1. Name of Property

historic name  Durant Downtown Historic District

2. Location

street & number  Roughly bounded by 4th Avenue, Lost Street, Evergreen Street, and First Avenue

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official/Title  State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
### 5. Classification

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<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<tr>
<td>[X] public-local</td>
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<tr>
<td>[ ] public-Federal</td>
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### 6. Function or Use

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<tr>
<td>INDUSTRY</td>
<td>RELIGION</td>
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<tr>
<td>RECREATION AND CULTURE</td>
<td>FUNERARY</td>
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<td>RELIGION</td>
<td>DOMESTIC</td>
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### 7. Description

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<tr>
<td>CLASSICAL REVIVAL</td>
<td>walls BRICK, STONE, STUCCO</td>
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<tr>
<td>MISSION REVIVAL</td>
<td>roof ASPHALT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COMMERCIAL STYLE</td>
<td>other</td>
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<td>MODERNE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ART DECO</td>
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**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
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.)

[X] 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, 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.)

Property is:

[ ] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or 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.

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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

<table>
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<th>COMMERCE</th>
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</thead>
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Periods of Significance

1901-1957

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above).

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

LAYTON, HICKS, AND FORSYTH

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(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:

Oklahoma Historical Society/SHPO
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  28

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

1. 14 742440 3764265
   Zone Easting Northing
2. 14 742470 3763900
   Zone Easting Northing
3. 14 741920 3764090
   Zone Easting Northing
4. 14 742120 3764360
   Zone Easting Northing
   [ ] See continuation sheet

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 Kelli E. Gaston/Historian
organization Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office date 2/14/07
street & number 2401 North Laird Avenue telephone (405) 522-2713
city or town Oklahoma City state OK zip code 73105

Additional Documentation
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 SHPO or FPO.)

name More than fifty (see owner list)
street & number___________________________ telephone____________
city or town___________________ state_______ zip code____________

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
INTRODUCTION

The Durant Downtown Historic District is a commercial district in Durant, Bryan County, Oklahoma. Covering portions of ten blocks in the central business district, the Durant Downtown Historic District contains the majority of historic commercial development in Durant that retains its integrity of feeling and association. Although founded in the 1870s, no buildings dating from the city’s earliest period remain today. Those that remain were built in the early twentieth century, largely to replace the original wooden frame buildings hastily constructed following settlement. The greater part of building construction within this district, ninety-two percent, took place between 1901 and 1957, the district’s period of significance. Construction in the area was gradual from 1900 to the 1910s and boomed in the 1920s with an additional spurt at the end of the Great Depression and into and following World War II. Growth in the downtown district subsided after that because the core was built in and the city began to expand in other directions. The buildings in the Durant Downtown Historic District reflect the commercial growth of this community, growth spurred by agricultural prosperity, its proximity to transportation routes, the presence of centers for higher education, and its distinction as the county seat.

A total of ninety-two buildings, one site, and seven structures are included within the district. Of these, one was previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The J.L. Wilson Building at 202 W. Evergreen was listed in 1982 as part of Oklahoma’s Comprehensive Survey. This building is an outstanding architectural example and retains a high degree of integrity. It is an integral part of the Durant Downtown Historic District. Of the remaining ninety-nine buildings, sites, and structures, 53 are considered to be contributing resources, as they were constructed during the period of significance and retain sufficient integrity as to convey their historic appearance. The remaining 46 are designated as non-contributing due to construction outside the period of significance or lack of historic integrity.

The district is composed of a majority of commercial and governmental buildings. There is one religious property. With the exception of a few outstanding architectural examples, the greater part of buildings in the district belongs to the generic Commercial Style of the twentieth century. Many others have no distinctive style. The buildings are generally brick with flat roofs. Although the building material is the same, the color and texture of the brick varies from building to building. Additionally, the degree of ornamentation ranges significantly. Single story buildings dominate the district with sixty-four examples. There are exceptions to this, notably the four-story Hotel Bryan and the three-story Plaza Theatre. There are twenty-six two-story buildings as well.

The boundaries of the district are regular, following the historic development of the central business district in downtown Durant. Despite the presence of numerous non-contributing resources, the contributing resources convey a sense of cohesion in both function and style. When possible, the boundaries omit vacant lots, as they do not contribute to the significance of the district. To the north of the district, the area becomes residential. Beyond the southern boundary, Lost Street, commercial properties give way to industrial and then residential development. The area east of the district becomes industrial with the railroad tracks reinforcing this feeling. The area west of the district gives way to modern commercial and historic residential development.

ALTERATIONS

The Durant Downtown Historic District retains a fair degree of integrity with fifty-four percent of the properties considered as contributing resources. Overall, the district retains much of its historic character with relatively few modern intrusions. Approximately seven buildings and one structure have been constructed in the district since the end of the period of significance. Many of these newer construction projects are compatible in design and materials to the historic buildings.
Over the years, many modifications have been made to individual buildings within the district. Although each building is assessed for its overall individual retention of integrity, there are several common alterations that affect a property’s designation as contributing or non-contributing.

The most frequent alterations are the replacement or covering over of historic wood windows and doors and the application of new materials to the original façade. Radical alterations to the placement, size, or shape of the window completed after the period of significance seriously detract from the historic character of the façade. Multiple story buildings with the application of new materials such as modern brick or stucco are usually counted as contributing if changes were made during the period of significance and/or as long as the upper floors retain their integrity. Because of the commonality of such alterations, single story buildings are generally classified as contributing as long as the majority of the façade is not obscured. The retention of historic architectural details along the upper wall is a significant factor in determining the status of one-story buildings.

Below is a list of the properties within the district. The descriptions begin with the east-west streets, starting at West Evergreen, and proceed south to West Main. Then the north-south streets are described, beginning with North Fourth Avenue and proceeding east to North First Avenue. The properties are listed numerically beginning on the north, then the south for streets and the west, then the east on the avenues. Contributing status is indicated by the address being in **bold** and **underlined**. Non-contributing properties are in normal type. An asterisk (*) after the address denotes a property previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS**

1. **300 W. Evergreen.** City Hall. Ca. 1939. Art Deco. Central block with wings. Bryan W. Nolen, architect. Flat roofed blonde brick building with an irregular footprint. Building has both one and two-story sections, with the areas closest to the street being single-story and those most removed from the street being two-story. The majority of the two-story space houses a large auditorium. The central entry on the south elevation features a projecting central block. Within this block, the entry consists of recessed double metal-framed glazed slab doors that are flanked by cast stone pilasters. Each pilaster is topped by a decorative cast stone sunburst. There is a stepped cast stone cornice above the entry and along the roofline of the first floor. To each side of the entry is a single fixed metal replacement window. Above each of these windows is a vertical strip of brick, eight courses wide, which extends from the window to the cornice, adding verticality. On each wing of the main façade are four pairs of fixed metal windows. The design of the second floor mimics the first, with a central projection that is graduated back toward the main façade. The fenestration on the second floor is regular. The original windows on this floor have also been replaced with fixed metal ones. Cast stone also accents the second floor cornice. There are secondary entrances on east and west ends of the building with double metal-framed glazed slab doors.

2. **224 W. Evergreen.** Wheeler Federal Building/Post Office. Ca. 1917. J.A. Wetmore, architect; W.D. Lovell, builder. 20th Century Commercial. Classical Revival. Two story rectangular brick building with a basement and a penthouse addition. Also features a flat roof. A large addition was made to the eastern (right) side of the building circa 1960, as were numerous other renovations. The entrance on the west is located in the central bay of the three bays located on the original south elevation. The entry features double metal-framed glazed doors. A freestanding flat metal porch and a three paned transom with cast stone casing top the entry. Flanking the front doors are large six over six-aluminum windows. The design of the second floor mimics the first, with a central projection that is graduated back toward the main façade. The fenestration on the second floor is regular. The original windows on this floor have also been replaced with fixed metal ones. Cast stone also accents the second floor cornice. There are secondary entrances on east and west ends of the building with double metal-framed glazed slab doors.
features a decorative cast stone cornice, with a cast stone belt course beneath the second story windows. The
eastern addition mimics the original in style and materials. Its entry is located just to the east (right) of the
original building and consists of double metal-framed glaze slab doors. A freestanding flat metal porch also tops
it. Above the entry is a large vertical wall of glass with ten glazed panes. To the right of the entry are three
aluminum windows with the top and bottom panes being fixed and the two center panes featuring an awning-type
opening. The second floor of the addition also has three such aluminum windows. A small penthouse addition
was made to the upper story. The original doors and windows have all been replaced in 1960. The openings of
the front door and windows to each side of the entry have also been altered from their original arched uppers to
rectangular transoms. The cornice has also been altered with the removal of a brick balustrade with cast stone
railing inset into the brick.

building is constructed of smooth faced concrete block and features four large metal fixed display windows. The
central entry features a metal-framed glazed slab door. A pent-roof metal awning is mounted above the door.
Building materials indicate that this building was constructed or drastically altered after the period of
significance.

building constructed of red and blonde brick with a flat roof. The central entry consists of a single metal-framed
glazed slab door. Flanking the entry are two large aluminum display windows. A metal-pent roof awning is
suspended above the storefront. The original band of clerestory windows has been filled in with stucco. The
original horizontal iron support is still visible above the clerestory space. A rectangular recess in the brick is
located just below the unadorned cornice.

red brick building with a flat roof. Minimal brick decoration near the cornice. Original display windows
replaced with smaller aluminum ones. The space between original and new windows has been bricked in with a
newer red brick. Central metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above. A metal awning is mounted above
the door.

6. 204-206 W. Evergreen. Ca. 1928. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-
story painted brick building with two storefronts. Aluminum windows have replaced the original wooden display
windows. Each storefront features a metal-framed glazed slab door. A metal awning, with a tar roof, is
suspended over both fronts. The original band of clerestory windows above the doors has been covered with
wooden boards. Between the awning and the cornice is a pair of rectangular brick recesses. A course of brick in
the header position accents the cornice.

commercial block. Midwestern commercial style. This is a two-story building constructed of painted rusticated
ashlar masonry. The building’s first floor front consists of large display windows and a recessed entry. A wood
awning spans the length of the front, above which are a band of clerestory windows. The second floor and corner
façade, as well as the entire cornice, is constructed of pressed tin. On the south front, between each of the single
hung sash wood windows, the tin is fashioned into pilasters. This building has been only slightly altered since it
was constructed. Three large window openings on the east side of the first floor have been enclosed with
masonry similar to that of the original. Moreover, the display windows on the street front would appear to have
replaced smaller windows encased by masonry.

style. This two-story building features two storefronts and has been significantly altered. Constructed of red
brick, the upper story originally featured segmental arched openings for four windows, with large display
windows on the lower story. The upper windows have been partially bricked in and smaller fixed windows
installed. On the lower floor, smaller metal replacement windows have taken the place of original wooden
displays. The gaps between old and new windows have been filled with brick and wood. The original clerestory
windows have been painted or boarded over. Each storefront features a single metal-framed glazed slab door.
The brickwork on the first floor has been painted. The cornice is stepped and has cast stone coping. The name
“EM Blanton” is inscribed just below the cornice in the center of the building. A belt line of three courses of
brick in graduating heights accents the upper façade. This building is considered non-contributing because of the
degree of alteration to both the upper and lower façade.

9. 305-319 W. Evergreen. Ca. 1978. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. This single-story brick and
stucco building features four office fronts. It has a metal awning and modern fixed metal windows. Each
storefront features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom and sidelights. Non-contributing because
it was built after the period of significance.

10. 320 W. Main. Ca. 1984. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. This single-story building is
constructed of stucco covered concrete block and has a metal deck roof. The large display windows are metal
and a fixed glass panel separates the central entry doors. The entry doors are single metal-framed glazed slabs.
Three small transoms rest above the entry. Non-contributing due to date of construction.

with a flat roof. The front façade of the upper floor of this two-story brick building has been covered in metal
siding. The first floor display windows have been replaced with aluminum windows with transoms. There are
four separate storefronts, each featuring a single or double metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above. A
metal awning is suspended above all four storefronts. Non-contributing due to the application of a metal fake
façade.

building with a cast stone water table and a flat roof. Horizontal bands of cast stone and decorative stone squares
accent the façade, as does cast stone coping along the cornice. A series of cutouts in the brick and stonework are
also found below the cornice line on the single-story portion of the building. Offset entry with double metal
framed glazed slab doors with transom above. Sidelights flank the entry. A triangular shaped metal and glass
portico covers the entry doors and is supported by marble wrapped metal posts. Groupings of three fixed
windows with dark glazing are found on both the first and second stories. Non-contributing due to date of
construction.

with a flat roof. Multiple entries. The illusion of a water table is created using a slightly protruding layer of
stucco in a lighter shade. The entry doors consist of single metal framed glazed slabs. Fixed dark glazed metal
windows dot the façade. Horizontal bands of cast stone accent the cornice and the space just above the windows.
Cast stone squares are placed at intervals along the decorative banding. Non-contributing due to alterations
caused by the application of a stucco façade outside the period of significance.

brick building with a painted stone façade and a flat roof. Rusticated stone quoining accents the building. Four
Ionic columns support the full-height triangular pedimented portico and divide the front façade into three bays.
Dentils accent the cornice. A paterae is found in the gable end of the portico and the original name of the bank is
inscribed along the frieze. The cornice line of the main structure, behind the portico, is stepped. The entry doors
are located in the central bay and consist of two metal-framed glazed slabs with transom above. In the bay above
the entry door and in the bays to the left and right of the entry, are 1/1 single hung sash windows with sidelights. A large fixed pane window with lattice-like upper is located in each of the bays flanking the front entryway. In addition to the main entry on Main Street, there are additional smaller entrances located on the east elevation of the building along North Second Street. There are three modern metal-framed glazed slab doors. Photograph number 1.

15. **144 W. Main**. Ca. 1924. Romanesque Revival style. Two-part commercial block. Two-story painted brick building with a flat roof. The central recessed entry consists of a single metal-framed glazed slab door. Flanking each side of the entry, the first floor features large aluminum display windows that angle back to and along the street. These windows rest on a knee wall clad in glazed green tile. A metal awning runs the length of the building. The clerestory windows have been painted over, with two small metal vents installed in the space. The upper story features three arcaded window surrounds that contain 1/1 single hung sash wooden windows with fanlights. Storm windows have been added to cover the original wooden windows. Cast stone coping, accented by painted corbelled brick, outlines the roofline.

16. **142 W. Main**. Ca. 1924. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story rectangular brick building with a flat roof. A false metal façade covers the upper portion of the building. Vinyl siding covers the lower brick supports at the street level. The recessed central entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom and sidelights. Large fixed aluminum display windows flank the entry, angling back toward and along the street. A flat metal awning is suspended across the storefront. Non-contributing due to the application of a false facade.

17. **140 W. Main**. Ca. 1920. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story rectangular red brick building with a flat roof. The offset entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab door. The original display windows to either side of the entry have been replaced with aluminum ones and the gap between new and old was filled in with newer, darker brick. This building retains the original horizontal iron supports complete with rosettes. A fabric awning spans the front. Painted cast stone coping accents the cornice.

18. **134 W. Main**. Ca. 1920. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Rectangular single-story brick building with two storefronts. The entries to the businesses are located at the center of the building, with large metal display windows extending the remaining length of each storefront. The single entry doors are metal-framed glazed slabs. A low partial wall clad in white tile supports the display windows. A white tile clad column separates the two shop entries. A metal fake façade covers the upper portion of the south elevation and a fabric awning runs the length of both storefronts. This building is considered non-contributing due to the application of a false façade.

19. **132 W. Main**. Ca. 1920. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Painted brick single-story building with a flat roof. This building contains two storefronts, a larger on the west (left), and a smaller on the east (right). The larger storefront features a recessed centrally located single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above. Flanking the entry are large aluminum display windows that angle back to and along the street. The two storefronts are separated by a red and black tile clad column. The smaller storefront retains the centrally located wooden-framed glazed slab door. A small transom is located above the entry. To each side of the entry are large aluminum display windows. These windows rest on knee walls clad in red tile. A band of clerestory windows extends over each storefront. A flat metal awning is suspended over both storefronts. There is very little exterior detail beyond a recessed stucco band just below the cornice. Photograph Number 21.

20. **126-128 W. Main**. Ca. 1924. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story painted brick building with a flat roof. The building has been divided into two storefronts. The westernmost (left) storefront features double metal-framed glazed slab doors. To each side are original wooden display
21. 120-124 W. Main. Ca. 1938. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story brick building with two storefronts. Metal sheeting covers the upper façade of the building. Each storefront features a centrally located entry with a single metal-framed glazed slab door. To each side of the entry door are large aluminum display windows. A large tile covered column separates the two storefronts. A flat metal awning is suspended over both storefronts. The addition of a metal fake façade renders this building a non-contributing resource.

22. 118 W. Main. Ca. 1938. One-part commercial block. Single-story rectangular brick building with a metal fake upper façade. The central entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab door. To the left of the entry are two large aluminum display windows. To the right of the entry are three additional aluminum display windows. The size of the display windows has been altered to make the windows smaller. The space difference has been filled in with modern brown brick. The original clerestory windows have been replaced with protruding pyramidal shaped metal panels. A flat metal awning is suspended over the storefront. Non-contributing due to the metal fake façade on the upper wall of the storefront.

23. 116 W. Main. Ca. 1938. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. One-story stucco clad brick building with a flat roof located at the corner of Main and First Avenue. The entry is centered along the south of the façade. It consists of a single metal-framed glazed slab door. Large aluminum display windows flank the entry. There is also an aluminum display window on the corner façade of the building. The original clerestory windows above the displays have been filled in and stucco applied over that surface. There is no attempt at exterior detail. Non-contributing due to application of stucco and replacement of original doors and windows.

24. 42 W. Main. Ca. 1925. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story brick building with a flat roof. The original brick remains on the upper portion of the façade and has been painted, while the brick at street level is a modern brown. The entry is centrally located and features a metal slab door. The transom above has been filled in with insulation. To each side of the entry is a pilaster-like brick projection. To the left of the front door is a small fixed metal window. The opening for the window is larger than the window itself and the space difference has been filled in with wood. To the right of the entry is the opening for a larger window that has also been filled in with wood. Beside that is an opening that once housed an air conditioning unit. Along the front façade of the building, a pent roof overhang is suspended. Once covered with wooden shake shingles, obvious from some that are exposed, it is now mostly covered with metal sheeting. The only detailing on this otherwise simple building is the corbel table just below the cornice. Much of the upper façade has been covered with the awning and the street level façade has been completely changed, causing this building to be considered a non-contributing resource.

25. 30-32 W. Main. Ca. 1912. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story painted brick building with a flat roof. There appear to be two storefronts. The westernmost (left) and seemingly main entry is surrounded by two large wooden display windows. The original clerestories above the display windows have been filled in with wood. The original entry door for this storefront has been replaced with a modern metal paneled door with nine upper glazed panes. To the right of the display windows in the western storefront are a set of wooden slab doors. Each of these has a single upper glazed pane. The original transoms above each of the entry doors in this storefront have been filled in with wood as well. A flat metal awning is suspended over the front façade. In the eastern (right) storefront, the original entry has been replaced by a folding metal garage door. A flat metal awning is suspended over the front façade of this storefront, but at a
26.  

26-28 W. Main. 1912. Two-part commercial block with parapet front. Late Victorian Commercial style. “AD 1912” is inscribed in brick in the upper portion of the triangular parapet. This is a two-story red brick building with a flat roof. Portions of the brick cladding on this building have been painted. It contains two storefronts, as well as an exterior entrance to the upstairs space. The westernmost (left) storefront has an offset modern front door consisting of single metal-framed glazed slab. A smaller aluminum display window is to the left of the door with a large aluminum display window to the right of the entry. Wood has been used to fill in the openings for the original clerestory windows. A flat metal awning spans across the entire storefront and is supported by three round metal posts. The eastern storefront is accessible through a modern entry door in the central bay of the building. It features a single metal-framed glazed slab door. To the right of the entry are three large fixed metal windows. As in the other storefront, the clerestory windows above the display area have been filled in with wood. At the far eastern edge of the building is the access door to the upper story. It is an old-fashioned jail type iron bar door. On the second floor façade, five large windows once spanned the exterior. The original window spaces have been filled with wood. The original concrete lintels and sills remain around the window openings. Unlike other buildings in the area, this building has an overhanging white wooden box cornice with a wide entablature. The roofline is further accented with the triangular parapet that rises above the otherwise flat cornice, as well as several other bands of decorative brickwork in a geometric pattern.

27.  

401 W. Main. Sinclair station. Ca. 1924. House with canopy and two bays filling station. Mission Revival style. Single-story gas station with a flat roof and a porte cochere. The building is clad in stucco with a decorative green tile water table and Spanish clay tile cornice accents. The offset front entry features a wooden-framed glazed slab door. To the right of the entry is a large eight pane fixed window. To the left of the entry is a large wooden display window with cast stone sill. Above the entry is a band of wooden clerestory windows. The filling station also features two garage bays with wooden and glazed doors. The bay openings are not simple rectangle cutouts, but have decorative scrollwork. The porte cochere is supported by the filling house and two stucco and tile clad columns. It features gable shaped parapets with decorative tile arches on the columns and tile accents on the upper level of stucco. The water table also extends to the columns. This is the only downtown gas station still in existence in Durant. It has been carefully restored. Replacement items, such as doors and windows, were chosen as to maintain the historic character of the building.

28.  

321-323 W. Main. Ca. 1938. Parking Garage. 20th Century Functional. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story painted brick building with a flat metal roof. At the western (right) end of the building is a small office space. The office features a central entry with a single metal-framed glazed slab door with a transom above. To each side of the entry, a large aluminum display window can be found. Above the entry, the original brick of the office has been sided over. Three brick columns along the front support the open-air garage area. It is accessible from both Main and South Fourth streets. The cornice of the Main Street façade is highly decorative, with the roofline rising in a series of triangles. The upper façade is further accented by a series of rectangular brick projections. The original tin remains on the interior ceiling of the garage area. Some of the original exterior walls may have been removed to provide additional street access, although much of the exterior was originally open to the street.

29.  

317-319 W. Main. Ca. 1938. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. Single-story red brick building with a flat roof. Brick appears to be of newer application. Central entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with sidelights and transom. To each side of the entry is a pair of fixed metal windows. A flat metal awning is suspended above the entire storefront. The cornice features a simple row of projecting brick. Non-contributing due to new brick façade.
30. **309-311 W. Main**. H-H Building. Ca. 1924; rehabilitated 1998. Two-part commercial block. Art Moderne. Two-story red brick building with a flat roof. There is street access to the upper floor through an entry on the eastern (left) end of the building. The access door features a wooden-framed glazed slab door with glazed tile surround and a suspended aluminum Art Deco-style awning above. The H-H building contains two storefronts. The larger storefront is located on the western (right) end of the building. It features a central entry with large aluminum display windows on either side. The entry door is a single wooden-framed glazed slab. The original band of clerestory windows with leaded glass remains. A flat wooden awning is suspended above the storefront. The smaller storefront, located in the middle of the building, was rehabilitated ca. 1948. It has a façade consisting of glossy black Vitrolite tile, surrounded by a rectangular band of white tiles. It has a central entry featuring a single metal-framed glazed slab door. The entry door is surrounded on each side by large hexagonal display windows. Above the entry is a larger version of the suspended aluminum Art Deco-style awning found elsewhere on the building. Above the first floor storefronts, the second floor features a band of twelve 1/1 single hung sash wooden windows. These windows are surrounded by a rectangular band of brick. In the upper corner of each side of the brick band is a decorative cast stone square. Below the windows, and spanning just beyond each end of the row, is a belt line of cast stone. A fabric awning hangs above the second floor windows. “H-H” is inscribed just below the cornice. The stepped cornice line is accented by another belt line of cast stone that is also graduated in height. It is further accented by two larger squares of cast stone. Photograph number 2.

31. **305-307 W. Main**. Ca. 1938. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story building with a flat roof. The entire front façade has been covered in blue metal siding. The offset entry features double metal-framed doors with oval glazing. To the left of the entry are a series of large aluminum display windows. To the right of the entry is a longer span of aluminum display windows. A large blue and white fabric awning is suspended over the length of the storefront. Non-contributing because of the application of a metal fake façade to the entire storefront.

32. **303 W. Main**. Ca. 1928. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story brick and concrete block building with a flat roof. This building has been significantly altered over time. The lower half of the façade has been covered in modern brown brick. The original brick remains on most of the upper, with some concrete block exposed on the outer edge of the building. The central entry features a solid metal slab door with a three-coursed arched brick surround. A single fixed metal window is located to either side of the entry. Just below the cornice is a recessed brick area where a sign was once painted. The simple cornice features simple brick detailing. This building is considered non-contributing due to the degree of alteration to the street level façade.


34. **221-225 W. Main**. Ca. 1913. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story brick building with a flat roof. Metal sheeting covers the upper façade of the building. It is divided into two storefronts, each with a central entry. Each entry features double metal-framed glazed slab doors with sidelights and a transom. The remainder of the storefront consists of large aluminum display windows set on a low brick wall. A flat metal awning is suspended the length of both storefronts. This building is considered non-contributing due to the application of a metal fake façade.

35. **219 W. Main**. Ca. 1938. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story building with random ashlar stone cladding at street level. Metal sheeting has been applied to the upper section of the storefront. The central entry is recessed from the street and features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with
transom. Large aluminum display windows flank the entry and angle back toward and along the street. This resource is considered non-contributing due to the application of a metal fake facade that entirely covers the upper portion of the original storefront.

36. 215 W. Main. Ca. 1910. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. Two-story brick building with a flat roof. The entire facade has been covered in modern blonde brick, completely obscuring the second story. A central entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom. Large aluminum display windows are located on either side of the entry. A flat metal awning floats across the entire storefront. Non-contributing due to the application of a modern brick facade.

37. 213 W. Main. Ca. 1918. Parapet-front. Romanesque Revival style. Two-story red brick building with a flat roof. The brick on the lower half of the building has been painted. Street level access to the upper floor is located on the west (right) end. This access door features a single wood slab with transom above. The central entry consists of a single paneled wooden door with a single glazed pane. The transom above has been filled in with siding. Large wooden display windows are located on each side of the entry. Above the entry, the original band of clerestory windows has also been filled in with siding and used as the location for a fabric awning (now missing). The original horizontal iron support is visible above the awning space. Its rosette support caps remain in place. The second floor facade features two large wooden windows. Each window consists of a pair of 1/1 single hung sash windows with fanlight. Arched surrounds accent the large windows. Above the windows is a belt line of decorative brickwork. The roofline is stepped, with a parapet at its center. Graduated levels of brick further accent the cornice. In the center of the parapet, at the highest point of the facade, two Gothic arches have been recessed into the wall. Brick has also been used to define two rectangular boxes to either side of the arches. Photograph number 3.

38. 211 W. Main. Ca. 1938. Parapet-front. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story brick building with a flat roof. The original brick has been replaced, but the historic horizontal iron support remains in place, complete with most of its rosette caps. The central entry features double metal-framed glazed slab doors. Flanking the entry are large metal display windows. Small rounded fabric awnings cover the entry and windows. The cornice is stepped and features a central, plain square parapet. This building is considered non-contributing because of the degree of exterior alteration completed after the period of significance.

39. 209 W. Main. Ca. 1908. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. Single-story blonde brick building with a flat roof. This building has two storefronts. The larger storefront is located on the east (left) side and features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom. To the left of the entry is a single aluminum display window. To the right of the entry are two smaller fixed aluminum display windows. The smaller storefront (right) features an offset door consisting of a single metal-framed glazed slab with transom. A sidelight is located to its left. A large aluminum display window is located to the right of the entry. A flat metal awning floats above both storefronts. Originally a two-story building, the upper floor was removed ca. 1960 and a new brick face applied. These alterations make this a non-contributing resource.

40. 207 W. Main. Ca. 1938. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story brick building with a flat roof. The central recessed entry consists of double metal-framed glazed slab doors with transom above. Large metal display windows are located to either side of the front doors. A metal fake facade covers the upper brick of the building. Non-contributing due to the application of a metal fake upper facade.

41. 205 W. Main. Ca. 1908. One-part commercial block. Mission Revival style. Single-story brick and stucco building with a flat roof. Central entry consists of a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom. To each side of the entry are two large display windows. The stucco facade of the upper portion of the building has been scored in a grid pattern. Decorative Spanish tile along the central part of the cornice. A flat metal awning hangs
over the entire storefront. Non-contributing because of the application of stucco in such a manner as to distort the original style and architectural details of the building.

42. **201-203 W. Main.** Ca. 1913. Two-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Two-story red brick building with flat roof. Three separate storefronts line the northern Main Street elevation of this building. The westernmost storefront (right) features a recessed central single metal-framed glazed slab entry door with a transom above and sidelights. Large aluminum display windows angle back to the street and rest upon knee walls clad in gray tile. The center storefront also features a recessed entry with a single wooden-framed glazed slab door. To each side of the entry, smaller display windows angle back to the street, resting upon half walls covered in glossy black tile. The easternmost storefront (left) again features a recessed central entry. The door to this storefront is a single metal-framed glazed panel with transom above. Large aluminum display windows angle back to the street and rest upon knee walls covered in glossy black tile. The original clerestory windows above each storefront have been filled in, one with metal siding, and the others with wood. A suspended flat metal awning spans the front of the entire building. Six 1/1 single hung sash windows span the second story. Each is topped with a segmental arch brick surround. The cornice line projects beyond the main façade and features decorative brick corbels spaced at intervals below the cornice. Several original star-shaped brick supports remain on the upper level of the façade. On the eastern elevation of the building parallel to South Second Street, there are three additional small storefronts. These single-story fronts share a three bay pedimented tin entryway. The pediment alternates from segmental to triangular to segmental. The pediments are highly decorative. The segmental pediments are identical and feature a center seashell with floral garland motif. The central triangular pediment contains a human head with scrollwork and flowers in the tympanum. Dentils accent the cornice of the entryway. The doorway into the southernmost storefront has been filled in entirely with glass. Wood covers the original transom. The central storefront features two double paneled wooden doors with an upper glazed pane. These doors are boarded over from the inside. The northernmost storefront (right) features a single wooden paneled door with an upper glazed pane. A transom sits above the doorway. There are decorative wooden panels to either side of the door.

43. **145 W. Main.** Ca. 1906. Two-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Two-story painted brick building with a flat roof. Street access to the upper floor through a single metal-framed glazed slab door located on the eastern (left) side of the building. The recessed central entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom and sidelights. Large aluminum display windows angle back to and along the street. These displays rest on knee walls clad in shiny black and white tile. A large metal awning is suspended over the entire storefront. The upper story features four arched windows. The original windows have been replaced with smaller aluminum 2/2 single hung sash windows. The gap between the new and old windows has been filled in with wood. The window surround consists of brick segmental arches. The cornice line of this building is highly decorative, with large brick corbels on the east and west ends of the building. In between the corbels are a series of dentils and other raised and recessed levels of brick.

44. **143 W. Main.** Ca. 1938. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story red brick building with flat roof. Central entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab with transom above. Two aluminum display windows are found on each side of the entry. The display windows rest on a knee wall of modern, lighter brick. The original band of clerestory windows above the entry has been closed in with wooden siding. There is a large rectangular recess in the brick just below the unadorned cornice.

45. **141 W. Main.** Ca. 1913. Two-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Two story blonde brick and rusticated stone building with flat roof. Most of the original stone on the first floor has been covered, but some is exposed on each edge of the building, next to the clerestory windows. The building features a second story access door on the far western (right) edge. This original paneled wooden door features six stained/leaded glass panes. Above the door is a stained glass panel containing the street number. A column clad in glossy red
glazed tile separates the access door from the main storefront. The central entry of the storefront is recessed from the street and contains a single wooden-framed glazed slab door. It also features a stained glass transom with the street number. Large wooden display windows angle back to and are located along the street. A column clad in glossy red glazed tile separates the easternmost (left) display window of the storefront from the next building. Above the storefront is a band of clerestory windows. The original clear glass has been replaced with frosted glass for several of the windows. Above the clerestory, are two pairs of 1/1 single hung sash wooden windows with cast stone lintels. The cornice is defined by a vertical band of brick topped with cast stone coping. Just below the cornice, projecting brick are used to outline two brick rectangles divided by a diamond. Photograph number 4.

46. 137 W. Main. Ca. 1990. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. Single-story modern red brick building with a flat roof. Central entry features double metal-framed glazed slab doors with transoms above. To each side of the entry are three fixed metal windows. The simple upper façade is accented above the door by two projecting bands of brick, used to outline the signage. This building was constructed after the period of significance and is therefore a non-contributing resource.

47. 133 W. Main. Ca. 1913. One-part commercial block. Art Moderne. Single-story brick building with a flat roof. Upper façade covered in black and white Vitrolite tile during the period of significance. The structural brick is exposed along the eastern edge of the façade. The central recessed entry consists of a single metal-framed glazed slab door with glass block transom above. Large aluminum display windows angle back toward and along the street. These large display windows rest on law walls covered in black and white tile. The alterations to this building were completed during the period of significance, ca. 1948, and in terms of style and materials, this building is a rarity.

48. 129-131 W. Main. Ca. 1938. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story stucco clad brick building with a flat roof. The central entry features two single metal-framed glazed slab doors separated by an aluminum fixed pane window. The entry is topped by an aluminum transom. Large aluminum display windows flank each side of the entry and cover the entire street level façade of the building. Just above the line of windows, the upper façade is slightly recessed for signage purposes. There is no other decoration. The entire façade of this property was altered ca. 1980. Alterations range from the application of stucco on the upper to replacement doors and windows across the entire street front, making this a non-contributing resource.

49. 127 W. Main. Collier Brothers. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story brick building with a flat roof. Features an offset recessed entry. Door is a single metal-framed glazed slab with transom and sidelights. Large aluminum display windows angle back toward and along the street. Much of the original brick between the cornice and the display windows has been covered with stucco. This building features a highly decorative cornice with a brick corbel table. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefront.

50. 125 W. Main. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story brick building with a flat roof. Features a central recessed entry with a single metal-framed glazed slab door. A transom sits above. Large aluminum display windows angle back toward and along the street. The original band of clerestory windows above the entry has been filled in with wood. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefront. This building features a highly decorative cornice with a brick corbel table. A belt line of brick projects below the corbel table to further decorate the façade.

51. 123 W. Main. Ca. 1918. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story red brick building with modified flat roof. Central recessed entry features double metal-framed glazed slab doors with transom above. Large aluminum display windows angle back toward the street. These display windows rest
on a knee wall of red brick. Horizontal iron supports are exposed above the entry. Star-like brick supports are visible on the upper façade of the building. The replacement of doors and windows, as well as modifications to the roof of this building make it a non-contributing resource.

52. 121 W. Main. Ca. 1938. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story painted brick and concrete block building with a flat roof. The entry is located at the far western (right) corner of the building and consists of a single metal-framed glazed slab. A metal transom sits above. A plain face concrete block half wall is located to the east (left) of the entry. On it sits a band of metal display windows. Above the entry, a fabric awning spans the length of the building. A metal vent is centered just above the awning. There is no other decorative detailing. This is non-contributing due to the level of alteration with replaced windows and doors, the addition of concrete blocks as a building material, and the absence of original architectural details.

53. **117-119 W. Main**. Ca. 1913. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story painted brick building with a flat roof. This building contains two storefronts, a larger on the east (left) and a smaller on the west (right). The western storefront features an offset entry with a single metal-framed glazed slab. A metal vent has replaced the transom above the door. To the right of the entry is a small wooden display window. To the left is a large wooden display window. Each window rests on a low brick wall. The central entry of the larger storefront on the eastern (left) end of the building is recessed. It features a single metal-framed glazed slab door. To each side of the entry are large aluminum sidelights. A metal vent is also located above this entry door. Large wooden display windows angle back toward the street from the entry. These display windows rest on a low brick wall. The original band of clerestory windows above both storefronts has been filled in with metal sheeting, painted to match the brick. A flat metal awning is suspended over the full-length of the building. A rectangular brick recess located several feet below the cornice accents the front façade.

54. 115 W. Main. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story building with a flat roof. Original brick on the upper part of the building has been painted. Newer brick has been used to modify the bottom section of the façade. This building features an offset entry with a single metal-framed glazed slab door and a fixed window on either side. A transom is located above the front door. Some decorative brickwork can be found on the upper section of the façade. This is considered a non-contributing resource due the degree of alteration to the street level façade.

55. 113 W. Main. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story painted brick and wood paneled building with a flat roof. Most of the original brickwork on the upper façade has been covered over with horizontal and diagonal pieces of lumber. There is a central single metal-framed glazed slab entry door, with large display windows on either side. The fake wooden upper façade causes this building to be considered a non-contributing resource.

56. 111 W. Main. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story brick building with a flat roof. A metal fake front has replaced the original brickwork on the upper portion of the front façade. Large aluminum display windows flank the centrally placed front door. The door is a single metal-framed glazed slab. The application of a metal fake façade makes this a non-contributing resource.

57. **101-105 W. Main**. Hotel Bryan. Ca. 1929. Two-part commercial block. Romanesque Revival style. Layton, Hicks, and Forsyth, architects. Four story rectangular brick building with a flat roof and a penthouse. The main entry has historically been located on the east (left) elevation of the building. This façade features three main bays. The large central bay is slightly recessed from the rest of the building. Its central entry projects slightly. A painted copper canopy is suspended above the double wood-framed glazed slab entry doors. Located above the canopy is a decorative plaque inscribed with the words “Hotel Bryan.” Flanking this plaque is a pair of cast stone urns. The east façade features a series of nine large fixed triple windows each topped by a Diocletian
window. These feature a round arch brick surround with a cast stone keystone. Five of these openings have been enclosed with brick or newer glass. A decorative belt line of brick divides the first floor from the second and features a variation in color and pattern. The second, third, and fourth stories each feature fourteen 1/1 single hung sash wood windows on the eastern elevation. The number of windows on the western elevation of the building was modified during renovation. The second and third floor fenestration is identical with nine 2/2 single hung sash wood windows and two smaller 2/2 single hung sash wood windows. The fourth floor features nine 2/2 single hung sash wood windows, three smaller 2/2 single hung sash wood windows, and two 1/1 single hung sash wood windows. The cornice is accented with the same variation in brick color and pattern as the beltline between the first and second floors. The roofline is stepped with cast stone coping and decorative accents.

58. 113 S. 4th. Ca. 1940. 20th Century Functional. Two-story red brick building with a composition hipped roof. Shed roof addition on the south elevation with brick and wood clapboard siding. Vinyl has been applied to the soffit and the fascia. The first floor façade has been altered to convert it from a residence into a business. The offset entry features double wood paneled doors with a single upper glazed pane. To the right of the entry door is a small section of wood clapboard siding. To the left of the entry is a small section of wood clapboard siding with a narrow wooden 2/2 single hung sash window. In the south half (left) of the original building, there are three large wooden display windows that sit on a knee wall covered with the same clapboard siding. A cast stone water table is visible on the corners and at the center of the front façade. A cast stone belt line is also visible halfway up the front façade. The second floor front features two pairs of fixed windows with shutters. A fabric awning spans the front façade.

59. 107-111 S. 4th. Carpenter’s Machine Shop. Ca. 1924. Two-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. W.J. Carpenter, builder. Two-story red brick building with a flat roof. This building features four bays. The northernmost (right) bay features double entry doors and a large wooden display window. The entry doors are wood paneled with eight glazed panes. The second bay features two large wooden display windows. Above the doors and display windows in each of these bays is a band of clerestory windows. Each of the display windows has a cast stone sill. The southernmost (left) bays feature five large rectangular wooden panels, each with eighteen glass panes. The bay to its right features a band of four wooden panels. Each of these panels is topped with two sections of glass, each with nine glazed panes. These panels are designed to resemble garage doors. In between the first and second floors is painted the words “Carpenter’s Machine Shop.” The second floor features ten 2/2 single hung sash wooden windows with cast stone sills. Just below the cornice, there is a rectangular brick projection. Several courses of brick also project at the cornice. Historically, the building was an automobile and aircraft repair facility, complete with a freight elevator.

60. 103-105 S. 4th. Ca. 1924. Parapet-front. Late Victorian Commercial style. W.J. Carpenter, builder. Single-story red brick building with a flat roof. The central entry features a three-paneled wooden door with a single glazed panel. A transom sits above the entry. To the south (left) of the entry are two large wooden display windows. To the north (right), is a single large wooden display window and a sixteen pane fixed window. The display windows have a cast stone sill and sit upon a low brick wall. A band of clerestory windows span the front façade. There is a large rectangular recess in the brick above the clerestory windows and just below the curved parapet.

61. 115 S. 3rd. Lumber Yard. Ca. 1908-1950. 20th Century Functional. No distinctive style. Long-standing lumber business that includes an office building and approximately five storage structures. The office is a single-story rectangular brick building with a composition gabled roof. The outbuildings are used to store lumber and hardware supplies and feature a variety of materials including plain face concrete block, wood clapboard siding, and sheet metal. The most notable outbuildings include a two-story lumber shed with gabled roof, a one-story garage with original wood siding and garage doors, and a single-story rectangular concrete block building with a flat roof that retains its original industrial metal windows. Four of these storage structures are considered
contributing. An additional storage structure is considered non-contributing due to recent construction from modern materials.


63. 101-103 N. 3rd. Ca. 1974. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. Single-story brown brick building with a flat roof. Building has two storefronts, as well as an entry on the south elevation along Main Street. The entry to the southernmost storefront is located at the far right corner. It features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above. To the left of the entry are three large floor-to-ceiling metal display windows. A brick clad column separates the two storefronts. The entry to the northernmost storefront is located just to the right of this column. It also features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above. To the right of the entry are three large floor-to-ceiling metal display windows. Spanning across both storefronts is a flat metal awning. This property is non-contributing as it was constructed after the period of significance.

64. 105 N. 3rd. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story stucco-clad brick building with a flat roof. This building contains two small storefronts. The entry to the storefront on the left is located at the center of the building and is a single metal-framed glazed slab. To the left of the entry is a large metal display window. To the right of entry door is a small section of metal siding. Next to the metal siding is the entrance to the right storefront. It also features a single metal-framed glazed slab door. A smaller metal display window is located to the right of the entry. The upper façade has no ornamentation. This building is non-contributing due to the level of alteration through the application of stucco to the upper façade and the replacement of original doors and windows ca. 1970.

65. 107-111 N. 3rd. Plaza Theater. Ca. 1915. Two-part commercial block. Art Moderne. Three story stucco and tile clad building with a flat roof. Stucco and tile added ca. 1940. The front façade of this building has four separate entries spread across three bays. The southernmost (left) bay features a wood paneled door with six
glazed panes and sits at the southern corner of the building. To its right is a large metal display window that projects slightly from the main façade. The central building bay contains the two main entrances to the theatre. This bay projects slightly beyond the other two bays. The theater entrances feature double metal-framed glazed slab doors. A stucco-clad column separates the two sets of doors. In the northernmost bay (right), there is an entry and display window identical to that in the far left bay of the building. The street level façade of the building is clad in glossy teal tile, except for the area immediately surrounding the central bay entry doors to the theater. A curved metal rectangular awning is suspended over the central bay of the building. Six horizontal bands, in a darker shade of green, project from the second floor façade. There are two 1/1 single hung sash windows in each bay on the second floor. The fourth floor features four 1/1 single hung sash metal windows. There is one window in each of the outer bays, and two windows in the central bay. The window in the far left bay has been filled in with metal siding. A series of three vertical stucco lines project from each window on the third floor and extend down to the second floor façade. These lines are also painted a darker green. The cornice line mimics the vertical lines found between the second and third floors. Using several different colors creates the illusion of depth. The neon “Plaza” sign is suspended from the roofline at the center of the building.

68. 119-121 N. 3rd. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story painted brick building with a flat roof. This building contains three storefronts. The storefront on the south (left) features a central recessed entry. The entry consists of a single metal-framed glazed slab door with sidelights and a transom. Large aluminum display windows angle back toward and along the street. The display windows sit upon a knee wall of more modern brick. The northern end of the building features two storefronts, one at each end of the building. These entry doors are single metal-framed glazed slab with transom above. These windows sit upon a knee wall of random ashlar stone. The original brickwork of the upper façade is concealed by the application of a wooden shingle pent roof awning that extends from the cornice to the top of the display windows. This building is considered non-contributing because the wooden awning has obliterated the original architectural details of the upper façade.

69. 123 N. 3rd. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story stucco building with a flat roof. This building contains two storefronts. The entry to each storefront is centrally located. Each features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above. To the side of each entry, and extending the length of the storefront, is a large aluminum display window. A flat metal awning is suspended over both storefronts. Two large rectangular metal vents are located just above the awning. The original horizontal iron support is visible just below a rectangular stucco projection in the upper façade. Graduated levels of protruding stucco accent the cornice line.

70. 125 N. 3rd. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story stucco and brick building with a flat roof. This building contains two separate offices. The first floor of this building has been significantly altered with the application of modern brown brick to the street level façade. The entries to both offices are recessed from the street. To each side of the recessed entryway is a single square fixed metal window. Just below the cornice is a rectangular recess in the stucco. This building is considered non-contributing because of the degree to which the front floor façade has been altered.

71. 127-129 N. 3rd. Democrat Building. Ca. 1915. Two-part commercial block. Art Moderne. Two story stucco and Vitrolite tile building with a flat roof. Street level access to the second floor of this building is located at the far south (left) end of the façade. It features a solid metal slab door. The central building entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab door. To the right of the entry are three large aluminum display windows. To the left of the entry are two large aluminum display windows. These windows rest on a knee wall of random ashlar masonry. The remainder of the first floor façade is covered in black Vitrolite glass tiles, added ca. 1950. A flat metal awning is suspended across the entire storefront. The second floor is clad in stucco and features
seven 1/1 single hung sash windows with cast stone sills. A stucco belt line projects directly above and slightly below the second floor windows. Two rectangles are recessed into the stucco just above the windows and just below the cornice line.

72. 215 N. 3rd. Old Ice House. Ca. 1927. 20th Century Commercial. Mission Revival. One-story stucco building with a flat roof. Offset entry covered by a gable front portico with stucco columns and a clay tile roof. Entry features double wooden slab doors outlined by glazed black tiles. The door on the south (left) features a single diamond shaped glazed panel. To each side of the entry are the original twelve pane industrial-style windows. Each window is covered with iron bars and topped with a fabric awning. At the far northern (right) corner of the building, there is a twelve pane glazed entry door flanked by 4/2 industrial style windows. There is a fabric awning above. The cornice line is accented with clay tile and a central gabled parapet. A small niche is recessed into the stucco below the parapet. Tiles accent the front façade at each end of the building. Non-contributing due to the recent application of stucco as well as other decorative accents.

73. 219-221 N. 3rd. Wilson N. Ross Flowers. Ca. 1946. Fred J. Harle, builder. Two-part commercial block. Art Deco. Two-story brick building with a flat roof. The front façade is clad in blonde brick with the other elevations clad in red brick. This building contains two storefronts, as well as an exterior entrance to the upper floor. The upstairs access door is located on the far left end of the building. It is a wooden-framed glazed slab. The two storefronts are visually divided by a triple header course of brick. This detail is repeated on the corners of the building and adds visual interest. The small storefront on the left side of the building features a wooden-framed glazed slab door with sidelights and transom. The entrance to the main storefront is located on the far north (right) end of the building. It features a single metal-framed glazed slab door. To the left of the entry is a large arched aluminum display window. It is outlined in black tile, tile that serves as a small water table along the base of the entire front façade. The second floor façade features two sets of three fixed pane windows with cast stone sills. The cornice is accented with multiple bands of red brick.

74. 223 N. 3rd. Undertaker's. Ca. 1925. American foursquare. Prairie School. Two-story stucco-clad building with a composition hipped roof. Full front porch with a hipped roof with center gable. The porch is supported by four full height stucco-clad columns. The first floor features a central entry door with ten paneled sidelights. Located to each side of the entry are 12/1 single hung sash wooden windows. Two 12/1 single hung sash wooden windows are also found on the front façade of the second story. These windows have a cast stone sill and are accented by wooden shutters. A stucco-clad chimney is visible at the right rear of the building. The cornice of the main roof and of the porch is accented by large dentils. There is a small single-story, flat-roofed stucco addition located on the south (left) side of the building. It is accessible through a six-paneled metal door. A detached metal carport is located south (right) of the main building.

75. 114 N. 3rd. Ca. 1908. Otterback Building. Two-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Two-story painted brick building with a flat roof. Central entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with a sidelight on the north (left) side and a transom above. To the left of the entry is a large metal display window. A fabric awning is suspended across the entire storefront. Modern brick has been used to fill in much of the original street-level façade. It is painted to match the original brick. The second floor exterior features four fixed metal windows with cast stone sills and segmental arch lintels. The current windows are smaller than the originals. The space differential has been filled in and covered with iron scrollwork. This scrollwork is repeated in a balustrade that extends in front of the second floor windows. The cornice of this building is extremely decorative with a multi-level corbel table.

76. 116 N. 3rd. Ca. 1914. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. Single-story building with a flat roof. The brick on the upper façade is original, but newer brick is found along the street level. Offset entry features a wooden-framed door with nine glazed pane. To the right of the entry are a large metal display window and a
smaller fixed pane wooden window. A fabric awning is suspended over the storefront. Two horizontal bands of brick accent the cornice line. Non-contributing due to severe alterations on the street level façade ca. 1980.

77. 118-120 N. 3rd. Ca. 1914. Two-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Two-story red brick building with a flat roof. This building contains three storefronts in two main bays and has street level access to the upper floor. The second floor access is located on the far north (left) end of the building. It features a single wooden-framed glazed slab door. The larger northern storefront features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above. Large aluminum display windows flank the entry. The smaller middle storefront has only a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above and an aluminum display window to its left. The storefront on the far southern (right) end of the building features an off-set entry and two aluminum display windows. The entry door is a single metal-framed glazed slab with transom above. Fabric awnings cover all three storefronts. The brickwork on the columns that divide the storefronts is done such as to give the illusion of rustication, with raised and lowered courses. A small rectangular recess in the brick is located above each bay. The second floor exterior has five pairs of 1/1 single hung sash metal replacement windows. Each set of windows is covered by its own fabric awning. These windows have cast stone sills. Just above the second floor windows is a belt line of four graduated courses of red brick. The cornice line has varying heights with a center parapet.

78. 122 N. 3rd. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story brick building with a metal fake façade. The entry to this storefront is located on the far north (left) end of the building and features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above. To the right of the entry are three small fixed metal windows. The exterior of the street level façade is covered in vertical wooden siding. The upper façade is covered in metal siding. Non-contributing due to application of a metal fake façade, wood siding, and replacement of original doors and windows.

79. 124 N. 3rd. Ca. 1915. One-part commercial block. Single-story building with modern brick on the lower façade and a fake paneled upper façade. This building also has a flat roof. The central entry consists of a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above. On each side of the entry, there is a single fixed metal window. A flat metal awning is suspended across the entire storefront. Several of the siding panels on the upper fake façade are missing. Non-contributing due to application of a fake façade.

80. 126 N. 3rd. Ca. 1914. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story building with a metal fake upper façade and composition stone tiles on the lower façade. This building has a flat roof. The offset entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom above. A fixed metal window is located to the right of the entry. To the left of the entry are a series of angular metal windows that extend to the far north (left) edge of the building. A flat metal awning is suspended over the entire length of the storefront. Non-contributing due to the application of a fake façade and replacement of original doors and windows.

81. 128-130 N. 3rd. Ca. 1914. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story brick building with a flat roof. The upper façade retains its original brick in a painted form. The original display windows of the lower façade have been filled in with a modern brown brick. There are three storefronts. The northernmost (left) storefront features a central entry consisting of a single metal-framed glazed slab door with fixed metal windows on either side. The central storefront also features a single metal-framed glazed slab door. To each side of the entry are two fixed metal windows of varying sizes. The southernmost (right) storefront is identical to the northern storefront with its single metal-framed glazed slab door and fixed metal windows on either side. A flat metal awning is suspended above all three storefronts. The original band of clerestory windows has been replaced. Above the entry to each storefront is a large metal vent. Between the clerestory space and the cornice, is a large rectangular recess in the brick. The cornice line is accented with paint.
82. 218 N. 3rd. First M.E. Church South. Ca. 1923. Gothic Revival style. This one and two-story L-shaped church with basement is constructed of brick with cast stone accents. A square central “tower” separates the main basilica style church from the educational wing. The main entry on North 3rd Street projects from the rest of the front façade of the church and features three entry bays with a segmental pediment surround. The central bay has double metal-framed glazed slab doors with transom. The smaller bays on either side each feature a single metal-framed glazed slab door with transom. These modern metal doors are smaller than the originals, as another original transom is located above the modern metal ones. A beveled cast stone water table accents the first floor façade of the entire building. Brick buttresses are visible on the north and south elevation of the church auditorium. A belt line of cast stone located halfway up the façade accents both the main (west) and education (north) entrances. Two smaller belt lines are located between the first and second floor facades above the main entry. Also above the main entry is a series of fourteen stained glass panes set in a segmental arch pediment. A triangular parapet extends above the main roofline of the entry. Cast stone accents the cornice line. Three sets of six paneled fixed windows line the north and south elevations of the auditorium’s first floor. Larger nine paneled stained glass windows are found on the second floor of the auditorium. The three-story central bell tower has a basement-level entrance on the west and a first floor entrance on the north. The basement entrance features double metal-framed glazed slab doors. The first floor entrance features double metal-framed glazed slab doors with an arched transom above. The tower also features two six-paned windows. The upper panes of these windows are arched. Between the second and third floors of the tower, there are also four tiny fixed windows, two on the north and two on the west façade of the tower. The gothic arched openings in the upper floor of the bell tower have been closed in with siding. Four pairs of 1/1 single hung sash metal windows are located on both floors of the east and west elevations of the educational wing. Elaborate cast stone surrounds accent each window pair. The northern entry to the educational wing features a projecting porch with triangular pediment extending from the first floor to the basement entry. The basement level entry to the educational wing features double metal-framed glazed slab doors, with a large arched fixed glass window in the first floor opening above. A large multi-paneled stained glass window is located on the second floor above the entry.

83. 107-111 S. 2nd. Ca. 1908. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story red brick building with a flat roof. This building is divided into three separate bays, each with its own storefront. Brick columns separate the bays. The southernmost (left) storefront features a central entry with wooden French-style fifteen pane glazed door. Flanking each side of the entrance are two wooden display windows. These display windows rest on a low painted brick wall. The central bay also features a central entry. The door is a single wooden-framed glazed slab. Large wooden display windows are located on a low painted brick wall on either side of the entry. The northernmost (right) storefront has a central French-style fifteen pane glazed door with wooden display windows on either side. These display windows also rest on a low brick wall. A flat metal awning is suspended across all three storefronts. The original clerestory windows above each storefront have been filled in with wood. A rectangular brick recess is located just below the cornice in each bay. The cornice line is undecorated.

84. 115-131 N. 2nd. Parking lot. Original brick buildings removed and replaced with asphalt pavement.

85. 209-211 N. 2nd. Ca. 1924. Two-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Two-story red brick building with a flat roof. There are two bays on the first floor. The southern bay (left) includes the southern storefront as well as a street entry to the upper story. This storefront has replaced aluminum display windows on either side of a central entry. The front door is paneled wood with a single glass slab. A transom sits above. Portions of the original clerestory windows have been painted. The store level access door to the upper floor is solid wood paneled. The northern bay features a second storefront. It has double paneled wood doors with a single glass slab in each. A transom sits above. On either side of the entry are the original wooden display windows. The original clerestory windows are no longer in use. A flat wooden awning extends along both storefronts.
86. **213-217 N. 2nd**. Ca. 1947. 20th Century Commercial. Modern Movement. Blonde brick building with one and two-story sections. The building has a flat roof. The southern section of the building has two stories. It has exterior access to the upper story at its northern corner. The second floor access door is a single wooden-framed glazed slab door with transom above. The front façade is primarily large aluminum display windows, with the main entry on the southern (left) side. This entry consists of a single metal-framed glazed slab door. The windows on the front façade of the second floor have been filled in with stucco. The cast stone sills are still visible. The northern (right) single-story end of the building has two bays. The entry is located in the northern (right) bay and is a single metal-framed glazed slab with transom and sidelight. To its right are two large aluminum display windows with transom. Extending from those windows to the northern edge of the building are additional aluminum display windows, resting on a half wall clad in metal siding. The southern (left) bay of the single-story section has a large aluminum display window with transom at its northern end. Additional display windows to the left of that window have been filled in with siding, leaving only the transoms in place. A band of cast stone accents the cornice. Photograph number 5.

87. **110 S. 2nd**. Ca. 1918. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story red brick building with a flat roof. The original entry doors, transom, and display windows on either side of the entry have been walled in with wood. There is no exposed entry to this building. Original decorative floor to ceiling ironwork to either side of the entry doors remains.

88. **108 S. 2nd**. Ca. 1924. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. Single-story painted brick building with a flat roof. Central single metal-framed glazed slab door with large metal fixed windows on each side. Features a fabric awning that spans most of the storefront. The application of a large awning, as well as the replacement of doors and windows, leaves very little of the original façade recognizable, making this a non-contributing resource.

89. **108 N. 2nd**. Ca. 1918. Parapet-front. Two-part commercial block. Romanesque Revival style style. Two-story red brick building with a flat roof. This building features two storefronts. The entry doors are centrally located with a large aluminum display window in the south (right) storefront and a wooden display window in the northern (left) storefront. The entry of the northern storefront features a French-style multi-paned door with a transom above. The entry of the southern storefront has a single metal-framed glazed slab door. The original band of clerestory windows above the entry has been filled in with wood. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefronts. The original horizontal iron support above the clerestory windows remains. The actual windows have been walled in with an indeterminate material. The cornice line of the façade projects in a triangular shape above the windows.

90. **110 N. 2nd**. Ca. 1924. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story red brick building with a flat roof. This rectangular building features two small storefronts. The entry doors for both are centrally located with a large aluminum display window to the side. These windows sit on a low brick wall. The doors are single metal-framed glazed slabs. The clerestory windows above the entry and display areas have been filled in except for two small fixed square windows. A flat metal awning is suspended above the storefronts. The original horizontal iron support above the clerestory windows remains. Features little decorative brickwork. Only attempt at decoration can be found in a graduated cornice.

91. **114-122 N. 2nd**. Ca. 1924. One-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Single-story painted brick building with four storefronts and a garage. The upper portion of the façade on each storefront has been covered with metal sheeting. Flat roof construction. Each storefront features a central single metal-framed glazed slab door. The original garage opening of the southern storefront has been enclosed with wood. The entry door of the
second storefront from the left is surrounded by sidelights and topped with a double transom. Large display windows flank the entries of all but the southern storefront. A flat metal awning is suspended across the front of the entire building. Non-contributing due to the application of a metal fake facade.

92. **124-126 N. 2nd**. Ca. 1924. One-part commercial block. Late Victorian Commercial style. Single-story red brick building with two storefronts. Flat roof construction. Each storefront features a central door. The northern storefront has a recessed entry with a single wood-framed glazed slab door that is flanked by large wooden display windows that angle back from the entry and continue along the street front. The southern storefront possesses a more modern single metal framed glazed slab door and has aluminum replacement display windows on each side. A flat metal awning is suspended above both storefronts. The original clerestory windows have been filled in with metal siding painted to match the brick. Decorative brickwork defines the cornice and is used to add detail to the upper portion of the façade. Graduated levels of brick are also used to give the illusion of rustication at the edges and center of the building. A decorative vent is located just below the cornice of each storefront.

93. **128-132 N. 2nd**. Ca. 1924. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. Single-story brick building with a flat roof. The original brick has been covered with a metal fake façade. The central entry features a single metal-framed glazed slab door. There are five large aluminum display windows on each side of entry. A pent roof metal awning spans the entire storefront. Non-contributing due to the application of a metal fake facade.

94. **113-133 N. 1st**. Market Square. Ca. 1924. Site. Paved parking lot historically used as a public market space for agricultural and various other goods.

95. **121 N. 1st**. Market Square Concessions. Ca. 1924. 20th Century Commercial. No distinctive style. Single-story brick building with hipped metal roof and full surrounding porch. Wooden posts support the porch. Originally public restroom, this building was converted to serve as a concessions space for shoppers. It has entrances on both the east and west elevations. The entries consist of a single five paneled wooden doors. On each side of the entry door is a 1/1 single hung sash wood windows. On the east elevation of the building, there is also a small fixed pane window to the right of the door. On the west elevation, this small window is located to the left of the entry door.

96. **123-125 Market Square**. Ca. 1918. Two-part commercial block. No distinctive style. Two-story brick building with three entrances. The brick on the first floor has been repointed with a lighter mortar than that found on the second floor. The centermost entry provides access to the second floor. It features a slab wooden door with a transom. To the left (east) of this second floor access door is a storefront. It has a central wooden slab entry door with knee walls topped by display windows to each side. A band of metal siding is located above the door and windows. Above this band is a partial band of clerestory windows. A garage door is located to the right (west) of the second floor access door in the center of the building. A band of metal siding and then a partial band of clerestory windows is located above the garage door. The second floor originally contained several large windows each flanked by a smaller window in an arched opening. The large windows have been filled in with siding and the smaller window openings have been partially filled in, with a smaller aluminum window replacing the original. The cast stone sills for these windows remain. Non-contributing due to the severity of alterations.


brick building. Central entry with windows to each side. Windows and doors have been replaced with modern metal materials. Original band of clerestory windows covered with siding. Original paintwork and the restaurant name “Red’s Café” visible along the cornice.
SIGNIFICANCE

The Durant Downtown Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with commercial activities in Durant. As the core of the central business district, this area has been the center of commercial development from shortly after the community’s founding to the present. Because there are no extant buildings constructed prior to 1901, the district’s period of significance begins in 1901 and extends to 1957, the current National Register fifty-year mark. The buildings in the Durant Downtown Historic District reflect the commercial growth of this community, growth spurred by agricultural prosperity, its proximity to transportation routes, the presence of centers for higher education, and its distinction as the county seat.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND

Situated just fifteen miles north of the Red River, the city of Durant was named for Fisher Durant, a prominent Choctaw who lived in the area that would become southeastern Oklahoma during the mid-1800s. Long before it became a city, this forty-acre tract of land formed Mr. Durant’s farm. He and his family worked the land, with his sons inhering it upon Fisher’s death.

The area attracted settlement beginning in the 1870s with the arrival of the Missouri, Kansas, and Texas Railroad, often referred to as the MKT or the Katy. On its path from Kansas to Texas, the MKT established a stop on Mr. Durant’s property, which in 1872, became known as Durant Station. Ultimately, the name would be shorted simply to Durant.

In 1873, one of Fisher Durant’s sons, Dixon, opened a store at this railroad stop. His small trading post would become the first of several such businesses to pop up around the railhead. At first, the growth of the city of Durant was stifled by its proximity to another rail center, Caddo. But the high price of land in Caddo led the Frisco Railroad, a company building lines east to west, to bypass that town. Ultimately, the Frisco decided to build further south, causing it to intersect with the MKT in downtown Durant. This increased commercial, tourist, and settlement traffic into the community.

Dixon Durant limited further growth of the town, refusing to sell off large quantities of the property he had inherited. But the arrival of more and more settlers from various regional trails such as the “Texas Road” made it imperative for him to do so. Most early settlers were non-Indians, many of them young men from the north and the southeast who were looking to make their fortune. Early non-Indian settlers had to secure permits to live and work in the area and could only rent, not buy land. As a result, most new arrivals became tenant farmers, working the land for mixed blood and intermarried Choctaws.

With the allotments made possible by the Dawes Act, more land became available to non-Indians for purchase. Durant boomed and soon surpassed surrounding communities in population. Individuals established businesses of all kinds from north to south along the Katy tracks. These early buildings were all of wood construction and situated along simple dirt streets. The provisions of the Curtis Act of 1898 allowed for the city to be

2 Ibid., 11.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid., 11-12.
5 Ibid., 13-14.
6 Quincey Mitchell, “Interview with Quincey Mitchell of Durant,” interview by Lula Austin (12 August 1937), Indian Pioneer Papers, 36: 444-449.
Early growth was also stifled by disaster. A fire in the mid-1890s destroyed the original business district along the Katy Railroad. This catastrophe prompted Dixon Durant to open up additional land for development. This new area would be further west of the railroad and would be called Main Street. By 1901, Main Street was opened west of the tracks through Fourth Street, and north of Main one street north and south. 8

By 1903, the city boasted a variety of goods and services available in its downtown. These ranged from grocery, hardware, and millinery shops, to doctors, dentists, and attorneys. The city was electrified, allowing for additional industry. Soon there would be a telephone company, an ice plant, and lumber and flour mills. 9 Durant's growth radiated from the downtown area.

HISTORIC COMMERCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Private industry and agriculture allowed for the gradual growth of downtown Durant. Its residents took great pride in their commercial and residential districts, constantly pursuing progress. Legislators and the people of Durant actively lobbied at the state and county level for potential improvements that could positively affect their community. Decisions by state and federal government, as well as Bryan County residents, would serve to elevate the position of Durant within the region.

Prior to 1907, this region had been known as Blue County, Indian Territory. 10 Blue County would later be renamed Bryan County in honor of famed national politician William Jennings Bryan. In 1906, the Constitutional Convention chose the city of Durant to serve as the provisional county seat. That determination became permanent when in 1908, county residents overwhelmingly selected Durant over the towns of Bokchito, Blue, or Sterrett (Calera). 11 This resulted in additional local jobs and centered government related businesses and services in the downtown district. This town that had once been dwarfed in size by Caddo and considered too small to count in the 1890 Census 12 would soon surpass these nearby Bryan County communities and become the second largest town in what had been the Choctaw Nation.

Another historic decision was the legislative selection of Durant as the site for the Southeastern Regional Normal School in 1909. 13 The opening of this center for higher education, in addition to the construction of the Presbyterian Women's College (located at 601 North Sixteenth) in 1910, drew students from across the region to Durant. Although the schools were located outside of the Main Street area, the influx of students significantly impacted the downtown district and the rest of the community. Businesses on Main Street provided goods and services, particularly entertainment, to the multitudes of future teachers and other professionals being educated at Southeastern and PWC. Civic leaders dedicated much effort to making the downtown area more "attractive" to students, promoting live acts and the latest in movies. 14 The Plaza Theater at 115-117 North Third is reflective of this initiative to spice up the downtown for younger residents. The location of centers for higher education would greatly impact the future of Durant.

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7 Milligan, 16.
8 Ibid., 14.
9 Ibid., 14-15.
10 Mitchell, "interview with Quincey Mitchell."
11 Milligan, 23.
13 Milligan, 28.
14 Ibid., 32.
The construction of a national highway system in the 1920s further increased the importance of downtown Durant. The first cars made their appearance in downtown Durant in 1909. Gradually, their numbers increased, changing the landscape of downtown, the greater community, and the county. The original city streets were simply graded earth. The emergence of the automobile necessitated significant improvements. The Good Roads Movement of the early 20th Century initiated a move toward graveling and paving roadways. A local Good Roads Association formed in December 1913. This emphasis on improvements only increased following World War I when the federal government helped states and communities to improve their transportation infrastructure. The 1916 Federal-Aid Road Act took the first step toward a national road system. This legislation provided matching grants to counties and states for the purpose of road construction to post offices.

Most important to downtown Durant was the construction of U.S. Highway 70. This route was designated by the federal government in 1926 and served as the east to west artery for the southern part of the state. Running west from the Arkansas state line, Highway 70 traverses the heart of downtown Durant as Main Street. By 1930, the stretch of Highway 70 through downtown Durant and west to Ardmore was paved with asphalt. Another crucial project was the construction of U.S. Highway 75, extending from the Red River south of Durant north to the Kansas state line. By 1930, concrete work on the stretch of this road from the Texas line to just north of Durant was complete. Filling stations such as the Sinclair Station at 411 West Main, parking garages such as 321-323 West Main, and other businesses emerged to serve the needs of a mobile society. Eventually, cars would change the nature of business in downtown, as stores adapted to the “needs” of their car driving customers. One example was the opening of a drive-thru pharmacy at 119 North Third. The existence of US 70 and US 75 continuously impacted the growth and prosperity of downtown, making it easier for locals, travelers, and goods to flow in and out of the area.

Agriculture has long been the life-blood of Bryan County. The agricultural land in the outlying areas produced a variety of crops, including cotton and peanuts. Also crucial to the local economy was the raising of livestock, including horses, mules, cattle, sheep, and pigs. Those agricultural and livestock products not consumed by the producer or sold locally were shipped to nearby markets. The proximity of the railroad made such shipments more efficient. This agricultural wealth ultimately stimulated downtown development, as farmers shipped their crops and livestock, purchased necessary goods and services, and conducted banking transactions all in the downtown district.

The face of downtown changed over time, as the needs of the community also changed. The prospects of downtown businesses shifted in relation to national trends, such as the Great Depression, World War II, and the post-war era.

Throughout the period of significance, downtown served to feed and clothe the residents of Durant and surrounding communities. Traditional dry goods and grocers, as well as chain stores like JCPenney and Sears

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15 Ibid., 35.
16 Bryan County Democrat (Durant, OK), 11 December 1913.
18 Oklahoma State Highway Commission, Annual Report of the State Highway Commission for 1925 to 1926 to the Governor of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, OK, 1925).
19 Oklahoma State Highway commission; The Oklahoman (Oklahoma City, OK), 28 September 1930; and The Oklahoman, 12 October 1930.
20 Oklahoman, 12 October 1930.
21 Milligan, 93.
23 Quincey Mitchell, “An Interview with Quincey Mitchell;” and Milligan, 47.
operated in downtown. In January 1922, an area on North First Street was set aside for use as a different kind of commercial shopping, a Farmer’s Market. This area, which would become known as Market Square, was open for business every Saturday. The market drew people from Durant and its vicinity, allowing residents and visitors to purchase a variety of home grown and homemade goods and to socialize at the same time.24

Growth slowed during the World War I period, but the 1920s were a period of optimism and expansion. Additional businesses opened, older buildings were replaced, and street improvements were made, such as the bricking of Fourth Street one block north of Main to Evergreen.25 At some point during this period, the 100 block of N. 3rd was paved, the only original pavement still visible today. One of the most significant improvements to the community during this period was the construction of the four-story Hotel Bryan on Main Street. The hotel replaced the locally famous Atwood Hotel and was designed by famous Oklahoma architects, Layton, Hicks, and Forsyth. The completed Hotel Bryan quickly became a beacon for travelers, as well as the center of Durant's social life. The ballroom was the site of many elaborate parties, and the hotel hosted numerous regional celebrities. These included “Alfalfa” Bill Murray and William Jennings Bryan. It is even rumored that Franklin Delano Roosevelt was once a guest.

The Great Depression significantly impacted the downtown area. Market Square was extremely popular during this period, when finding an outlet for farm goods became crucial for small farmers.26 Downtown businesses supported the policies of the National Recovery Act, limiting hours of operation and guaranteeing a minimum wage for employees. Durant was the recipient of numerous WPA projects during the period, from the construction of schools and an armory to the widening of streets and other jobs designed to simply put people to work. In 1939, WPA funds helped the city of Durant to build a new city hall and fire station on North Evergreen.27

The construction of the Denison Dam and Lake Texoma west of Durant increased business traffic as well. Construction workers and then tourists visited Durant as they worked or played at the nearby recreation area, contributing valuable dollars to the local economy in the 1940s and beyond. Market Square in particular was affected by the construction project, as greater numbers of people visited this weekly market.28

As the population of Durant increased, so did the congestion in the downtown area. Gradually, new businesses began to spring up west of the downtown core, along Main Street to and beyond the intersection with US 75.29 Despite this shift, most banking and legal operations remained in the downtown area, along with restaurants, finer clothiers, furniture stores, and jewelers.

Throughout the 20th century, Durant’s access to transportation routes, its educational system, and nearby agricultural wealth combined to make this a desirable spot for individuals and businesses to locate. Its population continued to increase, with the majority of commercial, legal, and entertainment activities being centered in the downtown district. Main Street was especially crucial to this development in the first half of the twentieth century as the railroads, highways, and universities were being constructed. Economic downturns in the 1970s and 1980s caused many businesses in the area to close their doors. Many, such as the old Federal Building/Post Office, sat vacant for extended periods of time.

24 Milligan, 48.
25 Ibid., 42.
26 Ibid., 56.
27 Ibid., 59, 62-622, and 79-80.
28 WPA Guide to Oklahoma, 320-321; and Milligan, 82.
29 Milligan, 118 and 155.
In recent years, Durant has experienced resurgence. In 2004, Durant was ranked the fastest growing rural city in the state, with the highest population growth outside the major metropolitan areas of Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The factors that first made Durant desirable, the railroads, the highways, and the schools are again drawing new people and businesses into the community. There has been an influx of industry both south and west of the city. This has influenced the growth of new retail and commercial businesses, as well as a real estate boom. With this growth has been an increasing appreciation for the history and value of downtown, and an emphasis on revitalizing and restoring the downtown district to its former glory. This is evident in projects such as the renovation and adaptive use of the Durant National Bank as an events center and the Hotel Bryan as low-income housing. Students, residents, and tourists frequent the antique stores, boutiques, and specialty restaurants that line Main and surrounding streets.

Since its earliest settlement, downtown Durant has served the needs of its surrounding community, providing commercial, professional, religious, and social services to residents and visitors alike. The area’s proximity to rail and automobile transportation routes, to centers of higher education, and to agricultural wealth, combined with its role as the seat of county government, allowed Durant to experience tremendous growth and prosperity. The commercial success of the community, as well as the importance of the downtown district, is reflected in the extant properties. The buildings, sites, and structures within the Durant Downtown District are historically significant due to their association with commercial activities throughout the history of the city of Durant.

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30 Durant Daily Democrat (Durant, OK), 11 July 2004.
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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*Historic Sites in Southeastern Oklahoma*. Durant, OK: privately printed, 1939.


Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Durant, Oklahoma. July 1894; May 1896; January 1899; March 1901; December 1901; May 1904; March 1908; July 1913; August 1918; October 1924; October 1948.


GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of North 1st and W. Evergreen, proceed south to alley between main and Evergreen, turn east to east lot line of lot 13, Block 78, then south to Main, jog west to South 1st, south to intersection with Lost Street; proceed west on Lost Street to South 3rd, then south to Railroad right-of-way, then west to South 4th, north to east 1/3rd of lot 7, west to west end of lot 7, Block 199, then north to Main Street; east on Main to 4th Street; north to alley north of Evergreen, then east to west lot line of lot 2, Block 151, then north to West beech; East on W. beech to N. 2nd, then south to Evergreen, then east on Evergreen to point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries chosen reflect the core of historic downtown Durant and encompasses the commercial and governmental buildings that retain the highest degree of integrity. To the east and west of the boundaries, the commercial stock transitions into greatly altered, modern, or demolished areas. North and south boundaries reflect the transitions from commercial to residential areas.
PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1- 33 except as noted:

Photographer: Kelli E. Gaston  
Date of Photographs: 1/5/2007  
Negatives: .tiff files at NPS and OK/SHPO

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<td>2</td>
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