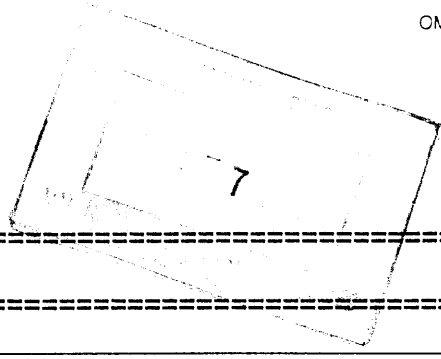


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**



1. Name of Property

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

2. Location

street & number parts of Alston, N. & S. McZenzie, Hi. 98, E. & W. Laurel, Myrtle, Rose, & W. Orange
not for publication N/A
city or town Foley vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Baldwin code 003 zip code 36535

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Elizabeth Ambron
Signature of certifying official

December 1, 2004
Date

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

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register
 [] See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register
 [] See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register
 - other (explain): _____

for _____ Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Daniel J. Vivian 1/19/05

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check only one box.)	Category of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>79</u>	<u>23</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>80</u>	<u>23</u> Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

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6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
_____	<u>Hotel</u>
<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Specialty Store</u>
_____	<u>Warehouse</u>
_____	<u>Restaurant</u>
<u>Government</u>	<u>City Hall</u>
<u>Social</u>	<u>Meeting Hall</u>
<u>Religious</u>	<u>Religious Facility</u>
<u>Industry/Processing/Extraction</u>	<u>Manufacturing Facility</u>
<u>Recreation and Culture</u>	<u>Outdoor Recreation</u>
<u>Agriculture/Subsistence</u>	<u>Storage</u>
<u>Health Care</u>	<u>Hospital</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Commerce/Trade</u>	Sub: <u>Specialty Store</u>
_____	<u>Restaurant</u>
<u>Religious</u>	<u>Religious Facility</u>
<u>Recreation and Culture</u>	<u>Museum</u>
_____	<u>Outdoor Recreation</u>

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century Revivals:

- Colonial Revival
- Tudor Revival
- Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival
- Renaissance Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation concrete
- brick
- roof asphalt
- slate
- walls brick
- plain weatherboard

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

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State Baldwin County, Alabama

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance c. 1907 -1954

Significant Dates N/A

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Architects: Lockwood, Frank; Warren, Knight & Davis; Rogers, George B. Whetmore, James A. ; Builders: Holk, A. A.; Holt, George; Yonge, Chandler, C.; Sute, Matthew; Whaley & Brown; Fulghum, C. A.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository
Foley Public Library; Foley Depot Historic

Museum

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property approximately 250 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	434340	3364400	4	16	434400	3363460
2	16	434400	3364400	5	16	434200	3363460
3	16	434620	3363860	6	16	433960	3363760

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

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

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Pamela Sterne King, Consultant & Christy Anderson (AHC Reviewer)

organization PSKing Associates date 10-12-03

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

city or town Birmingham state Alabama zip code 35216

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

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

=====

Property Owner

=====

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

name multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 2, 7 Page 1 Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

=====

Addresses

East Laurel Avenue

125, 211 (Inv. #s 24 and 25), 215, 225

Highway 98

200, 212

Jessamine Avenue

201

Myrtle Avenue

109, 113

North Alston Street

106, 116, 300, 308, 400

North McKenzie Street

100, 104, 106, 119, No # (Park – Corner of North McKenzie and East Laurel to Chicago Street), 200, 203, 213, No #, 217, 221, 300 (Inv. #s 36 and 37), 301, 303, 309-311, 319, 320, 402, 409, 420, 423, 500, 501, 514, 515

North Pine

915

Rose Avenue

111

South Alston Street

105, 108-110, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 208-212, 209, 213, 221-223, 222, 308, 311, 315, 317, 321-323

South McKenzie Street

101-103, 105-107, 109, 111-119, 114, 120, 200 (Inv. #s 72-76), 201, 218, 302, 316, 321 A-B

West Laurel Avenue

100, 101, 113-121, 111, 118, 116, 201, 207, 209, 211, 214, 216, 222, 223, 224, 230, 232, 234 241, 301,

West Orange Avenue

106, 117, 119, 121, 200, 201

Section 7, Architectural Description (con't)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements:

Bungalow Craftsman

Modern Movement:

Moderne

Art Deco

Other: One-two part Commercial Block

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

Narrative Description

The Foley Downtown Historic District consists of approximately 250 acres of flat land in the town of Foley, Alabama. It forms an irregular rectangular form and runs mostly north and south through the downtown area primarily along McKenzie Street, which is also State Highway 59, and Alston Street immediately west. Its east/west thoroughfare is Laurel Avenue, also U. S. Highway 98. The district's southern edge is the northeast corner of Verbena Avenue and McKenzie Street; its western boundary is along the west half of Alston Street except for a portion along Laurel Avenue and Pine Street; the eastern boundary is along Chicago Street or Cypress Street; and the northern edge is Orchid Avenue.

The District includes 103 resources of which 80 are contributing and 23 are non-contributing. There are three 1900s resources including one important resource that is now non-contributing (Inv. # 39 - the 1908 Magnolia Hotel that was significantly altered c. 1967), the 1909 Craftsman style depot which was moved in 1971 and 1995 - Inv. # 1 and an intact c. 1907 store on North McKenzie Street (Inv. #s 37). There are seven c. 1910s resources including five commercial buildings (Inv. #s 28, 43, 83 - two story Mission Revival style bakery, 86, 98), one, two and one half story Colonial Revival style house (Inv. # 94), and a c. 1915 park (Inv. # 18). Twenty-two c. 1920s buildings remain including the fabulous Renaissance Revival style Foley Hotel (Inv. # 82), one story commercial buildings (Inv. # 49, 72, 73, 77, 78, 101) or commercial blocks (Inv. #s 63, 64, 78, a very decorative Mission Revival style building), as well as two story commercial buildings (Inv. # 20) or commercial blocks including the nicely detailed Orange Crush Bottling Company (Inv. # 69). There is also a handsome 1925 Mission Revival style Masonic Temple (Inv. # 13), 1921 - 22 post office (Inv. # 66), and a garage/tire company (Inv. # 33). Two Craftsman style bungalows (Inv. # 8, 91) remain on Jessamine Avenue and West Laurel Street respectively, and a fine Tudor Revival style house is on North McKenzie Street (Inv. # 26).

Forty-six of the remaining contributing resources were constructed c. late 1930s -1940s, while three were constructed c. 1950-1954. Those built in the late 1930s and 1940s include all of the Modern Movement architectural styles (Inv. #s 5, 44, 45, the fabulous International Farm Implement Dealership Building, 84, 89, 96, and 76, an Art Deco Volkert automobile dealership); Foley City Hall (Inv. # 36); a charming two story 1936 stucco hospital (Inv. # 81); commercial buildings or commercial blocks (Inv. # 6, 7, 60, 61, 62); grocery store (Inv. # 84); three large garages (Inv. # 27, 29, 55); three c. 1945 gas stations (Inv. #s 22, 25, 38); four tin, stucco, or concrete block warehouses (Inv. #s 2, 3, 18, 23); two churches (Inv. #s 14, 42); and a grainer and manufacturing company (Inv. # 11). Three one, two, or two and one half story houses remain from the period on West Laurel Avenue (Inv. # 91, 92, 93). An intact 1954 Dairy Queen remains on Laurel Avenue (Inv. # 90), and a 1952 gas station is extant on South McKenzie Street (Inv. # 74).

The Foley Downtown Historic District provides excellent documentation of the development of Foley's downtown neighborhood including all of its historic commercial, governmental (Inv. # 36, 66), recreational (Inv. # 18), health (Inv. # 81), cultural resources (Inv. # 13 - Masonic Temple and # 86- the Progressive Club), and agricultural (Inv. # 5 - the only remaining potato shed in Foley, 11, 43) resources, as well as its only bottling company (Inv. # 69). Additionally, it includes every remaining residential (Inv. #s 8, 26, 54, 91, 92, 93, 94) and religious facility (Inv. #s 14, 42) located adjacent to the commercial area which have become separated from surrounding residential areas by vacant land or c. 1960s - 1980s houses. The district's only c. 1905 resource is located toward its northern end (Inv. # 37). Additionally, except for one c. late 1910s freestanding store on West Orange Avenue, all of the district's c. 1910s-1940s commercial buildings are concentrated along South McKenzie Street, South Alston Street, and West Laurel Avenue. Every gas station and garage building is located either on the southern or northern most edges one or more blocks from the commercial center. Cultural and government buildings (except the post office), including the Masonic Temple (Inv. # 13), the Progressive Club Building (Inv. # 86) and the late 1930s City Hall (Inv. # 36), as well as residential buildings, are located one - two blocks outside the commercial area. Both historic churches are located along the district's periphery farthest from the commercial center.

There is a wide diversity of styles in the District including several buildings designed by prominent architects including James A. Wetmore of Washington, D. C. who designed the post office (Inv. # 66), Warren, Knight and Davis who designed the Renaissance Revival Foley Hotel (Inv. # 82), George B. Rogers of Mobile who designed the Mission Revival Masonic Temple

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3 Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

(Inv. # 13), and Frank Lockwood of Montgomery who designed the Art Deco car dealership (Inv. # 76). In addition to these styles, the district includes a variety of one and two story commercial blocks, Tudor Revival (Inv. # 26) Colonial Revival (Inv. # 94), Craftsman (Inv. #s 8, 91), and fine examples of Art Moderne (Inv. #s 5, 44, 45, 84, 96) and International styles (Inv. # 89).

The overwhelming majority of buildings one or two story brick including one yellow brick building (Inv. # 40), stucco, or concrete block commercial blocks or free standing commercial buildings with flat roofs and wood or metal windows some with intact transoms or brick corbelling (Inv. # 69). Most are relatively simple, though there are two excellent Mission Revival style commercial blocks (Inv. #s 78 and 83), and several c. 1940s buildings with angled fronts (Inv. #s 49, 50, 96) or rounded corner walls (Inv. #s 27, 44, 45, 84). In addition to commercial structures, there are two hotels (Inv. # 82 and Inv. # 39- the c. 1908 Magnolia Hotel now NC), four gas stations, one city park (Inv. # 18), a c. 1925 two story brick Masonic Lodge with a hipped roof and arched central gable (Inv. #13), and four stucco, concrete block or tin warehouses including one with a rounded roof line (Inv. # 23) and one with a nice stepped parapet (Inv. # 3). There is also a 1954 very intact brick Dairy Queen restaurant (Inv. # 90), and six c. 1910s – 1940s houses including a fine two story brick Tudor Revival style house (Inv. # 26) with a cross gable roof and gable with cross timbers and stucco, a c. 1910s two and one half story Colonial Revival style house (Inv. # 94), and two weatherboard Craftsman bungalows with front gables, front porches, knee braces, and double hung wood windows, either 1:1 or 4:1 (Inv. # 8, 91) all of which have been converted to non-residential uses. There are two c. 1945 brick churches built for Methodist (Inv. # 42) and Presbyterian (Inv. # 42) congregations in addition to a fine 1958 Gothic influenced Lutheran Church constructed of quarried stone bricks (Inv. # 16, NC). There is also a nice c. 1948 International Style doctor's office with a prominent squared limestone surround and a flat roof. (Inv. # 89), and a 1946-47 Art Deco style showroom with a prominent projecting vertical parapet and rounded windows. (Inv. # 79).

The District remains intact with few buildings significantly remodeled. Moreover, in response to very intense suburban development along the State highway, particularly the profitable and customer-driven outlet stores only 35 miles from Alabama's Gulf Shore, and pressure by the State of Alabama to expand Highway 59 (McKenzie Street) for beach-related traffic, the City is working hard to document and protect its small, vulnerable downtown.

Archaeological Component

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

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INVENTORY

East Laurel Avenue

1. Depot/ now City of Foley History Museum. 125 East Laurel Avenue. (c. 1909; 1971; 1995)
One story weatherboard Craftsman style depot with a hip with cross gable roof, brick chimney, 4:4 double hung windows throughout, decorative wood brackets, and a brick foundation.

The depot was moved to nearby Magnolia Springs in 1971. In 1995, it was returned to its original site with its historical orientation to Laurel Avenue and the rail bed restored. Location, association, setting and feeling were restored once the depot was re-sited on its original location. The surrounding park and rail line (now a Rails to Trails path) has not been significantly altered. Nothing in the move impacted the design, workmanship or materials, and since the move to its current location, the depot has undergone a careful restoration. (C)

2. Warehouse/ now Dixie Warehouse. 211 East Laurel Avenue. (c. 1940s)
One story corrugated metal warehouse with a spraddle roof, wood rafters, and concrete foundation. There is a side c. 1960s aluminum and glass entrance door, and windows are boarded up. This building is now Dixie Warehouse and shares the same address with #3, also owned and operated by the Dixie Furniture Company.

3. Warehouse/now Dixie Warehouse. 211 East Laurel Avenue. (c. late 1930-early 1940s)
One story concrete block warehouse with a tin rear side wing with side gables. There is a front gable with a nice stepped front parapet, central entrance flanked by storefronts that are boarded up, and a concrete block foundation. This building is now Dixie Warehouse and shares the same address with # 2, also owned and operated by the Dixie Furniture Company.

4. Southern Quality. 215 East Laurel Avenue. (c. 1980s)
One story free standing building with vinyl siding, front gable, central entrance, and concrete foundation. (NC)

5. International Farm Implement Dealership/ now Davco Professional Collision Service. 225 East Laurel Avenue. (c. late 1940s).
One story free standing brick veneer Art Moderne style commercial building with a two story rear brick veneer garage bay. There is a flat roof with wide overhanging eaves, c. 1960s aluminum and glass storefronts, and a massive central brick wall the is perpendicular to the façade and divides the office bay from the garage and extends about 20 feet from the roof line. There is also a concrete foundation.

Highway 98 (formerly East Laurel Avenue)

6. Dixie Furniture Inc. 200 Highway 98 East. (c. 1940s; c. 1960s)
One story free standing concrete block commercial building with a flat roof, original side entrance with double wood doors, c. 1960s aluminum and glass storefronts, and an aluminum awning.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

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7. Dixie Furniture. 212 Highway 98 East. (c. 1940s)

One story one bay free standing concrete block and stucco building with a front gable. There are metal casement windows throughout, wood rafters, and a concrete foundation.

Jessamine Avenue

8. House/ now First Baptist Church Office. 201 Jessamine Avenue. (c. 1920s; c. 1960s)

One and one-half story Craftsman style house with c. 1960s vinyl siding, and cross gable roof with wood knee braces. There are 1:1 double hung wood windows with 9:1 double hung wood windows in the attic, and a right bay porch with square wood columns.

Myrtle Avenue

9. Uptown Living Center. 111 Myrtle Avenue. (c. 1980s)

Two story free standing L-shaped brick veneer apartment building with fixed aluminum windows, front projecting gabled parapet in the front ell, and a concrete foundation. (NC)

10. Warehouse. 109 Myrtle Avenue. (c. 1940s)

One story free standing stucco warehouse with a low pitched front tin gable roof, concrete foundation, and two front windows with limestone sills that are boarded up.

North Alston Street

11. Reimers Company/ now RDI. 106 North Alston Street. (c. late 1940s)

One story free standing brick veneer building with a two story grain elevator on the rear. There is a flat roof throughout, one brick chimney, recessed central entrance with original wood doors, and a concrete foundation. There are no windows.

The Reimers Company grew, processed, and distributed hybrid corn and garden seeds, and manufactured insecticides.

12. Gulf Telephone. 116 North Alston Street. (c. 1960s)

Two story building with a flat roof and concrete foundation. (NC)

13. Masonic Temple/ 766 Foley Lodge. 200 North Alston Street (1925)

Two story brick veneer Mission Revival building with a hip roof. There is a central recessed entrance flanked by arched windows which are boarded up, above which is an elaborate entrance bay with three vertical arched wood windows and decorative arched central gable. There are 4:1 double hung wood windows on the second floor, and a brick foundation.

Architect: George B. Rogers of Mobile; contractor: Whaley and Brown

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

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14. Presbyterian Church/ now Living Oaks Church. 300 North Alston Street. (c. 1945; 1982)

One story L-shaped brick veneer church with a cross gable roof. There is a concrete foundation, and windows with decorative arches contained three limestone insets at the top of the arch. The windows are very ornate metal with stained glass that contains no picture. In 1982, the entrance on Violet Street was renovated with new double wood doors and a projecting open brick entranceway.

15. Sanders House/now Church Dormitory. 308 North Alston Street. (c. 1920s; 2004)

Two story house with "dimpled faced" concrete block, 2004 vinyl siding on the upper half of the facade, and a side gable roof. There are 6:6 double hung wood windows, brick end chimney, and a concrete block foundation.

The unusual "dimple faced" concrete block was made at a brick plant in nearby Bon Secour which went out of business in the late 1930s as a result of the Great Depression.

16. St. Paul's Lutheran Church. 400 North Alston Street. (c. 1958)

One story L-shaped brown church with Gothic style church constructed of stone bricks. There is a cross gable roof, open bell tower on the central rear bay, and stone brick foundation. There are also single pane wood and stained glass windows with cut stone sills and stone brick lintels; the side windows are adorned with pointed arches. The front and side entrances have double pointed arches, and the front arch has contains a wood and stained glass window. (NC)

North McKenzie Street

17. Chamber of Commerce. 104 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1970s)

One story brick veneer free standing building with a flat roof on the front and a hip roof on the rear bay. There is an angled front façade with aluminum windows throughout and a brick foundation. (NC)

18. Heritage Park. Corner North McKenzie Street and Laurel Road. (1915; c. 1980s)

Large open grassed park, at the corner of North McKenzie Street and Laurel Road. In c. 1980s, the park was more than doubled to its current size. At that time, sidewalks were built inside the park, a tree canopy and low landscaping planted along the streets, and a wood comfort station constructed.

19. Gatlin Lumber. 300 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1960s; c. 1980s)

One story free standing concrete block building with c. 1980s brick veneer and weatherboard on the front. There is a flat roof, off central entrance flanked by two aluminum storefronts on the right and four on the left, left loading entrance on the right, and a concrete block foundation. (NC)

Although this is a separate building, it was built by the Gatlin Lumber Company and shares an address with # 20 adjacent to it.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 7

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

20. Commercial Building/ now Gatlin Lumber. 300 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1920s)

Two story free standing brick veneer building with a flat roof with terra cotta coping and a brick foundation. There are 3:1 double hung wood windows on the second floor, and three entrances including the left one which has been filled with concrete block but retains its original double wood doors and a divided wood transom, the middle one with a single wood door flanked by wood storefronts and a divided wood transom, and the right one with a single wood door and single transom. This building shares an address with # 36 adjacent to it.

21. Tim's Auto. McKenzie Street. 320 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1980s)

One story free standing concrete block building with a flat roof, central entrance, and a concrete foundation. (NC)

22. Kaiser Texaco. 402 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1945; c. 1970s)

One story concrete block gas station with a flat roof, fixed wood storefront and wood transom on the front, fixed wood windows and wood transoms on the sides, and a c. 1970s aluminum awning covering the front service bay.

23. Warehouse/ now USA Pawn. 420 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1940s)

Two story brick veneer, asbestos shingles and concrete block (on sides) free standing warehouse with a rounded tin roof. There are wood rafters, central front entrance with the original wood door, and a concrete block foundation.

24. Western Union. 500 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1990s)

One story free standing weatherboard building with a hip roof, central entrance, and a concrete foundation. (NC)

25. Gas Station/ now Recycle. 514 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1945)

One story concrete block gas station with metal casement windows on the sides, flat roof, and a concrete block foundation.

26. House. 515 North McKenzie Street. (c. late 1920s)

Two story brick veneer and stucco Tudor Revival style house with a cross gable roof with slate on the sides. There are two front gables with stucco and decorative wood cross timbers, and one gable on the sides with stucco and decorative wood cross timbers. There are also c. 1960s 1:1 double hung aluminum windows throughout including a window in each gable, original wood front door with lead glass, one brick chimney, and a c. 1920s brick veneer garage with a slate roof. This is a well articulated building.

27. Benson's. 501 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1945; c. 1960s)

One story free standing brick veneer building with a flat roof and Art Deco influences. There are four bays two of which are rounded; three of the bays have c. 1960s aluminum and glass storefronts, and the left bay has a wood garage opening. There is also a concrete foundation.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 8

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

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28. Dr. Possehl Chiropractic Office. 423 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1910s; c. 1940s; c. 1960s)
One story free standing store with c. 1960s aluminum siding, concrete piers foundation, cross gable roof, and a c. 1940s side addition. There are 1:1:1 windows on front with transoms, 2:2 vertical windows on sides, and an aluminum awning with wood posts.
29. Doering Tire Company. 409 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1940)
One story brick veneer office and garage with a flat roof with central projecting parapet and wide overhanging eaves. There are four bays with metal multiple paned windows and concrete pilasters between the bays, and a concrete foundation. This property includes a one story, one bay concrete block car wash.
30. Commercial Building/ now Tobacco Hut, C. J. Fashions, Title Loans. 319 North McKenzie Street. (c. late 1950s; c.1970s)
One story free standing brick veneer building with a side gable and four bays with aluminum and glass storefronts. There is also a concrete foundation.(NC)
31. Commercial Building/ now Title Pawn. 309-311 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1970s)
One story free standing brick veneer building with a flat roof, two central entrances flanked with aluminum and glass storefronts, and a concrete foundation. (NC)
32. Amy's Monograms. 303 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1950)
One story free standing concrete block commercial building with a flat roof with a central projecting parapet on the front. There is a limestone panel beneath the parapet, central entrance with wood storefronts, and a concrete block foundation.
33. Charter Tire. 301 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1920s)
One story free standing single bay brick veneer building with a front gable. There is an off center double entrance with a wood storefront to the left and three wood storefronts to the right one with multiple paned windows.
34. ABC Store. 221 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1980s)
One story commercial block with a flat roof and aluminum and glass storefronts. (NC)
35. Foley Onlooker. 217 North McKenzie Street. (c. late 1940s)
One story free standing concrete block building with and a flat roof with terra cotta coping on sides, central entrance, concrete block foundation and an aluminum awning along the front.
36. Foley City Hall/ now Foley Coffee Shop. 213 North McKenzie Street. (c. late 1930s)
One story free standing concrete block store with a parapet flat roof with limestone coping, central recessed entrance flanked by wood storefronts and wood transoms, and a concrete block foundation.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 10

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

=====

South Alston Street

44. Perdido Antiques. 321-323 South Alston Street. (c. 1940)

One story free standing concrete block commercial building with a flat roof and Art Moderne influences. There are two recessed entrance bays each with an elaborate stepped projecting parapet, original wood doors, and wood storefronts, and there rounded corner walls, and a concrete foundation.

45. Alabama Automotive. 317 South Alston Street. (c. late1940s)

One story free standing concrete block commercial building with a flat roof and Art Moderne influences. There are rounded corner walls, central slightly recessed entrance flanked by wood storefronts with original wood doors and transoms.

46. Travel Merchants. 315 South Alston Street. (c. late 1940s; c. 1970s)

One story free standing stucco commercial building with c. 1970s weatherboard on the front and a flat roof. There is a central entrance flanked by c. 1970s wood store windows with original limestone lintels and original double wood and glass doors, and a concrete foundation.

47. Christian Science Church. 311 South Alston Street. (c. 1970s)

One story free standing church with vinyl siding, front gable with a steeple, central gabled entrance, and a concrete foundation. (NC)

48. Stephen Middleton, Attorney. 105 South Alston Street. (c. late 1950s; c. 1980s)

One story free standing concrete block building with a c. 1980s weatherboard on the front, front gable roof with a fixed c. 1980s wood awning, left side entrances with two storefronts on the right that are boarded up, and a concrete foundation. (NC)

49. Commercial Building/now Lois Carney Law Firm. 222 South Alston Street. (c. 1920s-30s; c. 1970s)

One story free standing brick veneer building with an angled front corner entrance bay with a wood entrance door, flat roof, and c. 1970s fixed vertical single paned windows on the left; windows on the right are boarded up. There is also a concrete foundation.

50. Paul's Barber Shop/Classy Cutter. 208-212 South Alston Street. (c. late 1940s)

One story free standing concrete block commercial building with a flat roof. There are two entrances the right one which is recessed at an angle with limestone sills, and the left entrance that is flat; both are flanked by wood storefronts.

51. South Baldwin Patient Center. 221-223 South Alston Street. (c. 1920s; c. 1980s)

One story building, built c. 1920s, completely refaced with c. 1980s synthetic stucco exterior. There is a hip roof, front recessed porch, fixed wood windows, and a huge rear addition with a hip roof, synthetic stucco exterior, and gabled entrance on the street side. (NC)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 9

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

=====

37. Boller's Store. No # McKenzie Street. (c. 1900; c. 1960s)

One story one bay free standing weatherboard store with c. 1960s vinyl siding on the front, and a flat roof with projecting parapet on the front, and a hip roof on the rear bay. There is an off center entrance with a boarded up storefront and a concrete foundation.

38. Blackwell's Shell Station. 203 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1945; c. 1960s)

One story concrete block gas station with a flat roof, metal casement windows throughout, concrete foundation, garage bay on the right, and a c. 1980s aluminum awning over the front service bay.

39. Magnolia Hotel. 119 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1908; c. 1921; c. 1967; 2004)

Two and one-half story weatherboard hotel with a side gable, 1:1 double hung wood windows, two c. 1967 dormers, and c. 1967 second story balcony with a very decorative wood rail and a flat roof. The entrance is off-centered on both floors, and there are two brick chimneys, and operable wood shutters throughout. It is currently undergoing renovation.

It is currently being renovated to reopen as a hotel. (NC)

40. Commercial Building. 100 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1940s; c. 1952)

Two story concrete block commercial block with brown brick on the sides. It was refaced c 1952 with yellow brick on the front, 2nd floor full balcony with very ornamental iron rails and posts, central entrance flanked by wood storefronts, and French windows throughout the 2nd floor. There is also a brick foundation.

41. Restaurant/ now Commercial Building. 106 North McKenzie Street. (c. 1945)

One story one bay free standing stucco building with a flat roof, central entrance flanked by wood and glass block storefronts. There is also a concrete foundation.

North Pine Street

42. Foley United Methodist Church. 915 North Pine Street. (c. 1945).

Two story brick veneer church with front parapet roof with a central tower and wood vent, recessed entrance bay only entrance with series of approximately 15 concrete steps and brick cheek walls with limestone caps, and brick foundation.

Contractor: A. H. Mueller

Rose Avenue

43. Farmers Mutual Co-op/ now H. M. Hamburg & Son, Inc. 111 Rose Avenue. (c. 1915 - 1919)

One story tin potato shed with a front gabled tin roof, right bay recessed front entrance, brick chimney, and a small left side c. 1940s addition about 1/3 back from the front.

This is the only remaining historic potato shed in Foley.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 11

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

=====

52. Mike McConnell Homes. 213 South Alston Street. (c. 1980s)
One story brick veneer free standing building with wood side gables, central entrance with a gable, aluminum and glass windows, and a brick foundation. (NC)
53. Foley Accounting. 209 South Alston Street. (c. late 1930s- early 1940s)
One story free standing brick veneer and concrete block (on the sides) building, with a flat roof that is stepped on the sides, recessed front central entrance flanked by wood storefronts, and stepped side fire walls.
54. House/ now commercial building. 205 South Alston Street. (c. late 1930s; c. late 1940s-early 1950s)
One story bungalow with asbestos shingles, 2:2 double hung wood windows, cross gable roof, and a front porch that was enclosed c. late 1940s-early 1950s with weatherboard and jalousie windows.
55. Stone Automotive. 121 South Alston Street. (c. 1940; c. 1960s)
Two story free standing brick veneer building with a flat roof with a low pitched front gable stepped parapet, right bay open garage with concrete block inside the bay, and concrete foundation. There are 1st floor single pane wood windows, and 2nd floor c. 1960s 1:1 aluminum windows.
56. Hair Center. 119 South Alston Street. (c. late 1940s)
One story free standing brick veneer commercial building with a flat roof. There is one bay with a recessed central entrance flanked by wood storefronts, decorative brick work, and a concrete foundation.
57. Commercial Building. 117 South Alston Street. (c. 1920-30s)
One story free standing brick veneer commercial building with a flat roof. There is one bay with a recessed central entrance flanked by wood storefronts and original wood door, decorative brick work, and a concrete foundation.
58. E-Z Tackle/Candy Bouquet. 108-110 South Alston Street. (c. late 1930s - early 1940s)
One story one story stucco commercial block with a flat roof with terra cotta coping. There are two recessed wood storefronts including the right one which is larger than the left, and a concrete foundation.

South McKenzie Street

59. Brunson's/ now Foley Fish. 321 A - B South McKenzie Street. (c. 1920s)
One story free standing two bay brick veneer and concrete block (on the sides) commercial building with a flat roof. There are two central entrances flanked by wood store fronts, a sign panel on the left side, and a fixed flat aluminum awning. There is also a rear loading bay with a flat roof.
60. Commercial Building/now Uptown Interiors. 201 South McKenzie Street. (c. late 1940s)
One story one part concrete block commercial block with a flat roof with limestone coping, concrete block foundation, central entrance flanked by divided wood storefronts, and a front aluminum awning.
61. Commercial Building. 121 South McKenzie Street. (c. 1940s; c. 1960s)
One story one part concrete block commercial block with a flat roof with terra cotta coping. There are two bays each with a central entrance flanked by wood storefronts with concrete sills. There is also a c. 1960s one story rear addition.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 12

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

62. Car Quest Auto Parts. 109 South McKenzie Street. (c. late 1930- early 1940s)

One story one part brick veneer commercial block with a flat roof with front projecting stepped parapet. There is a central entrance flanked by wood storefronts, fixed wood windows with wood transoms on the sides, a brick foundation, and side loading entrances.

63. Commercial Building (Hurricanes, Cellular). 111-119 South McKenzie Street. (c. 1920s)

One story one part brick veneer block commercial block building with a flat parapet roof, and four bays divided by brick pilasters. The two central bays are flanked by two wood storefronts with original wood doors, and the two end bays are flanked by one wood storefront and original wood door. There are divided wood transoms above the entrance doors and storefronts, and a brick foundation.

64. Sweetie Pie's. 109 South McKenzie Street. (c. 1920s; c. 1950s)

One story one part brick veneer commercial block building with flat roof with projecting parapet, a central entrance flanked by wood storefronts, central sign panel, and a c. 1950s aluminum awning.

65. Olive Tree/Restaurant Supplies. 105-107 South McKenzie Street. (c. 1940s; c. 1960s)

One story one part concrete block commercial block with a c. 1960s brick bulkhead and a flat roof. There is a central entrance flanked by storefronts with c. 1960s aluminum and glass storefronts, original wood transoms, and a concrete foundation.

66. Post Office/ now Second Best. 101-103 South McKenzie Street. (1921-22; c. 1960s)

Two story two part brick veneer commercial block with c. 1960s glazed tile on first floor front. There is a flat parapet roof, brick corbelling at the roof line, c. 1960s 9:9 aluminum windows with limestone lintels throughout, six chimneys on the side four of which have caps, and four chimneys on the front. There is a central front entrance flanked by wood storefronts, and a side rear wood storefront and an entrance door at the side front bay. James A. Wetmore of Washington, D. C. was the Acting Supervising Architect; Frank Lockwood of Montgomery was the "local" architect, and George Holt was the contractor.

67. Stems Florist. 114 South McKenzie Street. (c. 1940s; c. 1980s)

One story free standing concrete block building with c. 1980s front, stepped parapet roof, brick quoins, central entrance flanked by wood storefronts, and 2:2 double hung wood windows on the sides.

68. ERA. Corner S. 120 South McKenzie Street. (c. 1940s; c. 1980s)

One story building, originally a warehouse, that was completely remodeled c. 1980s with synthetic stucco, hip roof, and fixed aluminum windows. (NC)

69. Orange Crush Bottling Company/ now Hollis. 200 South McKenzie Street. (c. 1922; c. 1960s)

Two story corner brick veneer commercial block with a flat roof with terra cotta coping ,rear addition with a flat roof, and elaborate brick corbelling. There is a left side entrance and storefront with c. 1960s aluminum and glass storefronts on the front, aluminum and glass storefronts on the side with operable standing wood shutters, a brick foundation, and a sign panel runs along the second floor.

Inv. #s 69 - 73 were constructed as separate buildings but are now part of the same business and share the same address.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 13 Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

=====

70. Commercial Building/ now Hollis. 200 South McKenzie Street. (c. 1920s)
Two story two bay brick veneer commercial block with a flat roof with projecting front parapet and brick corbelling. There are c. 1960s aluminum and glass storefronts, brick foundation, and a sign panel runs across the second floor.
71. Commercial Building/ now Hollis Interior Market Place. 200 South McKenzie Street. (c. 1970s)
One story two bay commercial block with synthetic stucco facing, two entrances with aluminum and glass storefronts, flat roof, and concrete foundation. (NC)
72. Commercial Building/ now Furniture Interior. 200 South McKenzie Street. (c. late 1920s)
One story one part brick veneer commercial block with a flat roof, one bay with a recessed central entrance flanked by wood storefronts, and a sign panel.
73. Commercial Building/ Condominium Living Shop. 200 South McKenzie Street. (c. late 1920s)
One story one part brick veneer commercial block with a flat roof that is stepped on the sides, recessed central entrance flanked by divided wood storefronts, decorative brick work, and a brick foundation.
74. Gas Station. 218 South McKenzie Street. (1952)
One story brick veneer gas station with a flat roof, metal casement windows on sides and rear, and a concrete foundation.
75. Goodyear. 302 South McKenzie Street. (c. 1960s)
One story free standing building with a flat roof, central entrance with aluminum and glass storefronts on the front and front bay of the side facades, and a concrete foundation. (NC)
76. Volkert. 316 South McKenzie Street. (1947; c. 1990s)
One story free standing Art Deco building with c. 1990s synthetic stucco, flat roof with curved corners and a projecting central parapet, prominent curved show room windows with c. 1990s aluminum and glass storefronts, and a concrete foundation. This building was originally built as a car show room and was designed by Frank Lockwood of Montgomery.

West Laurel Avenue

77. Commercial Building/ now Hand-Arendall Lawyers. 112 West Laurel Avenue. (c. late 1920s)
One story one part free standing brick veneer commercial block with a flat roof with a stepped front and projecting central front gable, central entrance flanked by wood storefronts, concrete foundation, and a fixed aluminum awning.
78. Commercial Building/ now The Looking Glass. 116 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1920s)
One story one part brick veneer Mission Revival style commercial block with a flat roof with limestone coping and a projecting parapet with very decorative central projecting arched gable with brick spires and limestone details. There is one bay central entrance bay flanked by wood storefronts above which are divided limestone panels, and a brick foundation.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 14

Name of Property: Foley Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

=====

79. R.D.I. 100 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1970s)

One story free standing commercial building with synthetic stucco exterior, aluminum storefronts, flat roof with projecting parapet, and concrete foundation. (NC)

80. Stelk Brothers/ now Wright Drugs. 101 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1915; c. 2002)

Two story brick veneer building with a flat roof. Renovations c. 2002 include aluminum windows, tiles on the 1st floor façade beneath the c. 2002 storefronts, and a copper awning. (NC)

The second floor of this building was used as part of the Holmes Memorial Hospital when it was built in 1936 (Inv. # 81).

81. Holmes Memorial Hospital/ now Baldwin Museum of Art. 111 West Laurel Avenue. (1936).

Two story free standing concrete block building with stucco on the front and a flat roof with a series of four decorative wood vents across the front. There are two brick chimneys, two bays each flanked by a storefront and a panel of five 1:1 double hung wood windows on the second floor, 1:1 double hung wood windows throughout, and a concrete foundation.

82. Foley Hotel. 113-121 West Laurel Avenue. (1925 - 1926)

Two story brick veneer Italianate style hotel with a parapet flat roof with a central projecting parapet. There is a central front projecting entrance bay with a massive limestone arch containing a divided wood window that is flanked by two wood storefront, limestone inset above the arch, 6:1 double hung wood windows throughout with stone sills, and a brick soldier course. There is also a two story c. 1940s side brick veneer addition.

This building was designed by prominent Birmingham architects, Warren, Knight & Davis and Chandler C. Yonge of Pensacola, and the contractor was C. A. Fulghum of Pensacola.

83. Tagsherer Bakery/ now Acapalco Café. 118 West Laurel Avenue (c. late 1910s)

Two story two part Mission Revival style brick veneer commercial block with a flat roof with a very decorative arched projecting parapet with stone insets. There are end projecting pilasters, central entrance flanked by wood storefronts with limestone lintels including arched lintels on the second floor, limestone sills, right bay recessed entrance, decorative brick work, and a brick foundation. Contractor: Arthur A. Holk

84. Red and White Grocery Store/ now Gift House Antique Stalls. 201 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1940)

One story one part Art Moderne stucco commercial block a flat parapet roof and rounded corners. There are end projecting pilasters, central recessed entrance bay flanked with wood storefronts with brick sills, and a concrete foundation.

85. Manning Jewelry. 207 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1980s)

One story one part commercial block with synthetic stucco exterior, parapet flat roof with central projecting gable, central entrance flanked by aluminum and glass storefronts, and a concrete foundation. (NC)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 15

Name of Property: Foley Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

- =====
86. Progressive Club/American Legion Post/now Gift Horse Restaurant. 209 West Laurel Avenue. (1917)
One story free standing weatherboard building with three front gables, one of which is set back from the front, with wood windows in the front gable. There is also a tin roof, wood cupola, 8:8 and 6:6 double hung wood windows, and a concrete foundation. In c. 1940, American Legion bought the building and moved into it. Contractor: Matthew Sute.
87. Store/ Now Gift Horse Restaurant. 211 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1940s)
One story free standing weatherboard store with a front gable, central entrance, and concrete foundation.
88. Gift Horse Antique Center. 223 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1940s; c. 1960s)
One story store with stucco front and concrete block on the sides. There is a flat roof with terra cotta that is stepped on the sides, central entrance with c. 1960s aluminum and glass storefronts, and a concrete foundation.
89. Dr. Norman Van Wiesel Office/ now Bob Russell Dentist Office. 301 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1948)
One story International style free standing brick veneer building. There is a flat roof, prominent squared limestone surround, metal casement windows throughout, vertical limestone corner joints, and a brick foundation.
Contractor: Arthur A. Holk
90. Dairy Queen. 246 West Laurel Avenue. (1954; c. 1960s)
One story free standing brick veneer drive-in restaurant with a flat roof, c. 1960s aluminum windows, brick bulkhead, and a concrete foundation.
91. House/ now Scarlet Lilly. 234 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1920s)
One story brick and weatherboard Craftsman bungalow with a front gable, wood knee braces, full front porch, 4:1 double hung wood windows, and brick foundation.
92. House. 232 West Laurel Avenue. (c. late 1930s)
Two story brick and weatherboard house with wood casement windows, front gable, and a concrete foundation.
93. House/ now Law Office. 230 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1940)
One story house with a two story rear bay, asbestos shingle exterior, front gable, 6:6 double hung wood windows, and a concrete foundation.
94. House/ now Health Focus. 224 West Laurel Avenue. (c. late 1910s; c. 1940s)
Two and one-half story house with Colonial Revival influences. There is asbestos shingle exterior, hip roof with a central hipped dormer, 2:2 double hung wood windows, and a central entrance.
95. Ebert Agency. 222 West Laurel Avenue. (c. 1960s)
One story free standing concrete block and brick veneer commercial building with a flat roof, central entrance, aluminum and glass storefronts, and concrete foundation. (NC)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 16

Name of Property: Foley Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

96. Chason & Underwood. 216 West Laurel Avenue. (c. late 1940 - early 1950s)
One story free standing brick veneer and concrete block building with International Style influences. There is a flat roof with terra cotta coping, two recessed bays at a forty-five degree angle each with an angled entrance, wood storefronts with limestone sills, divided wood transom on the right bay, and a concrete foundation.

97. Harrison Finance. 214 West Laurel Avenue (c. late 1930; c. 1970s)
One story one bay free standing brick veneer and concrete block (on sides), front stepped parapet roof, slightly recessed central entrance, c. 1970s wood shingle awning, and a brick foundation.

West Orange Avenue

98. A Special Touch. 115 West Orange . (c. late 1910s – early 1920s)
One story free standing weatherboard store with a gabled roof with projecting front parapet containing fish scale shingles, 2:2 double hung wood windows, and central entrance.

99. Orange Blossom Square Apartment Building. 113 West Orange. (c. 1980s)
Two story free standing building with synthetic stucco exterior, front gable, two story side balcony and stair system, and fixed wood windows. (NC)

100. Commercial Building. 106 West Orange Avenue. (c. 1940s)
One story one part concrete block commercial block with a flat roof. There is a central entrance flanked by wood storefronts, and there is a concrete block foundation.

101. Orange Blossom. 121 West Orange Avenue. (c. 1920s; c. 1940s; c. 1970s)
One story one bay free standing brick veneer store with a wood front gable, central entrance flanked by c. 1970s multiple paned aluminum storefronts, c. 1940s rear screened addition, and a concrete foundation.

102. Parke Place. 119 West Orange Avenue. (c. late 1930-early 1940s; c. 1960s)
One story one bay free standing building with c. 1960s aluminum siding and a flat roof with concrete coping. There is a left side entrance with one wood storefront, fixed wood windows on the sides, and a concrete foundation.

103. Holiday Keepsakes. 117 West Orange Avenue. (c. late 1930s- early 1940s)
One story one bay free standing brick veneer building with a flat roof with terra cotta coping that is slightly stepped on the sides. There is a left side entrance with a storefront to the right with metal casement windows, and there are metal casement windows on the sides.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 17

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

Statement of Significance

Criterion A, Commerce

The Foley Downtown Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its documentation of every phase of Foley's commercial development from c. 1907 – 1954. From c. 1907 – mid 1940s, the town's economy was based predominantly on agriculture and trade. But, during the mid – late 1940s, Foley's economy virtually exploded as it shifted dramatically toward the tourist traffic headed 10 miles south to Alabama's Gulf Beach coast. Approximately fifty percent of the district's resources date from c. 1907 – early 1940s, while the remaining date from the mid-1940s to 1954. There are three important agricultural – related buildings including the town's only remaining potato shed, the c. 1910s H. H. Hamburg and Co. Building (Inv. # 43), as well as a c. late 1940s International Harvester Building (Inv. # 5), and a late 1940s Reimers grain processing company (Inv. # 11). There are also many c. 1907 – 1950 commercial buildings and commercial blocks; 1925 hotel (Inv. # 82); the town's first post office, c. 1921-22 (Inv. # 66); c. 1925 bottling company (Inv. # 69); and 1936 hospital (Inv. # 81). There is also one c. 1948 doctor's office (Inv. # 89); 1954 Dairy Queen (Inv. # 90); several c. 1945 – 1952 automobile – related buildings including four gas stations (Inv. #s 22, 25, 38, 74), three 1920s or late 1940s garages (Inv. #s 27, 29, 55), and one c. 1946 - 47 automobile showroom (Inv. # 76).

Criterion C, Architecture

The Foley Downtown Historic District is significant under Criterion C, Architecture, for its very fine examples of c. 1907 - 1954 buildings some of which were designed by prominent architects. Approximately half of the district's resources date from its 1940s economic boom, including some of its most well articulated architecture. Included are commercial, religious (Inv. # 14, 42), residential (Inv. #s 26, 8, 54, 91, 92, 93, 94), industrial (Inv. #s 11 – Reimers grainery, and # 69 – the Orange Crush Bottling Company), governmental (the 1921-22 post office – Inv. # 66, and the late 1930s city hall – Inv. # 36), health (Inv. # 81, the Holmes Memorial Hospital), and cultural architecture (the c. 1917 Progressive Club – Inv. # 86, and the Masonic Temple - Inv. # 13). The district has many simple weatherboard, brick and concrete block stores, commercial buildings, or commercial blocks; two excellent Mission Revival style commercial blocks (Inv. # 83, a c. 1910s bakery, and Inv. # 78, a finely detailed c. 1920s building); c. 1922 two story brick bottling company with fine brick corbelling (Inv. # 69); c. 1925 Masonic Temple (Inv. # 13) designed by George B. Rogers; an excellent Renaissance Revival hotel designed by prominent Birmingham architects, Warren, Knight & Davis (Inv. # 82); as well as residential architecture including one 1910s Colonial Revival style (Inv. # 94), one c. late 1920s Tudor Revival style (Inv. # 26), and two Craftsman style bungalows (Inv. #s 8, 91). There is also a c. 1946 - 47 Art Deco automobile showroom (Inv. # 79) designed by Frank Lockwood; two brick c. 1945 churches (Inv. #s 14, 42), five c. late 1940s Art Moderne buildings including the Harvester International Building (Inv. # 5), c. 1948 International style doctor's office (Inv. # 92), and an intact 1954 Dairy Queen (Inv. # 90).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 18

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

In September 1901, Chicago businessman, John Burton Foley met a south Alabama railroad agent, Col. J. M. Green, as they rode the rail to Washington, D.C., to attend the funeral of assassinated president, William McKinley. While traveling, Green told Foley about the economic potential of the sparsely settled, timber-rich lands in South Baldwin County, Alabama. One year later, Foley, president of Foley and Company which made and sold popular patented medicines, accepted Green's encouragement to visit Baldwin County. It was the Chicagoan's first visit to the South, and he was left so impressed with what he saw that he bought a 40,000-acre tract of timber land and named it "Foley." Located 10 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico, 41 miles south of the town of Bay Minette, 21 miles east of Fairhope and Mobile Bay and about 30 miles west of Pensacola, Florida, the land was populated primarily with men working the turpentine stills and lumber camps scattered widely across the thick pine forests; marshlands dominated the coastal plains (Rich, p. 10-11).

When Foley arrived in Baldwin County there were no roads, only dirt tracks and the Louisville & Nashville Railroad went only as far south as Bay Minette. The few people who visited the area were primarily wealthy northern families that vacationed in the resort community of Magnolia Springs, located just a few miles west of the land Foley bought. They usually reached Magnolia Springs by taking a train to Mobile, then taking a steamer boat across Mobile Bay to Fairhope, and traveling the remainder of the trip by horse-and-buggy (Ibid).

Two years after he purchased his tract, Foley began to survey his land at his own expense and began construction of about 100 miles of dirt roadways. He also built a sawmill, sugar mill, a school and an experimental farm just outside the town limits none of which remains. In 1905, he formed and incorporated the Magnolia Springs Land Company and hired agents to sell the lands to Northerners. At the same time, he formed a partnership with F. P. Hamm of the Bay Minette and Ft. Morgan Railway, a branch of the L & N. The two approached the L & N about building a 36-mile spur south connecting Bay Minette and Foley. A deal was struck stipulating that Hamm and Foley would build the tracks if the L & N would operate the train (Ibid, p. 11).

The new L & N Foley Branch served extensive logging interests in Baldwin County, and also began to open up the area to new settlers. The train ran initially only on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, and on those days, according to one account, residents all along the line were "agog" with excitement. As the train brought prospective buyers in, land agents greeted them to make their pitch. The same year the line was completed, Foley had its first depot; unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire in 1908 (Ibid, p. 13-14). Within the year, however, a new larger Craftsman style depot was constructed which remained in its original location until 1971 when it was moved to Magnolia Springs. In 1995, as part of its overall efforts to preserve downtown, the City of Foley brought the depot back to its present site where it originally sat (Inv. # 1) (Ebert interview, April 8, 2004).

As hoped, the railroad brought growth and development to Foley primarily on the west side of the tracks. The east side remained swamp land, a dilemma that challenged the town until the 1950s when much of it was drained and filled in (Ibid). Where possible, though, wood houses were built as were a few general merchandise stores and at least one blacksmith shop. One c. 1907 store, a one story building built with a projecting parapet, remains on North McKenzie Street (Inv. # 37).

At the same time, the Magnolia Springs Land Company began construction of Foley's first hotel, the Magnolia Hotel (Inv. # 39 - NC). It was constructed of heart pine with a lath and plaster interior. Because the town lacked a water or sewer system, two outhouses were built behind the hotel. Fresh water was brought into the hotel, kerosene lamps provided light and the laundry

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 19

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District

County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

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was washed in a large black pot and tubs with rub boards. The hotel soon became the burgeoning community's social center and offered "musical evenings" to its guests and area residents. In 1909, a windmill was built next to the hotel which is no longer extant. A short wire fence enclosed the yard to keep roaming cows and other livestock out of its yard (Rich, p. 17). The Magnolia Hotel continued to operate as such until 1967 when John Snook, owner of Gulf Telephone Company purchased it and added a second story porch above the original sun porch. Today, the property is owner and managed by Marjory Snook, John's widow, and is being renovated back to a hotel (Snook interview 2004).

Construction of the impressive hotel apparently signaled success of Foley's venture. In 1908, a L & N Railroad publication praised the attributes of the Foley area, in particular, its ideal climate, soil, bountiful fresh water supply, nearness to the Gulf and other natural wonders. Those qualities, the paper claimed, made Foley a virtual mecca for those whose suffered from rheumatism, catarrh or Bright's disease. "There is an abundance of sparkling clear water,' " it read, "springs are common, and wells are easily dug and good water is found at twenty or thirty feet" (Rich, p. 22).

In 1909, Foley's newspaper, the Onlooker, bragged that the town now had "a new 20 room hotel with bath and sample room, good livery, two general stores, drug, feed, furniture and hardware store, meat and fish market, cotton gin, rice and grist mill, pole and fence post outfit, two sawmills, painters, good school, local and long distance telephones, doctor, weekly newspaper, barber, bakery, creamery, jeweler, bottling plant and two churches." The town still had a need for a doctor, butcher, cannery, pickle factory, lumber yard and barrel factory, nursery and greenhouse. Persons interested in filling any of these positions were advised to contact the Magnolia Springs Land Company in its Chicago office (Rich, p. 20).

That same year, in an article that appeared in the Mobile Register, a writer noted that "[f]or a three year old, the Town of Foley scarcely has an equal in the whole country. It has a familiar look to one who has traveled through the western states where towns have sprung up as if by magic. The houses are all new, substantial and well painted. The streets are broad and laid out with system and everyone seems to be in a rush. One has to pause and reflect to remember the town is really in Alabama, so little does it resemble the typical Southern village." The writer continued on in that vein by stating that a creamery was being started in the town and there were "good" churches and schools located there. Also, the writer noted that there was a shingle mill, a new bakery was under construction, and plans were under way to build a town hall with athletic quarters. In 1909, the Stelk brothers announced they would build a \$5,000 building at the corner of South McKenzie Street and West Laurel Avenue (Inv. # 80).

A 1910 article in the Birmingham Age-Herald appeared impressed by Foley's growth as it noted that the area had been nothing but marshlands four years earlier. "But, the railroad built down into the marsh and stopped. A supply store or two were established to supply the transient demands of the wandering adventurers, the vanguard of the mighty tide of immigration that was soon to set in. The sag (depression in the earth) was drained out, sidewalks thrown up, plank walks built and some more houses erected. The growth has been steady, almost unnoticed. The population in the immediate vicinity now will show something like 750. The town has never been incorporated. The people are too busy to think of such things " (Ibid, p. 21).

By then, the Onlooker and others, had begun to pressure the government to build a military highway from Fort Morgan to Foley. In January 1909, a Congressman Wiley introduced a bill to construct a road 28 miles long at a cost of \$200,000. According to a 1910 article in the Onlooker, " ' A military road is needed. The road will open up 75 miles of coast; people from many states would buy summer homes ' " Not much happened, though, and in 1914, the Alabama Good Roads Association worked to revive the project. (Ibid, pp. 66-68).

In 1911, the State Bank of Foley opened for business and, with John Foley its president, moved into the Stelk Brothers building (Inv. # 80). The bank had "paid-in capital" of \$10,000 and was located in a new two-story brick building one block north of the Magnolia Hotel and just north of the Onlooker. By 1912, the town had a two-room school, Methodist, Baptist and Catholic churches, a bank, four hotels, fertilizer factory, sawmill, broom factory, bottling works, town hall, four general stores, hardware, furniture and agriculture implement stores, meat market, barber shop with bath and pool room, two liveries, undertaker,

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 20 Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

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photograph gallery, two blacksmith shops, cotton and grist mill, jewelry, doctor, dentist, real estate and insurance agents, two shipping associations, telephone system and line and a newspaper (Ibid) . Residents also built homes including, according to Manufacturers Records, a number of bungalows in 1912 – 1914 (Manufacturer's Record, October 1912 through October 1914). None remain in the downtown neighborhood.

While commerce got a foot hold in Foley, however, its success depended largely on the area's agricultural promise. According to the 1908 L & N publication, the soil in Baldwin County " ' is very fertile, it is a rich sandy loam, from 8 to 18 inches in depth, overlying a heavy clay which serves to retain moisture and fertilizer applied.' " In 1910, the Baldwin County Producers Corporation formed under a special act of the State legislature to act as buying and selling agent for vegetable growers all over the county. One year later, records showed that the railroad shipped 7,648 tons of farm projects or supplies. The next year, it had drastically increased its shipping to 11,412 tons. At the same time, membership in the producers' corporation had risen to 143 growers (Ibid., p. 28-29).

One of the county's primary crops was potatoes (both sweet and Irish) which, until the late 1940s, was an Foley economic staple. Potato sheds dotted the town's landscape until at least the 1960s (Ebert interview, October 2003), although only one remains (Inv. # 43). Other important crops were peaches and oranges. According to a December 1908 edition of the Foley Onlooker, " ' the New York Fruit Trade Journal, Kishi, a Japanese of near Orange, Texas, had introduced from his native land some Satsuma oranges he claims are immune from frost and of fine flavor. " Just over a later, a Dr. W. H. Ludwig planted 2,000 orange trees just northwest of Foley which yielded 1,200 crates of the fruit less than three years later. That same year, in 1913, Foley's newspaper reported also that a J. Cudahy planted to plant 10,000 Satsuma orange trees. Other major Foley crops were velvet beans, 40 acres of which John Foley planted, pecans, and grapefruit trees. (Ibid., pp. 25-26) Milk production also became important, and in 1912, the town looked forward to construction of a large dairy barn with feed troughs (Manufacturer's Record, 8-29-12).

In January 1915, by a count of 21 – 6, citizens of Foley voted to incorporate. Although G.I Weatherly was elected its first mayor, he had, by October resigned, and C. A. Boller was appointed to serve about a year. At that point, October 1916, he was elected to a four year term. With that, the town had the power to plan for its future, and to regulate its growth, health and welfare. One of the most pressing problems was Foley's location in and around swamps that caused significant health problems related to influenza. As a result, in 1918, the town passed an ordinance, pursuant to a recommendation by the Governor, that privies be regulated, and that all premises be kept free of trash, and waste. In addition, waste containers were to be tightly shut and removed from the city limits at least once a month. The same year, the town voted to improve its electrical light system, install twelve new street lights, organize the town's first telephone exchange, and build its first concrete sidewalks at a cost of 11 cents per square foot (Dumas, p. 2-4).

By 1919, the subject of the town's poor roads began to attract substantial interest. Cars had appeared, but roads had not improved enough to accommodate them. Aside from the private toll road nearby in Lillian, most inland traffic was haphazard and rugged. According to Mayor Boller, the road from Foley to Bay Minette at that time crossed the railroad tracks 24 times. " ' I always said,' " he later recalled, " ' the road builders were afraid they would los sight of the railroad tracks and get lost.' " (Rich, p. 47). Other citizens and groups began to mobilize and in April 1919, Baldwin County residents and some from Pensacola, met in Fairhope to discuss building an Interurban Road through Baldwin County. At its close, they resolved to endorse a Coast Interurban and motor highway linking New Orleans, Mobile and Pensacola, that Mobile and Baldwin Counties would cooperate, and that the road would go through Baldwin County. They also voted to apply for federal funding to build it. (Rich, pp. 50-51)

As Foley and Baldwin County made plans for the future, many important commercial buildings and homes were constructed in town. One house remains, a two and one half story Colonial Revival style house on West Laurel Avenue (Inv. # 94) where other houses were built during the 1920s-40s three of which remain (Inv. #s 91, 92, 93). In addition, c. 1915, John Foley

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 21

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

deeded a major tract of land in the middle of town for a city park where baseball games, the Foley Fair, and other activities were held (Inv. # 18). Five commercial buildings remain from the 1910s including a quaint one story free standing weatherboard store with a front parapet containing fish scale shingles (Inv. # 98), the Farmer's Mutual Co-op now H. H. Hamburg & Sons potato shed (Inv. # 43), a very nice two story brick Mission Revival style bakery which provided baked goods throughout the county (Inv. # 83), and the 1917 Progressive Club Building. The Foley Progressive Club had been organized in 1910, and that year, the Magnolia Land Company donated land for it to build a club house from which it could see to the town's interests. Until 1916, a year after the town incorporated, the building continued to be used for official town business and boosterism, as well as dances and parties. That year, however, it burned down but was rebuilt in its present location (Inv. # 86).

In 1920, Foley had a population of 242, but by the next year, it had soared to 441, and prosperity seemed at hand. On Friday, January 13, 1921, though, a devastating fire burnt through downtown leaving most of the business district in ashes. Over a dozen businesses were affected. When the State Bank of Foley on the southwest corner of Laurel Avenue and McKenzie Street was threatened, the bank's president and local citizens removed all its deposits and most of its furnishings from the building. The fire moved from the south up the western side of McKenzie Street, the town's main north/south thoroughfare. Some of the businesses destroyed were Manning's barber shop, Huff news stand, the Idle Hour Theatre and Williams lunch stand. After the fire, Foley officials voted to require building permits, and wooden buildings could no longer be built within the business district (Dumas, p. 5-6).

Within a year after the fire, Foley's first post office had been completed on the corner of Laurel Avenue and McKenzie Street (Inv. # 66). Supervising architect was James A. Wetmore of Washington, D. C. and "local" designer was prominent Montgomery architect, Frank Lockwood. In c. 1925, a number of very important buildings were constructed downtown including the \$200,000 Italian Renaissance Revival style hotel (Inv. # 82) designed by the prominent architectural firm of Warren, Knight & Davis, and included 46 rooms 33 of which included private baths, a theatre, as well as six stores in what is likely the state's first indoor mall (Holk interview); the two story Mission Revival style Masonic Temple designed by George B. Rogers (Inv. # 13), and the Orange Crush Bottling Company (Inv. # 69) built by the George C. Randolph Company.

Many other commercial buildings were built during the 1920s including several of the district's houses. A fine Tudor Revival style house remains in the northern end of the district (Inv. # 26). Two Craftsman style houses are also extant from the period including one on Jessamine Avenue (Inv. # 8) and one on West Laurel Avenue (Inv. # 91). Several commercial blocks also went up on South McKenzie including especially in the 100 block (Inv. #s 63, a four bay building, and # 64 adjacent to it), and plans were drawn up to landscape the park and build sidewalks through it (Ibid, p. 80).

By 1928, Foley's population had nearly doubled (Comings and Albers). As a result perhaps, of so much growth and development, one issue that worsened and persisted was Foley's inability to drain off excess surface water. According to then mayor James Dumas, the town was "experiencing growing pains." In 1920, the town adopted an ordinance to establish a datum which was established at "a level plane, at the same height above sea level, as a point one hundred feet below the top of the concrete block on the south east corner of the platform at the L. & N. Depot. . . [and that thereafter] all grades established for any purpose [must comply with the datum]." He, and succeeding Mayor Arthur Holk, also pushed for a water works and sewerage system. In the summer of 1924, the town voted to hire civil engineer, R. J. Greenwood, to draw up plans for a sewerage system and assess all property that would be affected by it. Bids were received and the job went to the Loxley Construction Company (Dumas, p. 6, 11).

Mayors Dumas and Holk also focused on better roads. In October 1922, Mayor Dumas introduced a new "movement" to build a causeway to Mobile and "various towns in Baldwin County were asked to help bring pressure on the Highway Department to bring this about. The State Highway Department at this time consisted of twelve members and were in session at Mobile, to consider the feasibility of such a project." As a result, Dumas recalled, he headed a delegation to Mobile to invite the Highway

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 22

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

Commission to a Banquet at the Foley Progressive Hall. . . [There], he said, "we voiced our approval of connecting Baldwin and Mobile County by a highway." Frank Barchard Sr., owner of the Onlooker, however, according to Dumas, "was violently opposed to the building of this road, as he thought it would hurt Baldwin County Merchants, never giving a thought that there were a hundred thousand people in Mobile, that were anxious to come across the Bay to live, and to commute to Mobile" (Dumas, p. 9).

Unfortunately for the Onlooker owner, according to Dumas, "on the day that the Highway Commission visited us the Onlooker came out with a special edition, with big headlines stating that the Foley Business Men went on record as favoring the building up of Mobile in preference to Baldwin County. The Foley business men took this as a slap in the face, and thirteen of them withdrew their advertising from the Onlooker" (Ibid).

By the mid 1920s, developers had begun to plan major beach projects that needed smooth access to the coast. In 1924, according to the Manufacturers Record, W R. Healie, president of Beverly Farms Corporation, acquired 508 of land on Perdido Bay and "contemplates" construction of a clubhouse at a cost of \$1,000,000. In 1927, a George C. Meyer was reported "interested in developing beach properties" (Manufacturer's Record, 9-11-24; 2-10-27).

Soon, of course, in 1929, the stock market crashed and the nation was plunged into its worst economic crisis ever. Even as late as 1930, though, according to a report from the Alabama Industrial Development Board, some believed that the catastrophe might not hit Foley. " ' Foley is a prosperous town . . . , read.' " " It has excellent water and is served electricity by a local company. It has a compact business section and a number of fine homes, a nine-hole golf course and club house. Excellent fishing is available in the Gulf of Mexico and Perdido Bay.' " The report continued, saying " ' The Gulf and Bay shores offer recreational opportunities, particularly fishing, second to none in this entire Gulf section . . . [but] there is not a first class resort hotel or club in the county' " (Stoddard, p. 45, 143).

The sunny outlook found in this report, though, was wrong. During the 1920s, crop prices had not risen for Foley farmers, while farm supplies had. Potatoes that had sold for \$1 dollar per hundred pounds in early 1931 had fallen to 65 cents by the end of the year. Corn fared no better, nor did cucumbers and other major crops, and farmers were going under. County banks struggled to hold on, and in 1932, the Foley Farmers & Merchants Bank (formerly the State Bank of Foley) closed down. According to local historian Tom Stoddard, "The two years following the banking crisis were disastrous. Baldwin County farmers shipped fewer than 1,000 cars of potatoes and only 1,872 cars of all produce in 1932. The following year was only slightly better. " Owners of the beautiful Foley Hotel, opened just five years, moreover, had their property seized and sold at auction (Ibid, p. 49-50).

Public improvements projects during the 1930s and 40s, however, began to reverse Foley's economy. In 1930, workers began surveying the area between Perdido Bay and Mobile Bay, as the first step toward the long awaited for Intracoastal Waterway between Pensacola and Mobile Bay . But, before dredging could get underway in 1931, ' Mobile interests ' began to agitate for a more southerly route through Lake Shelby and Little Lagoon. South Baldwin groups opposed that, though, and "won the fight," according to Stoddard. Dredging soon began, he noted, but it was heavily " ' supervised ' " by Baldwin county residents Upon completion, Gulf Shores and Orange Beach "truly became an island." (Ibid, p. 54).

The same year that the Intracoastal Waterway got started in 1930, Governor Ben Miller visited the Gulf Beaches and expressed his desire to have a state park there where everyone in Alabama would be able to visit the coast and to " ' breathe the wonderful salt air.' " Getting the state legislature to go along with the idea, however, was to prove problematic. According to George Meyer, a developer interested in the project, convincing the legislature proved one of the most challenging efforts of his life. Meyer's wife remembered, " ' They couldn't understand. George said the day will come when you will understand' " (Ibid.)

Meyer and his partner had bought a large section of beach property and gave about 700 acres to the state. Facilities were spare and only included seven camp buildings, a picnic shelter, two piers and a caretaker's house. There were also 40 acres

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 23

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District

County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

where poisonous plants, snakes, alligators and feral pigs lived, according to the Onlooker. By 1937, Meyer had given or sold another 4,500 acres to the state, and at that time, the federal government and the U. S. Army made a contribution by sending 20 to construct barracks for workers being sent down by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). By 1941, the CCC had completed roads into the state park, as well as cottages, and a " 'Big Casino' " (Ibid, p. 55).

Other programs of the New Deal also supported Foley's new beach economy and growth. Included were the Works Progress Administration's (WPA) effort to convert the winding sand trail from Gulf Shores to Fort Morgan onto the Fort Morgan Highway. By 1937, 62 miles of surface road had been paved including the 15 miles from Foley to the Lillian Bridge. Work on the Foley-Gulf Shores continued. According to local historian Tom Stoddard, "Foley felt the growing popularity of the beach in increased road traffic. . . Crosby's Drug Store . . . became a popular stopping place for the ice cream made there, as well as a sweet orangeade the Crosby whipped up" (Ibid, p. 55).

Foley's economy was noticeably stimulated by the investment and excitement generated by these big, federally funded projects. Private investment came too. In 1936, hospital facilities were being completed in the second floor of the Stelk Brothers building (Inv. # 80). At the same time, a new hospital was completed next door in a fine two story stucco building (Inv. # 81). Together they were dedicated as the Holmes Memorial Hospital. At about the same time, the town built a new city hall north of the commercial center on North McKenzie Street (Inv. # 36), as were several warehouses (Inv. # 3), commercial buildings on South Alston Street (Inv. #s 53, 58) and new houses were constructed including one two story brick house that remains extant on West Laurel Avenue (Inv. # 92). In 1937, moreover, the American Legion Post 99, organized the State's first such group in Foley (Comings and Albers) and moved into the Progressive Club building where it constructed a ballroom and skating rink inside (Inv. # 86) (Heritage of Baldwin County, p. 43). It remained there until the late 1940s.

By the 1940s and 1950s, Foley's economy experienced a major boom partly owing to a revived agricultural base based on potatoes but also increasingly on harvesting gladiolas for sale, and partly owing to the new tourist traffic industry. In 1940, the census reported a population of 864; by 1950 it would grow to 1,292. In 1940, according to Tom Stoddard, the economy was still based on " farming and small farms, at that." (Ibid, p. 65). As a result, during the late 1940s two major agricultural-related industries built huge facilities in Foley. One was the International Farm Implementation Dealership plant which was constructed in a fine Art Modern Style (Inv. # 5), and the other was the Reimers grainery near the heart of town which processed and stored corn, and manufactured insecticides (Inv. # 11) (Alabama, p. 9).

Meanwhile roads continued to be improved including completion of the highway to Magnolia Springs, making it easier for industries of all sorts to get in and out of the coastal area. As a result of that, as well as Foley's proximity to Mobile Bay, by 1941, the war industry began to make a significant impact on Foley's economy and growth. In 1941, Fort Morgan was reactivated, and a year later the Barin Naval Field was established with airstrips at Foley, Gulf Shores, Magnolia Springs, and Silverhill. Within two years after that, prison of war camps had been set up in Foley and Loxley. All resulted in new people in town, many of them with money to spend, and new travel up and down the highways connecting Foley to the beach and other county towns (Ibid, p. 144).

With car traffic, of course, came the need for fuel and car maintenance, and by the mid 1940s, Foley's downtown district became dotted with automobile-related business. By c. 1945, there were three gas stations on the way in or out of Foley that remain (Inv. #s 22, 25, 38), and by the late 1940s, there were two new major garages in Foley, one on the north end on North McKenzie Street (Inv. # 29), and one on the south end on South Alston Street (Inv. # 55). In 1946, the new Art Deco car dealership was under construction on South McKenzie Street (Sanborn Map, 1946), and the next year it was completed (Inv. # 76). Many commercial buildings were built downtown as well during the late 1940s, including a number of one story Art Moderne style buildings (Inv. #s 44, 45, 96, 84 - the Red and White grocery store). Two churches were also built including the First Presbyterian Church on North Alston Street (Inv. # 14), and the First United Methodist Church on the far western edge of the district (Inv. # 42). Across the street from the Methodist church, an International style doctor's office was also built (Inv. 92).

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 24

Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

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In 1947, moreover, Governor Jim Folsom dedicated the Alabama Beach at Gulf State Park (Ibid, p. 144). Three years later, Baldwin Oil Mills located in Foley but no longer remains. By the early 1950s, tourist traffic and the war industry teamed up again to boost Foley's economy and development, and nearly tripling the population from 1950 to 1970. In 1951, Foley's National Guard unit was activated for the Korean War, and Barin Field was reopened for business in Foley. At the same time, dozens of officer's quarters were being constructed about a half mile east of the downtown district where they remain virtually intact. Houses and new businesses came too including one c. 1950 commercial building that remains on North McKenzie Street (Inv. # 32) and a 1952 gas station on the southern edge of town (Inv. # 74). In 1954, the Dairy Queen was built downtown in what was seemingly the perfect location at the western end of the commercial area, adjacent to several houses on one side (Inv. #s 91-94), the Methodist Church (Inv. # 42) on the other, and across the street from the 1948 doctor's office (Inv. # 89).

Throughout the 1950s – present, Foley and Baldwin County has experienced some of the most dramatic, if not *the* most dramatic growth in the state. Roads and beach traffic remain its life's blood with the last phase of the Bayway (I-10) having opened in 1977, and in 2000 the Foley Beach Express was finished. Such an abundance of traffic led, in the 1990s, to the development of huge outlet retail stores in Foley about a mile outside downtown. Such prosperity has brought enormous pressure to Foley to manage the preservation and protection of its historic resources, while building a profitable economic base. As part of that effort, the city, among other things, had funded this effort to document its historic downtown.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9,10 Page 25 Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Foley Downtown Historic District is shown on the accompanying map entitled "Downtown Foley Historic District," drawn to scale 2004.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Foley Downtown Historic District has been drawn to include as many contiguous contributing resources as possible and to exclude as many non-contiguous buildings as possible. The District includes all of the town's remaining historic commercial buildings as well as cultural, government, industrial, and religious buildings downtown. In addition, the District contains six extant residential buildings that were historically part of the downtown neighborhood and which are now discontiguous from its predominantly residential historic neighborhoods west of downtown. In every direction from the District, suburban development c. 1960s-present has created a distinct demarcation line between the Foley Downtown Historic District new construction suburban north, south, east, and west of it.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section photos Page 26 Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

Photographs

1. Downtown Foley Historic District
Foley, Alabama
Baldwin County, Alabama
View of Car Quest Auto Parts
109 South McKenzie Street
Pamela King; 2003
2. 111-119 South McKenzie Street/streetscape
view facing NE
3. 105-107 South McKenzie/ streetscape
View facing NE
4. Post Office
101-103 South McKenzie Street
View of front, side facing SE
5. 420 North McKenzie Street
View of front, side facing NE
6. Kaiser Texaco
402 North McKenzie Street
View facing NE
7. 515 North McKenzie Street
View of front facing West
8. Benson's
501 North McKenzie Street
View of front, side facing West
9. Doering Tire Company
409 North McKenzie Street
View of front facing SW
10. Charter Tire
301 North McKenzie Street
View of front facing West
11. Foley Onlooker and Foley City Hall/ North McKenzie Streetscape
View facing NW
12. Magnolia Hotel
119 North McKenzie Street
View facing West
13. South McKenzie streetscape facing south
14. Volkert
316 South McKenzie Street
View of front facing West
15. Perdido Antiques
321-323 South Alston Street
View of front facing East
16. South Alston Streetscape
View facing NE
17. Stone Automotive
121 South Alston Street
View of front facing East

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section photos Page 27 Name of Property: Foley Downtown Historic District
County and State: Baldwin County, Alabama

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18. West Orange Streetscape facing SE
 19. Foley Hotel
View facing South
 20. Laurel Avenue/Alston Street Streetscape
View facing SE
 21. 301 West Laurel Avenue
View of front facing SW
 22. First United Methodist Church
View of front facing North
 23. Dairy Queen
View of front facing North
 24. 224 West Laurel Avenue
View of front facing North
 25. Masonic Temple
View of front facing East
 26. First Presbyterian Church
View of front, side facing NE
 27. Davco
225 East Laurel Avenue
View of front facing North
 28. Warehouse on Highway 98 facing N
 29. Hamburg & Sons
View of front, side facing NE

Foley Downtown Historic District

Foley, AL
Baldwin County

□ contributing
▣ Non-contributing

Drawn to Scale 1" = 200'
2004 ↑ NORTH

