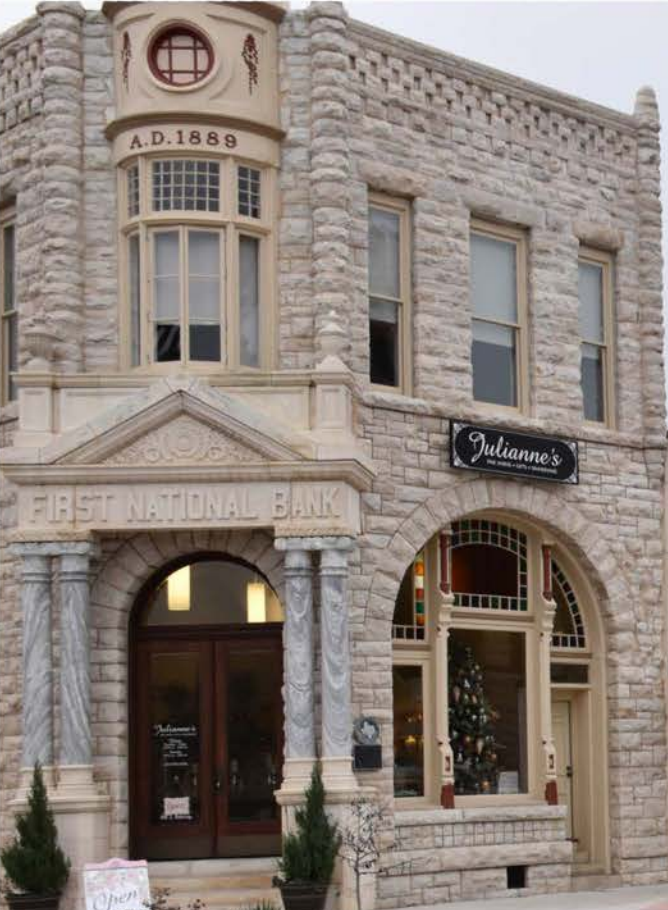


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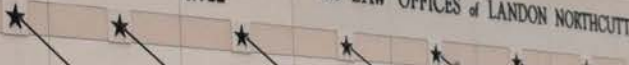
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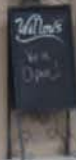


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Stephenville Downtown Historic District

Multiple Name:

State & County: TEXAS, Erath

Date Received: 3/9/2018 Date of Pending List: 4/2/2018 Date of 16th Day: 4/17/2018 Date of 45th Day: 4/23/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100002349

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 4/23/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Stephenville Downtown Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce, Community Planning & Development, and Architecture. The district represents the traditional commercial and civic core of the city of Stephenville, an important regional banking and trade center for the surrounding agricultural region. Centered on the imposing Romanesque Revival-style courthouse, the district's buildings illustrate typical examples of historic period, one- and two-part commercial building forms, with particularly rich examples of late nineteenth century limestone commercial construction. Later mid-twentieth century construction reflected more vernacular forms and significant building modernization trends.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criteria A and C.

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229 Date 4/23/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : **Yes**

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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TO: Paul Lusignan
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Stephenville Downtown Historic District, Stephenville, Erath County, Texas

DATE: March 7, 2018

The following materials are submitted:

X	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the <i>Stephenville Downtown Historic District</i> .
	Resubmitted nomination
X	Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO
	Multiple Property Documentation form on disk
	Resubmitted form
	Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO
X	CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination PDF
	Correspondence

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- The enclosed owner objections (do___) (do not___) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

