NAME: Coxe Avenue Buildings: Asheville Transfer & Storage Company Building

LOCATION: 192-194 Coxe Avenue

OWNER: Paul Warlick
398 Vanderbilt Road
Asheville, NC

DESCRIPTION: The former Asheville Transfer and Storage Company building at 192-194 Coxe Avenue is a three-story reinforced concrete building with a facade of slightly-glazed stretcher bond tan brick trimmed with limestone. The central four bays of the eight bay elevation project slightly to form a frontispiece whose verticality is accentuated by parallel piers of brick. The first floor is composed of a central entrance in the frontispiece with receding stepped brick panels on either side. The original door and frame have been replaced with a simple, bronze anodized aluminum and bronzetone glass entrance. On the north side of the entrance is a crisply-cut display window, and on the south side is the garage door, recessed behind a crisply-cut entrance with wrought-iron gates. The second and third story window bays are recessed slightly and the spandrels between them are vertical-running stretcher bond panels. The windows themselves are metal awning sash. The parapet of the building is decorated with patterned brickwork of corbelled vee patterns, recessed panels and soldier brick courses. The parapet also sports limestone inserts with an inverted fountain motif and feather motif limestone caps on the central piers.

SIGNIFICANCE: The former Asheville Transfer and Storage Company building is a key structure on Coxe Street, architecturally, a sister structure to the auto warehouses, but looking forward in its Art Deco stylistic detailing to commercial buildings of the 1930s and 1940s. The quality of design and workmanship of the building is above average for the downtown, and is, except for a well-designed new entrance, complete intact.

A 1929 newspaper article identifies J. H. Morris as the original owner of the building, which was designed by local architect V. W. Breeze. The first occupant of the building listed in the City Directory is the Asheville Transfer and Storage Company, Herbert C. and H. Edwin Allen, proprietors. (over)

DATE: 1929
PHOTO NO.: N.78-2--787
UTM: 17-359100/3939090
ACREAGE: Less than 1 acre
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: See Plat Map, Ward 4, Lot 191/
Asheville City Directors.