



# 7. Description

|                                          |                                       |                                               |                                                   |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                              | <b>Check one</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                               |                                                   |

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District is located in the north central section of the city near the Black Warrior River and was a part of the original U.S. Government survey of 1821. It is bounded on the north by the railroad and a natural ravine. The district is laid out in a typical high density grid iron pattern at the intersection of two of the broadest streets in the city, Greensboro Ave. and University Blvd., each of which measures 132 feet in width. Although this section of the city has historic ties with the early 19th century, none of the buildings from that period are still standing, and the majority of the structures date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Types of buildings, in addition to commercial storefronts, include banks, professional offices, theaters, churches, highrises, government buildings and a railroad depot.

Sixty-six of the ninety-one buildings in the district are either contributing or conditionally contributing. With the exception of two steel-frame highrise buildings, the form and scale of Tuscaloosa's downtown is relatively homogeneous. The majority of the structures are two or three stories in height with a uniform set-back from the street. Most of the first floor storefronts have been remodeled with modern plate glass windows, sheet metal and pigmented glass tile. Some of the second floor facades have likewise been covered with various modern materials. The majority of the upper floor levels, however, have retained some of their original or early details. Some of the architectural styles seen in these surviving facades include Richardsonian Romanesque, Neo-Classicism, Art Deco, Art Moderne, Sullivanesque and Beaux-Arts.

Structural conditions within the area are good. Some of the 20th century alterations to the storefronts are reversible and these buildings, therefore, have good restoration potential.

Significant intrusions, which make up a small part of the overall district, include parking lots and modern commercial and office buildings, which do not enhance the historic character of the district in scale, building material or style.

Total Contributing Properties: 66

## 8. Significance

| Period                                        | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |                                                 |                                                 |                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–     | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|                                               |                                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |                                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

**Specific dates** c. 1830–1935 **Builder/Architect** NA

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### Criterion C - Architecture

The Downtown Tuscaloosa District exhibits a good collection of Alabama commercial and civic architecture ranging from the late 19th century through 1935. Some of the outstanding buildings included are an excellent Richardsonian Romanesque commercial building (1892), a train depot (1912), a bank (1922) and a city hall (1909) all of which are exceptional examples of the Neo-Classical style and a superb Art Moderne combination theater and city hall (1938). Also included are two very fine highrise office buildings (1909 and 1925). One of these (First National Bank) features an elaborate multicolored tile cornice with classical elements such as dentils, fluting and acanthus leaves. In addition to these high style examples, there are numerous representations of vernacular commercial storefronts of the period. Another important building is Christ Episcopal Church constructed in 1830 but transformed into the Gothic Revival style in 1882.

#### Criterion A - Commerce

The district is significant for its associations with the major commercial establishments in Tuscaloosa County and for its illustration of the post-reconstruction period of prosperity, which saw the population of the town more than double between 1870 and 1890. The buildings, which date from the 1850s through the mid 1930s, housed the major banks, store and government facilities that served the town and the county. Of particular note is the Board of Trade (1876, which helped usher in the period of prosperity) and the First National and Merchants National Banks.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 27

Quadrangle name Tuscaloosa

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UTM References**

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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 (continued on cont. sheet)

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

Bounded roughly on the north by 4th Street, on the south by 7th Street, on the east by 22nd Avenue and on the west by 25th Street.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| NA    |      |        |      |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betsy Tierce Hayslip (Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County)  
Tom Dolan, Architectural Historian

organization Alabama Historical Commission date October 1985

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery state Alabama

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Reverence Cole*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4-3-86

**For NPS use only**

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

*J. Allman Byer* date 5-15-86  
Keeper of the National Register

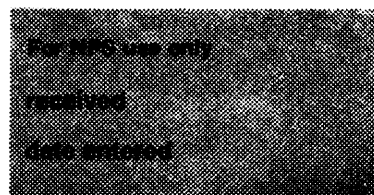
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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Inclusive Street numbers for Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District:

Greensboro Ave. - 301-621

4th Street - 2219-2330

University Blvd. - 2200-2330

6th St. - 2123-2428

23rd Ave. - 523, 525, 531 and 610

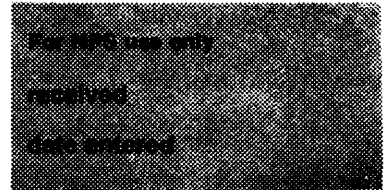
25th Ave. - 605 and 621

7th St. - 2317-2319

22nd Ave. - 520

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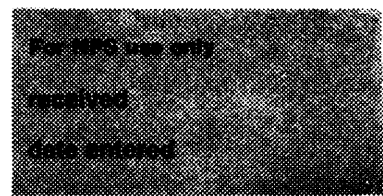
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BUILDINGS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DOWNTOWN TUSCALOOSA HISTORIC DISTRICT

1. 301 Greensboro Ave. (L & N Depot): 1912; this small train station is a good example of this type of structure in a Neoclassical style. It is built of yellow brick w/ limestone basecourses and window surrounds. The awning and cornice are of copper, and the roof is covered w/ red terra cotta tiles. Approximately 80% of the interior remains intact including patterned tile flooring, some marble wainscot and plaster ceilings.
4. 2300-2312 4th St. (Warehouse): c. 1922; this large brick warehouse is subdivided into smaller individual units. The building features arched windows and a large overhang extending above the loading area.
5. 2330 University Blvd. (First National Bank): 1925; Limestone, brick and terra cotta high rise bank. In 1964 the original windows of the superstructure were replaced w/ modern ones and the arched openings at the ground floor level were squared. The 10th floor, without any alterations, remains as an example of the original 1925 interior design.
9. 2314 University Blvd.: 1900; two-story stone front composed of yellow brick features an oblique ground floor entry flanked by plate glass display windows framed in sandstone. The second story is brick w/ a limestone cornice, beltcourse, window lintels and sills. The flat roof is hidden by a parapet.
12. 2306 University Blvd. (Kubiszyn Building): c 1923; two-story Art Moderne commercial building. The design features decorative low relief plaques in the cornice above the second floor windows and two medallions between the first and second floors. First-floor entry was altered c 1980.
14. 2300 University Blvd.: 1892; the building exterior is as originally constructed except for the entry. This was remodelled in 1922 from a cast iron/plate glass to a marble arched entry. In 1946 it was again remodeled from the arched marble to the current storefront. The brick is symmetrically decorated w/ a variety of masonry material, reinforced piers bending into an arch, foliated capitals and quoins.
23. 2219 4th St.: c 1933; one-story brick commercial. The west elevation features wood trimmed doors, windows and transoms and a decorative glazed brick cross inset into the facade.
27. 2206 6th St.: c 1910; two-story commercial building featuring variegated brick laid in Flemish bond, one large market stall w/ transom and a matching smaller entry from the street to the second floor. Spanning the entries is a horizontal band of soldier bricks. The second story has four

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- evenly-spaced sash windows and a pressed metal cornice. The building is topped by a pitched parapet w/ side pillars and concrete coping. The interior features a pressed metal ceiling.
30. 2201 University Blvd. (City Hall): 1909; three-story brick and stone. Ground floor features piano noble of cut stone w/ center arcade. Second and third floors are brick w/ stone trim featuring a recessed center gallery w/ enantis columns and metal balustrading. Building has a gable roof w/ dormers partially hidden by heavy roofline cornice and stone balustrade. Individually listed on the National Register.
33. 2221 University Blvd.: c 1933; one-story brick commercial building w/ deeply recessed entry flanked by display windows and floored w/ terrazo. The street level is framed w/ pink and white carrara glass. The upper level is Art Deco style w/ stucco scored to resemble stone w/ fluted side borders.
35. 523 23rd Ave.: c 1922; two-story brick. Altered ground floor w/ modern plate glass and metal framed recessed entry w/ red and tan tiled floor. Second floor has fine sealed window openings. Terra cotta cornice above second floor topped w/ stepped gable parapet.
36. 525-531 23rd Ave.: c 1922; one-story yellow brick w/ three commercial shops. Altered storefronts w/ modern plate glass and metal framing. Double stepped gable parapet at roofline.
41. 512 23rd Ave.: c. 1905; two-story brick first floor is heavily altered w/ modern brick and plate glass infill. Second floor has sealed windows w/ pressed metal hoods. Flat roofline is decorated by pressed metal cornice w/ brackets and medallions. Originally building had a cast iron front.
43. 2301 University Blvd.: 1922; Neo Classical, two-story granite and Georgian marble bank. Built on light brown granite basecourse. Facade has slightly projecting temple front w/ two enantis Doric columns w/ complete entablature. Above cornice is balustraded roofline parapet. Central entry has modern double plate glass door surrounded by original stone architrave. Interior has original mezzanine and interior woodwork.
44. 2305 University Blvd.: c 1910; two-story stucco. First floor has been altered to include marble, granite and slate. Second floor is stuccoed w/ curvilinear parapet.
48. 2319 University Blvd. (Woolworth's): c 1935; two-story yellow brick. First floor has modern plate glass w/ metal framing. A wide beltcourse above the display windows serves as a signboard. Second floor windows are

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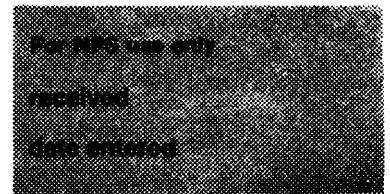
topped by very wide coved cornice which forms an arcade across the tops of the windows. Above the cornice is a pent roof of red terra cotta tile.

49. 2321 University Blvd.: c 1926; two-story brick. First floor has modern plate glass w/ metal framing and granite piers. The original transom above the display windows may still be intact behind the current store sign. The second floor has six 9/1 wooden sash windows in a field of common bond brick. Directly above each window is a rectangular area outlined w/ bricks in the header, stretcher and soldier positions; within each of these rectangular areas is a panel of Flemish bond. Above these rectangles is a simulated cornice of two rows of soldier and one row of header bricks.
50. 2325 University Blvd. (Brown's Dept. Store): 1926; three-story brick on corner lot w/ two street facades. First floor was covered w/ muted orange and cream cararra glass in Art Deco style c 1946. There are octagonal windows alternating w/ rectangular glass block panels. There is a recessed corner entry w/ metal canopy. Above the canopy is curved second-floor window. The third-floor windows and brick trim are identical to top floor of adjacent building (#51).
51. 509 Greensboro Ave.: c 1930; one-story brick was remodeled c 1946 to blend w/ Brown's Dept. Store (#52) next door. Second-floor facade has muted orange and cream cararra glass w/ octagonal center window. First floor has modern plate glass and metal framing.
54. 525 Greensboro Ave.: c 1900; two-story brick on corner lot w/ two street facades. First floor has an altered corner entry and display windows w/ metal canopy. The second floor has recessed rectangular panels w/ 1/1 windows. Lintels and sills are rough cut stone. Structure is capped by a broad corbeled brick cornice featuring small recessed panels and dentils.
- 55A. 2428 6th St.: c 1922; one-story brick storefront w/ stepped gable parapet. Entry and display windows have been altered. Original transom may still be intact behind panel above metal canopy.
- 55B. 2420 6th St.: c 1922; one-story brick storefront w/ three shops. Entries and display windows are altered. Center section has stepped gable parapet, flanking sections have flat rooflines.
58. 516 Greensboro Ave.: possibly mid-19th century; two-story brick has a facade c 1920 applied over a previous brick facade exposed in 1985 when the modern sidewalk in front of the building was removed. Structure has two stores w/ a center stairway between them leading to the second-floor levels over each store. Stairway opens onto street. Storefront on the right has been stuccoed w/ curvilinear parapet. Left storefront has modern plate glass display windows and entry under metal canopy.



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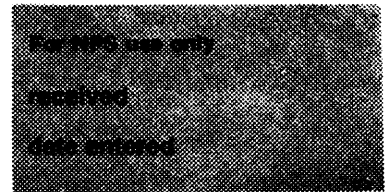
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59. 514 Greensboro Ave. (Alabama Grill): 1880; the present stucco facade dating from a c 1960 remodeling is bordered by a molded stucco frame. Woods Fabric--2302 University Blvd.--has a similar facade. The original facade was red brick. The base of it was revealed in April-May 1985 during the removal of the sidewalks in this area.
60. 512 Greensboro Ave.: c 1922; two-story brick building w/ two market stalls. First-floor entries and display windows are modern alterations. The facade above the entries is covered w/ metal panels. The second floor has six 1/1 windows each of which is topped w/ a decorative vent panel. Parapet above the windows shows evidence of decorative elements which have been removed.
62. 500 Greensboro Ave. (Sue's): c 1910; the two-story brick corner building has been altered at the street level. The two market stalls are plate glass covered by a metal awning. The transoms are covered with sheet metal. The upper facade expresses the original early 1900's construction featuring a slightly curved parapet, a brick cornice and a pair of three 1/1 arched sash windows. The relieving arch is brick, the keystone and window lintels are concrete.
64. 2427-2431 University Blvd.: c 1922; one-story brick w/ three market stalls. All entries and display windows have been altered w/ modern doors and plate glass. The center portion of the structure has a false tile mansard roof w/ raised flat parapets on either end.
65. 621 25th Ave.: 1911; two-story brick on a corner lot w/ two street facades. Main facade facing 25th Ave. has original wooden framed entries, windows and transoms. A broad stuccoed beltcourse separates the first and second floors. Flat roofline is accentuated by a corbeled brick cornice.
66. 620 Greensboro Ave. (Spiller Furniture Gallery): 1903; this four-story brick building constructed in the mill style has rows of windows similar to the textile mills of the Northeast. The building's construction year--1903--is located on the stucco parapet. On the lower portion of the far right cast-iron column is a bronze plaque identifying 1883 as the year Allen and Jemison formed. The golden colored brick headers, rough surfaced as if broken in half, are used in the red brick laid in American bond and also in the relieving arches. The three-part vertical division of the building is achieved through the use of monumental Doric pilasters. The original cast-iron front remains intact, though modern metal framing holds the large display windows.
68. 600 Greensboro Ave. (Bama Theater/PARA Building): April 12, 1938; a limestone facade makes up the east, City Hall, side of this building. 6/6 wooden sashes are set into the building and separated vertically by flush

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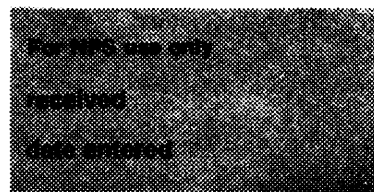
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fluted pilasters. The spandrel between the second and third floor window openings is dark green granite and low relief swags are equally spaced above the windows. A stylized limestone eagle sculpture mounted with a flagpole above the City Hall entrance is one of the few exterior sculptures in Tuscaloosa. The limestone wall continues to the theater and forms a curve on the upper facade at the corner. The north wall is brick, painted to match the limestone. The restored stainless steel theater marquee is outlined with red, white and blue blinking lights. Individually listed on National Register.

69. 605 25th Ave. (Christ Episcopal Church): 1830; the transformation of the 1830 Greek Revival church to its 1882 Gothic Revival design included addition of non-support buttresses along the nave and at the corners, a steep gable roof with cross-shaped finial, and a cross gable, three state tower with an eagle weathervane. A wheel window, lancet windows with tracery and a cruciform plan were also 1882 additions. The interior features exposed beams, plaster walls and a marble altar.
72. 2301 6th Street (Outlaws): 1898; this late 19th century two-story brick commercial structure featured a metal press cornice and ashlar lintels. The ground story probably consisted of a cast-iron front now replaced with more modern construction.
73. 2315 6th St. (City Shoe): c 1910; one-story cast-iron storefront. Entry and display windows are not original but wall surface above is all original including cornice and cast-iron posts.
74. 2317 6th Street (Top Dollar): 1911; only the ground floor storefront of this turn-of-the-century office building has been altered. The two end pilaster strips have terra cotta capitals located at the first and third stories. Two center pilasters with terra cotta capitals terminate at the third story. Spanning the roof line is an elaborate metal cornice.
76. 2400 6th St. (Alston Building): 1909; the proportions of the Alston Building's design were based on the Greco/Roman column--base, shaft and capital. Separating the divisions are a lower beltcourse of metal and an upper beltcourse of terra cotta. Quoins and pilasters are developed by bricks projecting from the wall. After WWII, the storefront was "modernized" using sandstone and opaque glass blocks.
81. 2201 6th St.: c 1925; one-story concrete block imitation stone w/ three market stalls. Only two entries are possibly original (far right entries). Original transoms, however, may still exist behind current panels.

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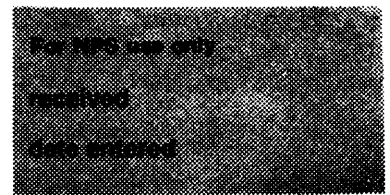
85. 2231 6th St.: c 1935; three-story brick first floor entry and plate glass display windows have replaced originals. A modern wood shingled false mansard roof covers transoms which may be original. The second and third floor windows are currently boarded over w/ plywood. The upper facade is divided into three recessed panels separated by projecting vertical brick bands. Above the third floor a parapet wall is decorated by inset tile geometric designs.
86. 2129 6th St. (Old Elks Home): 1903; Alta Apartment is a four-story brick building with a full concrete basement. The first floor is a store space with plate glass flanking the two single-door entries. One outside door is for the upper floors. There are two-over-two wooden sash windows with stone lintels and sills. The portion of the building facing 6th Street was altered around the 1930's from a raised two-story, corinthian-columned portico the width of the building. Removal of the steps, columns, frieze and ballustrade, to enclose the space, transformed the former Opera House into residential apartments.
87. 2123 6th St.: c 1910; two-story brick building with double-glass paneled doorway flanked with 2 plate glass show windows. Brownstone looking block pilasters on both sides of the show windows; the "brownstone" continues as quoins on the upper floor. There is a street entrance to the second floor. Four tall, slender windows and 2 vertical over plate sash are on second floor facade. The window sills and lintels are stone. A small metal cornice over the storefront and a more elaborated one above the second floor.
88. 2317-2319 7th St. (Ward Building): 1916; this two-story building's brick facade is accented with a limestone lozenge that is scored with the letters TFD. The beltcourse that serves as a sill and the corner blocks of the window surround are also limestone.

BUILDINGS WHICH CONDITIONALLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DOWNTOWN  
TUSCALOOSA DISTRICT

7. 2318 University Blvd.: 1922; this facade, modernized in 1929 by Mangels, represented that national chain store's expansion throughout the eastern states and their characteristic "modernization" of an "old" storefront. The second level message board is accented with vertical extension of sandstone. The ground level storefront has aggregate flooring.
8. 2316 University Blvd. (J. C. Bradford): 1887; the original facade of this three-story building was altered in 1910 when the Merchants Bank and Trust, formerly Merchants National Bank, removed applied metal elements. In 1948

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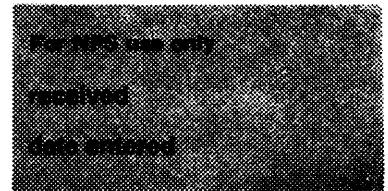
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Louis Weisel converted the street-level facade into a recessed oblique double entry and remodeled the exterior of the second and third floors.

11. 2308-2310 University Blvd. (Maryville/Dugins): c 1922-24; the two-story brick building is accented with limestone coping, sills and two lozenge insets. Access to the second floor is by the door to the extreme right of the building. Originally there were two balconies on second floor level. One of these has been removed. The ground level openings have been altered.
16. 2230 University Blvd. (On Time Fashions): 1886; the two distinctive features of the west elevation are the brick cornice and the Tudor windowhoods and doors which are now bricked over. The upper facade of the south elevation (front) also has boarded windows. Above and spanning the boarded ventilators or transom are ten rows of headers; the balance of the facade is brick laid in stretcher bond except for two cross designs in white glazed brick. Black carrara was added to the storefront c. 1950.
18. 2218-2220 University Blvd. (Allen & Jemison/ Fred's): c. 1910; the original design of the building's upper facade is seen on the non-slipcovered Allen & Jemison store. The original owners of the building are identified at the center roof line with the names McCalla & Wyman. The continuous arcade of Tudor arches made of brick are partly boarded up.
20. 2214 University Blvd.: c 1910; this building, struck by fire several years ago, retains its press metal cornice. The facade is otherwise covered with stucco.
21. 2210 University Blvd. (Curry/Federal Express/PIP): c 1933; the three sections of this one-story building are outlined by a basketweave diaper work.
24. 2226-2232 6th St. (McGraw Sales): c. 1922; the one-story stretcher bond red brick building features three market stalls with transoms. The stepped gable parapet has concrete coping.
25. 2226-2232 6th St. (Corks/General Sewing): c. 1920; the one-story stretcher bond brick building features two market stalls with transoms. The stepped gable parapet has coping of either limestone or concrete. Part of the back of this building is constructed of very old rough blocks resembling brownstone.
32. 2217 University Blvd. (Melton T.V.): c 1922; this is a stuccoed brick two-story building with an oblique entry with terrazzo flooring. The building is crowned with a pressed metal cornice. The remnants of a dumb waiter are in the attic of the building.

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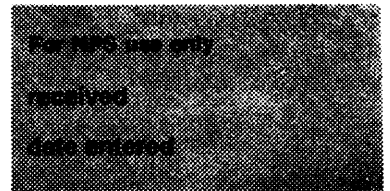
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34. 2223 University Blvd. (Kress Building): 1939; three-story building featuring a plate glass storefront w/ yellow, English bond brickwork. The dark basecourse resembles stone and the lighter colored areas are terra cotta. The Kress logo is gilded terra cotta panels on the top cornice. This building will be contributing when it reaches 50 years of age.
37. 2328 6th St. (Jones & Wright Barber Shop): c. 1910 or before; the one-story building has a sheet metal slipcovered facade with a metal awning. The interior is characteristic of 1910 construction featuring ceramic tile flooring.
38. 2322/2326 6th St. (Tuscaloosa Optical/Rands/Vacant): 1902; the east market stall of this one-story building is slipcovered. The exposed design of a simple brick building belies the original cast-iron storefront employed at the time of construction.
40. 2306-2308 6th St. (Ward Law Office/Sun Loan): c. 1894; these store fronts show a later remodelling of the original cast-iron fronts. A column from the earlier cast-iron facade is visible on the left (west) side of the building.
45. 2307 University Blvd. (Penny Pincher): c. 1922; the original facade of this brick two-story building is slipcovered with corrugated metal.
46. 2313 University Blvd. (Steins): 1916; this two-story brick building is slipcovered with corrugated metal.
47. 2315 University Blvd. (Central Harco Drug): c. 1922; this two-story brick commercial building is slipcovered with corrugated metal.
53. 521 Greensboro Ave. (Smart and Thrifty addition): c. 1910; the original features of this two-story brick building's altered facade include a bricked cornice and two shuttered windows which are partially boarded.
67. 612 Greensboro Ave. (Spiller properties): 1903; this three-story brick building's upper facade is slipcovered. The display windows are accented with multi-colored square tiles.
70. 612 23rd Ave. (Clancy McQues): 1921; this two-market stall brick building was later around 1976 to become Clancy McQues restaurant. The entries were reduced using wood and stained glass. The brick facade has decorative patterns. The brick and stucco wall was added around 1983 to create an outdoor dining area. The interior features cleaned brick walls and original wood floors.

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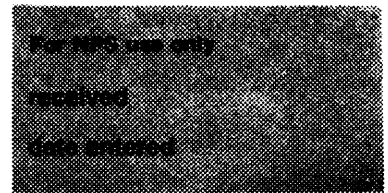
77. 607 Greensboro Ave.: c. 1923; the primary feature of the stucco facade is the now partially hidden arched entry. The ground-story was "modernized" and now features multi-colored tile and a metal marquee.
78. 609 Greensboro Ave. (Vacant): c. 1922; this one-story building features a stucco and plate glass facade. The roofline is topped by a stepped parapet.
79. 611/613/617 Greensboro Ave. (Lorch's/Garner's/Injun John's): c. 1922; the inherent quality of this two-story building is found in the surface building material--a high polish white glazed brick. Today the different stores signs obscure much of the building's facade.
80. 619/621 Greensboro Ave. (Speedy Al's/Ford): 1911; the remaining original features of this one-story building's exterior is the yellow brick laid in American bond.
83. 2219 6th St. (West Alabama Furniture): c. 1922; the facade of this building is plate glass, brick and six sash windows on the second story. In 1959, a metal awning and slipcover were attached.
84. 2223 6th St. (Tuscaloosa Furniture): c. 1900; the original facade of this two-story brick building is now obscured by a shingle-covered pent roof projecting above the first story. The second-story windows are now boarded.

BUILDINGS WHICH DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DOWNTOWN TUSCALOOSA  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

2. 2330 4th St. (John Curry Furniture): 1945; this two-story building is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. The building identification marker, roof line and beltcourse are composed of limestone.
3. 2318-2328 4th St. (Warehouse): 1947; this large one-story building is subdivided into several warehouse rooms. A wide metal overhang covers the loading area. The front facade is pierced by many doors and windows.
6. 2320-2322 University Blvd. (First National Bank additions): c. 1970; #1-1964; #2-1982; the international style three-story building features curtain glass walls which are separated by applied limestone panels. The building was designed by the Bank Building Corporation of St. Louis, Mo.

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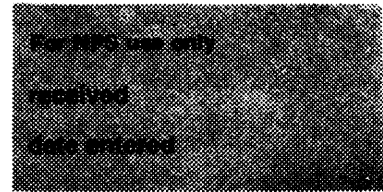
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10. 2312 University Blvd. (Tuscaloosa Rare Coins): 1951; the design of this two-story building is characterized by an unusual concave upper facade of concrete-like panels. The street level storefront is bordered in dark green carrara. This area is also accented by a green awning and entry floor of terrazo.
13. 2304 University Blvd. (Wise Fashions): c. 1910; in 1979 the interior of this building was gutted by fire. This resulted in a remodelling of the facade and interior. Marble veneer squares remaining from the Diana shop are now painted brown.
15. 409 Greensboro Ave. (First National Bank Drive-thru): 1980; above the drive-thru area is a two-story office building owned and used by the bank. The facade features metal panels, broad strips of concrete panels and bands of windows.
17. 2226 University Blvd. (Discount Office Furniture): c. 1910; the facade of the building was completely changed c. 1950. The stucco front originally featured a continuous band of jalousie windows instead of the broken band now seen.
19. 2216 University Blvd. (Eileen's 9 to 5): 1952; the building is seemingly supported by two piers laid in header bond. Four jalousie windows span the width between the two piers.
22. 2200 University Blvd. (Chamber of Commerce): 1950; this three market stall building has exterior walls of poured concrete. The central portal is formed by two monumental pilasters.
26. 2210 6th Street (Quality Furniture): c. 1910; this one-story brick building laid in stretcher bond has brick dentils, stepped parapet with limestone coping and accenting volutes. The four large market stalls are west and north elevations. The interior features paneled wood, columns and a wooden balcony along the perimeter. The current owner reported that his father replaced the cast-iron front with the current storefront.
28. 2200 6th St. (Snipes): 1930; this one-story building was originally a service station with large spaces for vehicular traffic. It now has two large show windows framed with polychromed tile. The east side is partially surfaced with decorative tan brick. The building is tipped by a wide sheet metal cornice.
29. 520 22nd Ave. (Personnel Dept.): c. 1925; Originally a three stall plate glass front, the one-story brick building was remodeled about 1960. The open areas were filled with textured brown gravel panels.

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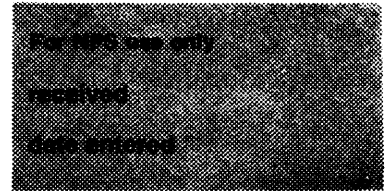
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31. 2313 University Blvd. (Christmas Shoppe/Old W. T. Grant Building): 1955; the two-story brick building's oblique, plate glass, triple-entry storefront is framed with polished black granite and features a terrazo flooring. The second story has four groups of triple jalousie windows, outlined with a limestone border and separated by brick of a different color from the body of the building. The design of the building reflects a style that was used by other Grant stores across the country to give individual stores a look of corporate unity.
39. 2310-2314 6th Street (Brittains/Bushes/Druid): c. 1902; Removal of the slipcovering from the old Stein's building revealed the original cast-iron front. Cast-iron remnants on the building to the east match the cast-iron specifications given in the plans for the Curry Building to the west, leading to the conclusion that this block was once all cast-iron fronts. BRITTAINS: The upper facade of carrara and lower of tile, plate glass and awning are bright red and light shrimp in color. BUSHES: The upper facade of dark gray metal slipcover is blended to the lower facade of black tile, some with gold flecks. DRUID SHOE REPAIR: Reveals a simple, but decorative brick building.
42. 510 23rd Ave.: c. 1920; one-story brick, original fenestration enclosed 1/1 brick, plywood and glass block panels, modern entry w/ canvas awning, flat roof.
52. 511-519 Greensboro Ave. (Wiesels/Fincher/Central): 1894; the Hausman building was extensively altered through the years. Its facade, originally cast-iron, currently features a stucco facade. Central Shoe Store is slipcovered and the storefront is accented with black carrara. Fincher and Ozment's storefront was modernized in 1957 and reflects the popular building materials of that day. Wiesels black signage board is not carrara, but rather a band of "polymetal" like material. It seems that the arched windows of the upper facade have been replaced.
56. 2418 6th St. (Duckworth and Morris): c. 1922, remodeled 1965; this one-story brick building was remodeled in 1965 to blend with the then new First Federal Savings & Loan. An alternating effect is achieved by the protruding pebble and concrete over the plate glass entries. New brick was applied to the building and the brick planters were built during the remodeling.
57. 550/516 Greensboro Ave. (Alabama Federal Savings & Loan): 1965; the exterior of this multistory building is covered by a curtain wall of vertical strips of glass and pebble/concrete panels. Architectural interest is achieved by the placement of the upper stories over a recessed



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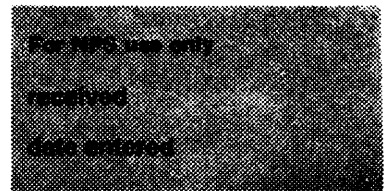
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ground level glass wall that is bordered by a garden. The Alabama Federal Savings & Loan's east wing serves as the sign board for Alabama Federal Savings & Loan complex, thereby allowing uninterrupted composition of the design on the superstructure.

61. 504 Greensboro Ave. (Thomas Jewelers, Inc.): c. 1922; the slipcovered facade is massing of stucco-like panels. The entrance flooring is slate.
63. 2415 University Blvd.: 1955; this concrete block building was built as a movie theater. The predominant gray and white tiled facade is sprinkled with pure and intense colors of red, purple and yellow. The metal marquee is luminated by hidden neon lights and projects from the facade at a sharp angle over the plate glass entry.
71. 610 23rd Ave. (Clancy McQues Office): 1933; this is a one-story brick building with tile coping and a metal awning over the entrance.
75. 2317/2319/2323 6th St. (Vacant/Burkhalter/Vacant): c. 1910; these one-story businesses are housed behind a yellow brick facade typical of those constructed during this era. Since its construction the three stores have been individualized. Burkhalter has used black carrara and bands of metal trim to create an Art Deco effect.
82. 2209 6th Street (West Alabama Furniture): 1961; the facade of the building is plate glass, brick and three sets of triple sash windows on the second story. In 1959 the building was remodeled. At this time a metal awning and metal slipcover were attached.
89. 2305 6th Street (Barber Shop): c 1910; one-story storefront with modern, metal framed, plate glass entry and display windows, stuccoed parapet wall above entry. See photo #72 and #73.
90. 2307 6th Street (Western Auto): c 1910; one-story storefront with modern metal framed entries and plate glass display windows. Stuccoed wall surface between flat roofline and display windows. See photo #73.

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Historical Summary

The Town of Tuscaloosa was officially incorporated on December 13, 1819, by an act of the General Assembly of Alabama. However, a settlement had existed at the fall line of the Black Warrior River for many years. The earliest inhabitants of this area were probably Choctaw Indians who farmed the rich lands bordering the river and hunted in the extensive forests. However, by the beginning of the 19th century a large Creek Indian settlement of over fifty cabins existed near the falls of the river just below and to the west of the present Tuscaloosa Country Club. This settlement--the last Indian village to be located on the site--was destroyed during the Creek War in 1813 by eight hundred Tennessee calvarymen under the command of Gen. John Coffee. Among the soldiers was David Crockett.

The first white man to permanently settle in this area was apparently Jonathan York who arrived in 1816. At this time the site was variously referred to as "Falls of the Tuscaloosa," "Falls of the Black Warrior River," and "Shellyville." In the next three years more than 600 people moved to the settlement even though clear title could not be given to the land since it had not been officially surveyed and laid out in lots. Between 1816-19 the town, located along the brow of the hill overlooking the river, consisted of log and crude frame cabins. These included a court house, jail, taverns, a Methodist and a Baptist church. The town's earliest graveyard was located next to the Baptist church between 29th Avenue and 5th Street.

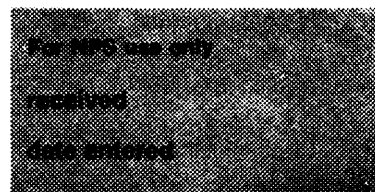
Though incorporated in 1819, Tuscaloosa did not really begin to prosper until the area was surveyed and laid out in numbered lots in 1821. Until then settlers had no legal title to their land. In the meantime, land to the south and west of Tuscaloosa was incorporated and surveyed by developers as the "Lower Part of the Town of Tuscaloosa." This area called "Newtown" grew quickly because clear title could be given for the lots. For a few years it appeared that "Newtown" would eclipse "Oldtown." However, after it was surveyed, Tuscaloosa soon outstripped its rival in growth. It prospered tremendously after 1826 when the city became capital of the state, the location of the state bank, and home of the state university. In addition, several early girls' schools or "Female academies" located in Tuscaloosa. During the "Capital Era," 1826-46, many of Tuscaloosa's finest public buildings and private residences were constructed in the late Federal and Greek Revival styles.

The heart of the business district from 1821 to the 1950s was located in a four block area bounded by 4th Street on the north, 6th Street on the south, 22nd Avenue on the east and Greensboro Avenue on the west. Though the majority of the early storefronts have long since been demolished, at least one (Alabama Grill) and the basement portion of another (Smart and Thrifty) date back to the 1830s. Most of the stores in this area today date from the late 1880s to the 1950s.

With the exception of the Capitol which was located on the western margin of the town, the central business district has always been the home of Tuscaloosa's government buildings including the state bank, county court house and jail, city hall and jail, and the earliest churches and banks. It also contained numerous famous taverns associated with the colorful Capital Era of the city's history.

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The removal of the capital to Montgomery in 1846 was a severe economic blow to the city. Businesses closed, the population declined drastically, and property values plummeted. Several factories, including a cotton mill, were opened during this period in an attempt to diversify the economy.

During the 1850s many older buildings were renovated and a great deal of new construction occurred. The majority of the new buildings were erected in the fashionable Italianate and Gothic Revival styles. Many were built by the various architects, contractors and carpenters who had been attracted to Tuscaloosa by the construction of the Alabama Insane Hospital in 1852.

Tuscaloosa was spared neither the ravages of the Civil War nor the confusion of Reconstruction. The Reconstruction era was a period of severe hardship. For 15 years little development took place in the central business district. Nevertheless, new buildings were constructed, in several cases out of necessity to replace those destroyed during the war. Factories were rebuilt, and at the University the classical revival campus, which burned during the war was replaced by Gothic Revival structures.

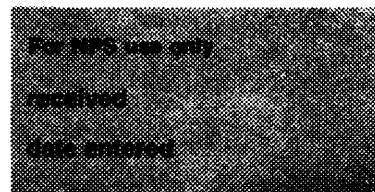
As Tuscaloosa approached the decade of the 1880s, several factors prepared the way for a renewed optimism. Between 1870 and 1890 the population of the city increased from 1,689 to 4,215 which was a reflection of the economic resurgence of this period.

Two of the foremost reasons for this prosperity were the establishment in 1876 of the Board of Trade (forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce) and the founding of local banks. Frank Blair served as the first president of the Board of Trade and George Little was the first secretary. The organization soon boasted over 100 members working to revitalize the downtown of Tuscaloosa. In 1865 J. H. Fitts and Company was founded (now First Alabama Bank). The First National Bank opened in 1871 and Merchants National Bank in 1887. Also founded in the late 1880s were the Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron and Land Company and the Tuscaloosa and Castle Hill Real Estate and Manufacturing Co. This industrialization along with a resurgence in the cotton based agriculture in the surrounding counties produced an era of prosperity which lasted about 45 years. In 1928, the Gulf States Paper Company was founded, and this further invigorated the city's economy.

During this industrial period most of the central business district buildings were constructed. In 1889, the downtown area of twelve blocks surveyed consisted of five blocks of commercial and seven blocks of mixed use, primarily residential. Most of the commercial buildings were brick, one to three story brick structures. These buildings lined an unpaved street. By 1929 the entire twelve survey blocks constituted the central business district, and the downtown had reached a new financial plateau. Tuscaloosa's population continued to increase, but downtown as a retailing center began to decline in the 1960s. Development of suburbia with service amenities contributed to this decline. Today the downtown area is a strong banking and legal center.

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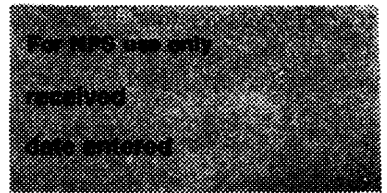
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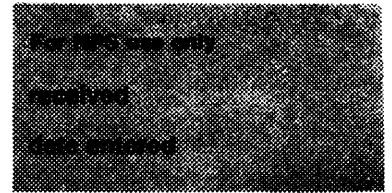
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UTMs continued

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J. 16/446980/3674670



RIVER

ROAD

TANKS

TANKS

RAILROAD

TOWER

(ABANDONED)

GREENSBORO

4 TH

STREET

BOULEVARD

6 TH

8 TH

9 TH

NORTH

23 RD

28 ND

STREET

COUNTY COURT HOUSE

CITY HALL

- Contributing
- Conditionally Contributing
- Noncontributing

Source - City of Tuscaloosa  
 Community Planning & Development  
 Department  
 Planimetric Map, Jan. 1982  
 Scale - 1" = 200'

