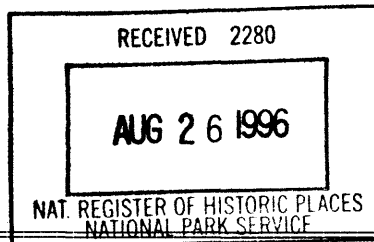


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



Ala. Historical Commission

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number see continuation sheet not for publication N/A
city or town Tuscaloosa vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Tuscaloosa code 125 zip code 35401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official

7/18/96

Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the

National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the

National Register

 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

for
Signature of Keeper



Date of Action

9/23/98

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 62

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	Sub: <u>specialty stores</u>
<u> </u>	<u>business</u>
<u> </u>	<u>warehouse</u>
<u> </u>	<u>financial institution</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>fire station</u>
<u> </u>	<u>city hall</u>
<u>RECREATION</u>	<u>theater</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>train station</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	Sub: <u>specialty stores</u>
<u> </u>	<u>professional</u>
<u> </u>	<u>business</u>
<u> </u>	<u>warehouses</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>financial institution</u>
<u> </u>	<u>restaurant</u>
<u>RECREATION</u>	<u>city hall</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>theater</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial, Classical Revival, Moderne,Art Deco, Gothic Revival, RichardsonianRomanesque, Classical Modern

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick, concrete, stoneroof asphalt, ceramic tilewalls brick, concrete, stucco, metalother glass, cast iron, stone

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.
- ☒ x C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ArchitectureCommercePeriod of Significance 1880-1950Significant Dates N/ASignificant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/ACultural Affiliation N/AArchitect/Builder N/A

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office☐ Other State agency☐ Federal agency☐ Local government☐ University☐ OtherName of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.50

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	<u>16</u>	<u>446940</u>	<u>3674200</u>

☐ 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 Kathy Stewart, Planner / Trina Binkley, AHC Reviewerorganization Tuscaloosa County Commission/ Alabama Historical Commission date June 11, 1996street & number 2902 6th Street / 468 S. Perry St. telephone 205-349-3870 ext. 313/ 334-242-3184city or town Tuscaloosa / Montgomery state AL zip code 35401/ 36130-0900

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)

County and State Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

Page #5

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name multiple owners, see continuation sheet

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 2, 7 Page 1 Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

II. Location

2500-2508, 2501-2519, 2516, 2521 7th Street
2525 South Lurleen Wallace Boulevard.

VII. Narrative Description

The Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District contains commercial, governmental, civic, religious, and recreational buildings associated with development of Tuscaloosa's business center. As such, the district contains sixty-seven contributing and thirty-one noncontributing buildings. The district is located in the north central section of Tuscaloosa (population 79,797 - 1994 census), the historic commercial center of the city. Originally part of the U.S. Government survey of 1821, the district is laid out adjacent to the Black Warrior River in a typical high density grid iron pattern at the intersection of the broadest streets in the city, Greensboro Avenue and University Boulevard, 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 still stand.

The proximity and association with the Black Warrior River greatly influenced Tuscaloosa's development. The town's early origins can be attributed to river travel and trade. When the Louisville and Nashville Railroad line established itself in Tuscaloosa, the lines were situated parallel to the river atop a natural ravine on the northwest side of the district. Four residential National Register historic districts surround the downtown commercial district: Druid City (NR 2/24/75), Caplewood Drive (NR 5/30/85), Audubon Place (NR 7/11/85), and Pinehurst (NR 6/5/86).

The Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District is composed of buildings constructed, for the most part, from 1880 to 1950. The majority of these were constructed during a circa 1910 to 1928 building boom period. Included in the resources of the district are a preponderance of one and two story brick commercial buildings, banks, the L&N Depot (Inventory #1), several government buildings (Inventory #25), warehouses, theaters (Inventory #13), a church (Inventory #97), and rental housing. Architectural styles or influences visible in the district are 20th-century commercial designs, Classical Revival, Moderne, Art Deco, Gothic Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Classical Modern.

The majority of the commercial buildings located in the district are one or two story and constructed of brick. However, there are two high rise buildings, a seven story (Inventory #82) and a ten story (Inventory #52), and several three story buildings. The two and three story commercial buildings are characterized by having two distinct horizontal zones: the storefront and upper facade area. Typically, the storefront has one or more flush or recessed entries flanked by display windows with a transom area above. Many times these storefronts contain engaged columns or pilasters enframing this lower zone. The upper facades may or may not be visibly harmonious with the lower storefront zone but usually contain a series of flat or arched windows, a parapet roof, and use decorative features, such as cornicework, corbeling, stonework, and pilasters (Inventory #'s 16, 37, 65, 78, 87). The one story commercial buildings are characterized by having a facade similar to the treatment of the storefronts of the two story commercial buildings. They are usually constructed of brick, but some are concrete block. Like their taller counterparts, the one story buildings contain a parapet roof and often use decorative detailing along the roof line (Inventory #'s 53, 55, 67, 86).

Construction continued in downtown Tuscaloosa until World War II, when a nationwide construction ban was implemented on nonessential building. After the war, downtown commercial construction resumed. However, after 1950 there appears to be a clear distinction in the design and styling of commercial buildings in downtown Tuscaloosa. These circa 1945 to 1950 commercial buildings continued to use prewar design and styling. While new materials were available, they were not used in downtown commercial design until after 1950. These one and two story early postwar buildings resemble 1930s

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Section 7 Page 2

Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)
Tuscaloosa County Alabama

modernistic and industrial designs, as well as the traditional one and two story commercial designs described above (Inventory #'s 24, 56, 57, 58, and 90). Post 1950 commercial construction in downtown Tuscaloosa used new materials and building techniques: steel-cage structure, and abundance of plate glass windows framed in metal, pole-like pillars, nondescript concrete slabs, and the eschewal of nearly all ornamentation (Inventory #'s 12, 28, 29, 35, 43, 49).

The original Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District National Register nomination was approved in 1986 containing a total of ninety-one resources. In 1989 the first boundary expansion was approved by the National Park Service, bringing the total number of resources to 102. This document (the second boundary expansion) represents an updated version of the original and first boundary expansion nomination and the incorporation of seven extra buildings. Additional survey work conducted in January 1996 indicated that the proposed second boundary expansion area was historically an integral part of the Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District and that these surviving resources contribute to the architectural and historic significance of the district.

Because the original and first expansion nomination resources were inventoried under a contributing, conditionally contributing, and noncontributing system, the old inventory has been updated, reorganized, and renumbered under current National Park Service standards. As such, the old inventory count is no longer correct and has been revised and refigured. The conditionally contributing status of buildings in the old nomination have been updated to either contributing or noncontributing. In addition, buildings that were demolished have been removed from the inventory.

As rewritten, this nomination contains sixty-two contributing and twenty-nine noncontributing buildings from the original and first boundary expansion and five contributing and two noncontributing buildings from the second boundary expansion. Eleven buildings have been demolished and have been removed from the inventory. This brings the new total count to sixty-seven contributing and thirty-one noncontributing buildings.

The second boundary expansion to the Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District proposes an addition of seven buildings in the new boundary area. Several of the contributing buildings in the second boundary expansion were constructed during the 1920s, but there are also 1931 and 1945 buildings. All of the buildings are one story except Inventory #'s 87 and 89, which are two story. Several were used as bottling works at one time or another (Inventory #'s 85, 87, and a portion of 86). Inventory # 87 was originally constructed to be a Lime Cola Bottling Works in 1922 with electric power and lighting. Inventory # 85 served as an automotive supply shop during the late 1920s and 1930s. One building was constructed to be Fire Station Number One in 1922 (Inventory #89). A wholesale grocery, hay, and feed store was located in one large building that over time was divided up with impermanent walls into a variety of different arrangement schemes (Inventory #86). The Allen and Jemison Company owned the entire building until the 1970s; but many businesses were located there: Quarles Plumbing, Dixie Coaches, E. W. Townsend Flour Brokers, Tuscaloosa County Exchange, the warehouse for Allen and Jemison Hardware, and even a chicken hatchery. Inventory # 90 also served as a feed and hay warehouse from its construction in 1945 until the 1970s.

The original and the first expansion boundaries of the Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District were roughly bounded on the north by 4th Street, on the south by 7th Street, on the west by 26th Avenue, and on the east by 21st Avenue. This new expansion nomination will include the buildings facing both sides of 7th Street between Greensboro Avenue and 25th Avenue.

Buildings added to the district in the first boundary expansion are noted on the inventory by a single asterisk. Those from this second boundary expansion are noted by double asterisks.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

Inventory

Greensboro Avenue

1. 301 Greensboro Avenue (L & N Depot): 1912; This one story brick small train station is a good example of this type of structure in a Classical Revival Style. It is built of yellow brick with limestone base courses and window surrounds. The awning and cornice are copper and the roof is covered with red terra cotta tiles. Approximately 80% of the interior remains intact including patterned tile flooring, some marble wainscot and plaster ceilings.(C)
2. 409 Greensboro Avenue (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.(NC)
3. 500-502 Greensboro Avenue (Sue's/ Junior League): c.1910; Two story brick corner building with two plate glass and metal storefronts and a canvas awning above. The transoms are covered with sheet metal. The upper facade expresses the original early 1900s construction featuring a slightly curved parapet, a brick cornice and a pair of three 1:1 arched sash windows. The arch is brick, the keystone and window lintel are concrete.(C)
4. 504 Greensboro Avenue (Michael Anthony Jewelers): c. 1922; Two story brick building with completely slipcovered facade of stucco-like panels. The entrance flooring is slate. If the material covering the facade of this building was removed in the future and there was enough remaining historic fabric of the original facade left underneath, its status could possibly be changed to contributing. (NC)
5. 509 Greensboro Avenue: c. 1930; One story brick was remodeled c. 1946 to blend with the Art Deco style of the Brown's Department Store (#50) next door. Second floor facade has muted orange and cream carrara glass with octagonal center window. First floor has modern plate glass and metal framing.(C)
6. 511-519 Greensboro Avenue (Weisel/Fincher/Vacant): 1894; This two story brick building was extensively altered through the years. Its facade, originally cast iron, is currently stuccoed. 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. Weisel's 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. If the material covering the facade of this building was removed in the future and there was enough remaining historic fabric of the original facade left underneath, its status could possibly be changed to contributing. (NC)
7. 512 Greensboro Avenue (Vacant/Vacant): c. 1922; Two story brick building with two metal and plate glass storefronts, metal covered transoms, and six wood 1:1 double hung windows, with individual decorative transoms above. Flat roof with raised parapet. Storefronts have central entries with flanking display windows.(C)
8. 514 Greensboro Avenue (Alabama Grill): c. 1910; Two story brick, stuccoed upper facade contains two windows and capped by curvilinear stucco parapet. The original facade is red brick. The base of it was revealed in April-May 1985 during the removal of the sidewalks in this area.(C)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4 Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

-
9. 516 Greensboro Avenue (Rountree Studio): c. 1910; Two story brick has a facade c. 1929 applied over a previous brick facade exposed in 1985 when the modern sidewalk in front of the building was removed. Stairway opens onto street. Storefront has modern plate glass display windows and entry under metal canopy.(C)
 10. 521 Greensboro Ave. (Vacant): c. 1910; The original features of its two story brick building's facade include a bricked cornice and two shuttered windows which are partially boarded. The first story entry has been replaced with a plate glass and metal entryway.(C)
 11. 525 Greensboro Avenue (Vacant): c.1900; Two story brick on corner lot with two street facades. First floor has a corner entry and display windows. The second floor has recessed rectangular panels with 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.(C)
 12. 550-518 Greensboro Avenue (AccuCheck): 1965; The exterior of this five story International Style 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 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 of the superstructure.(NC)
 13. 600 Greensboro Avenue (Bama Theater/ Para Building): April 12, 1938; Classical Modern style. The 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 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 (8/30/84).(C)
 14. 605-607 Greensboro Avenue: c. 1923; Two story brick building with stuccoed facade - upper facade contains central half-round window flanked by 1:1 double-hung windows. Storefront has been altered: large opening created because building is now gutted and used as a parking garage. (NC)
 15. 609 Greensboro Avenue (Vacant): c. 1922; This one story brick building features a stuccoed upper facade. The roofline is topped by a stepped parapet. The storefront has entry with flanking display windows. (C)
 16. 611-617 Greensboro Ave. (Lorch's/Garner's/Mr. Bill's): c. 1922; Two story white glazed brick building with three storefronts. Mr. Bill's and Garner's facades show eight bay upper facade with 12:12 wood windows. Lorch's is currently covered by pierced metal panels, but fabric is visible underneath. Each storefront has central entry flanked by windows. Roof is flat with parapet. Below parapet on upper facade is a continuous brick corbeled arcade. (C)

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Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

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17. 612 Greensboro Avenue (TOPS): 1903; This three story brick building's upper facade is slipcovered. The display windows are accented with multi-colored square tiles. If the material covering the facade of this building was removed in the future and there was enough remaining historic fabric of the original facade left underneath, its status could possibly be changed to contributing. (NC)
18. 619/621 Greensboro Ave. (McElvey & Ford): 1911; One story yellow brick building. Two storefronts separated by brick pilasters. Both have central entries with flanking windows. The central entries have short wood shingled projecting roofs and flat parapets on either side. (C)
19. 620 Greensboro Avenue (Spiller Furniture Gallery): 1903; This four story brick building has rows of windows similar to factory buildings. The building's construction year--1903-- is located on the stucco parapet. 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 round arches above the upper facade window. The three-part vertical division of the building is achieved through the use of pilasters. The original cast iron front remains intact, though modern metal framing holds the large display window. (C)

South Lurleen Wallace Boulevard

- 20.** 2525 South Lurleen Wallace Boulevard (Amoco Station): 1965; One story concrete block building faced with brick. Continuous band of fixed plate glass windows runs across most of the building. Originally served as bus station but was retrofitted in 1988 to be a gas station and convenience mart. (NC)

University Boulevard

21. 2101-2109 University Boulevard (Village Sofa, Then Again, EKH): c. 1928; One story, brick, parapet roof, stepped roof with stone trim, diamond stone decorative inserts. The storefront has three bays with metal and plate glass windows and doors. (C)
- 22.* 2111-2117 University Boulevard (Exchange Building): c. 1926; Exterior covering 1906 and 1922 buildings. 1988 renovation; two stores, brick, flat roof, 4 recessed storefronts with transom; second story replacement windows. (C)
- 23.* 2135 University Boulevard (DeWitt & DeWitt/Plott Agency): c. 1950; Renovated 1980s; two stories, brick, stucco covered, stuccoed quoins and keystone, recessed entrance, large square window on ground floor. (NC)
24. 2200-2206 University Blvd. (Chamber of Commerce): 1950; One story concrete block with three bays and parapet roof. The front facade is faced with stucco. Central bay parapet rises slightly above the flanking bays. This central bay is separated from the flanking bays by two fluted pilasters. The central and southern bay contain central entrances flanked by display windows. The northern bay has the same original configuration, except that the central entry is now a window. Above each of the three bays are single recessed panels. (C)
25. 2201 University Boulevard (City Hall): 1909; This Classical Revival style three story plus basement brick and stone has a main facade that contains seven bays. The first floor is covered with heavily coursed limestone and brick on the second and third floors. Ground floor features piano noble of cut stone with center arcade. The second and third floors are brick with stone trim featuring a recessed center gallery with enantis columns and metal

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Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

balustrading. Building has a gable roof with dormers partially hidden by heavy roofing cornice and stone balustrade. (C)

26. 2208-2212 University Blvd. (Tuscaloosa Flower Shoppe/First Sun Finance/PIP): c. 1933; One story brick with three bays, each separated and outlined by brick basket weave. Each bay has metal and plate glass windows on original brick kickplates and metal entry doors and transoms above. The recessed brick area above transom contains a centrally located diamond-shaped brick area topped with a parapet roof. (C)
27. 2214 University Blvd.(Stage Centre): c. 1910; This building, struck by fire several years ago, retains its press metal cornice. The storefront has been replaced with c. 1990 metal display windows and a door. The upper facade contains new windows and is covered with stucco. (NC)
28. 2215 University Blvd. (CHOM): 1955; This two story brick building's plate glass, triple-entry storefront is framed with polished block granite and features a terrazzo 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. (NC)
29. 2216 University Blvd. (Theater Office): 1952; This two story building has recessed double door entry doors. The storefront is metal and plate glass. The entry to the upper story is located to the side of the main entry. The upper facade is characterized by four jalousie windows topped by a raised parapet. (NC)
30. 2217 University Blvd. (Alabama Paper): c.1922; This is a stuccoed brick two story building with a central recessed 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. If the material covering the facade of this building was removed in the future and there was enough remaining historic fabric of the original facade left underneath, its status could possibly be changed to contributing. (NC)
31. 2218 University Boulevard (Artworks Advertising): c. 1910, This two story brick commercial building is attached to a twin building on its eastern side. Originally built to house two businesses, this building was separated into its twin arrangement by 1930. The original owners of the building are identified at the center of the parapet roof line of the twin buildings with the names McCalla & Wyman. 2218 University shows much of the original character of the facade: centrally located entrance flanked by display windows with six transom windows above (currently covered by plywood), three arched window bay openings on the upper facade separated by brick pilasters supported by stone brackets, arched bay areas (currently covered by plywood) topped by a segmented brick arched and keystone. Owners plan to take advantage of the investment tax credits and restore this building. (C)
32. 2220 University Boulevard (Fred's): c. 1910; The twin building to # 31. Storefront contains centrally located entrance flanked by display windows. Upper facade is completely covered with scored stucco. If the material covering the facade of this building was removed in the future and there was enough remaining historic fabric of the original facade left underneath, its status could possibly be changed to contributing. (NC)
33. 2221 University Boulevard: c. 1933; One story brick commercial building with deeply recessed entry flanked by display windows and floored with terrazzo. The street level is framed with pink and white carrara glass. The upper level is Art Deco style with stucco scored to resemble stone with fluted side borders. (C)

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Section 7 Page 7

Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

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34. 2223 University Blvd. (Kress Building): 1939; Three story Art Deco building has seven bays and features a plate glass storefront with yellow, English bond brickwork. The dark base course resembles stone and the lighter colored areas are terra cotta. The Kress logo is gilded terra cotta panels on the top cornice. (C)
35. 2226 University Blvd. (Discount Office Furniture): c. 1955; Two story concrete block building with parapet roof. The storefront contains a central recessed area with a central entrance door flanked by a pair of metal framed plate glass windows and capped on the ends by display window areas that run flush with the front facade. The original roll up awning separates the storefront from the upper facade which is stuccoed. The upper facade contains a group of three jalousie windows, a central stucco-paneled area, and another group of three jalousie windows along a common header and sill. (NC)
36. 2230 University Boulevard (Chestnutt Furniture): 1900; This two story stretcher bond brick building contains a centrally located entrance with flanking display windows. The upper facade windows are currently boarded over. Above the windows are ventilators, two cross designs in white glazed brick, and a parapet roof. (C)
37. 2300 University Boulevard (DePalma's): 1892; This Richardsonian Romanesque style, three story brick building has three bays on the upper stories. The second and third floor facades are encompassed by a monumental rock-faced cut stone arch supported by brick with rock-faced out stone quoin pilasters. The pilasters have very organically styled capitals. The roof is flat with a parapet pierced with an arcade above a heavy cornice with dentils. In 1946 the entry was remodeled from an arched marble entryway to the current storefront that has been enclosed by wooden walls with windows. The brick is symmetrically decorated with a variety of masonry material, reinforced piers bending into an arch, foliated capitals and quoins. (C)
38. 2301 University Boulevard (Security Federal): 1922; Classical Revival Style, two story granite and marble bank. Built on light brown granite base course. Facade has slightly projecting temple front with two enantis Doric columns with complete entablature. Above cornice is balustrade roofline parapet. Central entry has modern double plate glass door surrounded by original stone architrave. Interior has original mezzanine and interior woodwork. Individually listed on the National Register (3/7/85). (C)
39. 2304 University Boulevard (Candy Factory): c. 1910; One story brick building with wood facade. In 1979 the interior of this building was gutted by fire. This resulted in a remodeling of the facade and interior. Marble veneer squares remaining from the candy shop are now painted brown. (NC)
40. 2305 University Boulevard (Security Federal addition): c. 1993; One story white stucco. This building is an addition to the Security Federal building and is extremely plain except for two small front facade windows with black bars over them. (NC)
41. 2306 University Boulevard (Kubiszyn Building): c. 1923; Two story Art Deco limestone 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 slightly c. 1980. (C)
42. 2308-2310 University Boulevard (Hudson Poole/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 storefront facade has two entry doors with flanking multi-paned display windows. (C)

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43. 2312 University Boulevard (Hulsey Association): 1951; The design of this one story building is characterized by an unusual concave upper facade of cement fiber panels. The street level storefront is bordered in dark green carrara. This area is also accented by a green awning and entry floor of terrazzo. (NC)
44. 2313-2315 University Boulevard (On Time Fashions/Vacant): c. 1916; This two story brick building is slipcovered with corrugated metal. If the material covering the facade of this building was removed in the future and there was enough remaining historic fabric of the original facade left underneath, its status could possibly be changed to contributing. (NC)
45. 2314 University Boulevard (Rags to Riches): 1900; Two story brick with the first story trimmed in stone. The brick is yellow featuring a ground floor entry flanked by plate glass display windows framed in sandstone. The second story is brick with a limestone cornice, beltcourse, window lintels and sills and has parapet roof.(C)
46. 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 Louis Weisel converted the street-level facade into a recessed double entry and remodeled the exterior of the second and third floors.(C)
47. 2318 University Boulevard (De Ja Vu): 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. If the material covering the facade of this building was removed in the future and there was enough remaining historic fabric of the original facade left underneath, its status could possibly be changed to contributing.(NC)
48. 2319 University Boulevard (Central Harco Drugs): c. 1935; Two story yellow brick. First floor has modern plate glass with metal framing. A wide beltcourse above the display windows serves as a signboard. Second floor windows are topped by very wide covered cornice which forms an arcade across the tops of the windows. Above the cornice is a pent roof of red terra cotta tile.(C)
49. 2320-2322 University Blvd. (First National Bank additions): 1970 ; This 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. (NC)
50. 2321 University Boulevard (Dress For Less) c. 1926; Two story brick. First floor has modern plate glass with 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 with 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 corbeled cornice of two rows of soldier and one row of header bricks.(C)
51. 2325 University Boulevard (Brown's Department Store): 1926; Two story brick commercial building on corner lot with two street facades. First floor was covered with muted orange and cream carrara glass in Art Deco style in circa 1946 with octagonal windows alternating with rectangular glass block panels above. There was a recessed corner entry with metal canopy. The 6:1 double hung second floor windows and brick trim are identical to top floor

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of adjacent building (#49). In May 1996 the first floor of this building was demolished to make way for a brew pub restaurant. The only remaining original historic material on the first floor is the cast iron interior columns. The demolition of all of the first floor has compromised the building's integrity severely. (NC)

52. 2330 University Boulevard (First National Bank): 1925; Ten story brick building with the first floor faced in limestone and the upper nine stories brick with terra cotta detailing. The building is in the Classical Revival Style and has a decorative parapet roof with a heavy ornamental cornice. In 1964 the original windows of the superstructure were replaced with 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.(C)
53. 2427-2431 University Boulevard (Downtown Pub); c. 1922; One story brick with four storefronts. All entries and display windows are metal and plate glass. The center two storefronts of the structure have short Spanish tile projecting roof with raised flat parapets on either end.(C)

4th Street

54. 2219 4th Street; c. 1933; This is a one story brick commercial building. The west elevation features wood-trimmed doors, windows and transoms and a decorative glazed brick cross inset into the facade. (C)
55. 2300-2312 4th Street (Warehouse): c. 1922; This large one story brick warehouse is subdivided into smaller individual units. The building features arched windows and a large overhang extending above the loading area.(C)
56. 2314 4th Street (Warehouse): c.1947; This one story, one bay brick warehouse has central loading dock entrance flanked by a door and a window. It is an attachment to existing warehouses.(C)
57. 2318-2328 4th Street (Warehouse): 1947; This large one story brick building is subdivided into several warehouse rooms. A wide metal overhang covers the loading area. The front facade is pierced by many doors, windows and loading bays with transom windows above.(C)
58. 2330 4th Street (John Curry Furniture): 1945; This two story corner building is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. The building identification marker, roof line, and beltcourse are composed of limestone. The main facade contains a central entry flanked by display windows and an upper story entrance is located on the northern end. Transom windows are situated above a flat metal overhang awning. The second story contains five pairs of 2:2 double hung windows with a parapet roof above.(C)

6th Street

- 59.* 2100 6th Street (A&L Auto Repair): c. 1920s; One story, brick, parapet roof, three bays. There are modern garage doors separated by plasters. The storefront is metal and plate glass. The brick has been painted. The transom is covered by an awning. (C)
- 60.* 2105 6th Street (Campbell's Body Shop): c. 1930s; One story, brick, commercial building, flat roof, decorative brick, square stone decoration; plate glass window, transom covered.(C)
- 61.* 2108 6th Street (Jimmie's Barber Shop): c. 1940s; Two story brick building with 1940s metal and glass windows

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and doors. The second floor has two 3:2 metal windows. There is a metal awning over the entrance on the first floor. There is an entrance to the second floor by stairs on the west side of the building. (C)

- 62.* 2115 6th Street (Glass Service Inc.): c. 1930s; One story, brick, metal covering over entire building. Modern doors, windows, garage door. (NC)
- 63.* 2117 6th Street (Weather's Auto Supply): c. 1920s; One story, brick, commercial building, original wood storefront with transom, 1940s metal awning, decorative brick pilasters, painted sign on brick. (C)
- 64.* 2121 6th Street (Chukker Bar): c. 1920s; One story, remodeled storefront, wood paneling. (NC)
65. 2123 6th Street: c. 1910; Two story brick building with double glass paneled doorway flanked with two plate glass 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 two 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. (C)
66. 2129 6th Street (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 in the 1930s from raised two story, Corinthian columned portico the width of the building. Removal of the steps, columns, frieze and balustrade, to enclose the space, transformed the former Opera House into residential apartments. (C)
67. 2201 6th Street: c. 1925; One story rock-faced concrete block building with six bays. The building has metal and plate glass windows and entry doors with transoms. The roof is flat with a parapet. (C)
68. 2209 6th Street (West Alabama Furniture): 1922, 1959 remodeling; Two story brick building with parapet roof. The storefront contains a centrally located recessed entrance with plate glass. Three sets of triple double hung windows are located under the circa 1959 corrugated metal slipcovering on the upper facade. If the material covering the facade of this building was removed in the future and there was enough remaining fabric of the original facade left underneath, its status could possibly be changed to contributing. (NC)
69. 2219 6th Street (West Alabama Furniture): c. 1922, 1959 remodeling; Two story brick building with six double hung windows on the upper facade underneath the circa 1959 corrugated metal slipcover. The storefront contains a centrally located recessed entrance flanked by plate glass display windows. If the material covering the facade of this building was removed in the future and there was enough remaining fabric of the original facade left underneath, its status could possibly be changed to contributing. (NC)
70. 2223 6th Street (Tuscaloosa Furniture): c. 1900; Two story brick building with three bays separated by pilasters. Upper windows presently covered with plywood. Storefront has recessed entry with flanking display windows. The roof is flat with corbeled parapet. (C)
71. 2231 6th Street: c. 1935; Three story brick building with three bays each containing two windows. Bays are separated by pilasters with decorative brick "x"s laid in. Storefront has central entry with flanking display windows.

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Flat roof with parapet. Transoms located above storefront.(C)

72. 2301 6th Street (Black Orchid): 1898; This late 19th century two story brick commercial structure featured a metal press cornice and ashlar lintels. The current first floor storefront has metal sheeting covering all the transom windows and is painted black. (C)
73. 2305-2307 6th Street (Barber Shop/Goodwill): c.1910; One story storefront with modern, metal framed, plate glass entry and display windows, stuccoed parapet wall above entry. (NC)
74. 2306-2308 6th Street (Vacant/Vacant): c. 1894; Two story, two bay brick building with stepped parapets. The two bays are separated by brick pilasters. A paired window opening is centrally located on each upper facade. Storefronts have metal entry doors and plate glass display windows c.1950. Storefront end pilasters also contain a cast iron pilaster. Transoms are covered by metal sheeting.(C)
75. 2309-2311 6th Street (Goodwill): c. 1910; One story storefront with modern metal framed entries and plate glass display windows. (NC)
76. 2310-2314 6th Street (Folk Art Gallery-Brittans-Black Warrior Gallery/Tish's): c. 1902; This one story brick commercial building with a parapet roof ordinarily had three storefronts. The Folk Art Gallery storefront contains a recessed central entry flanked by display windows and fluted cast iron pilasters. The upper facade area contains a pressed metal decoration -- rock-faced stone and a wave motif -- below a molded metal cornice. Brittans contains a recessed central entry flanked by display windows and circa 1960 tile covered pilasters, but the entire upper facade is currently obscured by a fabric awning. The original upper facade, brick covered with carrara glass and stucco panels, remains underneath the awning. Black Warrior Gallery/Tish's is located in one storefront. The Black Warrior Gallery side contains a recessed central entry flanked by display windows and an upper facade covered with corrugated metal. The Tish's side shows much of the original storefront character: brick kickplate and display window with transom above, brick upper facade with corbeled cornice. The entrance door to Tish's is located on the front facade next to the Black Warrior Gallery. (NC)
77. 2315 6th Street (City Shoe): c. 1910; One story cast iron storefront. Entry and display windows are metal and plate glass. Wall surface above is all original including cornice and cast iron posts.(C)
78. 2317 6th Street (AESC Superstore): 1911; Three story brick building with three bays separated on upper stories by pilasters that have terra cotta capitals. Spanning the roof line is an elaborate metal cornice.(C)
79. 2319-2323 6th Street (H&W Drugs/Burkhalter): c. 1910; These one story businesses are housed behind a yellow brick facade with a central recessed entry with flanking display windows. Since its construction the storefronts have been individualized. Burkhalter has used black carrara and bands of metal trim to create an Art Deco effect. (C)
80. 2320/2326 6th Street (Tuscaloosa Optical/The Senior Studio/The Train Station): 1902; One story brick building with three plate glass and metal storefronts divided by a brick pilaster. Flat roof with corbeled parapet. (C)
81. 2328 6th Street (Jones & Wright Barber Shop): c. 1910; One story brick building with limestone facing. The facade contains three arched openings: a centrally located door and flanking windows. The interior is characteristic of 1910 construction featuring ceramic tile flooring. The parapet roof is capped by brick corbeled cornice. (C)

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82. 2400 6th Street (Alston Building): 1909; Seven story brick building. The proportions of the Alston Building design were based on the column--base, shaft and capital. The building is similar to the three part configuration of the Chicago Commercial Style. 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. (C)
83. 2420-2428 6th Street: c. 1922; One story brick storefront with stepped gable parapet has three bays. Flanking sections have flat roof lines. Entry and display windows have been altered. Original transom may still be intact behind panel above metal canopy. (C)

7th Street

84. 2317-2319 7th Street (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. (C)
- 85.** 2500-2502 7th Street (Party Makers): 1931; One story brick building on corner has two facades. The 7th Street facade has four base with metal and plate glass windows and doors. North Lurleen Wallace Boulevard facade has three bays with metal and plate glass windows and doors. Modern awnings are situated at the top of the transoms that are above each bay. The building has a flat roof with parapet topped with tile coping. (C)
- 86.** 2501-2519 7th Street (AARV/Bomar): 1921; One story brick building with nine original bays and a circa 1955 bay addition. Since its construction, the original nine bays have been used in many different configurations to serve a number of businesses. The interior walls dividing the bays are non-permanent to allow for change in size. This building has housed a wholesale grocery, hay and feed store and warehouse, bottling works and even a chicken hatchery. More than half of the original bays still have a completely original storefront: central wood entry door with flanking wood display windows above stone kickplates. An eight pane transom runs above this with central diamond-shaped stone inserts in the brick on the upper facade. Each bay is separated by a brick pilaster with the same diamond-shaped insert. The roof is flat with a raised parapet capped by stone coping. Four of the bays have metal and plate glass windows and doors with covered transoms. There is a plan to restore these storefronts to their original appearance. (C)
- 87.** 2504-2506 7th Street (Vacant): 1922; Two story, two bay brick building that was once the Lime Cola Bottling Company. The northern storefront has a central double door entry with flanking display windows and a seven pane boarded transom above. The storefront contains the same transom configuration but is above a loading dock door and entry door. The two bays are separated by brick pilasters with stone diamond insets. A metal awning lies across both bays. The upper facade bays contain an outward, paired window group and inward single window. The flat roof has a parapet capped with aggregate coping. The side facade contains six bays with upper facade windows divided by brick pilasters. (C)
- 88.** 2508 7th Street (Law Office): 1965; One story concrete block building faced with brick. Facade has double entry doors and double windows. (NC)

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- 89.** 2516 7th Street (Fire Station Number 1): 1922; Two story brick building. Two bay arrangement contains fire truck entrances (presently filled in with wood) surrounded by stone trim. Above is two groups of three 8-pane casement windows set on a stone trim course. Roof is flat with parapet that gables outward. The gabled parapet is covered with asphalt shingles and has large dentil detailing. (C)
- 90.** 2521 7th Street (Vacant): 1945; One story concrete block building faced with brick. Flat roof with stepped parapet with concrete coping. The five bay facade contains original double wood loading dock doors, metal fixed multi-paned windows with a working awning window in the center, and a single wood entry door. (C)

21st Avenue

- 91.* 500 21st Avenue (A&L Auto Repair): c. 1930s; One story, brick, parapet roof, three bays, decorative brick trim; two new garage doors separated by pilasters. The storefront is metal and plate glass. The transom is covered by an awning. (C)

22nd Avenue

92. 520 22nd Avenue (City Hall Annex): 1988; Four story brick that faces University Avenue. The first floor covered with heavily coursed limestone, and red brick on the second, third and fourth floors. The building has a gable roof with heavy roofing cornice and stone balustrade. (NC)
- 93.* 527 22nd Avenue (Truett Furniture): c. 1920s; L-shaped, two main elevations, one story, brick parapet roof. 22nd Avenue elevation: original garage door, original storefront. 6th Street elevation: central garage door, original large metal multi-paned windows.(C)

23rd Avenue

94. 525-531 23rd. Avenue (Municipal Court): c.1922; One story yellow brick with three commercial shops with plate glass and metal storefronts. Double stepped gable parapet at roofline.(C)
95. 610 23rd Avenue (Clancy McQuess' Office): 1933; This is a one story brick building with tile coping and a metal awning over the entrance. If the material covering the facade of this building was removed in the future and there was enough remaining historic fabric of the original facade left underneath, its status could possibly be changed to contributing. (NC)
96. 612 23rd Avenue (Vacant): 1921; One story brick with two storefronts. Storefronts were updated in 1970s with stained glass, but original configuration is still visible. Interior has good integrity. (C)

25th Avenue

97. 605 25th Avenue (Christ Episcopal Church): 1830, 1882 remodeling; 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.

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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.(C)

98. 621 25th Avenue: 1911; Two story brick on a corner lot with two street facades. Main facade facing 25th Avenue has six bays with original wooden framed central entries, windows and transoms. A broad stuccoed beltcourse separates the first and second floors. Second floor contains six bays of three 8:1 double hung windows. The parapet roof line is accentuated by a corbeled brick cornice.(C)

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of the Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District, the potential for subsurface remains may be good. Buried portions could reveal significant information that may be useful in interpreting the district.

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VIII. Statement of Significance

Criterion A:

The Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the commercial development of Tuscaloosa. The Downtown District has historically been the center for the city's businesses. The district was and is comprised of various commercial buildings, banks, professional offices, warehouses, governmental buildings, restaurants, recreational interests, and rental housing. A church and a historic railroad depot are also included.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its good examples of late-19th- and early-to-mid-20th-century commercial architecture. This is reflected in its fine collection of one, two, and three story commercial style designs and its examples of Classical Revival, Moderne, Art Deco, Gothic Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque, and Classical Modern styles.

Period of Significance

The period of significance extends from 1880, when the first post-reconstruction commercial building located in the district was constructed, through the early 20th-century building boom period, to 1950 when the post World War II commercial building ceased to rely on early-to-mid-20th-Century commercial design and styling. The downtown continued to be the commercial center of Tuscaloosa through the mid-1960s when many of the early businesses closed down or moved out to the town's perimeter to the new shopping malls and business centers. As such, buildings in the district built between 1950 and mid-1960s, while not of exceptional significance, will contribute to the district as they reach the fifty-year-age mark.

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 has 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 County 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 cavalry men under the command of General 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 "Shelleyville." 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. In addition to dwellings, there was a court house, jail, taverns, and Methodist and Baptist churches. 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

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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" were 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. 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.

The Reconstruction Era was a period of severe hardship in Tuscaloosa. For fifteen years after the Civil War 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 the Classical Revival University of Alabama 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 post-Reconstruction Era economic resurgence of this period. In 1882, Christ Episcopal Church (Inventory #97) completely redesigned the existing Greek Revival styled structure by enlarging the plan and adding buttresses and a tower to emulate the Gothic Revival style.

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 Regions 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 forty-five years. During this 1880-1890 industrial period the central business district became firmly established. In 1889, the downtown area of twelve blocks surveyed consisted of five blocks of commercial and seven blocks of mixed use, primarily residential.

As Tuscaloosa, like the rest of the nation, began to emerge from the Depression of 1893, a broader and relatively wealthier economic foundation also began to emerge. In 1892, First National Bank of Tuscaloosa opened a new three story office,

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designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style (Inventory # 37). The early key to economic recovery and expansion was the establishment of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in 1897 in Tuscaloosa. By 1898, a \$40,000 steel structure bridge had been erected across the Black Warrior River for this new railroad. This, coupled with the emergence of new industries and businesses and the beginnings of many civic improvements, pushed Tuscaloosa into the 20th century.

Tuscaloosa witnessed its greatest boom period from 1900 to 1928. During this time the population nearly quadrupled, from 5,094 in 1900 to 20,567 in 1930. Moving into her Progressive Era, Tuscaloosa began tackling issues such as clean and reliable water, sanitary streets and the disposal of refuse, better education, the evils of alcohol, and health care reform. One of the first steps made to "clean" up the city was the passage of a stock law in 1900, prohibiting pigs, cows, and horses from wandering the streets at will. By 1910, the city had cemented many sidewalks and curbs. But a street-paving program would not begin until 1911-13. By 1907 the city waterworks was firmly established, providing indoor plumbing in addition to fire plugs for the volunteer fire service. During this first decade a sanitary sewer system, a small jail, a new courthouse, and the beginnings of a school building program were all initiated and constructed.

Automobiles had become so numerous by 1910 that city license tags were issued. This same year brought with it the establishment of the Tuscaloosa Light and Ice Company and the development of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. The L&N had been granted a right-of-way in 1885, but did not act on it until 1910. By 1912 its grand new Classical Revival depot was finished on Greensboro Avenue.

The 1910s saw other new businesses and industries opening in Tuscaloosa. In 1913 the Kaul Lumber Company plant was established. The newly created News and Times Gazette and the Action Cinema were added in 1915, while the new Morgan Meat Packing Company was established in 1917. Examples of extant buildings from this first decade and a half include the Allen and Jemison Store in 1903 (Inventory # 19), City Hall (Inventory # 25) and the seven story Alston Building (Inventory # 82) in 1909, the L & N Depot in 1912 (Inventory # 1), and a good number of general commercial buildings constructed during the early 1910s (Inventory #'s 3, 9, 31, 32, 65, and 79).

The coming of World War I increased the demand on goods and services produced in Tuscaloosa but by June 1917 labor had become quite scarce. This was due in part to the migration of many African Americans northward. As such, a city employment agency was created to draft residents of the community to work and help the war effort.

As most of the nation experienced a postwar boom period, so did Tuscaloosa. During the 1920s a city hospital, a new fire station, and a curb market were built. New industries included the Alabama Power Company, a new cotton compress, and the monumental Gulf States Paper Corporation. Opening in 1929, just before the coming of the Great Depression, Gulf States provided a significant industry that prevented many families in Tuscaloosa from going under during the decade to come.

The building boom of 1910 to 1928 clearly shows commercial expansion and improved prosperity. The downtown had become so busy in 1928 that the City Commission enacted a one-hour parking limit for several of the streets in the business district. A U.S. Census report of the 1929 survey showed Tuscaloosa retail businesses leading the state among similar sized cities. The report showed that there were 276 stores with 1053 employees and a net sales of \$10,957,170. This period of prosperity brought many new buildings and businesses: the First Alabama Bank (Inventory # 38) in 1922, the Kubiszyn Building (Inventory # 41) in 1923, the Merchants Bank and Trust (Inventory # 52) in 1925, and Brown's Department Store (Inventory # 51) in 1925. The early 1920s also witnessed a boom in general commercial building construction (Inventory #'s 7, 16, 42, 50, 55, 86, and 87). Tuscaloosa's Fire station Number One was constructed on 7th Street in 1922.

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Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

All of this commercial growth could not prevent the effects of the Great Depression, but Tuscaloosa fared better than most cities in Alabama. This was due in part to the coming of the United States Veterans Hospital, the establishment of Maynor Airport, the completion of three paved highways (the Eutaw and Birmingham highways and the Columbus Road) in the county, and the completion of the University of Alabama's million dollar building program drive, all in the same year, 1931. However, not all commercial construction stopped during the 1930s. The Old Elks Home was redesigned and converted to be the Alta Apartment Building (Inventory # 66). Several general commercial buildings were constructed from 1931-1935 (Inventory #'s 26, 33, 48, 54, 71, and 85), but the most elaborate commercial building opened in 1939, the new Kresses Department Store (Inventory # 34).

Tuscaloosa also benefitted from a close relationship with several New Deal agencies. The first agency to come to Tuscaloosa was the Civilian Work Administration in 1933, providing a payroll for approximately 1700 persons in the county. The CWA also initiated the creation of the Queen City Park by building roads, tennis courts, and a drainage system for the ball diamond. The Civilian Conservation Corps had a camp of 200 youths employed approximately fifteen miles from the City. The Public Works Administration and the Works Progress Administration building programs included the construction of the twenty-room addition to the Tuscaloosa Senior High School, two new black schools, a locker building adjacent to the University's gymnasium, a city hall auditorium and theater building (Bama Theater -- NR 8/30/84), a police station, a jail, and improvements to Maynor Airfield.

In 1936 construction began on the Oliver Dam on the Black Warrior River, replacing three locks that were built in 1898. By 1937 many of the effects of the depression were lessening in Tuscaloosa because of the great number of public works projects funded by the New Deal agencies that employed hundreds of workers. One of the last New Deal building projects in Tuscaloosa was the construction of the pool (NR 9/10/92) in the Queen City Park in 1943. The project included the construction of a 165' x 65' pool equipped with its own filter plant, as well as a bath house, twenty-six showers, bleachers, and a wading pool.

This federal aid tapered off as the United States began to prepare for World War II. In 1939, Maynor Airfield was used to train cadets. The first calls of the draft came in December of 1941 after the bombing of Pearl Harbor which resulted in a huge civilian defense demonstration of 11,000 people in Denny Stadium. The War also affected industrial expansion in Tuscaloosa. Reichold Chemical Company built a \$3,000,000 plant near Tuscaloosa for manufacturing chemicals needed for war. In 1943 the National Southern Products chemical plant took over the old condensary building in town. The U.S. Government and B.F. Goodrich launched a rubber plant, but its federal funds were removed at the end of the war and B.F. Goodrich bought the factory and completed it.

After World War II, an increase in population, the widespread use of the automobile, and large amounts of relatively inexpensive land surrounding the city prompted a redirection of growth in Tuscaloosa. Construction in the downtown business district steadily declined with the majority of new commercial construction occurring along the perimeter of the city in industrial/business parks or strip malls near new residential suburbs

During the 1950s and early 1960s, many storefronts in the downtown business district were modernized in an effort to keep people shopping downtown instead of out in the newly built suburban strip malls. Tuscaloosa's population continued to increase over the decade, but the downtown as a retailing center began to decline in the mid 1960s. However, today, growth in the downtown area is on an upswing. It remains the banking and legal center of town, but new restaurants, businesses, housing rehabilitation, and recreational interests are moving in.

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Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)
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X. Verbal Boundary Description

The second expansion of the boundaries of the Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District are indicated on the accompanying map by the same name.

Boundary Justification

The second boundary expansion of the Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District includes a group of 20th-century commercial buildings that are contiguous with the existing boundaries and representative of Tuscaloosa's downtown business growth from that period. The new expansion nomination will include the buildings facing both sides of 7th Street between Greensboro Avenue and 25th Avenue.

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XI. Property Owners

#20 2525 South Lurleen Wallace Boulevard (Amoco Station)
Gary E. Hamner
9 Hillcrest #A
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

#85 2500-2502 7th Street (Party Makers)
Charleigh Davis
P.O. Box 25
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35402

#86 2501-2519 7th Street (AARV/Bomar)
Tuscaloosa County Commission
W. Hardy McCollum, chairman
714 Greensboro Avenue
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

#87 2504-2506 7th Street (Vacant)
Charleigh Davis
P.O. Box 25
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35402

#88 2508 7th Street (Law Office)
GEM Land Company
P.O. Box 2816
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35403

#89 2516 7th Street (Fire Station No. 1)
Tuscaloosa County Heritage Commission
P.O. box 1776
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35403

#90 2521 7th Street (Vacant)
Tuscaloosa County Commission
W. Hardy McCollum, chairman
714 Greensboro Avenue
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

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Downtown Tuscaloosa Historic District (2nd Expansion)

Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

Photos by: K.E. Stewart

Date: March 1996

Neg.: Alabama Historical Commission
Montgomery, Alabama

Facing southeast, 7th street scape
#1 of 12

Facing northwest, 7th Street street scape
#2 of 12

Facing north, 2500-2502 7th Street
#3 of 12

Facing north, 2504-2506 7th Street
#4 of 12

Facing north, 2508 7th Street
#5 of 12

Facing north, 2516 7th Street
#6 of 12

Facing south, 2525 South Lurleen Wallace Boulevard
#7 of 12

Facing south, 2521 7th Street
#8 of 12

Facing south, 2501-2519 7th Street
#9 of 12


Facing south, 2501-2519 7th Street
#10 of 12


Facing south, 2501-2519 7th Street
#11 of 12

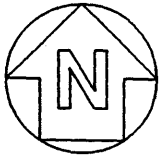
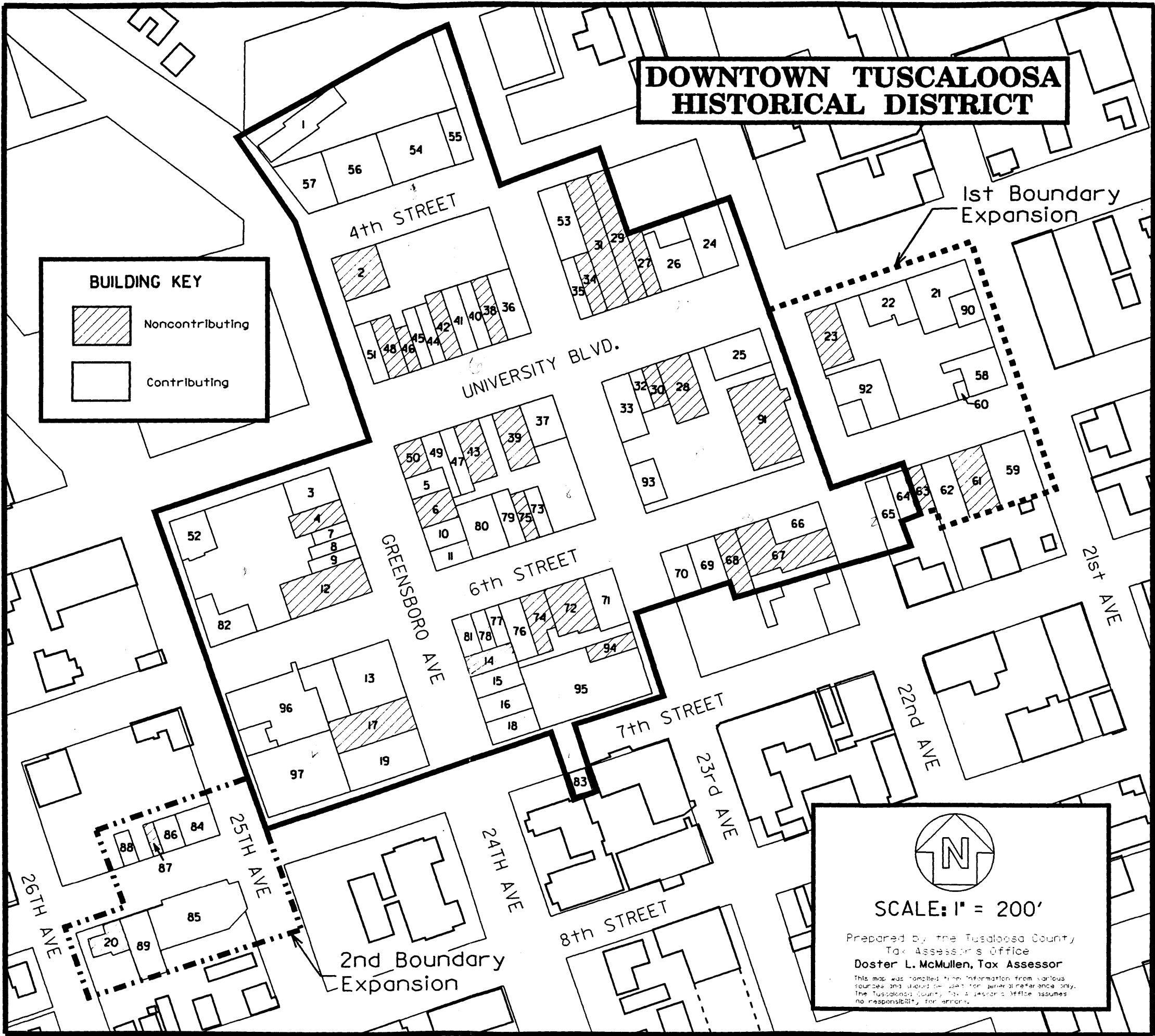
Facing southeast, 7th Street street scape
#12 of 12

DOWNTOWN TUSCALOOSA HISTORICAL DISTRICT

BUILDING KEY

 Noncontributing

 Contributing



SCALE: 1" = 200'

Prepared by the Tuscaloosa County
Tax Assessor's Office
Doster L. McMullen, Tax Assessor

This map was compiled from information from various
sources and should be used for general reference only.
The Tuscaloosa County Tax Assessor's Office assumes
no responsibility for errors.