

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 an 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 Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District

Other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

Street & number Parts of 00 blocks of Union Street North, Cabarrus Avenue East, Cabarrus Avenue West, and Church Street South N/A  not for publication

City or town Concord N/A  vicinity

State North Carolina code NC county Cabarrus code 025 Zip code 28025

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Jeremy Crow SHPO 10/16/03  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial H. D.

Cabarrus Co., NC

Name of Property

County and State

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.)

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: 14, 3, 0, 0, 0, 0, 14, 3.

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)

- COMMERCE/business, COMMERCE/specialty store, COMMERCE/financial institution, COMMERCE/professional, COMMERCE/restaurant, DOMESTIC/hotel, RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/financial institution, COMMERCE/specialty store, COMMERCE/professional, COMMERCE/business, DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling, VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- Commercial Style, Beaux Arts, Art Deco

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick, walls Brick, Stone, roof Asphalt, other Stone, Metal

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Architecture

Entertainment

Period of Significance

ca. 1905-1953

Significant Dates

1925

1926

1932

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Stoddard, William L. - architect

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):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial H. D.  
Name of Property

Cabarrus Co., NC  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 3.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 7	5 3 8 0 0 0	3 9 1 8 4 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
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 Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian, consultant for:

organization Concord Downtown Development Corporation date May 26, 2003

street & number 637 North Spring Street telephone 336/727-1968

City or town Winston-Salem state NC Zip code 27101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple owners.

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

City or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Cabarrus County, North Carolina

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### DESCRIPTION

#### Narrative Description

The Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District is located in Concord, the county seat and geographic center of Cabarrus County in North Carolina's western Piedmont. It is a small district of seventeen commercial buildings and one parking lot located at the north end of Concord's central business district. The district serves as a complement to the South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District (NR, 1997), from which it is separated by approximately a half block of severely altered historic and modern commercial buildings. The Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District covers approximately three-and-a-half acres and includes properties along short stretches of Union Street North, Cabarrus Avenue East and West, and Church Street South, which are arranged in a grid plan. The crossing of Union Street and Cabarrus Avenue is Concord's central intersection, from which the city's streets are designated as north, south, east, or west. (For ease of discussion, this nomination refers to compass directions aligned with the labeling of Union Street, North and South, and with Cabarrus Avenue, East and West, although in reality, these directions are northwest, southeast, northeast, and southwest.)

The district is a tightly knit group of mostly historic commercial buildings distinguished from its surroundings in the following ways. To the north are the former late-1930s Cabarrus Theatre, historically significant until it received a completely new, classically-inspired facade in the 1980s when it was converted to a banking facility; a large mid-twentieth-century church property; the large 1977 public library; and the residential properties of the North Union Street Historic District (NR). To the south are a group of heavily altered historic and modern commercial buildings followed by the South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District, and farther south, by the residential South Union Street Historic District (NR). To the east are modern commercial establishments and parking lots, and to the west are a large city parking deck and altered historic as well as modern commercial buildings.

The relationship of buildings in the district to each other and to the streets is largely consistent with that typically found in the historic commercial centers of North Carolina's towns and cities. Most of the buildings are contiguous to each other or are separated, at most, by narrow alleys. The only exceptions to this are the Bell and Harris-Maxwell Brothers Furniture Store at 29 Cabarrus Avenue East, the Concord National Bank Drive-Thru (no address, Cabarrus Avenue East), and the small office building at 2 Church Street South, the last two of which are noncontributing resources in the district. All but one building in the district abuts the sidewalk; the exception is the ca. 1962 office building at 2 Church Street South, which is set several feet back from the sidewalk. Vegetation in the district is

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minimal. Shrubbery and small trees are located at 2 and 8 Church Street South and at 24 Cabarrus Avenue East.

Fourteen of the district's seventeen buildings are equally divided into one- and two-story structures. Of the remaining three buildings, two are three stories in height and one is six stories. Half of the buildings are three bays wide. The other half includes buildings of one, four, five, six, or more bays in width. All buildings in the district are constructed of or faced with brick, and ten of these have painted brick surfaces. The Concord National Bank-Hotel Concord (4-14 Union Street North) also has a substantial limestone base, and it and the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building (no address, Cabarrus Avenue East) have limestone decorative detailing. The Horton Building-Commerce and Merchants Building (23 Union Street North) has a band of travertine marble surrounding the facade. The most common decorative detailing in the district consists of simple brick borders, string courses, and panels. In contrast to this subtle decoration, the Concord National Bank-Hotel Concord has classical detailing on both exterior and interior, and the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building has modernistic Art Deco detailing. The quality of design exhibited in most of the district's buildings is simple and straightforward, although the Concord National Bank-Concord Hotel, the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building and, on the interior, the Cannon Building-Concord Theatre (9 Union Street North) all have sophisticated, stylish, high quality design.

Buildings in the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District range in date—at least in terms of what is visible at present—from ca. 1905 to 1952. Half of the buildings date either from the first decade of the twentieth century or from the 1920s. The remaining buildings that contribute to the historic architectural character of the district date from the 1910s, the 1930s, and 1952, while the three noncontributing buildings date from the 1960s and a 2000 remodeling of an earlier building.

Most of the buildings in the district display standard commercial design consisting of either stretcher bond or common bond brick facing with plain or slightly corbeled cornices and subtle decoration achieved solely through the brickwork. Typical decorative elements—found above the first story—include paneled brick corner pilasters, soldier course window lintels, soldier course horizontal and vertical bands, recessed brick panels, recessed panels ornamented with blocks of three or four bricks laid at different angles, and panels created simply by means of a brick border. The first floors of these buildings of standard commercial design generally consist of a central door—sometimes recessed—flanked by plate glass shop windows. Some of these buildings are larger—more than two stories and wider than four bays—and slightly more decorative. For example, both the Cannon Building-Concord Theatre and the Bell and Harris-Maxwell Brothers Furniture Store have ornamental white diamond-shaped blocks that contrast with the red brickwork. In addition, the former furniture store also has tall pilasters that divide the facade into three bays and a cornice that rises above the center bay in a

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stepped peak, while the Cannon Building-Concord Theatre has a tall, round-arched central entranceway.

The standard commercial design of the Cannon Building offers little suggestion of the richness of the Concord Theatre interior. The suggestion first appears after entering the Cannon Building, in the arcade leading from the street entrance to the theater entrance. The arcade features a decorative plaster cornice with dentils and original lighting fixtures that hang from ornamental plaster ceiling medallions. Although the theater has been significantly remodeled by the addition of a level floor over the original sloped floor of the auditorium and by the replacement of the balcony with a second story, it retains remarkable plasterwork in its ceiling and proscenium arch. Layers of decorative plaster in a multitude of classical motifs adorn projecting beams that create a coffered ceiling. A central dome, which contains an unusual metal grill ventilator with an elaborate plaster center medallion, is encircled by a band of heavily detailed plasterwork. The proscenium arch continues the use of this decoration.

In addition to the standard commercial design used with many of the district's buildings, two other styles popular for commercial buildings during the 1920s and 1930s are also found in the district. The 1926 Concord National Bank and Hotel Concord, the architectural centerpiece of the district, is a reflection of Beaux Art classicism. The stylistic focal point of the exterior is the tall first story of the corner bank. Sheathed in limestone, it features tall, round-arch-with-keystone windows set between Tuscan pilasters, the whole set on a wide base and headed by a classical cornice. While following the classical idiom, the remainder of the Union Street and Cabarrus Avenue elevations is elegantly simple, with rows of sash windows punctuating Flemish bond brick walls, brick corner quoins, and limestone string courses, cornices, and balustrade. The classical stylishness continues on the interior, where the tall banking room has a vaulted ceiling with pendentives along either side that rest on Corinthian capitals. The hotel boasts marble stairs, classical posts supporting a coffered ceiling, and a ballroom with a mantel, square posts and ceiling beams all decorated with classical motifs.

By contrast, the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building, whose facade is only six years younger than the Concord National Bank and Concord Hotel, is a clear, though restrained, example of the modern Art Deco style. The crisp design of the facade consists of red brick with limestone trim. Rhythmic brick pilasters capped with limestone stress verticality and rise above the limestone cornice with its geometric decoration.

The Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District achieved its significance between ca. 1905 and 1953. Sanborn maps show how the district evolved during that period. In 1906, dwellings stood on the sites of present-day 29 Cabarrus Avenue East, 2 Church Street South, and 23 Union Street North. A large livery stable stood in the center of the block on the north side of Cabarrus Avenue East, while a long horse shed occupied the south side of the street. Both sides of the street had a blacksmith shop. The present sites of 8 and 14 Church Street South were vacant. The early stages of some of the buildings on the west side of Union Street North and the north side of Cabarrus Avenue

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West were in place in 1906, and 14 Cabarrus Avenue East had been built. The Concord National Bank and the St. Cloud Hotel stood on the site of the present Concord National Bank-Hotel Concord building. By 1911, 16-20 Cabarrus Avenue East and both 8 and 14 Church Street South had been erected. By 1921, 24 Cabarrus Avenue East had replaced the remaining portion of the horse shed on that side of the street. By 1927, significant additions to the district included the new Concord National Bank-Hotel Concord building, the Cannon Building-Concord Theater, and the Bell and Harris-Maxwell Brothers Furniture Store. By 1947 the district had all of its current buildings except for the small office building at 2 Church Street South, the Concord National Bank Drive-Thru, and the office building at 23 Union Street North (which was added in 1952). However, a large livery sales stable remained on the north side of Cabarrus Avenue East until the mid-1950s, and free-standing automobile gas stations stood on the sites of the present bank drive-thru and the building at 2 Church Street South, both of which were constructed in the 1960s.

The general condition and the integrity of the buildings in the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District range from good to excellent. Typical of older commercial areas, many of the first-story storefronts were modernized in the mid-to-late twentieth century. The other most frequently seen alteration in some of the district's buildings is the change to windows. Several have been made smaller and several have been bricked-up. Mitigating these changes, however, is the fact that the original openings remain in place or clearly evident, so that the alterations could be reversed. There have been no apparent additions to buildings since the end of the period of significance (1953). Rehabilitations/restorations are currently being contemplated for several buildings, including the Bell and Harris-Maxwell Brothers Furniture Store and the Cannon Building-Concord Theatre. Of the seventeen buildings in the district, 82% contribute to the district's historic associations or historic architectural qualities for which the district is significant, while 18% do not. The noncontributing buildings include two that were erected in the 1960s and one where the facade was substantially altered in 2000. Despite the above-described changes to some of the district's buildings, the district still conveys to a great degree the appearance it had acquired by the end of the period of significance and retains integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

### Inventory List

The following inventory list provides basic information on all properties in the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District, including each property's name, location, date of construction, contributing or noncontributing status, and summary of its physical character and history. Historic names—based on the first known owner or use of a building or on a building's most historically significant owner or use—are used whenever possible. Properties are listed by their current address;

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however, if there is no current street number, the address is listed as "[no street number]" preceding the street name. Where appropriate, the current address is followed by former street numbers in parentheses, which should assist future researchers. Exact dates of construction are given when known, but when they are not, approximate dates, e.g. 1902-1906, are given based on information drawn from Sanborn insurance maps (1885, 1887, 1892, 1897, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1927, and 1927 updated to 1947) and city directories (1908, 1913-14, 1920-21, 1924-25, 1929-30, 1933, 1936-37, 1940, 1942, 1946, 1949, 1952, 1953-54, 1955, and occasional editions from 1957 through 2002). Buildings that add to the historic associations or historic architectural qualities for which the district is significant, were present during the period of significance, relate to the documented significance of the district, and possess historic integrity, or that independently meet the National Register criteria are contributing resources and are designated as such in the inventory list. Buildings that do not add to the district's historic associations or historic architectural qualities for which the district is significant; were not present during the period of significance; do not relate to the documented significance of the district; and due to alterations, additions, or other changes no longer possess historic integrity; or that do not independently meet the National Register criteria are noncontributing resources and are designated as such in the inventory list. While a parking lot is included in the inventory list, it is not counted as either a contributing or a noncontributing resource. Information given in the inventory is based primarily on a combination of the on-site survey conducted by the consultant in March, 2003, and on research with Sanborn Map Company insurance maps, city directories, and articles in the *Concord Times* newspaper. Refer to the bibliography for other resources.

The inventory is organized alphabetically by street (Cabarrus, Church, and Union) and numerically from lowest to highest-numbered street addresses. Cabarrus Avenue East is listed prior to Cabarrus Avenue West, and on Cabarrus Avenue East and Union Street North, even-numbered buildings are listed before odd-numbered buildings. Addresses are keyed to the district map.

## CABARRUS AVENUE EAST

### Commercial Building

14 (12) Cabarrus Avenue East  
1902-1906

Contributing building

This small, one-story commercial building is part of a row of storefronts known collectively as the Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Block. Located at the western end of the row, this store was the first to be built, between 1902 and 1906, and was originally used as a restaurant. The simple building has a

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central entrance, flanking shop windows, a transom, and a plain parapeted cornice that is slightly higher than the others in the row. The rear has a segmental-arched service door and segmental-arched windows, now bricked-up. A small addition projects on the west side of the building. In later years, the building housed a variety of commercial uses.

### **Commercial Building**

Contributing building

16-18-20 (14-16-18) Cabarrus Avenue East  
1906-1911

The remainder of the Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Block (see entry for 14 Cabarrus Avenue East) is composed of a row of three identical shopfronts, built between 1906 and 1911—shortly after number 14 and nearly identical to it. Each has a central entrance, flanking shop windows, a transom, and a plain parapeted cornice. The facade of number 16 is the most intact of the three. The rear of each, like number 14, has a central service entrance flanked by segmental-arched (and currently bricked-up) windows. Originally the three shopfronts were used as a grocery and a saloon, but they have served multiple commercial uses in subsequent years. The row was built on the site of a long horse shed.

### **Concord Telephone Company Warehouse**

Contributing building

24 (20-22) Cabarrus Avenue East  
ca. 1920

Around 1920, the Concord Telephone Company erected a two-story warehouse on the south side of Cabarrus Avenue East, across the street from the company's telephone exchange building. The warehouse continued to be used in that capacity until the mid-1950s, when the building was sold to the Yorke and Wadsworth Hardware Company (see 8 Church Street South). Since then it has served a variety of commercial purposes. The first-story storefront of the plain, two-story brick building has been altered with modern brick and glass and a hip-roofed canopy, but the second floor retains its flat brick surface and three segmental-arched windows. When built, the two-story warehouse was joined to a one-story brick building at the rear. The one-story building had been erected by 1885 as a blacksmith shop associated specifically with adjoining horse sheds and in general with the livery businesses located on the street in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The one-story blacksmith shop is still recognizable at the rear of the building, although a second story was added after the mid-twentieth century. It can be identified by a difference in brickwork, a vertical brick seam between it and the two-story warehouse building, and by a large segmental-arched doorway and two small segmental-arched windows, now bricked-up.

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**Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building** Contributing building  
[no street number] (9, 9-11, 11-13, 11-15, and 11) Cabarrus Avenue East  
1928; 1932; 1939

In terms of its present appearance, 1932 was the pivotal year in the history of the former Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building. However, the history of its construction is longer and more complex than a single date would imply. When the telephone company was organized in 1897, it rented a conference room in the rear of the Concord National Bank for its operations. In 1916 the telephone company erected its own two-story brick building behind the bank. Immediately east of the telephone company building stood the three-story brick annex to the St. Cloud Hotel, which stood on the site of the later Hotel Concord. While the second and third floors of the annex contained additional hotel rooms, the first floor was used as a "sample room," where "drummers" (salesmen) staying at the hotel could display their wares. In 1928, the telephone company extended its building approximately thirty feet to the rear (north) and rebuilt the whole. In 1931, the company purchased the adjacent hotel annex. The same year, the city proposed widening Cabarrus Avenue East from Union Avenue to Church Street, but to do this, it needed the front of the telephone company building to be moved back five feet. Thus, in 1932, the front five feet of the combined telephone company building and former hotel annex were removed and a new facade in the modern Art Deco style was erected. The final change to the form of the telephone company building came in 1939, when the hotel annex portion of the building was torn down, except for the 1932 facade, and a new structure—better suited to the needs of the telephone company—was built. In 1957, the Concord Telephone Company moved to a new building at 78 (later 68) Cabarrus Avenue East. The Concord National Bank purchased the former telephone company building and for several decades leased it to a variety of businesses, including those of architect George A. Griffin, the Shuford Insurance Agency, and the Burroughs Corporation.

The 1932 facade of the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building is a rare example of the Art Deco style in Cabarrus County. Composed of red brick with limestone trim, the two-story horizontal building is given a vertical emphasis through the use of rhythmic pilasters that divide the facade into eight bays and rise to a limestone cornice decorated with geometric motifs. Other decoration is achieved through the use of small white blocks, which "drip" down the two exterior and center pilasters and denote the corners of brick panels above the industrial-type metal-tilt windows. The partially remodeled storefront has three modern glass and metal entrances—replacements of the original recessed entrances—and plate glass windows set vertically between solid bases and a band of multi-paned transoms. The side and rear elevations are strictly utilitarian with plain brick walls and metal windows.

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### **Concord National Bank Drive-Thru**

Noncontributing building

[no street number] (19, 13) Cabarrus Avenue East  
1968

From at least 1892 to 1956 this site was occupied by the Brown livery and, later, livestock sales stables. Concord National Bank built its drive-thru banking facility here in 1968, and the building has continued in that use. The small brick structure reflects the Colonial Revival aesthetic, with pedimented gables, a cupola, and classical posts. The three drive-thru lanes are on the back of the building.

### **Parking Lot**

Behind and east of the bank drive-thru is a paved parking lot.

### **Bell and Harris-Maxwell Brothers Furniture Store**

Contributing building

29 (27-31) Cabarrus Avenue East  
1921-1924

From at least 1885 through 1921, a two-story frame dwelling stood on this site. In the early 1920s it was replaced with a three-story brick building that was one of the largest in Concord's central business district. For nearly a decade, the building was occupied by the Bell and Harris Furniture Company. By 1936 it had become the Maxwell Brothers and Collins Furniture Store, but between 1949 and 1952, Collins dropped out of the name. From then until 1984 it remained the Maxwell Brothers Furniture Store. From 1984 or 1985 through ca. 2000, the Heilig-Meyers Furniture Store occupied the building, which is currently unoccupied.

The massive building is simple in design, but is representative of the 1920s period during which it was constructed. Decorative design is focused on the south facade, with the other three elevations of the free-standing building being plain and utilitarian. All of the building's windows, except for the first-story facade show windows, have been infilled with brick, yet their size and placement remain clear. Other than the enclosed windows, the design of the facade's second and third floors remains intact. The facade is divided by brick pilasters into three bays, each with two windows. The brickwork of the center bay rises above the rest of the cornice line to form a stepped parapet. White diamond-shaped insets that provide a decorative contrast to the plain red brick walls are found at the top of the center parapet, the tops of the pilasters, and above the center of each third-floor window. The remodeled first-floor storefront is composed of a brick base, large show windows, a recessed central entrance, and a hip-

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roofed canopy. The east elevation has six windows on both the second and third floors, the north elevation has five window across the second and third floors and a concrete loading dock, and the west elevation has a row of six windows along the third floor. All of these windows are infilled with brick.

The interior of the former furniture store has expansive open floors. The first floor has paneled wood support posts and beams in the Colonial Revival style. A closed-string Colonial Revival stair rises in stages along the west wall of the building from the first to the third floors. The upper floors retain their beaded-board ceilings, and on the third floor, the wood flooring remains visible.

### CABARRUS AVENUE WEST

#### Commercial Building

Contributing building

8-10-14 (8-10-12, 8-12-14) Cabarrus Avenue West  
1902-1906; ca. 1930

From at least 1885-1902, this site was vacant. Sanborn maps show that between 1902 and 1906 a two-story brick commercial building was erected. It was divided into three sections for separate businesses, and a stair to the second floor was located between Nos. 8 and 10. Sanborn maps repeat this configuration for the building through 1927, but between 1927 and 1947, the configuration changed slightly, removing the original stair to the second floor and replacing it with an exterior stair located at the east end of the building alongside No. 8. This change was probably executed ca. 1930, along with a remodeled facade. From at least 1906-1975, present-day 10 Cabarrus Avenue West housed a series of restaurants. These included the New South Cafe, the New York Cafe (and Hotel), the Tip Top Sandwich Shoppe, and the Tip Top Cafe. A 1916 publication shows No. 10 as E. G. Martin's Cafe, although that name does not appear in the available city directories. A partial photograph of the building in that publication indicates the original appearance of the facade, with a shopfront, and on the second story, plain brickwork and a row of two-over-two sash windows with brick hood molds. The same publication carries an advertisement for the Hopkins Hotel at this location, presumably on the second floor. Present-day No. 8 has contained a variety of businesses, including a meat market, a confectionary, clothing shops, and a coal business. The upper portion of the east wall of the building, alongside No. 8, still bears a painted sign proclaiming "fuel and supplies." Present-day No. 14 also housed a variety of businesses, among which were a pool hall, an electrical business, and a clothing shop.

The two-story brick building of standard commercial design is eight bays wide and has three shopfronts.

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The ca. 1930 facade remodeling, in addition to moving the location of the second-floor stair, left the building with the appearance of two buildings—No. 8 and Nos. 10-14. No. 8 is slightly more decorative than Nos. 10-14. Plain, slightly projecting brickwork forms a border around the (remodeled) shopfront and the three second-floor windows (now covered with fake shutters). Above the windows is a band of patterned brickwork. The interior of No. 8 retains a simple pressed-metal ceiling on the first floor. Nos. 10 and 14 exhibit a continuous expanse of plain brickwork, varied only by soldier courses above the first-story shopfronts, above the second-floor windows—three on No. 10 and two on No. 14, all partially enclosed—and at cornice level. Above each window is an ironwork ventilator. The shopfront on No. 10 has been altered, but the shopfront on No. 14 probably dates from the ca. 1930 remodeling. It has a deeply recessed entrance with a glass transom above the door. The interior of No. 14 has a (now hidden) peaked skylight with chicken-wire glass on the second floor which may date from the ca. 1930 remodeling.

### Commercial Building

Contributing building

18 (14-16, 16-20, 16-18) Cabarrus Avenue West  
1902-1906; 1913-1920

Part of this two-story brick commercial building may have been built between 1902 and 1906, when the Concord Steam Laundry was built on what had been a vacant site. The front half of the laundry was two stories, but the rear ell was only one story. Between 1913 and 1920, the building—either through modifications to the steam laundry or through new construction—took on its present configuration as a two-story rectangular building. From at least 1920 through 1946, the building housed more than one business at a time, including the Automotive Battery and Electrical Company, the Hoover Hosiery Company (manufacturers on the second floor), the Great A & P Tea Company (grocery), Elizabeth's Smoke Shop, the Concord Bowling Alley, and the Silver Dome Cab Company (second floor). In 1946 one of the occupants was the H. E. Hall Furniture Company, and by 1949 Hall Furniture was the sole occupant. The building has remained a furniture store to the present, with Hall Furniture remaining until at least 1965. From at least 1975, the building has been occupied by Kimbrell's Furniture Exchange.

The building is a two-story, four-bay-wide, brick structure of standard commercial design. The facade is similar in design to that of the adjacent 10-14 Cabarrus Avenue West, with its expanse of plain brickwork, soldier courses above the four second-story windows (enclosed) and again at the cornice line, and small rectangular ventilators above the windows. The facade also has two slightly recessed panels along the upper facade between the ventilators and the cornice. The first floor of the facade is composed of a narrow central entrance flanked by large display windows. The west elevation, along an alley, has a

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row of segmental-arched windows (now bricked-up) on each story. Slightly more than halfway back the west side, there is a large, segmental-arched loading door whose archway and opening remain, but which has been made smaller with wood to accommodate a pedestrian door. Interestingly, this large arched opening fits within what had been an even larger segmental-arched opening. Arched windows and doors (now mostly enclosed) are still evident on the rear (north elevation) of the building. The interior consists of a large open space per floor. Stairs leading to the second floor are located along the west wall near the rear of the building. Changes in the second-floor ceiling are another suggestion that the building may date from different periods of building. At the front the building, the second-floor ceiling is beaded boards; the center section has a decorative pressed metal ceiling, and the rear has a modern dropped ceiling. The second floor retains its wood floor.

### CHURCH STREET SOUTH

#### Office Building

Noncontributing building

2 Church Street South  
ca. 1962

From at least 1885 to 1921, this site was occupied by a one-story frame dwelling. Soon thereafter, the house was replaced by a gas station that faced the corner, and this station or a replacement that faced Cabarrus Avenue East remained on the site until ca. 1960. By 1962 the present building had been erected. Occupied by the Concord-Kannapolis Savings and Loan Association until at least 1975, by 1985 it had become the home of its present occupant, the law firm of Koontz, Hawkins, and Nixon. The one-story brick building is Colonial Revival in style with its steep, truncated, hipped roof; corner brick quoins; projecting, pedimented entrance bay on Church Street South, and smaller hooded entrance on the rear facing a small parking area.

#### Yorke and Wadsworth Company Warehouse

Contributing building

8 (10, 8-10, 6-10, 10-12) Church Street South  
1908-1911

The Yorke and Wadsworth Company was established ca. 1886 to sell hardware, agricultural implements, machinery, wagons, buggies, fertilizers, paints, oils, and other related products. Nathan Felix Yorke (1853-1916) was president of the company. The retail store was located at 7 Union Street South. Between 1908 and 1911 the company erected a building for its warehouse and wholesale business on

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Church Street South. Around the same time, the company began to use the one-story brick building that had served for some years previously as a blacksmith shop and was later joined to the rear of the telephone company warehouse (see entry for 24 Cabarrus Avenue East). The three buildings were connected by way of the open space in the interior of the block. The Yorke and Wadsworth Company continued to operate until at least 1985; now the building on Church Street South houses several businesses.

The facade of the two-story brick, six-bay-wide building has a remodeled glass storefront with a central recessed entrance. The second story has a row of segmental-arched windows, now bricked-up and covered with shutters. A simple cornice carries across the top of the building. Both north and south elevations have star-shaped iron anchor bolts along the upper part of the wall. The north elevation has a row of second-story, segmental-arched windows, now bricked up, running from front to rear. The south elevation has three segmental-arched windows, which remain open, along only the rear of the building, since a one-story building adjoins the Yorke and Wadsworth Company building on the south side. The rear of the building retains its six segmental-arched windows at second-story height, all open, and a large segmental-arched central entrance, now made somewhat smaller. On the interior, the first floor has been remodeled, but the second floor has been little altered and retains its unfinished warehouse appearance. There are bare brick walls, a wood floor, exposed ceiling joists and wood roof decking, and support posts running down the center of the building from front to rear. The second story retains several interesting features. Because it is unfinished, the structural system supporting the roof, which—like many commercial buildings—slopes from front to rear, can be seen. A wide path running from front to rear and located just north of the line of center posts, has a double floor to better support the trolleys that transported the merchandise when ordered. A small wooden container holding orders for merchandise ran along pulley wires from the point where the order was taken to the point where the merchandise was gathered to fill the order. The company safe, painted with a landscape scene, the name of Yorke and Wadsworth, the name of the manufacturer, and other decorative detailing remains in the building.

**Lippard and Barrier Grocery**  
14 (12, 14-16) Church Street South  
1908-1911

Contributing building

The grocery firm of Lippard and Barrier was established in 1882 and built a local reputation for selling staple and fancy groceries, fresh country produce, fruits, tobacco, and other products. Between 1908 and 1911 the firm built this store on Church Street South, which it continued to occupy until at least 1955. Since then, the building has housed a variety of businesses. The Lippard and Barrier Grocery is a simple

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one-story brick commercial building typical of many erected during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Originally it was about half as long (front to rear) as the adjacent Yorke and Wadsworth building, but probably during the third quarter of the twentieth century, it was enlarged to its present length. The facade has a deeply recessed center entrance flanked by display windows and a slightly recessed brick panel running beneath the plain cornice. Scenic images of Concord have been painted in recent years on the south elevation.

### UNION STREET NORTH

#### Concord National Bank and Hotel Concord

Contributing building

4-14 (2-8) Union Street North  
1926

The Concord National Bank and Hotel Concord building is the architectural centerpiece of the district. Erected in 1926, the bank opened on May 29, while the hotel opened on June 10. The dual-purpose building was designed by New York architect William L. Stoddard, who designed other prominent hotels in the Southeast, including the Francis Marion in Charleston, the O. Henry in Greensboro, the Charlotte in Charlotte, the Poinsett in Greenville, South Carolina, and the George W. Vanderbilt in Asheville. The Hunkin-Conkey Construction Company of Cleveland was the contractor for the building, which cost more than \$400,000 to erect. The six-story bank and hotel was a larger, more elaborate, and more modern replacement of the three-story brick and granite building erected in 1888 to house the newly established Concord National Bank and St. Cloud Hotel. The St. Cloud Hotel replaced an earlier frame hotel that had stood on the site. The 1888 and 1926 buildings were organized in much the same way, in that the bank was located at the southwest corner of the building and was given particular architectural emphasis, while the hotel stretched along the remainder of the Union Street North facade. Organized under the leadership of John Milton Odell and Daniel Branson Coltrane, the Concord National Bank occupied this site during all of its nearly 100-year history—from 1888 to ca. 1984. Since then the building has housed the First Charter National Bank. When built, the Hotel Concord was considered the pride of the city. Not only did it supply superior accommodations for travelers, but its dining room and ballroom provided an excellent venue for the lunch meetings of local civic organizations as well as for a variety of social events in the community. The public spaces are still used in this way, although in recent years the hotel rooms have been converted to apartments.

Constructed of reinforced concrete and faced with brick and limestone, the building is designed in the

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Beaux Arts Classical Revival style. On the exterior, the first two floors—comprised of the bank on the corner and the hotel entrance, street-level shops, and hotel ballroom along the Union Street elevation—form the base of the building, separated from the upper hotel-room floors by a cornice. The bank section of the building, wrapping around the corner of Union Street North and Cabarrus Avenue East, is faced with ashlar limestone. Tall, round-arched windows are separated by Tuscan pilasters which rise to a classical frieze and cornice. On the Union Street North facade, the portion of the building north of the corner bank features first-floor shopfronts and the hotel entrance, all shaded by awnings, above which are six tall rectangular windows with stone balustrades across the bottom. Four original bronze lanterns on brackets hang between the windows. Above the base, the building consists of four floors of hotel (now apartment) rooms sheathed in Flemish-bond brick. Brick quoins define the corners of the building and the division between the bank and hotel. The last is more for the sake of architectural composition than to delineate a strict division between the bank and hotel, because the hotel rooms continue across the upper floors above the bank. A limestone string course runs along the building beneath the sixth floor, and the whole is capped by a parapeted cornice. The north and east (rear) elevations are plain brick and are strictly utilitarian in appearance.

The interior of the bank was remodeled in the early 1960s, but many original features remain intact. The tall banking room has a vaulted ceiling with pendentives on either side resting on paired Corinthian capitals. An original metal chandelier hangs from the center of the ceiling. It has a highly decorative, openwork medallion from which it hangs, and the lighting fixture itself is round like a wheel with decorative openwork metal, a single round bulb in the center, and round bulbs encircling the perimeter. The public interior spaces of the hotel are richly ornamented, sophisticated, and well-preserved. A patterned tile-work vestibule at the primary entrance opens to the marble stair with its ironwork balustrade that rises to the lobby and then continues on to the mezzanine. (There is a secondary stair, smaller but treated in the same manner, at the north end of the building). The lobby is a large space with a decorative tile floor laid in a grid of squares with a border. Square, paneled posts support a coffered ceiling which, in the adjacent dining room, contains large and unusual multi-paned skylights, which are no longer in use but are still intact. The paneled front desk is in the northeast corner of the lobby. Among other significant features of the lobby are the chandeliers, the mail chute and brass box, the mirrored elevator topped by a fan-shaped floor indicator, and the lion's head water fountain with its round-arched and tiled background. Overlooking the dining room is the balustraded mezzanine, which opens through a series a french doors to the ballroom. The ballroom stretches across the front of the hotel. It has a hardwood floor, boxed and paneled ceiling beams from which hang crystal chandeliers, paneled walls, an Adamesque mantel with a ceiling-height mirrored overmantel, and a balcony along the east wall above the mezzanine. Low-relief, classical motifs ornament the ceiling beams, frieze, and post

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capitals in the dining room.

### Commercial Building

Noncontributing building

1 Union Street North  
ca. 1895; ca. 1920s; 1960s; 2000

This one-story brick building may have been erected ca. 1895. The original appearance, with a central entrance and a fancy corbeled cornice, is seen in numerous documentary photographs from the early twentieth century, when it was part of long row of matching storefronts. However, the building has been significantly remodeled on several occasions. Its simple brick walls probably date from the late 1920s; the modern windows along the Cabarrus Avenue West elevation were added in the 1960s; and the present open, engaged corner, supported by classical posts and with a paneled frieze and pent eave, dates from 2000. The interior has been remodeled, but an earlier pressed metal ceiling remains hidden by the dropped ceiling. In 1916 the building was used as the Piedmont Cafe, which catered to the "traveling trade." Among other uses, prior to 1950, have been a dry goods store, a drugstore, a millinery and notions store, a jewelry store, and a barber shop.

### Star Theatre

Contributing building

3 (3-5) Union Street North  
ca. 1890; 1913-1920

This one-story building may have originated with the row of decorative one-story stores erected here ca. 1890. However, between 1913 and 1920 it was either significantly remodeled or rebuilt as the Star Theatre, the first of three motion picture theaters—with the adjacent Concord Theatre (9 Union Street North; in district) and, across the street, the now totally remodeled former Cabarrus Theatre (22 Union Street North; not in district)—that were erected in this block of Union Street North. The Star Theatre was advertised in the 1920-21 city directory as "Concord's Newest Theatre; Headquarters for High Class Motion Pictures; opposite St. Cloud Hotel." By the mid 1930s, the name of the theater had changed to the State Theatre and, as such, it continued in operation until at least 1955. The one-story brick building has a glass shopfront and recessed entrance that probably date from its conversion from a movie theater to a store. Above the shopfront, the plain brick facade is decorated only with brick soldier courses above the shopfront and at the cornice and with slightly projecting brickwork on the south end that gives the suggestion of a paneled pilaster that is balanced on the north end by the same treatment on the adjacent Cannon Building. Three small windows in the upper facade are said by a local theater historian to have lit the projection room. The interior has been remodeled.

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### **Cannon Building and Concord Theatre**

Contributing building

9 (11) Union Street North  
1920-1924; 1925

From ca. 1890 to the early 1920s, a row of small, one-story stores and offices occupied this site. Then, between 1920 and 1925 one of the most significant buildings in the district was erected. The building has two major parts. First to be built was the three-story, five-bay-wide, brick Cannon Building which faces the street. Its exact date of construction is not known, other than it was between 1920 and 1924, but it is probable that the building was built in 1923 or 1924, closer in time to the construction of the Concord Theatre behind it. Built by Joseph F. Cannon, the Cannon Building housed stores and other businesses on the first floor, including the Western Union office; offices on the second floor, particularly offices of doctors and dentists; and initially the Merchants and Manufacturers Club on the third floor. The third floor later held the Concord Lodge No. 1593 BPOE, as well as a variety of businesses. The first floor of the Cannon Building has a central arched entrance opening to the building's first-floor arcade, which runs east-west through the center of the building. The storefronts on either side of the entrance were altered in the 1970s, when bay windows were installed and the rest of the storefronts were enclosed with bricks. Above the storefronts, the facade remains largely intact with slightly projecting brick stringcourses, vertical bands of brick at the north and south edges of the building, white diamond-shaped accents centered below each set of windows and in corresponding locations beneath the cornice, and rectangular ventilators beneath each of the uppermost diamonds. Although the facade window openings remain the same, the windows themselves were altered in the 1970s to include four one-over-one sash where there had been three and, in the center bay, three one-over-one sash where there had been two. The north and south elevations at third floor height retain a row of one-over-one sash windows with segmental-arched heads. The first-floor interior was remodeled in the 1970s to create a series of "Colonial" style storefronts opening on the central arcade. Nevertheless, significant original features remain intact, including decorative pressed-metal ceilings above the added dropped ceilings, a decorative cornice with dentils in the arcade, original lighting fixtures with decorative plaster roundels where they hang from the ceiling, and an archway leading from the office building to the theater. The upper floors of the Cannon Building remain largely intact, with wide hallways, a Colonial Revival style stair, and offices with glass and wood doors and glass windows and transoms along the hallways. Some of the painted signs with the names of the offices' occupants survive.

The archway at the rear of the first floor of the Cannon Building leads to the Concord Theatre, and just past the arch are stairs on either side leading to what was the theater balcony. The theater's exterior cannot be seen from the street, and thus it is finished in plain brick. The theater space has been

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largely altered, in that the sloped auditorium floor is now hidden beneath a level floor added in the 1970s when the first floor was converted to shops. Also in the 1970s, the balcony was removed and a second floor added to create a restaurant space. However, remarkable plasterwork survives from the theater ceiling and proscenium arch, suggesting the original architectural caliber of the theater interior. Layers of decorative plasterwork in a multitude of classical motifs—such as anthemion, egg-and-dart, dentil, enriched talon, bead-and-reel, and other moldings—adorn projecting ceiling beams that create rectangular coffers. In addition, a band of heavily detailed plasterwork encircles the central dome with its unusual metal grill ventilator with an elaborate plaster center medallion. The dome held hidden recessed lighting, and the ventilator was part of a system that changed the air in the theater six times every ten minutes. The proscenium arch, which survives in what became the kitchen of the 1970s restaurant, is likewise richly ornamented with classically inspired plasterwork.

The Concord Theatre, owned by local capitalist J. A. Cannon, opened to the public on the evening of May 4, 1925. All of the theater's 700 seats were filled and people were turned away. The theater was intended to alternate between presenting moving pictures and vaudeville shows. The movie "Girl Shy," starring Harold Lloyd, was shown on opening night. The May 4, 1925, account of the opening in the *Concord Times* states that the theater was fireproof, having been constructed entirely of steel and concrete. A pipe organ, costing around \$8,500, had been secured and was to be installed. A theater marquee was to be positioned at the entrance to the Cannon Building arcade. The Concord Theatre was described as "palatial" and as "one of the city's newest and finest structures," built at a time when Concord was experiencing an unusual degree of construction activity. By 1936, the theater had become the Paramount Theatre, by 1952 it was the Center Theatre, and by 1975 it was the Cinema Theatre, shortly after which it closed.

### Corl Building

17-21 (17-19) Union Street North  
ca. 1890?; 1921-1927

Contributing building

Changes in the brickwork on the north side of this building coupled with information from the Sanborn insurance maps suggest that the first story of this building may date from as early as ca. 1890. The one-story building had a variety of occupants, including the post office and a doctor's office. However, the present two-story building dates from the mid-1920s. From at least 1929 through 1955, half of the first floor was occupied by M. R. Pounds, Cleaners and Dyers. For nearly that long, from at least 1929 through 1949, another part of the building was used by the DeLite Beauty Shop. By 1936 the building was listed in the city directory as the Corl Building, and it carried that name until at least 1975. The

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second floor housed a variety of offices. The street-level storefront of the Corl Building was remodeled ca. 1970 with metal-framed entrance and display windows. The three-bay-wide second story appears to be largely intact. Its plain brickwork is relieved only by a slightly recessed brick panel above the first-floor storefront, soldier-course string courses below and above the sash windows and at cornice line, and a paneled brick pilaster on the north side. Like the building at 3 Union Street North, it shares a matching pilaster on the south side with the Cannon Building. Small rectangular ventilators are located above each window near the top of the facade. The facade detailing of the Corl Building shares strong similarities with much of that found on the facades of the buildings at 1, 3, and 9 Union Street North and 10-14 and 18 Cabarrus Avenue West, strongly suggesting close ties in dates of construction and/or in the builders of these buildings.

### **Horton Building-Commerce and Merchants Building**

Contributing building

23 (21) Union Street North  
1952

In 1952, this building was listed as "under construction" in the city directory. By 1955 (the next available directory), it was listed as the Horton Building. Around 1963, the Concord-Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce purchased the building and was one of its primary occupants until the late 1990s. After 1963, the building was called the Commerce and Merchants Building and housed, on the first floor, the Chamber of Commerce, the Concord Merchants Association, and the Credit Bureau of Concord. A variety of offices occupied the second floor. After the Chamber sold the building, it became the offices of a group of attorneys. The two-story brick building was apparently very plain originally, with three eight-over-eight metal-frame sash windows across the second story of the facade and a row of six-over-six metal-frame windows on the second story of the side elevations. When the Chamber purchased the building, they remodeled the facade, adding a metal-grid and, presumably, the wide band of travertine marble that surrounds the facade and the recessed glass and metal first story. Around 1990, the Chamber removed the metal front, leaving the building with its present appearance. Canvas awnings now shade the first story of the facade and the second-story facade windows.

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### SIGNIFICANCE

#### Summary

Concord was established in 1796 as the seat of Cabarrus County, a county that remained almost exclusively rural until the late nineteenth century. After the Civil War, Concord became the major cotton market for the area, due in large part to the arrival of the North Carolina Railroad in 1856, and when there was a dramatic growth in the county's textile industry during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Concord was the primary beneficiary. The town exploded from a small county seat town of approximately 800 in 1870 to a city of nearly 8,000 in 1900. By 1930 Concord's population had risen to 12,000. Commerce, which expanded accordingly, was concentrated along Union Street.

A tight group of commercial buildings dating primarily from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, along with the 1875-76 courthouse, was listed in the National Register in 1997 as the South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District. Significant buildings located north of Cabarrus Avenue were not included in that district because they were separated from it by a large group of altered historic and modern buildings along Union Street South.

The Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District complements the 1997 district, continuing the story of Concord's commercial core and forming the north anchor to Concord's downtown. The district, located on Union Street North, Cabarrus Avenue East and West, and Church Street South, contains seventeen commercial buildings, eighty-two percent of which contribute to the historic architectural character of the district. The district contains the "square," the intersection of Union Street and Cabarrus Avenue, which is the center point in Concord from which the city's streets gain their directional labeling.

Commerce in the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Historic District during the first two decades of the twentieth century consisted primarily of small specialty stores, offices, restaurants, and a warehouse, many of whose simply-designed buildings survive. The district during those years was also home to the Concord Telephone Company Exchange, a thriving livery trade, the Concord National Bank, and the St. Cloud Hotel. The district's commerce during the 1920s reflected the general prosperity of the time and brought the construction of three of the district's most ambitious buildings—the six-story Concord National Bank-Hotel Concord that replaced the earlier bank-hotel building, the three-story Cannon Building-Concord Theatre, and the massive Bell and Harris-Maxwell Brothers Furniture Store that continued in that use until the turn of the twenty-first century. Although there was little construction in the district in the 1930s, its commerce continued to prosper during the Depression, largely because of the effect on the local economy of the highly successful Cannon Mills

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(textiles). Commerce in the 1940s continued apace, but there was no construction in the district during that decade, due in part to the materials needed to support the war effort. In 1952, the last building constructed during the district's period of significance was erected. For years the Horton Building-Commerce and Merchants Building housed the Concord-Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce and the Concord Merchants Association, a clear sign that this area of downtown Concord continued its vital role in local commerce. Because of its strong association with Concord's commercial history during the first half of the twentieth century, the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District fulfills Criterion A for listing in the National Register. The district also fulfills Criterion A because, for fifty years beginning in the 1920s, it was the town's center for theatrical and movie entertainment, experienced through the pre-eminent 1925 Concord Theatre and the much smaller, but older, Star Theatre.

Most of the buildings in the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District reflect simple standard commercial design. However, three buildings are of individual architectural distinction, so that the district also meets Criterion C for listing in the National Register because of its architectural significance. Two of these buildings were erected in the 1920s and exhibit classical designs. The Concord National Bank and Hotel Concord, located at the northeast corner of Union Street North and Cabarrus Avenue East, is the architectural centerpiece of the district. Designed in Beaux Arts classicism by prominent New York architect William L. Stoddard, the six-story Flemish bond brick and ashlar limestone building opened in 1926. It not only retains a well-preserved exterior, but its interior—particularly that of the hotel—is one of the most sophisticated and richly detailed in the city. The palatial Concord Theatre, at the rear of the Cannon Building, opened to great acclaim on May 4, 1925. Although the interior of the theater has been altered, it retains a spectacular ceiling with the most outstanding plasterwork in the county. Layers of richly detailed plaster moldings in a multitude of classical motifs decorate the central dome, the projecting ceiling beams, and the proscenium arch. The third building of individual architectural significance is the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building, whose well-preserved 1932 facade is a rare example of the modernist Art Deco style in Cabarrus County. Composed of red brick with limestone trim with rhythmic pilasters and decorated with simple geometric motifs, the building is one of only three primary examples of the style in the county, the other two being in Kannapolis.

The period of significance for the locally significant Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District spans the years from ca. 1905—when 14 Cabarrus Avenue East, the oldest building that retains its original design, was erected—to 1953, just after the last contributing resource—the 1952 Horton Building-Commerce and Merchants Building—was erected and when commerce in the district continued to thrive. It includes the dates of construction of the three

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individually significant resources—the 1925 Concord Theatre, the 1926 Concord National Bank and Hotel Concord, and the 1932 facade of the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building.

### Historical Background and Commerce, Entertainment, and Architecture Contexts

Cabarrus County, in the southwestern section of North Carolina's Piedmont, was formed in 1792 out of the triangular northeastern portion of Mecklenburg County. Four years later, Concord was established near the center of Cabarrus County to serve as the county seat. From its founding through much of the nineteenth century, Cabarrus County was almost exclusively rural in character. After the Civil War, with rail service afforded by the recently completed North Carolina Railroad, Concord became the major cotton market in the area. Then, with the dramatic growth of the county's textile industry during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Cabarrus was transformed into a predominantly urban county, with Concord as the center of government, industry, and commerce and the primary place of residence for the county's industrial and business leaders and professional class. With the wealth generated by textiles, Concord exploded from a small community of approximately 800 inhabitants in 1870 to a city of nearly 8,000 in 1900. By 1930 its population had risen to 12,000 (Kaplan, x-xi, 24, 41).

Concord, in particular, was affected by the spectacular development of the textile industry in the county. There was a corresponding expansion in wholesale and retail trade, and textile-produced wealth was spent on impressive public and private buildings. Concord's early commerce was concentrated along Union Street, and by 1900 masonry buildings stood, nearly uninterrupted, along the block running from Depot Street southward to the courthouse at the corner of Union Street and Means Avenue and, to a lesser degree, north of Depot Street and south of the courthouse. (Until the mid-1960s, Cabarrus Avenue was called Depot Street due to its direct connection to the railroad depot that was located west of the central business district.) (Kaplan, 41-42).

In 1997, the South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District was placed on the National Register. In addition to including the 1875-76 Cabarrus County Courthouse and buildings associated with Concord's city government, that district includes masonry commercial buildings—many with ornamented facades—located primarily along the west side of Union Street South between Cabarrus Avenue and Corban Avenue. More than half of that district's fourteen buildings were erected between 1875-76 (courthouse) and 1910. When the nomination for the South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District was prepared, it was recognized that some historically significant buildings stood along Cabarrus Avenue and Union Street North. However, these buildings were not included in the 1997 district because they were separated from it by a large group of heavily altered historic and

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modern buildings along Union Street South between the north edge of the 1997 district and Cabarrus Avenue.

The Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District complements the South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District, continuing the story of Concord's commercial core and forming the north anchor to Concord's downtown. Although there are similarities between the two districts, there are also differences that distinguish the two. Like the South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District, the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District contains a group of retail commercial buildings, but architecturally their facades are, on the whole, considerably less decorative than those to the south, being fairly simple examples of standard commercial design. Both districts contain office buildings and a substantial bank building. However, unlike the South Union Street commercial district, this district contains what was, historically, Concord's primary hotel. In addition, for about fifty years, beginning in the 1920s, it was the town's center for theatrical and movie entertainment, containing the pre-eminent Concord Theatre as well as the much smaller Star Theatre. A third theater, the Cabarrus (late 1930s-1977), was located just outside the district to the north but was not included in the historic district, because the building's facade was completely rebuilt in a different style and for a different use around 1980 (Connor Interview). The South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District developed around the 1875-76 Cabarrus County Courthouse. The Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District developed around the intersection of Union Street and Cabarrus Avenue, the center point in Concord from which the city's streets gain their directional labeling.

The general development as well as much of the specific details of the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District can be traced by means of the Sanborn maps and city directories for Concord. None of the buildings currently located in the district had been erected prior to the 1890s, although a blacksmith shop on the south side of East Depot Street shown on Sanborn maps from as early as 1885 was later incorporated into the ca. 1920 Concord Telephone Company Warehouse. Instead, there were several small businesses, scattered one and two-story dwellings, a livery stable and, at the northeast corner of Union and Depot streets, the large Central Hotel, a forerunner of the Hotel Concord. There was little change during the 1890s and continuing through at least 1902, except that the Central Hotel had been replaced by the three-story brick St. Cloud Hotel and Concord National Bank, a large livery stood on the north side of East Depot Street, and there were several additional, mostly one-story, commercial buildings. The buildings currently located at 1 and 3 Union Street North may have originated during this period, but if so, their current appearances date from considerably later.

East Depot Street became an important location for the livery trade and related businesses in Concord, and the livery shown on the 1902 Sanborn map remained on site—changing to a livestock sales

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stable by the early 1920s—until the early 1950s. In the early years, it was accompanied by an adjacent blacksmith shop, a veterinary surgeon, and across the street, hitching sheds and another blacksmith shop. A defining moment illustrating the changing times came in the early 1930s, when an automobile service station was built just west of the livestock sales stables. The old and the new continued, side by side, until the livestock sales business finally left the downtown scene in the mid-twentieth century (Sanborn maps, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1927, 1927 updated to 1947; City Directories, 1908-1955).

The 1906 Sanborn map shows additional commercial development in the district, along with the continued presence of the hotel-bank, livery stable, horse sheds and blacksmith shop on the south side of East Depot Street, and dwellings. Between 1902 and 1906, several of the district's current buildings had been erected. These include the one-story building at 14 Cabarrus Avenue East, originally used as a restaurant, the two-story building at 8-14 Cabarrus Avenue West, and possibly part of the building currently standing at 18 Cabarrus Avenue West. However, the Cabarrus Avenue West buildings apparently acquired their current facades (notwithstanding recent modifications) in the 1920s or early 1930s. Of standard commercial design, they bear similarities to building facades of the same period on Union Street North. The building at 8-14 Cabarrus Avenue West is divided into three storefronts and housed a series of restaurants and a variety of businesses, including a meat market, a confectionary, clothing shops, a pool hall, and a coal business. For a short while in the 1910s, part of the second floor housed the Hopkins Hotel. The building at 18 Cabarrus Avenue West began as a steam laundry. Between ca. 1920 and the mid-1940s, its occupants included a battery and electrical company, a hosiery manufacturer on the second floor, a grocery, a bowling alley, a smoke shop, and a cab company—several at the same time. By 1946, however, the Hall Furniture Company had begun to occupy part of the building, expanding to the entire building by 1949. Since then, the building has remained a furniture store—Hall's Furniture Store until ca. 1970, and Kimbrell's since then (Sanborn maps, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1927, 1927 updated to 1947; City Directories, 1908-1975).

The small brick building at 14 Cabarrus Avenue East was soon followed (by 1911) by a nearly identical building housing present-day 16-18-20 Cabarrus Avenue East. Of standard commercial design, this simple but well-preserved row is sometimes referred to as the Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Block. Built on the site of the earlier horse hitching shed, the block has, through the years, housed a variety of small shops and offices (Sanborn maps, 1906, 1911; City Directories, 1913/14-1952).

Around 1910, two more of the district's buildings were erected adjacent to each other on Church Street South. The Yorke and Wadsworth Company Warehouse at 8 Church Street South is a large, two-story brick structure—typical of many buildings of standard commercial design erected during the early twentieth century—with segmental-arched windows, a simple cornice, and a roof that slopes from front to rear. It was erected as a wholesale and warehouse support building for the Yorke and Wadsworth

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Company, whose retail building was located on the east side of Union Street South. The company sold hardware, agricultural implements, machinery, wagons, buggies, fertilizers, paints, oils, and other related products. Although the first floor of the warehouse building has been altered to serve other commercial uses, the second floor remains largely intact, exhibiting its unfinished warehouse appearance and devices that made the functioning of the warehouse easier. The Yorke and Wadsworth business continued to occupy the building until at least 1985. Adjacent to the Yorke and Wadsworth building, a one-story brick store was erected at 14 Church Street for the Lippard and Barrier Grocery, which acquired a reputation for selling staple and fancy groceries, fresh produce, fruits, tobacco, and other similar products. Although established at another location in 1882, the Lippard and Barrier business occupied this building from ca. 1910 until at least 1955 (Sanborn maps, 1906, 1911; City Directories, 1913/14-1985).

An event of importance to the growth of the district, as well as to Concord's downtown as a whole—although no physical evidence of it survives—occurred early in the twentieth century. In 1908, the city issued a franchise to Philadelphians James and David Barrier for a street railway in Concord. For a brief period during the early 1890s, a rail line with a steam locomotive had transported freight from the railroad depot eastward along Corbin Street to Union Street South, from where it had headed northward to the Odell Manufacturing Company at the north end of Union Street. Several spurs connected the main line with the loading docks at the rear of the commercial buildings along Union Street. This "dummy line," as it was called, is shown only on the Sanborn map of 1892 (Kaplan, 73; Sanborn maps, 1887, 1892, 1897). Nearly two decades later, such a venture was again attempted, this time primarily to carry passengers from the railroad depot along Depot Street West to the "square" at the intersection of Depot and Union streets, and from there, with the help of a switch, along Union Street North and South. This was an Edison Electric Company battery-operated streetcar, and with local residents packing the rail car, it made its inaugural run on April 24, 1911. From the beginning, however, the streetcar experienced a multitude of mechanical problems, not the least of which was that the batteries had to be recharged frequently and sometimes were exhausted before the car completed its daily run, leaving the passengers to get out and push the car to its nearest recharging point. Not surprisingly, that first car was replaced in 1912 by a more traditional trolley car. Service continued until 1922, by which time automobiles had become a permanent and increasingly more popular fixture in the Concord landscape. Although the trolley line ceased in 1922, the rails remained in place until 1942, when the city removed them to provide materials for the war effort (Horton, *A Century of Progress*, 45-47).

At some point between 1913 and 1920, the Star Theatre was erected, or resulted from the substantial remodeling of a ca. 1890 building, at 3 Union Street North. Although it could not claim to be

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the oldest motion picture theater in town—an earlier one had been located at 20-22 Union Street South by 1911—the Star was the first of three theaters once located on Union Street in the first block north of Depot Street (Cabarrus Avenue). In the 1920-21 city directory it was advertised as "Concord's Newest Theatre; Headquarters for High Class Motion Pictures; opposite St. Cloud Hotel." By the mid 1930s it had become the State Theatre, and under that name it operated until at least 1955. The Star was a small, one-story theater, dwarfed by the later Concord Theatre next door, but nevertheless an important part of Concord's, and the district's, entertainment scene (City Directories, 1908, 1913-14, 1920-21; Sanborn maps, 1911, 1921).

Nearly one-third of the district's buildings were erected in the 1920s, a time of obvious prosperity in Concord as elsewhere. Three relatively simple buildings of standard commercial design were erected during the decade—two on Cabarrus Avenue East and one on Union Street North. The first of these, built ca. 1920, was the Concord Telephone Company Warehouse at 24 Cabarrus Avenue East. When built, the two-story brick building with segmental-arched windows on the second story incorporated a one-story brick former blacksmith shop that had stood at the rear of the site since at least 1885.

In the early 1920s, a massive three-story brick building—one of the largest in the district—was erected at 29 Cabarrus Avenue. From the time of its construction until ca. 2000, the building was used as a furniture store that acted, during the second half of the century, as a bookend at the east end of the district balancing the furniture store located at 18 Cabarrus Avenue West at west end of the district. During approximately its first decade, the building was occupied by the Bell and Harris Furniture Company. By 1936 it had become the Maxwell and Collins Furniture Store, but from ca. 1950 until 1984 it was simply the Maxwell Furniture Company. From then until ca. 2000 it was the Heilig-Meyers Furniture Store. Although a relatively simple building, it has more flair than do the one and two-story buildings of standard commercial design in the district. The design of the facade's second and third stories includes brick pilasters that rise above the cornice line and a center bay that rises to form a stepped parapet. The interior of the former furniture store retains its original Colonial Revival detailing, seen in the paneled wood support posts and beams of the first floor and in the closed-string stair that rises in stages from the first floor through the third.

The third in this group of relatively simple 1920s' buildings of standard commercial design is the Corl Building at 17-21 Union Street North. The facade detailing of this two-story brick building is very similar to that found on the facades of the buildings at 1, 3, and 9 Union Street North and 10-14 and 18 Cabarrus Avenue West, suggesting close ties in dates of construction and/or in builders. From at least 1929 through 1955, the building was occupied in part by a dry cleaning business, and for nearly that long, the DeLite Beauty Shop occupied another part. By 1936 it was known as the Corl Building,

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retaining that name until at least 1975. The second floor housed a variety of offices (Sanborn maps, 1911, 1921, 1927; City Directories, 1920/21-1995).

In addition to these three buildings of standard commercial design, the 1920s also saw the construction of two buildings in the district of individual architectural distinction—the Cannon Building-Concord Theatre and the Concord National Bank and Hotel Concord. The Cannon Building at 9 Union Street North was erected in the early 1920s, most likely around 1924, replacing a row of small, one-story stores and offices that had occupied the site since ca. 1890. The three-story, brick, five-bay-wide Cannon Building, built by Joseph F. Cannon, housed stores and other businesses on the first floor and offices—particularly doctors' and dentists' offices—on the second floor. The third floor initially held the Merchants and Manufacturers Club and later the Concord Lodge No. 1593 BPOE, as well as a variety of offices. Except for the tall, round-arched central entrance, the first-story storefront of the Cannon Building has been altered, but the upper two floors remain largely intact, providing another example of standard commercial design in the district. Although the first floor interior of the Cannon Building was modified in the 1970s, significant original features survive, including decorative pressed-metal ceilings (above the added dropped ceilings) and the central arcade with its decorative dentiled cornice and light fixtures hanging from decorative plaster ceiling medallions. The upper-floor interiors remain largely intact, with wide hallways, a Colonial Revival stair, and offices with glass and wood doors and glass windows with transoms along the hallways. The Cannon Building, which fronts on Union Street, opens to the Concord Theatre through an archway at the rear of its central arcade. Although the theater auditorium was remodeled in the 1970s, creating two floors with shops on the first floor and a restaurant on the second floor, the spectacular ceiling with remarkable plasterwork survives, along with the decorative plaster proscenium arch, giving proof to the outstanding original appearance of the theater interior. Here classicism reigns, with layers of decorative plaster moldings in a multitude of classical motifs adorning the projecting ceiling beams that create rectangular coffers. In addition, similar decorative plasterwork encircles the central dome with its unusual metal grill ventilator that bears an elaborate plaster medallion at the center. The classical decorative plaster of the Concord Theatre is the most outstanding in the county.

Owned by J. A. Cannon, the Concord Theatre opened to the public on May 4, 1925, with much fanfare. All 700 seats were filled and people were turned away for the opening showing of the movie "Girl Shy," starring Harold Lloyd. The fireproof theater was intended to alternate between the presentation of motion pictures (initially silent films accompanied by a pipe organ) and vaudeville shows. Described as "palatial," the Concord Theatre (in later years known successively as the Paramount Theatre, the Center Theatre, and the Cinema Theatre) dwarfed the one-story Star Theatre next door at 3 Union Street North, and yet the two continued to function side by side until the mid-

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1950s. The former Cabarrus Theatre at 22 Union Street North (excluded from the district because its facade was rebuilt ca. 1980 for the building's new use as a banking facility) shared the movie-going public with the Concord Theatre and the Star Theatre beginning in the late 1930s. Located so close together, the three theaters made this block of Union Street North the entertainment center of Concord for many years (Sanborn maps, 1921-1927; City Directories, 1921-1975; *Concord Times*, May 4 and May 7, 1925).

The 1926 Concord National Bank and Hotel Concord, located at the northeast corner of Union Street North and Cabarrus Avenue East (4-14 Union Street North), is the architectural centerpiece of the district. The only building in the district known to have been designed by an architect, the bank-hotel was designed by prominent New York architect William L. Stoddard. He designed other significant hotels in the southeast, including the Francis Marion in Charleston, the O. Henry in Greensboro, the Charlotte in Charlotte, the Poinsett in Greenville, South Carolina, and the George W. Vanderbilt in Asheville. The Concord National Bank-Hotel Concord, whose construction cost more than \$400,000, was a larger, more elaborate, and more modern replacement of the 1888 three-story brick and granite building that had housed the Concord National Bank and the St. Cloud Hotel.

Faced with brick and limestone, the six-story Concord National Bank-Hotel Concord building represents the Beaux Arts Classical Revival, a style that was especially popular for banks constructed in the United States during the 1910s and 1920s. Only one other building in Concord—the 1923-1924 Cabarrus Bank and Trust Building at 57 Union Street South in the South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District—compares with the landmark Concord National Bank and Hotel Concord in size, mid-1920s construction, and architectural style. Wrapping around the corner of Union Street North and Cabarrus Avenue East, the bank portion of the building is emphasized through its use of ashlar limestone facing with tall, round-arched windows separated by Tuscan pilasters which rise to a full classical cornice. The remainder of the street facades of the reinforced-concrete building is sheathed with Flemish bond brickwork with limestone detailing that includes balustrades across the base of the hotel ballroom windows, a cornice above the ballroom windows that aligns with the bank cornice, and a parapeted cornice along the top of the building.

The interior of the building continues the classicism of the exterior. The bank retains its vaulted ceiling with pendentives resting on paired Corinthian capitals along with other classical details. The hotel's public spaces are richly ornamented and sophisticated. Of particular interest are the patterned tile-work floors; the marble stairs with ornamental ironwork balustrades; the paneled posts that support the coffered ceiling; the unusual skylights in the dining room; the balustraded mezzanine; and the large, elegant ballroom across the front of the building. Together, these features make for one of the most outstanding interiors in Concord.

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With much fanfare, the bank and hotel opened on May 29 and June 10, 1926, respectively. Organized by John Milton Odell and Daniel Branson Coltrane, the Concord National Bank occupied this corner site throughout its nearly 100-year history, from its founding in 1888 until ca. 1984, when it was replaced by the First Charter National Bank, which continues to occupy the space. One of the most significant community projects in Concord's history prior to the mid-twentieth century, the Hotel Concord was the pride of the city. Like similar fine hotels built in other cities in North Carolina in the 1920s, it was considered an important contributor to the city's image. Not only did it supply luxuriously appointed accommodations for travelers, but with its dining room and ballroom, it quickly became a favored site for the luncheon meetings of various local civic organizations, banquets, receptions and other social events in the community. The hotel's public spaces continue to be used in this way, although in recent years the hotel rooms have been converted to apartments (Sanborn maps, 1921, 1927; *Concord Times*, May 7, 1925 and February 8, May 31, June 10, June 14, and June 17, 1926).

A third building of individual architectural distinction in the district is the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building, located on the north side of the first block of Cabarrus Avenue East. In contrast to the classicism of the Concord National Bank-Hotel Concord, this building is a clear, though restrained, example of the modern Art Deco style. Instead of looking to the past via the various classical revival styles, its design looked to the future. Although the building was cobbled together over some years, its current facade dates from 1932. Composed of red brick with limestone trim, the two-story building has a vertical emphasis achieved through the use of rhythmic pilasters that divide the facade into eight bays and rise to a limestone cornice decorated with geometric motifs. The Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building is architecturally significant as a rare example of the modern Art Deco style in Cabarrus County. Characterized by the use of geometric or abstracted plant-like decorative motifs applied to building surfaces, the Art Deco style became popular for commercial architecture in America in the 1920s and continued to be built through the 1940s. It enjoyed only limited popularity in Cabarrus County, with only three primary examples, including the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building. The other two examples are in Kannapolis and include the late 1930s Professional Building—a three-story structure with vertical pilasters and a raised central parapet with geometric motifs—and the 1938 Gem Theatre, the most ornate example of the style with an abstracted plant-like motif decorating the tops of pilasters and panels beneath the second-story windows on the facade and a wealth of modernistic detailing on the interior (Horton, *A Century of Progress*. 53-54, 67, 78; *Progress Magazine*, 4-5, 7; Kaplan, 43-44, 158; Sanborn maps, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1927, 1927 updated to 1947).

Concord's economy and that of neighboring Kannapolis during the 1930s was quite different from that experienced by most towns and cities during the Depression. This was largely the result of the phenomenal success of Cannon Mills. Unlike many Southern textile firms that produced yarn or cloth

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that was then shipped elsewhere to be finished, Cannon Mills was able to produce textile products from start to finish. Cannon Mills continued to expand in the 1930s, hiring thousands of additional workers. In 1933 Fortune magazine called Cannon Mills "the most secure, if not the greatest textile corporation in the South" (Kaplan, 60). Employed workers had money to spend, supporting local commerce. And while Kannapolis's population was rapidly approaching that of Concord, Concord remained the home of the county's most affluent citizens and retained its important role as the area's principal center of government, business and finance (Kaplan, 43). Evidence of Concord's continued prosperity can be seen in the construction of the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building's Art Deco facade in 1932, further construction on the rear of that building in 1939, the early 1930s' construction of the Watch Repair Shop at 34 Union Street South (in the South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District), and the construction of several substantial dwellings in the town during the decade (Phillips, 10; Kaplan, 91). In the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District, the 1930s brought continued signs of the conversion of the favored mode of transportation from horses to automobiles. While a livery/livestock sales business continued to function on the north side of the first block of Cabarrus Avenue East, an automobile gas station was built just west of it in the early years of the 1930s. An earlier filling station had been erected at the southwest corner of Cabarrus Avenue East and Church Street South in the early 1920s. (These gas stations no longer survive.) (Sanborn Maps, 1921, 1927, 1927 updated to 1947; City Directories, 1920-21, 1924-25, 1929-30, 1936-37, 1946, 1952, 1955, 1965).

No major construction occurred in the district from the 1930s' work on the Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building until the Horton Building-Commerce and Merchants Building was erected in 1952. Interestingly, the same was true of the South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District, where no buildings were constructed between the early 1930s Watch Repair Shop and the 1957 City Hall Annex (Phillips, 7, 10). An explanation for this may lie in the fact that during the first half of the 1940s, the United States was at war, and during those years construction was minimized because of the war effort with its need for many building materials.

The last building erected in the district during the period of significance was the Horton Building-Commerce and Merchants Building located at 23 Union Street North. Around 1963 the Concord-Cabarrus County Chamber of Commerce purchased the building and remained a primary occupant until the late 1990s. Other occupants after the Chamber acquired the building were the Concord Merchants Association and the Credit Bureau of Concord on the first floor and a variety of offices on the second floor. When originally built, the structure was a very simple example of standard commercial design. However, when the Chamber purchased the building, they remodeled the facade, adding a metal grid and a wide band of travertine marble that surrounded the grid and the recessed glass

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and metal first story. Around 1990 the Chamber removed the metal front, leaving the travertine band to surround the original facade (City Directories, 1952-1995, including p. xiv of 1985; Ramseur Interview).

Only two buildings have been added to the district since the end of the period of significance in 1953. Both are small, Colonial Revival-inspired structures erected in the 1960s. The first is the building at 2 Church Street South that replaced a freestanding gas station. It was erected ca. 1962 to serve as the Concord-Kannapolis Savings and Loan; since at least 1985 it has been occupied by a law firm. The other building was erected, along with a parking lot, on the north side of Cabarrus Avenue East in 1968, on the site of the livery/livestock sales building and automobile service station. Built as the Concord National Bank Drive-Thru facility, it continues as the drive-thru for the present First Charter National Bank (City Directories, 1959-1962, 1967-1970, 1985).

Subsequent to the construction of these buildings in the 1960s, there has been little physical change of significance in the district, except for the creation, ca. 2000, of an open, engaged corner supported by classical posts headed by a paneled frieze and pent eave at the one-story building at 1 Union Street North. Currently, the district's buildings are generally well-maintained. There are no on-going restoration or rehabilitation projects, although several are poised to begin in the near future.

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying Cabarrus County Tax Map 562008, drawn to a scale of 1" = 100'.

#### Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District is drawn to include the most cohesive group of historic commercial buildings erected during the district's period of significance, ca. 1905-1953, in this part of downtown Concord. Fourteen of the seventeen buildings encompassed by the boundary contribute to the historic and architectural character of the district, forming an entity distinguishable from its surroundings. The Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District serves as a complement to the Union Street South Courthouse and Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register in 1997 and located just south of the district but separated from it by a group of severely altered historic buildings and modern buildings so that it was not appropriate to treat them as a single district.

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1) Union Street North-Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District
- 2) Concord, Cabarrus County, North Carolina
- 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 4) March, 2003
- 5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 6-7) A: North side Cabarrus Avenue West and East, view to northeast  
B: South side Cabarrus Avenue East, view to east  
C: North side Cabarrus Avenue East, view to northeast  
D: Concord Telephone Company Exchange Building, north side Cabarrus Avenue East, view to west  
E: Bell and Harris-Maxwell Brothers Furniture Store, 29 Cabarrus Avenue East, view to north  
F: West side Church Street South, view to northwest  
G: West side Union Street North, view to south  
H: Concord National Bank and Hotel Concord, 4-14 Union Street North, view to north



