

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Bledsoe Building

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 771-783 Haywood Road not for publication N/A

city or town Asheville vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Buncombe code 021 zip code 28806

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

Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

 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): _____

Bledsoe Building
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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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce/Trade:

Sub: specialty store

Commerce/Trade:

business

Commerce/Trade:

professional

Domestic:

multiple dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in progress

Sub:

Commerce/Trade

specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof asphalt

walls brick

other wood

Narrative Description

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

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

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

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1927

Significant Dates

1927

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Western Office, Archives and History

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 0.69 acres

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

Zone Easting Northing
1 17 355530 3938200
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
4 _____
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 Sybil Argintar Bowers, Preservation Planning Consultant

organization Bowers Southeastern Preservation date November 8, 2002

street & number 166 Pearson Drive telephone (828) 253-1392

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28801

12. 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 David Ramsey c/o West Asheville Development, LLC

street & number 775 Haywood Road—Suite A telephone (828) 236-1602

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28806

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

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

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The Bledsoe Building, built in 1927, is the largest building along Haywood Road, the main commercial corridor of West Asheville, the area of town located to the west of the French Broad River and extending to the city limits. The imposing two-story building faces south, covering over half of the lot that is nearly three-fourths of an acre in size. It is located on the north side of Haywood Road at the intersection of Haywood Road and Mildred Avenue. This massive trapezoid-shape brick structure occupies the front half of the lot, with the portion to the rear used for parking and deliveries. The first floor of the building is currently used for retail and studio space, with the upper floor unoccupied.

1. Bledsoe Building. Contributing. 1927.

The Bledsoe Building is an excellent example of the Commercial Style. On the exterior, this two-story common bond brick building retains a high degree of original architectural integrity, with two primary facades, one on the south, and one on the west. Walls on the south and west elevations are a deep red, iron-rich textured brick, with a lower grade red brick used on the east and north elevations. The front or south elevation of the building is divided into three distinct sections, a central portion and flanking east and west wings. Brick pilasters are located at the corners of this elevation and also delineate the central portion of the building from the east and west wings. Decorative brick corbelling divides the floors and forms the cornice of the building. The central portion of the building has a raised parapet wall above the roofline. Beginning at the southwest corner of the south elevation is a clipped entry bay, with a replacement aluminum frame door on the first floor and a single one-over-one window on the second. Transom above the door is boarded over. Continuing along the south elevation, the building is ten bays wide on the first floor, housing six different businesses. From the west, the first and second bays are display windows, followed by an original recessed entry area at bay three with one original single pane door and two replacement aluminum frame doors. The original tin ceiling within this entry is intact. Transoms above these doors and along all of the remaining bays of this elevation are boarded over. Bay four is a display window, followed by an altered storefront area in the center of the building comprising bays five through seven. The original recessed entry area here has been altered to a flush configuration with the front of the building. Centered above the central entry is a recessed concrete panel with "Bledsoe Building 1927" incised into it. Bays eight through ten are display windows. The second floor of this elevation is comprised of thirteen bays of double one-over-one windows.

The west elevation of the building is three bays wide on the first floor. Beginning at the northwest corner, bay one is an original display window with textured blue glass transom. Bay two is an original recessed entry with single light doors. Bay three is a display window with the transom boarded over. The second floor of this elevation is seven bays wide, with double one-over-one windows in all bays except one that is a single one-over-one window. At the rear or north elevation is a two-tiered porch which extends across most of this side of the building. A portion of this porch and all of the central portion of the first floor is covered by a shed roof addition from the 1960s. Porch details include simple square posts and a two-by-two balustrade. There are single and double one-over-one windows visible at both the first and second floors. The northwest corner of the building has no fenestration on the first floor, with single and double one-over-one windows on the second. The east elevation is comprised of a clipped entry at the southeast corner, with an aluminum frame door on the first floor and a single one-over-one window on the

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second. The remainder of this elevation has no fenestration on the first floor. It is six bays wide on the second, with alternating single and double one-over-one windows.

Inside, the building is laid out with retail space on the first floor. Originally there were eight separate retail sections. Two of these, on the southeast corner of the building have been combined together into one larger space.¹ Most of the first floor spaces retain their original tin ceilings, with some having dropped acoustical tile ceilings below the original tin. These spaces are typical commercial space consisting of one large room. The second story of the building is divided into three distinct sections. The central portion of the second floor originally was divided into office spaces and is currently one large open space interspersed by columns. The original partition walls of the offices were removed in the 1960s. The original Craftsman style staircase remains. The east and west wings on either side of this originally contained residential rooms. The east wing consists of thirteen rooms on either side of a central hall. All of the original woodworking is present in this wing, including two-panel doors with transoms, screen doors into the hallway, and the original Craftsman style staircase. The west wing is larger, and is laid out in a U-shape hall configuration, with twenty-one rooms. Woodworking is intact in this wing as well, including two-panel doors with transoms, screen doors, and Craftsman style staircases. Skylights illuminate the central space and interior hallways of the two wings. Many rooms also contain skylights. Wood floors remain throughout the building. (See Exhibit A, floor plans).

¹Buncombe Count Plat Book 13, p. 94. Also Sanborn map, 1925-1943 update.

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Summary

The Bledsoe Building is locally significant as a highly intact example of a twentieth century Commercial Style structure along the Haywood Road corridor of West Asheville, one of the commercial areas of the city of Asheville. In comparison to the smaller one and two-story brick commercial buildings set in rows along this corridor, the Bledsoe Building stands out as a landmark due to its massive size and presence on the street. Built in 1927 by James. T. Bledsoe, a prominent Asheville businessman and developer, the building housed, from the time it was built through the early 1950s, many retail services, offices, and residential rentals rooms. The Bledsoe Building meets National Register Criterion C for architecture.

Historic Background

The city of Asheville, North Carolina was incorporated in 1797. Much of the town remained as a crossroads until the completion of the Buncombe Turnpike in 1827. Some scattered residential development occurred in the town during the mid to late nineteenth century, but it was not until the arrival of the railroad in 1880 that Asheville and the areas immediately adjacent to the town began to develop into the city that exists today. Since the late nineteenth century, Haywood Road, located in West Asheville, has been the main commercial corridor of the land area on the west side of the French Broad River opposite the town of Asheville. The separate town of West Asheville developed along with the Haywood Road corridor, which originally, in the mid-nineteenth century, served as the main western turnpike from Asheville into Haywood County and points west. In 1885, only a few years after the railroad arrived in Asheville, Edwin Carrier, a lumber baron, settled in Asheville and began buying land west of the French Broad River.² He founded the West Asheville Improvement Company in 1887 to develop his property and to lay out the commercial and residential lots for West Asheville.³ The proximity to Asheville meant that citizens could run self-sufficient farms out of town, but work in Asheville or in the developing commercial areas of West Asheville. Haywood Road was laid out as the main commercial street, and several two-story brick buildings were constructed at this time.⁴ By 1889, electrical service was available in West Asheville, with a dam and powerhouse located on nearby Hominy Creek. A horse race track and fairgrounds were located on the French Broad River, and the main field was known as Carrier's Field.⁵ By 1910, trolley service had arrived in West Asheville, with streetcar lines running from downtown Asheville west to the 700 block of Haywood Road. Haywood Road was paved in 1914.⁶

West Asheville was incorporated as a separate town from Asheville on February 9, 1889. Records are unclear as to why, but the first incorporation charter was repealed on March 8, 1897. The town was

²West Asheville History Project, "The Story of the River", Volume 1, Issue 2, Winter 2001, p. 1.

³Ibid, p. 3.

⁴West Asheville History Project, "The Story of Haywood Road", Volume 1, Issue 1, Winter 2001, p. 1.

⁵"The Story of the River", p. 3.

⁶"The Story of Haywood Road", p. 2.

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incorporated again on March 13, 1913, and was annexed into the city of Asheville on June 9, 1917.⁷ The town was well established before its consolidation into the city of Asheville, with some commercial structures built in the 1910s, but the largest period of commercial growth occurring in the 1920s.⁸ A large number of buildings, including the Bledsoe Building, were built in 1927, one of the major building times for the center of West Asheville. Some of the 1920s buildings included the fire station (1922); West Asheville Presbyterian Church (1922); Calvary Baptist Church (1923); West Asheville Bank & Trust Company (1927); Odd Fellows Hall (1927); post office (1927); Aycock School (1927); West Asheville Methodist Church (1927); Palace Theater (1928); and May's Market (1928).⁹ By 1930, when the Depression began in earnest, most of Haywood Road had reached its full development, looking then much as it does today.

The types of businesses, professions, and services located along Haywood Road in the early decades of the twentieth century included architects, surveyors, real estate agents, garages, barbers, pharmacists, physicians, furniture stores, general stores, grocers, cabinetmakers, shoemakers, bankers, dentists, restaurants, dressmakers, building suppliers, cleaners, insurance agents, photographers, bakers, and filling stations. Haywood Road was the center of community life for the western section of Asheville, separate from the central commercial core of downtown Asheville. Even though West Asheville was annexed into the city of Asheville in 1917, the West Asheville residents passed the consolidation referendum by only eight votes, indicating the desire by many to keep the area a separate entity.¹⁰ The French Broad River remained as a physical and psychological barrier between the two areas of town until new highway and road construction in the 1950s and 1960s created more of a physical connection. Even today, West Asheville is often considered to be a separate part of Asheville, with its own businesses and residential communities.

In 1934 trolley service to West Asheville ceased. Some buildings were constructed in the 1930s, including West Asheville Baptist Church (1930); St. Joan of Arc Church (1936); and the Isis Theater (1937), but in West Asheville as elsewhere, no major development took place after 1930.¹¹ In 1950 the Smoky Park Bridge was constructed, extending Patton Avenue westward from Asheville, and in 1960 the Crosstown Expressway (I-240) was built. The new highway and bridge served to divert most of the commercial development away from Haywood Road to Patton Avenue, the major modern east-west corridor to the west of Asheville.¹²

⁷Swaim, Douglas, ed. Cabins and Castles. Asheville, North Carolina: The Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, 1981, p. 43 and pp. 185-186. Also "West Asheville Was Once a Municipality of Its Own", Asheville Citizen-Times, 24 October 1993.

⁸Cabins and Castles, p. 185.

⁹Ibid, p. 4.

¹⁰"West Asheville Became Part of City in 1917", Asheville Times, 16 August 1951.

¹¹Ibid, pp. 5-6.

¹²Ibid, p. 2.

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James T. Bledsoe built the Bledsoe Building in 1927 during the height of the commercial development of Haywood Road. The lots for this building and others along the north side of Haywood Road were platted in April 1926 (Buncombe County plat book 12, p. 10). Real estate developers J. T. Bledsoe, J. R. Rice, and J. H. Nicolson owned the lots included in the plat. According to city directories from 1926, Bledsoe owned J. T. Bledsoe and Company, a real estate and insurance firm, and was also vice-president of Elk Mountain Orchard Company. Directories from 1931 list him as president of the Bledsoe Realty Company, Bledsoe-Robinson Development Company, and vice president of the Real Estate Board. He developed Lucerne Park (1925), a neighborhood in west Asheville, and Broad View Park (1926), located in the Oakley section of Buncombe County.¹³ In addition to these larger subdivisions, Bledsoe developed smaller parcels throughout the county, including lots along Merrimon Avenue, Clairmont Avenue, and Gracelyn Road in North Asheville (1924-1927); Hiawassee Street, Arlington Street, Furman Avenue, Flint Street, and Chestnut Street in central Asheville (1912-1915); Norwood Park (1916); and Hill Street (1916).¹⁴

The Bledsoe Building was ready for occupancy by late 1927. According to Asheville city directories, businesses located in the building from 1928 to 1951 were similar to the types of businesses located elsewhere along Haywood Road. Plumbers, groceries, bakeries, dry goods, beauty parlors, cafes, realty offices, utility company offices, pharmacies, furniture stores, a seed company, and dentists were some of the offices and businesses in the building. Some of the residents on the second floor were employed by Southern Railroad, Sternberg and Company, Asheville Oil Company, Enka, Thomas Brick Company, Westall and Company, Skybrook Dairies, and the City of Asheville firefighters. In addition there were several war widows who lived in the building. Many of these employers were located in West Asheville.

According to the 1926 plat, Bledsoe developed the land to the north of the Bledsoe Building for single-family residences, some of which remain. He also developed the land to the west of the Bledsoe Building, including the construction of the Palace Theatre at 793 Haywood Road in 1928.¹⁵ A September 1927 plat details the layout of the Bledsoe Building alone, showing the eight original retail spaces on the first floor.¹⁶ On January 3, 1928, J. T. Bledsoe and wife Maude T. Bledsoe signed a Deed of Trust for \$65,000 on the building.¹⁷ Payments were defaulted on the property in 1931, and on August 31, 1931, the property was sold at auction to South Atlantic Investment Corporation of Richmond, Virginia for \$45,000.¹⁸ Charles G. Buck, as trustee of the property, sold the building to James H. and Margaret E. Rea on September 16, 1944 for \$35,000.¹⁹ The Reas held the property until they sold it through

¹³Buncombe County plat books 7, p. 43 and 12, p. 78.

¹⁴Buncombe County plat books 4, p. 108; 13, p. 90; 154, p. 97; 154, p. 104; 154, p. 134; 154, p. 147; and 198, p. 43; 198, p. 90; and 198, p. 136.

¹⁵"Bamford to Lease New Bledsoe Theatre in West Asheville", Asheville Citizen, 1 April 1928.

¹⁶Buncombe County Plat Book 13, p. 94.

¹⁷Deed of Trust book 284, p. 503.

¹⁸Buncombe County Deed book 444, p. 274.

¹⁹Buncombe County Deed Book 561, p. 70.

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Wachovia Bank and Trust, on June 16, 1977 to Jonathan David Caudle.²⁰ The current owners, West Asheville Development, LLC, bought the property from Caudle on February 6, 2001.²¹

Architectural Context

The Bledsoe Building is one of the most intact Commercial Style structures in Asheville, and is the most outstanding of the commercial buildings on Haywood Road, which remained as the commercial core of West Asheville through the early 1950s even though the area became part of the city of Asheville in 1917. West Asheville today is still considered to be a separate commercial center on the west side of the city, as is Biltmore Village to the south, but all of these areas are within the city limits of Asheville. Therefore, the architectural context for the Bledsoe Building is all of Asheville.

The Commercial Style was prominent in American towns from 1900 to 1930. It was a style considered to be a reaction to the more ornate Queen Anne or Romanesque Revival styles of the late nineteenth century, maintaining the basic elements of the commercial building but simplifying the details. Ornamentation, if any, generally consisted of some patterned brick in facades or corbelling at the cornice. Parapet rooflines were common, along with large rectangular windows arranged in bands. The Bledsoe Building retains most of its original architectural integrity and is an excellent example of a Commercial Style building. In addition, the Bledsoe Building is particularly notable for its overall massing and presence on the street, being a free-standing building with two primary elevations facing Haywood Road and Mildred Avenue. The building fills a lot almost three-quarters of an acre in size. As an example of the Commercial Style, the Bledsoe Building is constructed of a deep red, striated brick with decorative brick corbelling, bands of large windows on the second floor, several original storefronts, central parapet roofline, and fine interior woodworking, all features of the style.

In comparison, the majority of the Commercial Style buildings along Haywood Road, most of which were built in the mid to late 1920s, are contiguous buildings with only one primary facade, and, in most cases, have undergone some degree of alteration from their original design. The Bledsoe Building appears to be the only remaining building that included substantial amounts of office and residential space on its second floor. While some buildings retain interior features such as tin ceilings, many have been altered on the interior, and none appear to have the woodworking of the residential units that remain intact within the Bledsoe Building. Some good examples of the Commercial Style along Haywood Road include the **Palace Theatre (1928) at 791-793 Haywood Road**, a two-story building with textured brick walls, an intact upper facade with multi-light windows and corbeling, and a modernized storefront; **749 Haywood Road**, a two-story building with a dark red, striated brick facade and rusticated concrete block at rear, single one-over-one windows with flat arches, and modern storefront; **747 Haywood Road**, a two-story textured brick building with original storefront and one-over-one windows; **735-737 Haywood Road**, a two-story painted brick building with one original and one altered storefront and some replacement window sash; **725 Haywood Road (1916)**, a two-story painted brick building with an altered storefront

²⁰Buncombe County Deed Book 1167, p. 143.

²¹Buncombe County Deed Book 2414, p. 327.

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and five-vertical-over-one windows on the second floor; **717 Haywood Road**, a one-story building with its original storefront; **707-709 Haywood Road**, a one-story textured brick building with three intact storefronts; **505 Haywood Road**, a two-story brick building with a cut ashlar stone facade, segmental arch windows, and modernized storefront; and **417 Haywood Road**, a two-story brick building with an intact storefront, one-over-one windows, and raised chevron-patterned cornice.

In another of Asheville's commercial areas, the **Biltmore Hardware Building (ca. 1923), located at 28-32 Hendersonville Road** in Biltmore Village, south of Asheville's central commercial district, is another excellent example of a Commercial Style structure built close to the time of the Bledsoe Building. It too is a freestanding, striated, deep red brick two-story building with commercial space on the first floor and offices on the second. Unlike the Bledsoe Building it has a one-story wing to the north which originally was a separate Commercial Style structure, later becoming part of the adjacent main two-story building. While not as large as the Bledsoe Building, Biltmore Hardware also retains original storefronts and, as is typical of the style, has a simple, unornamented facade with six-over-six sash windows, tile-covered pent roofing over each of the storefronts, and a central entrance leading to the upstairs office spaces. Some of the original tin ceilings remain in the first floor spaces. Woodworking upstairs is similar in detailing and craftsmanship to the Bledsoe Building, including a simple Craftsman staircase. Doors are typically textured glass-over-panel, and floors are oak tongue-and-groove.

Most Commercial Style buildings in the central commercial district of Asheville are contiguous buildings, with only one primary facade, and some have detailing similar to many located along Haywood Road. There are several intact examples of the style within central Asheville, including **124 College Street**, a three-story deep red striated brick building with an altered first floor and double, triple, and quad one-over-one windows on the second and third floors; **4-8 Biltmore Avenue**, a two-story red striated brick building with two intact storefront bays and single six-over-six sash windows; **31 Biltmore Avenue**, a three-story deep red brick building with an intact storefront and single or double windows; **39 Patton Avenue**, a three-story tan brick building with an altered first floor, but intact upper facade including single and triple one-over-one sash windows, and soldier courses of rust-colored brick as the only ornamentation; and the **Meadows Building (1926) at 109 Broadway**, a two-story striated tan brick building with an intact storefront, brick corbelling at the cornice, and a band of six, six-over-one sash windows on the second floor. Even though it is also a contiguous structure with only one primary facade, the **Castanea Building (1921) at 57-65 Haywood Street** is one of the most intact examples of the Commercial Style, and is closer in massing to the Bledsoe Building. The three-story striated tan brick building has five storefront bays, with two intact and three with some modern alterations, arched brick corbelling at the cornice, and deeply recessed one-over-one windows on the upper floors. Original uses on the upper floors included offices and boarding rooms. Tin ceilings remain in some of the first floor spaces. Woodworking on the upper floors, some of which is similar to Bledsoe, includes dark-stained door and window casings, and glass-over-panel doors with operable transoms. The **Asheville Overland Knight, Inc. Auto Showroom Building (1923) at 199-205 College Street** is the only example of a Commercial Style freestanding building, similar in some ways to the Bledsoe Building, and a highly intact example of the style. This three-story, striated red brick building, like the Bledsoe Building, has

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two primary facades, one on the north and one on the east. Another similar feature is the corner entry facing northeast. Windows are multi-light casement with transoms, display window bays are original, and there is a flat roof with corbelled gables over a portion of the north and east elevations. Unlike the Bledsoe Building, there is a one-story wing on the east, and several additions on the rear. Much of the interior has been altered into modern office space.

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Sanborn Maps 1925 and 1925-1943 update.

Swain, Douglas, ed. Cabins and Castles. Asheville, North Carolina: The Historic Resources Commission of Asheville and Buncombe County, 1981.

West Asheville History Project, "The Story of Haywood Road", Volume 1, Issue 1, Winter 2001.

West Asheville History Project, "The Story of the River", Volume 1, Issue 2, Winter 2001.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of this nomination is indicated on the accompanying survey map, at a scale of 1" = 40'.
PIN 9638.13-14-4828.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the city lot historically associated with the building.

Bledsoe Building Photographs

The following information applies to all of the photographs, except where noted.

Name of Property: Bledsoe Building
 771-783 Haywood Road
 Asheville
 Buncombe County
 North Carolina

Photographer: Sybil Argintar Bowers
Date of photos: July 2001
Location of
original negatives: Division of Archives and History
 One Village Lane
 Asheville, North Carolina 28803

1. Front (south) elevation, view northwest
2. East elevation, view northwest
3. West and north elevation, view southeast
4. Original entry, west elevation, view east

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Bledsoe Building

name of property

Buncombe, North Carolina

county and state

5. First floor, tin ceiling in 781 Haywood Road
6. Second floor, center section (former office space), view southeast
7. Second floor, west wing, typical door
8. Second floor, west wing, side hall, view northwest
9. Second floor, east wing, center hall
10. Second floor, east wing, typical door
11. Second floor, east wing, typical skylight
12. Second floor, east wing, view southeast

