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NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY
NOMINATION FORM

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Name Historic 1644 Main Street Location 1644 Main Street
Common Tapp's Department Store Classification Building

Owner
The James L. Tapp Company
1644 Main Street
Columbia, S.C. 29201

Representation in Existing Surveys

Description Tapp's is a large department store built in 1940 in the modern style. Ca. 1950, the structure was enlarged by the addition of several floors. Building features a striking combination of dark tremolite stone and store front windows on the first floor and stuccoed concrete above the first floor. Front facade has a rounded aluminum marquee over the centrally located entrance. Above the marquee is a vertical band of tripartite windows recessed from the stuccoed facade. On either side of window the stuccoed edges of the facade are rounded. Above the window is a functioning clock with simple lines in place of numerals.

Originally the building was topped with the Tapp's sign composed of free standing letters. The central section originally extended higher than the two flanking sections; with the
(Continued)

Significance Tapp's represents one of Columbia's most significant large scale private building projects from the Depression era that remain relatively unaltered. The white stucco and dark stone facade (with little ornamentation except vertical bands of windows, a clock face, and a sign with large free standing letters), is characteristic of the most up-to-date style in 1940. Although added onto about 1950, the additional two floors are also of white stucco over concrete. As the only example of "Depression Modern" on Main Street, the building contributes to the continuum of architectural styles on the street.

Established in 1903, Tapp's Department Store is the only early 20th Century Main Street department store still operating on its original site in Columbia.

Acreage .33 acre

Verbal Boundary Description TMS 20-07-01 extending 67.7' along Main Street and side line of 211.7'

UTM Reference Point Columbia North 17/496640/3762800

Other Information The fifty-year age requirement for National Register status should be waived for Tapp's Department Store for the following reasons:
1. It is the only important large-scale building on Main Street constructed in the Depression Modern style and is therefore of exceptional importance as a city landmark;
2. It is one of the key structures on Main Street;
3. It is an integral part of the continuum of Columbia's architectural and historic development.

DESCRIPTION

C. 1950 additions, however, the roofline was made uniform. The original roofline is still discernible in the stucco.

Side facade on Blanding Street has store windows on the first floor and thin vertical bands of windows and tremolite stone above the first floor. Additional windows were added with the later addition .

E. Paul Behles of New York City designed the interior and acted as consulting architect to Lafaye, Lafaye, and Fair of Columbia for the design of the exterior.