

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If 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 Uptown Lexington Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Main St. bet Third Ave. & Second St. not for publication

city or town Lexington vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Davidson code 057 zip code 27293

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.)

Jeffrey G. Crowe SHPO 4/4/96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Uptown Lexington H. D.
Name of Property

Davidson Co., NC
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.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
52	12	buildings
3	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
56	12	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution
GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/post office
DOMESTIC/hotel
LANDSCAPE/square

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse
RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum
LANDSCAPE/square

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style
MID-19TH CENTURY: Classical Revival
Renaissance Revival
Neo-classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone
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.)

Uptown Lexington H. D.
Name of Property

Davidson Co., NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Politics and Government

Period of Significance

1824-1946

Significant Dates

1824

1856-58

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Dudley, George and Ashley, William

Barber, George F.

Taylor, James Knox

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Uptown Lexington H. D.
Name of Property

Davidson Co., NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.5 acres

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

1

1	1	7
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5	6	7	4	6	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	6	4	6	8	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3

1	1	7
---	---	---

5	6	7	2	6	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	6	4	1	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone

Easting

Northing

Zone

Easting

Northing

2

1	1	7
---	---	---

5	6	7	6	2	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	6	4	5	4	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

4

1	1	7
---	---	---

5	6	7	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	6	4	3	0	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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

organization (consultant for) Uptown Lexington, Inc. date March 5, 1996

street & number 637 N. Spring Street telephone 910/727-1968

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 _____

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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Davidson County, North Carolina

7. DESCRIPTION:

The Uptown Lexington Historic District constitutes the historic core of Lexington's commercial and governmental center. Situated roughly along Main Street between Third Avenue and Second Street, the district is made up of sixty-eight resources, including sixty-four buildings, three sites, and one object. Eighty-eight percent of the resources are commercial in nature. Of those which aren't, two are the former Davidson County Courthouse and the former United States Post Office, now used as the county history museum and the county arts center; three are the park-like quadrants of the Courthouse Square; and one is the Confederate Monument. Sixty-eight percent of the resources date from ca. 1890 to ca. 1930, and the rest are fairly evenly distributed among the periods prior to 1890, 1930-1946, and post 1946. Eighty-two percent of the resources in the Uptown Lexington Historic District contribute to its historic character, reflecting its 1824-1946 period of significance. One property, the former Davidson County Courthouse, is already listed in the National Register.

The Uptown Lexington Historic District is a tightly-knit historic urban commercial space that is distinguished from its surroundings in several ways. Outside the boundaries of the district the character of the buildings and the urban space changes. South of Third Avenue, the buildings become more spaced out and consist largely of churches, modern service stations, and generally non-contributing buildings. The east side of S. Main Street between Second and Third Avenues was excluded from the district because all but one of these buildings, in their current form, do not contribute to the historic character of the district because of post-1946 construction dates or substantial alterations. East of Marble Alley, the buildings become more recent and more spread out, merging with industrial areas. West of Greensboro Alley/LSB Plaza, buildings become more spread out and more recent, and the commercial and governmental buildings here quickly give way to residential areas. North of Second Street, the commercial fabric along N. Main Street becomes considerably more spread out and, for the most part, more recent in date of construction. There are several good 1920s-1930s commercial buildings as well as the remodeled mid-nineteenth-century jail in this area, but these buildings are too separated from the main body of the district by more recent non-contributing buildings and open spaces to warrant their inclusion in the district.

The layout of the Uptown Lexington Historic District follows the grid pattern of the city's central streets. Although the orientation

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of the district lies northeast to southwest, for purposes of clarity in this nomination, conventional compass points will be applied to the descriptions. The district encompasses parts of five blocks along Main Street between Third Avenue on the south, Second Street on the north, Marble Alley on the east, and Greensboro Alley/LSB Plaza on the west, with the exception that on W. Second Avenue, the district extends west of Greensboro Alley but falls short of State Street.

At the center of the district is Courthouse Square, which dates from 1824 when the land was purchased and laid out for the county seat of the newly formed Davidson County. The square is unusual in that it is arranged in four quadrants around the intersection of the city's two main streets known since at least 1885 as Main Street and Center Street. The 1856-58 former Davidson County Courthouse (#1) takes up the southwest quadrant, while the other three are composed of grassy lawns with sidewalks, trees, hedges, and various commemorative markers. The first courthouse (ca. 1825) was located in the center of the square, with Davis and Steele Streets (now Main Street) and Stanly and Cameron Streets (now Center Street) leading to it. After the 1856-58 courthouse was built, the original courthouse was torn down. In 1905 the Confederate Monument was installed at that location, but it was eventually moved (after 1929) to the southeast quadrant of the square (#38) to better accommodate vehicular traffic.

Most of the buildings in the district are two-story brick structures, although some are only one story and a few are three. With one exception (#50), the one-story buildings are located along the district's secondary streets. Most of the buildings are aligned with the sidewalk and are contiguous with other buildings. The exceptions are the former Courthouse (#1) and the former Post Office (#25). Green space in the district is confined to three quadrants of Courthouse Square (#38, 47, 64) and the lawn of the old Post Office. At the time of the district survey, Bradford pear trees lined most of Main Street, but these are currently being cut down and will be replanted with smaller trees of a different variety. Six rear parking lots associated with particular buildings are located throughout the district.

The buildings in the Uptown Lexington Historic District represent various architectural styles that were popular during the hundred years from the mid-nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. Good design and workmanship are present in most of these buildings. The names of only a few architects and builders who worked in the district are known. These include George Dudley and William Ashley, who were responsible--as designers or contractors--for the 1856-58 Courthouse (#1); George F. Barber, who designed the Raper

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Building (#3); and James Knox Taylor, the supervising architect for the 1911-1912 Post Office (#25).

Classical design in various manifestations was one of the most prominent stylistic tendencies in the district. The oldest building in the district, and one of the most architecturally refined, is the former Davidson County Courthouse (#1) erected in 1856-58. The two-story stuccoed brick building is an excellent example of the Roman-influenced Classical Revival and is dominated by a Corinthian hexastyle temple portico. After the turn of the twentieth century, classical influence continued in two of the most architecturally important buildings in the district--the former March Hotel (#11) and the former United States Post Office (#25). The March Hotel took on its Renaissance Revival appearance around 1910. Except for the loss of its one-story central portico, the grandiose three-story brick building survives largely intact. Although it is a relatively small building, the 1911-1912 Post Office achieves monumentality through its stone construction and Neo-Classical Revival styling. Six Tuscan columns create an imposing facade, and the interior lobby is replete with classical details.

Occasionally in the late nineteenth century classicism was expressed in the district's buildings through the use of Italianate styling. This was accomplished through such devices as arcaded windows--sometimes emphasized with rusticated stonework--and arcaded or classical cornices. The commercial buildings at 17-21 S. Main Street (#36) and 16 and 18 S. Main Street (#6 and 7) exemplify this Italianate classical influence. All three were apparently built by 1885.

Classical influence continued in the detailing of many of the district's buildings from the late 1910s and 1920s. Focused around the doors and windows and on string courses and cornices, these details were often emphasized by the use of white stone or terra cotta against red brick walls. Excellent examples of this classical phase include the Commercial Building (#12) at 106-114 S. Main Street, the Moffitt Building (#30), the Commercial Building (#57) at 121 N. Main Street, and the J. C. Smith Building (#60).

Most of the other commercial buildings in the Uptown Lexington Historic District fall into the category of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century standard commercial design. These buildings are one, two, or three stories in height and vary from one to several store fronts in width. Most are red brick buildings, but some are tan or yellow brick, and a few are multi-colored brick. Decorative detailing makes use of brick, stone, terra cotta, stucco, metal, and/or wood. Decoration takes the form primarily of brick patterning,

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raised brick detailing, brick panels, and brick corbeling, although it is sometimes achieved through trim of contrasting materials. Decoration can remain very simple, particularly in the case of one-story buildings, or become fairly elaborate. Examples of one-story brick buildings which exhibit simple standard design include the commercial buildings on the north side of W. Second Avenue (#14-17), on the south side of E. First Avenue (#32-34) and at 8-10 E. First Street (#52). Similar design in two-story buildings can be seen in the law offices along Court Square (#4-5) and in the commercial building at 3-5 E. First Avenue (#31). Fancier two- and three-story examples include the Smith-Thompson Block (#35), the Development Building (#39), the Buchanan-Siceloff Building (#22), the Hinkle Block (#53), the Hankins Building (#54), Hedrick's Hall (#55), and the commercial buildings at 104 N. Main Street (#59) and 22 S. Main Street (#9). Other buildings, such as the Earnhardt Building (#18) and the commercial building at the southwest corner of E. Center Street and Marble Alley (#40), achieve a decorative effect through the use of a shaped parapet. Although many of the first-story interiors of the district's buildings have been remodeled, many retain early twentieth-century pressed metal ceilings. Among these are the Earnhardt Building (#18) and the commercial buildings at 24 W. Second Avenue (#15), 22 S. Main Street (#9), 120 S. Main Street (#13), 8 E. First Street (#52), and 6 N. Main Street (#65).

In addition to the buildings which contribute to the historic character of the Uptown Lexington Historic District, three sites and one object also contribute. The sites are the southeast, northeast, and northwest quadrants of the Courthouse Square (#38, 47, 64). Each is characterized by a grassy lawn, internal sidewalks, several trees, a holly hedge, and commemorative markers of various types. In the southeast quadrangle stands the Confederate Monument, the contributing object in the district. The tall bronze statue on a granite base was erected at the center of the intersection of Main and Center Streets in 1905 and was moved to its present site after 1929.

The appearance of the district during its period of significance (1824-1946) followed a natural progression, judging from documentary and physical evidence. The original twenty-five acres that were purchased and laid out for the county seat in 1824 included all of the present district except for that portion south of Second Avenue. The street names have changed, but the street layout remains the same. The lots surrounding the courthouse were sold in 1824, but what was actually built is not known. When the second courthouse--a grandiose Classical Revival structure--was built in 1856-58, it doubtless set the tone for expectations concerning the physical development of the

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county seat town. By 1867, Branson's North Carolina Business Directory reported the existence of seven stores, six lawyers and three physicians who would have required offices, and one hotel in Lexington. Only a decade later, The North Carolina Business Directory for 1878 reported that the number of merchants had increased dramatically to twenty-eight. Prior to 1885, however, we have few clues as to the appearance of all these buildings. In 1885 the first Sanborn Insurance Maps were published for Lexington. By that time the streets in the district had taken on their current names. Both brick and frame stores were located near the courthouse, particularly in the block of S. Main between Center Street and First Avenue and in the first two blocks of Main Street north of Center Street. The Sanborn Maps for 1902 and 1913 show a progression in the number of brick and frame stores, but also show a few houses mixed in with the stores. By 1923, Main Street between Second Avenue and Second Street had been largely filled in with stores and offices. Photographs made by local photographer H. Lee Waters during the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s give a sense of the appearance of Lexington's commercial and governmental core during those years and help to demonstrate the relative intactness of the Uptown Lexington Historic District today. Most of the earliest buildings were replaced by other brick buildings during the period of significance, and only a few of these have been replaced by more recent buildings, although others have been remodeled to varying degrees.

Most of the buildings in the district remain in good to excellent condition. Additions have been minimal, as most buildings were built to fit the space available. What additions there are usually have been made to the rear of buildings and do not present an integrity problem. The exception comes with the former W. G. Penry House (#10), where substantial mid-twentieth-century additions to the facade and east side converted this building from a contributing to a non-contributing element in the district. The biggest difference in the district now and during its years of significance is that most buildings have altered first-story shopfronts--a common malady in historic commercial areas--and a few of the facades have been sheathed with modern materials. However, the upper stories of most buildings remain largely intact, still strongly conveying their period of construction. Other than continued maintenance, there is little in the way of current restoration or rehabilitation activity in the district. Nevertheless, several buildings appear poised for Tax Act rehabilitation with listing of the district on the National Register. With eighty-two percent of the resources classified as "contributing," the Uptown Lexington Historic District as a whole retains historic

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integrity reflecting its period of significance (1824-1946) in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

INVENTORY LIST:

The following inventory is organized geographically, starting with the former Davidson County Courthouse at the southwest corner of S. Main Street and W. Center Street. From there the inventory follows a circular path, starting northwest of the courthouse, then running south along the west side of Main Street to Third Avenue, then northward along the east side of Main Street to Second Street, and then south along the west side of Main Street to Center Street. Along the way the inventory includes buildings located on side streets within the district boundaries. The one exception to this order is the Lexington State Bank Warehouse (#67), which was identified at the conclusion of the survey as a separate property. It is located on the east side of Greensboro Alley just north of W. Second Avenue.

The inventory list provides the name, location date of construction, contributing or non-contributing status, and a summary for each resource with the district. Historical and architectural data is based primarily on a combination of on-site inspection and research with Sanborn Insurance Maps from 1885 through 1929, Lexington city directories from 1925 through 1948, old photographs, oral interviews, and several secondary sources (see bibliography). The inventory entries are keyed by number to the accompanying district.

For each property in the inventory there is an accompanying file which contains the property historic survey form, photo proofs, and any documentary information available. These files will be maintained at the State Historic Preservation Office in the Division of Archives and History in Raleigh.

1. **(FORMER) DAVIDSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**
SW cor S. Main & W. Center Sts.
1856-58; 1866-69; 1918
Contributing building

Listed on the National Register in 1971, the former Davidson County Courthouse is one of the most architecturally significant courthouses in the state. The stuccoed stone temple-form building of Classical Revival design was constructed between 1856 and 1858 at a cost of \$20,000. The building is attributed to

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George Dudley and William Ashley, but whether they were the designers or contractors is not known. In 1865 a fire severely damaged the courthouse, but between 1866 and 1869 just over \$10,000 was spent to restore it. The interior of the courthouse was remodeled in 1918, and in 1958 a new courthouse was built nearby. For some years now the former courthouse has been occupied by the Davidson County Historical Museum.

2. RAPER BUILDING

SW cor W. Center St. and Court Square
ca. 1907
Contributing building

The Raper Building was constructed around 1907 according to plans prepared by Knoxville mail order architect George F. Barber. It was used as the law offices of owner Emery E. Raper and other attorneys. Continuing in the same use today, it is now part of the offices of the Brinkley, Walser firm. The two-story brick building with low hipped roof, overhanging bracketed eaves, and one-over-one sash windows originally faced Courthouse Square. In 1986 the east side entrances were converted to windows, a north side window was converted to an entrance, the building was connected by a passage to the adjacent law building (see #4), and the interior was remodeled. Nevertheless, the exterior of the Raper Building continues to exhibit the essential qualities which characterized it when it was built as the first brick building along Lexington's Lawyers' Row.

3. OFFICE BUILDING

1 W. Center St.
ca. 1937
Contributing building

According to Dr. Dermot Lohr, he constructed this two-story brick building for his medical office around 1937. By 1950 it had become the office of the Citizens Insurance Agency, and today it houses law offices. The plain building has simple brickwork detailing, a flat roof, and six-over-one sash windows. The two second-story facade windows have been converted in recent years to a single bay window, but otherwise the building presents the same austere appearance that originally characterized it.

4. LAW OFFICES

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10 LSB Plaza; 12 Court Square
1920s
Contributing building

This row of lawyers' offices was built over a period of several years during the 1920s, replacing earlier frame buildings. Originally divided into three sixteen-foot lots, the northernmost building was erected ca. 1921 by lawyer J. Ray McCrary. The adjacent building to the south was built by lawyer L. A. Martin ca. 1928. On the south side of it was the building erected by Zeb Walser to replace his ca. 1901 frame law office which had stood on the site. These buildings were a part of those (see also #2 & #5) which made up Lawyers' Row along the alley behind the courthouse. On this Court Square (east) side of the row, the buildings are unified by their simple 1920s appearance, which includes slightly recessed entrances, one-over-one sash windows, a flat roofline, and a plain facade enlivened by bands of patterned brickwork. The buildings were eventually expanded to LSB Plaza and that (rear) side was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style ca. 1980, becoming the primary entrance to the Brinkley, Walser law firm, which by that time occupied all three buildings. As interior spaces were combined, they were remodeled. Nevertheless, the east elevation of the row retains its 1920s appearance and its essential visual orientation to the old courthouse (#1).

5. **LAW OFFICE**
16 Court Square
1920s
Contributing building

The two-story brick building at the south end of Lawyers' Row was probably built around 1924 by lawyers Wade H. Phillips and John Bower. Its simplicity of stretcher-bond brickwork, flat roof, one-over-one sash windows, and recessed entrances nearly matches that of other offices in the row (see #4). A one-story rear addition extends the office westward to LSB Plaza.

6. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
16 S. Main St.
by 1885
Contributing building

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Sanborn Insurance Maps suggest that this building had probably been built by 1885. For a number of years it served as a general merchandise store, and then in the teens and twenties it was a drugstore, first with a Masonic Hall upstairs and later with an Elks Club on the second floor. A law office was located at the rear, conveniently close to the courthouse next door. The handsome two-story building features red brick walls with contrasting rusticated granite corner posts and round-arched window lintels and sills as well as a classical parapeted cornice. Although the first-story shopfront and the window sash have been changed, the building retains enough salient characteristics of its original appearance to continue contributing to the historic character of the district.

7. COMMERCIAL BUILDING

18 S. Main Street
by 1885

Contributing building

Like the adjoining building (see #6), this commercial building is a two-story brick structure with rusticated granite corner posts and window trim. Instead of a classical cornice, however, its parapeted cornice features two separate bands of brick corbeling. The shopfront has been changed, but the second-story one-over-one sash round-arched windows remain intact. Sanborn Maps and city directories reveal that the building was first used as a general merchandise store, and later as a drugstore, a tailor's shop, a dry goods store, and a women's clothing store.

8. (FORMER) BANK OF LEXINGTON

20 S. Main Street
bet. 1913 & 1923; ca. 1980s

Non-contributing building

Prior to 1923, Sanborn Maps show that a building on this site served a variety of commercial uses. Between 1913 and 1923 the Bank of Lexington was apparently built as a majestic two-story Neoclassical Revival structure whose image appears in old photographs. Around the 1980s, however, the building was completely modernized with a glass curtain wall front, so that it no longer retains historic integrity. The building is now used for law offices.

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9. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**

22 S. Main St.
bet. 1885 & 1890
Contributing building

Sanborn Maps suggest that the present two-story brick commercial building on this site dates from between 1885 and 1890. The facade features an impressive three-bay arched window outlined with rusticated granite at second-story level, while the first story retains granite corner posts and a classical cornice. Second-story windows on the south side elevation have granite sills and lintels, while first-story doors and lunette windows on the side are accented with decorative brickwork. Old photographs show that the parapeted cornice once has patterned brickwork, but this treatment does not survive. On the interior, both floors retain decorative pressed metal ceilings. Historically, the building has been used as a general store, a dry goods store, and an office. In the 1920s it was the W. G. Penry Co. department store.

10. **(FORMER) W. G. PENRY HOUSE**

NE cor W. First Ave. & LSB Plaza
bet. 1902 & 1907; ca. 1940s
Non-contributing building

This house appears to have been built between 1902 and 1907, according to Sanborn Maps. By at least the 1920s it was the home of the W. G. Penry family. Penry operated the W. G. Penry department store at the corner of S. Main St. and W. First Avenue (see #9). The large two-story house features Flemish bond brickwork, a steep hipped roof with parapeted cross gables, paired and tripled one-over-one sash windows, and several one-story frame porches with Tuscan columns. Sadly, the house has had major one and two-story modern brick additions to its front and rear and in this state no longer retains its architectural integrity. Beginning around 1940, the building was used for some years as the Cathell Clinic, run by Dr. James L. Cathell. It is now used for offices and shops.

11. **(FORMER) MARCH HOTEL**

100-108 S. Main St.
ca. 1900; ca. 1910
Contributing building

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This was the site of the March Hotel (or Hotel March) from at least as early as 1885. Initially, however, it was a two-story frame hotel with a two-story wrap-around porch. By 1902 the frame building had been replaced with a two-story brick building with much the same configuration as today. A documentary photograph shows the building with this appearance. On the 1913 Sanborn Map the hotel is illustrated for the first time as a three-story building with a one-story central portico (documentary photographs show this portico), indicating that the building took on its present appearance around 1910. From 1896 until the 1910s, the Bank of Lexington was located in the northeast corner of the building. Various stores occupied the other shopfronts along S. Main Street and W. First Avenue. The hotel lobby was located in the center of the Main Street facade, and the hotel rooms (now vacant but intact) were on the upper two floors. In 1929 the south end storefront on Main Street served as the Union Bus Station, and the police station was located on the First Avenue side. The former March Hotel is one of the most architecturally imposing of the historic buildings in the district. Its grandiose classical design includes a rusticated brickwork arcade on the first story of the First Avenue elevation, Ionic pilasters, classical window surrounds with scrolled keystones, and a majestic modillioned cornice crowned by a decorative parapet. The rear of the building is plain and reveals a U-shaped plan with a one-story kitchen and dining room ell.

12. COMMERCIAL BUILDING

106-114 S. Main St.

1919

Contributing building

Although the first story of this row of stores has been remodeled, the second story remains intact (though one small section has been sheathed in metal). The 1919 building derives its decorative treatment from the repetition of one-over-one sash windows, patterned red brickwork, and contrasting white window trim and classical cornice. Probably the longest occupant of one of the stores in the building has been Pickett and Green, a clothing store listed here in the 1925 city directory and still occupying No. 112. Other prominent occupants have included McLellan's and Gilmer's stores.

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ceiling. Some early businesses located here include McCrary Electrical Supplies, the C. H. Surratt Food Store, and the Carolina Appliance Company.

16. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
28 W. Second Ave.
ca. 1935
Contributing building

Like the buildings on either side of it (see #15 and #17), this is a simple one-story brick commercial building with a modest corbeled cornice. City directories suggest that it, too, was probably built around 1935. For a number of years it was occupied by the Henry G. Fritts Grocery.

17. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
30 W. Second Ave.
ca. 1945
Contributing building

This plain one-story brick commercial building was probably built around 1945 as the Fritts Packing Company, located next to the Henry G. Fritts Grocery (see #16). Like the other buildings in this row, it is devoid of decoration save for a brick soldier-course across the facade and a simple corbeled cornice.

18. **EARNHARDT BUILDING**
27-31 W. Second Ave.
bet. 1923 & 1929
Contributing building

Between 1885 and 1896 a two-story frame cotton gin operated by John W. Earnhardt was located at this site. By 1902 the frame building had been replaced by a two-story brick veneered structure which continued as a cotton gin until at least 1923. After Earnhardt retired in 1925, he erected this one-story brick building with three store fronts to replace the cotton gin. The Davidson County Public Library occupied No. 31 during the 1930s. The 1929 Sanborn Map shows that a filling station was connected to the west end of the building, but it does not survive. The Earnhardt Building is distinctive in having a shaped parapet along the facade with a stone insert in the center saying "Earnhardt." The stores in this building retain their decorative

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pressed metal ceilings.

19. **JOHN RAKER BUILDING**
25-25 1/2 W. Second Ave.
1951
Non-contributing building

Based on the name and date affixed to the upper facade, this two-story brick building was erected for John Raker in 1951.

20. **SMITH BROTHERS BUILDING**
23 W. Second Ave.
1951
Non-contributing building

This plain two-story brick commercial building was erected in 1951 for the Smith Brothers, according to a placque in the upper facade.

21. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
15-17 W. Second Ave.
bet. 1923 & 1929
Contributing building

This one-story brick commercial building utilizes multi-colored brick which matches that of the adjacent Buchanan-Siceloff Building (#22). The only other decorative treatment is the basketweave brickwork band at cornice height. Sanborn Maps suggest that this building was erected between 1923 and 1929. Prior to that time the site was occupied by a livery and then an auto paint shop and hardware storage. The present building has served a variety of commercial uses.

22. **BUCHANAN-SICELOFF BUILDING**
200-202 S. Main St.
bet. 1923 & 1929; ca. 1930s
Contributing building

Although this large two-story commercial building of multi-colored brick appears to have been constructed at one time, old photographs show that originally the building consisted of only the first seven bays running south from the southwest corner of S. Main Street and W. Second Avenue. This was between 1923 and

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1929. Within a few years the final seven bays were added. The building is twelve bays deep and is distinguished on both the front and north side elevations by patterned brickwork and oriel balconies. The first story storefront has been remodeled. On the interior, the second floor retains its two wide open spaces. Prominent early occupants were the Raylass Department Store and Efird's Department Store.

23. **SICELOFF-WOODRUFF BUILDING**
208-214 S. Main St.
ca. 1950s-60s
Non-contributing building

In the 1910s an auto repair shop was at this location. The present two-story brick veneered building may incorporate that earlier building, but if so the entire facade was remodeled around the 1950s so that nothing old remains visible.

24. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
218 S. Main St.
ca. 1960
Non-contributing building

Now Lanier's Hardware Store, this is a large, L-shaped two-story building of modern design that wraps around the north and west sides of the former Post Office property (see #25). Until at least the late 1940s, it was the site of the First Methodist Episcopal Church.

25. **(FORMER) UNITED STATES POST OFFICE**
220 S. Main St.
1911-1912
Contributing building

Built in 1911-1912, the former United States Post Office is one of the most architecturally prominent buildings in Uptown Lexington. It establishes a solid southern anchor for the historic district. James Knox Taylor was the supervising architect for the monumental Neo-classical Revival stone building. Unlike most of the buildings in the district, the former Post Office is a free-standing structure set back from the street on the rise of a small grassy lot with trees. A paved parking area is in the rear. Six large Tuscan columns form a

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portico on the facade, and slightly smaller one-bay wings extend the building on either side. A parapeted classical cornice with flat roof tops the building. The interior has been remodeled except for the grand lobby, which boasts a patterned marble and terrazzo floor, a marble wainscot, fancy radiators, paneled walls, and classical moldings and cornice. In mid century the building became the Davidson County Public Library, but since at least the mid-1980s it has served as the Arts Center for Davidson County.

26. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
125 S. Main St.
bet. 1890 & 1896; ca. 1960s
Contributing building

Sanborn Maps indicate that this two-story brick commercial building was constructed between 1890 and 1896. Originally it was a hardware store with a lodge on the second floor. Later uses included the telephone exchange and various stores, among which was the D. Pender Grocery Company. Although the facade was sheathed in metal (probably in the 1960s), this corner building continues to contribute to the historic character of the district. Its expansive south side elevation and rear remain intact with segmental-arched doors and windows and other openings, conveying the predominant appearance of a late-nineteenth-century building.

27. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
117 S. Main St.
bet. 1890 & 1896; ca. 1960s
Non-contributing building

The rear of this building indicates that it is old, and the Sanborn Maps suggest that, like the adjacent building (see #26), it dates from the early 1890s. However, in the case of this building, not only has the facade been sheathed with modern materials (likely in the 1960s), but neither side is exposed to view, so that with its present appearance it no longer contributes to the historic character of the district. It was first the Hargrave Hotel, then the Central Hotel, and later a furniture store.

28. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**

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109 S. Main St.
ca. 1935; ca. 1960s
Non-contributing building

Old photographs show that this was the Art Deco style Vestal Building, probably built in the early-to-mid 1930s. For years its primary occupant was the Belk or Belk-Martin Department Store. The second floor housed such offices as James P. Bingham, dentist; Willis J. Vestal, physician; the Vanity Fair Beauty Salon, and Pilot Life Insurance Company. Although the rear of the building remains exposed to view, the expansive facade has been completely sheathed in modern materials, so that the building in its present state no longer contributes to the historic character of the district.

29. **VARNER BUILDING**
103-107 S. Main St.
bet. 1913 & 1923
Contributing building

Although the first story of the Varner Building has been remodeled, the second story remains architecturally intact. It features a modillioned cornice across the first story, paired one-over-one sash windows, a stone string course above which is the building's name, and a second-story modillioned and parapeted cornice. Sanborn Maps reveal that the building was constructed between 1913 and 1923. Originally the south half of the building was a movie theatre, and two stores and various offices made up the rest of the building. One of the most prominent occupants of the building was The Dispatch Publishing Company, publisher of the Lexington newspaper.

30. **MOFFITT BUILDING**
101 S. Main St.
1920s
Contributing building

Sanborn Maps show that prior to 1902 a dwelling was at this location. From 1902 through 1929, the Sanborn Maps indicate a two-story brick store at the site. While portions of the Moffitt Building may date from 1902, its stylistic appearance suggests a construction or remodeling date of the 1920s. The building features dark red patterned brickwork with contrasting classical

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detailing (panels, medallions, and cornice) in white terra cotta. The first story shopfront appears to date from the 1920s or 1930s. The second story windows have been boarded shut. City directories show that various shops and professional offices have occupied the building, which in 1941 was listed as the Moffitt Building, the name that is emblazoned beneath the facade cornice.

31. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
3-5 E. First Ave.
ca. 1905; ca. 1920
Contributing building

As with the Moffitt Building (see #30), the Sanborn Maps suggest that this two-story brick building may have been built between 1902 and 1907. However, the rather intact facade looks more like the 1920s. It features a recessed entrance, a glass tile transom, simple brickwork patterning, and terra cotta string courses. The second story windows have been boarded up. For a number of years, half of the building was used as the Western Union Telegraph Company office. A variety of stores and offices have occupied the rest of the building.

32. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
7 E. First Ave.
bet. 1902 & 1907; 1920s
Contributing building

According to the Sanborn Maps, a one-story brick building stood at this location as early as 1907. However, the multicolored and patterned brickwork of this small commercial building looks more like the 1920s. Various small restaurants have been housed in the building.

33. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
9-11 E. First Ave.
bet. 1902 & 1907
Contributing building

Although part of the facade of this one-story brick building has been altered, one wood and glass shop window, a wooden intermediate cornice, a paneled upper facade, and a simple corbeled brick cornice with tile coping remain intact. According to the Sanborn Maps, the building was first used as a bakery and

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later as a store, a gunsmith shop, an electrical contracting office, and a beauty salon.

34. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**

13-21 E. First Ave.
bet. 1913 & 1923
Contributing building

Sanborn Maps suggest that this commercial building with three shopfronts was built between 1913 and 1923. Although the shopfronts have been remodeled to varying degrees, they still retain an overall sense of their period integrity. Features of the one-story brick building include multi-paned shop windows with wood paneled dado, a multi-paned transom, an intermediate wooden cornice, a paneled brick upper facade, and a simple corbeled cornice. Numerous small businesses have occupied the row through the years, including printing companies, beauty shops, a plumbing and heating company, and a construction company.

35. **SMITH-THOMPSON BLOCK**

23 S. Main St.
1900
Contributing building

Although the first story of this corner building has been somewhat remodeled, an early photograph shows that much original fabric remains intact. The photograph labels this the Smith-Thompson Block, a carved stone on the building dates it 1900 (which is confirmed by the 1902 Sanborn Map), and city directories show that for years it was the Peoples Drug Store. (Initially it was apparently Thompson's Drugstore.) Outstanding features include decorative paneled and corbeled brickwork, paired one-over-one sash windows with granite sills and lintels, a corner ironwork oriel balcony, and a broad, four-part arched window on the facade which is outlined with rusticated granite and filled with decorative leaded glass. On the interior, the first floor has been remodeled, but the second floor remains wonderfully intact with plastered walls, a beaded board ceiling, bull's-eye cornerblock woodwork, and early shelving which runs along one wall.

36. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**

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17-21 S. Main St.
by 1885
Contributing building

Sanborn Maps show that this handsome two-story brick building had been erected by 1885. Initially it housed a hardware store and a drugstore. Other early uses have included a general merchandise store, a grocery, a bank, and a clothing store. The first story has been remodeled, but an early photograph shows that originally it had round-arched doors and windows. A metal first-story cornice remains on No. 21. The second-story facade remains intact with a row of six round-arched windows and a decorative brick corbeled cornice consisting of a string course, a blind arcade, and a dentil course.

37. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
15 S. Main St.
by 1885; ca. 1905
Contributing building

An early photograph shows that this building originally looked much like its neighbor to the south (see #36). Sanborn Maps show that a two-story brick building had been erected here by 1885, and that it took on its present size (depth) between 1902 and 1907. It was a general merchandise store, and then a hardware store, a grocery, a jewelry store, and a clothing store by the 1920s. At some point the facade was re-bricked so that it is now very plain with only a simple first-story cornice, a row of flat-headed windows, and a corbeled cornice. The expansive north elevation, which faces the southeast quadrant of Courthouse Square, retains a decorative corbeled cornice and a few round-arched openings at the rear of the first-story level. Otherwise the wall has no openings, which was the case in 1885.

38. **COURTHOUSE SQUARE (SOUTHEAST QUADRANT)**
SE cor S. Main & E. Center Sts.
1824; ca. 1910
Contributing site

The Courthouse Square was established in 1824 as the center of the new county seat. It was laid out where the main streets, then known as Davis Street and Steele Street (Main Street) and Cameron Street and Stanly Street (Center Street) came together.

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Over time the square became defined into four quadrants surrounding the intersection of Main and Center Streets. Sanborn Insurance Maps suggest that this change may have taken place around 1910. The southeast quadrant was the location during the nineteenth century of the public well. Now the quadrant is comprised of a grassy lawn surrounded on three sides by a holly hedge, on four side by a sidewalk, and with five trees along the east and south sides.

CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

Contributing object
1905

In the center of the quadrant stands the Confederate Monument which faces north. It is a tall granite monument topped by a bronze soldier. It was erected by the Robert E. Lee Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy on September 14, 1905. Located originally at the center of the intersection of Main and Center streets, it was moved to its present site at some later date.

39. DEVELOPMENT BUILDING

1-11 S. Main Street; 1 E. Center St.
ca. 1905
Contributing building

The Development Building was a major commercial undertaking in Lexington around 1905. The 1907 Sanborn Map labels it the "Davidson County Development Co. Bl." It is a large, three-story, nine-bay-wide brick building with round-arched openings on the first floor and raised brick arches above the round-arched third-story windows. Brick string courses decorate the parapeted cornice. The central entrance leads to a long hall with a beaded board wainscot and a decorative pressed metal ceiling. The first story has been somewhat altered, and the window sash have been replaced, but otherwise the exterior remains largely intact. The National Bank of Lexington and a grocery store were among the first to occupy the building. Later there were hardware stores, a harness shop, a jeweler, a cafe, the Lexington Working Men's Club, and a variety of business and professional offices and other stores to fill the building.

40. COMMERCIAL BUILDING

SW cor E. Center St. & Marble Alley
bet. 1907 & 1913; ca. 1920

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Contributing building

Sanborn Maps suggest that this building may have been built between 1907 and 1913, but definitely by 1923. In 1913 it was labeled a "carriage repository," but in 1923 it was identified as a garage for forty cars and an auto repair shop. The 1925-26 City Directory lists it as the Reynolds and Raper Garage. At least through the 1940s its occupants continued to be associated with automobile and trucking businesses. The two-story brick structure has large, segmental-arched vehicular openings on the first story, replacement second-story windows, and a shaped parapet. The Marble Alley elevation has striated common bond brickwork and segmental-arched windows.

41. (FORMER) MARBLE WORKS
12 E. Center St.
bet. 1890 & 1896; bet. 1913 & 1923
Contributing building

The front half of the two-story brick marble works building was erected between 1890 and 1896, while the rear half was added between 1913 and 1923. Marble cutting took place here in the early years--(and in an earlier building on the site), and it was from this business that Marble Alley--which runs along the east side of the building--got its name. By the mid-1920s the marble works no longer occupied the building, and in its place a series of bakeries were located here for at least twenty years. The first story shopfront of this narrow building has been remodeled, and the second-story facade windows have been partially enclosed. However, the segmental-arched window openings, the lunette ventilator, and the decorative metal cornice on the facade remain intact as do the segmental-arched windows which line the Marble Alley elevation.

42. COMMERCIAL BUILDING
8-10 E. Center St.
bet. 1913 & 1923
Contributing Building

The exterior of this building remains largely intact. What appear to be original entrances and one-over-one sash windows remain, as do the patterned brickwork and the brick corbeled cornice. The Sanborn Maps show that the two-story building was

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erected between 1913 and 1923. City directories reveal that prior to the mid-1940s the building was used primarily for medical and dental offices with an occasional business on the first story.

43. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
1-3 1/2 N. Main St.
bet. 1913 & 1923
Contributing building

Sanborn Maps do not make clear when this building was erected. It may have been built as two stores between 1890 and 1896 (north half) and 1896 and 1902 (south half). If so, however, it appears that the buildings were unified and took on their present overall appearance between 1913 and 1923. The building is a simple two-story brick structure with two remodeled shopfronts, a central round-arched entrance to the second floor, paired windows across the facade and south elevation, and brick string courses above the first story and defining the cornice. A ca. 1920 photograph shows that the building looks now as it did then except for its modified shopfronts. During the 1920s the north half of the building was used as the A & P grocery. During the 1930s and 1940s the Economy Auto Supply Company and the Citizens Loan Company/Citizens Insurance Agency occupied the first story, while various state and private offices filled the second story.

44. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
5 N. Main St.
between 1890 & 1896; ca. 1960s
Non-contributing building

Sanborn Maps suggest that this two-story brick building was constructed between 1890 and 1896, and a ca. 1920 photograph shows that it matched the contiguous building to the north (see #45). It was originally used for a meat market and later for various stores and offices. During the 1950s or 1960s, however, the facade was completely modernized, and the building no longer contributes to the historic character of the district.

45. **(FORMER) BARBER SHOP**
7 N. Main St.
bet. 1890 & 1896
Contributing building

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This two-story brick building dates from between 1890 and 1896, and for at least half a century it was used as a barber shop. It shares a classical metal cornice with its contiguous stores on either side (see #44 and #46). Although the first-story shopfront was remodeled, possibly in the 1930s, the building retains its pair of second-story sash windows (now six-over-six instead of two-over-two) with their metal cornerblock lintels, its heavily corbeled upper facade, and its metal cornice. The rear of the building retains its segmental-arched doors and windows.

46. COMMERCIAL BUILDING

9 N. Main St.
bet. 1902 & 1907
Contributing building

Although this narrow building has a replacement first-story shopfront and second-story window, the upper facade and classical metal cornice remain intact. It was built between 1902 and 1907, probably to fill in the narrow space left after the earlier construction of the contiguous buildings to the north and south (see #45 and #48). It is tied with the building at 7 N. Main Street (#45) by its classical metal cornice. For years it was used as a cafe.

47. COURTHOUSE SQUARE (NORTHEAST QUADRANT)

NE cor N. Main & E. Center Sts.
1824, ca. 1910
Contributing site

(For general information on the Courthouse Square, see #38.) The northeast quadrant of the Courthouse Square features a grassy lawn, three trees, a holly hedge on three sides, and internal walkways. At the rear of the quadrant is a flagpole erected in 1972, and in front of it are three small stone monuments with bronze plaques. The one at the north end honors those from Davidson County who served in World War I. The center monument honors those who fought in World War II and in the Korean War. The south end monument honors the Vietnam War veterans.

48. COMMERCIAL BUILDING

11-15 N. Main St.
1890; 1920s

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Contributing building

The 1890 Sanborn Map identifies this two-story brick building as "being built." The September 17, 1890 issue of the Davidson Dispatch, after bragging on this new building, reports that, "The first room is occupied by the popular merchant, J. F. Ward, the second by J. W. McCrary, who has a first class furniture store, and the third by Messrs. Redwine and Son, the hardware man." J. F. Ward's General Store was established in 1875 at another location, but moved to this building in 1890. It is the oldest known business still in operation in Lexington. Until at least 1950 the three parts of the building continued in their original uses as a department store, a furniture store, and a hardware store. The building was apparently remodeled around the 1920s, and two of the first-story shopfronts again at some later time. The store at 15 N. Main Street appears to retain an early storefront with a wood-paneled base and a deeply recessed entrance with a double-leaf door. The brick facade of this three-part building is relatively plain, with only string courses of patterned brickwork and a slightly corbeled brick cornice to provide visual contrast. Raised round-arched brickwork is still visible on the expansive south elevation, and the rear features round-arched doors and windows. The rear of the first floor of the former hardware store at 15 N. Main exhibits a small enclosed office with mezzanine above and a stair to the second floor. The second floor remains largely intact and has evidence of windows along the north side, verifying that this building is older than the three-story building currently next to it.

49. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
17 N. Main St.
bet. 1907 & 1913
Contributing building

According to Sanborn Maps, this narrow three-story brick building was erected between 1907 and 1913. Initially it was a hardware and harness shop, and for more than twenty years it was part of the Lexington Hardware Store next door at 15 N. Main Street. The first-story shopfront has been remodeled but retains its recessed entrance and flanking metal pilasters produced by the Chattanooga Roof and Foundry Company. The second and third stories retain their window openings with granite sills and lintels, but the sash have been replaced. A multi-layer corbeled cornice crowns

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the building.

50. COMMERCIAL BUILDING

19 N. Main St; 3 E. First St.
ca. 1980
Non-contributing building

This one-story brown brick veneered building appears to date from around 1980. The rear portion may be the one-story brick veneered building shown on the 1923 and 1929 Sanborn Maps, but if it is, it has been totally remodeled.

51. WAREHOUSE

7 E. First St.
bet. 1913 & 1923; bet. 1923 & 1929
Contributing building

This plain brick building fronts a small alley behind the Main Street buildings. Parts of the building may date from as early as 1896, but the main two-story section appears to have taken on its present form bet. 1913 and 1923, with the one-story north section having been built between 1923 and 1929. According to the Sanborn Maps, it was always used for hardware storage, and city directories confirm that this was the warehouse for the Lexington Hardware Company.

52. COMMERCIAL BUILDING

8-10 E. First St.
bet. 1923 & 1929
Contributing building

Sanborn Maps show that this one-story brick building with two stores was built between 1923 and 1929. The severity of the building is relieved by a paneled brick dado beneath the windows and basketweave string courses located above the windows and at cornice level. Although No. 10 has been remodeled, No. 8 remains largely intact with a recessed entrance, a glass-paned transom (covered on the outside but visible on the interior), and a decorative pressed metal ceiling. Early businesses occupying the building included a dry cleaning and dyeing shop, a grocery, a shoe repair shop, a cafe, and the Kirkman Funeral Home.

53. HINKLE BLOCK

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101-105 N. Main St.
bet. 1902 and 1907
Contributing building

The Hinkle Block was built between 1902 and 1907, according to Sanborn Insurance Maps. Initially the building housed a bank on the corner, a clothing store, and a farm implements store, while on the second floor was the Masonic Hall. By 1913 the Co. A 3rd Reg. NC Armory met on the second floor, while the first floor was taken up with the bank, a grocery, a meat market, and an insurance office. Various stores and offices occupied the building in subsequent years. Although the first-story shopfronts have been remodeled, the rest of the building remains largely intact. The seven-bay facade includes flat-arched windows with granite sills (the openings themselves have been boarded up), brick pilasters, a corbeled cornice, and a high parapet with small polygonal turrets. These features continue on the eleven-bay-deep south elevation, where there is also a blind-arcade of round arches on the first-story and a corbeled string course between floors.

54. **HANKINS BUILDING**
107 N. Main St.
1902
Contributing building

A stone block in the center of the upper facade of this building says "Hankins 1902." Prior to 1902, a grocery was located at this location, but in that year the building--new or remodeled--was shown to be a clothing and dry goods store. City directories in the 1920s associate the building with J. A. Hankins. Although the first-story shopfront has been modernized, the rest of the three-bay facade remains intact. It features two-over-two sash segmental-arched windows and a heavily corbeled and paneled brick cornice. The rear of the building retains its segmental-arched window openings.

55. **HEDRICK'S HALL**
109-111 N. Main St.
1902
Contributing building

Very similar in design to the Hankins Building next door (see

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#54), Hedrick's Hall carries an upper facade stone with the name of the building and its date of construction (1902). The corbeled and paneled cornice matches that of the Hankins Building, but here the four-bay facade features round-arched windows with granite sills and raised brick arches above. The first story shopfront has been remodeled, but the interior retains its row of braced central support posts and its early twentieth-century appearance. The rear of the building shows a low gable roof, segmental-arched windows, and a short, one-story ell which served as a warehouse. For years the building housed a grocery store and a furniture store.

56. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
113-115 N. Main St.
by 1885; ca. 1960s
Non-contributing building

The Sanborn Maps suggest that this two-story commercial building may have been built by 1885, and the brickwork on the rear of the building suggests that this may indeed have been the case. However, the entire facade has been remodeled with stucco, wood, and replacement glass, and the building in this state no longer contributes to the historic character of the district. In its earliest years, an opera house was located on the second floor. Various shops have been located on the first floor. The building now appears to have been converted to apartments.

57. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
121 N. Main St.
bet. 1923-1929
Contributing building

Although the Sanborn Maps indicate that a two-story store was located on this site from at least 1885, the present building appears to date from the 1920s. In fact, it was likely rebuilt or heavily remodeled between 1923 and 1929, because the 1929 map describes in detail--for the first time--its fireproof construction. Various businesses have been located here, including an auto parts wholesale business. The two-story corner building is distinguished by the use of red brick veneer accented by white blocked stone on the first story of the facade, along with stone garlands beneath the second-story windows, stone medallions above the windows, and a white string course and coped

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cornice.

58. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
15 E. Second St.
bet. 1923 & 1929
Contributing building

This one-story brick building is stylistically related to the building at the corner of N. Main and E. Second Streets (#57) and is separated from it by an alley. Its stuccoed facade is scored to resemble stone blocks, and its shopfront is surrounded by a band of some of the same decorative detailing as is found on the corner building. Although the shopfronts have been partially enclosed, the physical relationship between this building and the one on the corner remains clear. Sanborn Maps show that the building was constructed between 1923 and 1929. In 1929 it housed an undertaker and an auto mechanic. In later years it continued to house a funeral home along with other businesses. At one time there were wings connected to the south side and rear of the building, but these have been torn down.

59. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**
104 N. Main St.
bet. 1913 & 1923
Contributing building

Sanborn Maps show that this narrow two-story brick building was erected between 1913 and 1923. A variety of businesses have occupied the building. While the first-story shopfront has been remodeled, the second story of the facade, the north side elevation, and the rear all remain intact. The upper facade features three one-over-one sash windows with rough granite sills and flat-arched lintels with brick Tudor labels and a two-layer decorative corbeled brick cornice. The north elevation retains a decorative glass transom over the side shop window and a row of round-arched lunette windows (now infilled). The rear retains a central round-arched entrance flanked by segmental-arched windows and three flat-arched windows on the second story.

60. **J. C. SMITH BUILDING**
100-102 N. Main St.
bet. 1913 & 1923
Contributing building

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The handsome J. C. Smith Building was erected between 1913 and 1923, according to Sanborn Maps. During the 1920s it housed the Smith general merchandise store, a grocery, and the Masonic Hall on the second floor. In later years other stores and offices occupied the building. The large two-story brick building is Colonial Revival in design and is three bays wide and seven bays deep. The first story of the facade has been remodeled, but the rest of the building remains intact. Notable features include large round-arched windows consisting of a pair of six-over-one sash windows headed by a fanlight, a row of small horizontal flat-arched windows (now enclosed) on the south elevation beneath the round-arched windows, patterned brickwork, a terra cotta string course across the facade, a terra cotta classical parapeted cornice, and a remarkable classical side entrance at the west end of the south elevation.

61. (FORMER) LEXINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT
8 W. First St.
bet. 1913 & 1923
Contributing building

Sanborn Maps show that this two-story brick building was built between 1913 and 1923 as the Fire House #1. It remained in use as the Lexington Fire Department through at least the 1920s, but by 1937 it was listed in the city directory as a machinery and welding shop, a tin shop, and a cafe. The first story of the facade features two large vehicular entrances, a corner door, four second-story windows, a string course, and a corbeled cornice. Numerous doors and windows are found on the east side and rear of the building.

62. AUTO REPAIR SHOP
NE cor W. First St. & Greensboro Alley
bet. 1913 & 1923
Contributing building

Built between 1913 and 1923, this building was for years an auto repair shop. The handsome one-story brick structure features a round-arched vehicular entrance on the facade along with a shop window and a segmental-arched pedestrian entrance. A brick sawtooth band runs across the facade beneath the corbeled cornice. The west side and rear exhibit common-bond brickwork and segmental-arched windows.

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63. **HEGE-HARMON BUILDING**

12-20 N. Main St.
1922
Contributing building

The Hege-Harmon Building is a large two-story brick building which takes up half the Main Street block face. Built in 1922, the building is said to have been dedicated by Governor Cameron Morrison. The Commercial and Savings Bank was located at the south end, and Young's Theatre (later the Granada Theatre) was located in the middle. The City Drug Company, a department store, a grocery, and a variety of other businesses occupied the first floor through the years. The second floor housed numerous offices. While the first story facade has been largely remodeled, the rest of the building remains intact. The red brick structure features contrasting white terra cotta trim around doors and windows and for decorative string courses and the coped cornice.

64. **COURTHOUSE SQUARE (NORTHWEST QUADRANT)**

NW cor N. Main & W. Center Sts.
1824; ca. 1910
Contributing site

(For general information on the Courthouse Square, see #38.) The northwest quadrant of the Courthouse Square features a grassy lawn, four trees, a holly hedge across the rear and along half of each side, and internal sidewalks. Across the rear of the quadrant are three small stone monuments. The monument on the north end was erected in 1918 by the North Carolina Historical Commission and the Board of Commissioners of Davidson County in honor of the settling of Daniel Boone nearby and the passage of the American Army under General Nathaniel Greene in 1781 in route to Guilford Court House. The center monument was erected in 1981 by the Capt. Benjamin Merrill Chapter of the NSDAR in honor of Capt. Benjamin Merrill, whose home was eight miles south and who died for the cause of the Regulators on June 19, 1771. The monument at the south end was erected in 1928 in honor of the city of Lexington, which was incorporated in 1828.

65. **COMMERCIAL BUILDING**

2-10 N. Main St.
bet. 1913 & 1923

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Contributing building

This large two-story brick building is ten bays long and five bays deep. Sanborn Maps suggest that the present building was constructed or at least acquired its present appearance between 1913 and 1923. Prior to that a collection of buildings in a variety of sizes was located here. Various stores have occupied the building, but the longest has been the Conrad and Hinkle Grocery, which was listed here in the 1925-26 City Directory and continues to operate today. Another long-time occupant was the Sanitary Barber Shop. Most of the first story of the facade has been remodeled, but the rest of the building remains intact. White terra cotta trim used for string courses, cornice, and other trim contrasts sharply with the patterned red brickwork walls. Windows are mostly paired. The Conrad and Hinkle Grocery is the most intact part of the building. Its shopfront features a recessed double-leaf entrance and a patterned tile dado and floor. The interior retains its decorative pressed metal ceiling and the general ambiance of grocery store from the first half of the twentieth century.

66. **(FORMER) CITY BARBECUE**

5 Greensboro Alley

ca. 1940

Contributing building

Good barbecue is an old tradition in Lexington and numerous barbecue restaurants abound. The 1929 Sanborn Map indicates that there were several small frame sheds, labeled "barbecue stands" located across the street from here on the northwest corner of W. Center Street and Greensboro Alley. These were especially busy during the weeks when court was in session. These no longer survive, but the City Barbecue building (which was earlier called Stamey C. Warner Lunches and then Stamey's Barbecue), was built around 1940 and stands as a permanent reminder of this important aspect of Lexington culinary life. It is a one-story red brick building with multicolored patterned brickwork on the facade and a remodeled entrance. A brick addition stands on the north side of the building, and a concrete block barbecue pit and preparation area stands at the northeast (rear) corner.

67. **LEXINGTON STATE BANK WAREHOUSE**

E side Greensboro Alley bet W. First & Second Aves.

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ca. 1960s
Non-contributing building

This is a two-story concrete block warehouse with a vehicular door and pedestrian door on the west end next to Greensboro Alley and several miscellaneous windows on the second story of the same end.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Summary:

The Uptown Lexington Historic District, composed of the historic commercial and governmental core of this central Piedmont town, is locally significant in the history of Lexington and Davidson County in the areas of architecture, commerce, and politics and government. Lexington began as a small village in the late eighteenth century, and when Davidson County was formed in 1822, it was soon selected as the county seat. The twenty-five acres which were purchased adjacent to the village in 1824 and laid out into a courthouse square and surrounding lots with a grid pattern of streets became the center of government and commerce in Lexington and form the nucleus of the Uptown Lexington Historic District. As the location of the Davidson County Courthouse from ca. 1825 to 1958 and other local government buildings, the district was the center of local politics and government for over 125 years. The area encompassed by the district developed into a primary center for commerce and trade in Davidson County and remains so today. The district meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register because of these strong associations with local government and commerce. As the center of Lexington developed to serve the needs of government and commerce, it acquired a collection of architecturally significant buildings dating from the nineteenth century and first half of the twentieth century. Several of these buildings, including the 1856-58 (former) Davidson County Courthouse, the ca. 1910 (former) March Hotel, and the 1911-12 (former) United States Post Office, are significant individually for their well-articulated variations on classical design. At the same time, the group of buildings in the district as a whole forms a fine representative collection of late nineteenth- and early-to-mid-twentieth-century brick commercial stock expressive of the distinctive design and physical characteristics of standard commercial architecture of the period. As such, the district also meets Criterion C for National Register listing. Although many of the buildings in the Uptown Lexington Historic District have experienced some typical mid-to-late twentieth-century alterations--particularly of first-story shopfronts--the district as a whole maintains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association representing its period of significance from the 1824 purchase and layout of the county seat to 1946, the last year in which the district meets the fifty-year criterion for listing in the National Register.

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Historical Background/Politics and Government and Commerce Contexts:

Lexington had developed as a village long before its establishment as the seat of Davidson County. Local tradition claims that it acquired its name in honor of the pivotal Revolutionary War Battle of Lexington, Massachusetts on April 19, 1775. The first known appearance of the name of Lexington in Rowan County records, however, was in 1790. A post office was established in the village in 1800, and Lexington was first listed in the 1810 Census with a population of eighty-three (Sink and Matthews, 71-75).

As the nineteenth century progressed, there were numerous complaints from people living in the eastern sections of Rowan County about the inconvenience of having to travel to the county seat of Salisbury to attend court. Thus, between 1819 and 1822, one session of court each quarter was held in Lexington until, in December of 1822, Davidson was formed as a separate county named for the Revolutionary War hero, General William Lee Davidson (Sink and Matthews, 76-77; Touart, 9). After some disagreement between the proposed county seat (to be called "Marion") and the already established village of Lexington, Lexington won out and was ultimately selected as Davidson's county seat. On March 3, 1824, the county purchased a tract of twenty-five acres adjoining the town of Lexington on which to erect the public buildings of the new county. The land was laid off in lots with the courthouse lot in the center and a grid pattern of streets, thus establishing the street plan which survives today in the Uptown Lexington Historic District (Sink and Matthews, 40-43).

Davidson County's first courthouse, completed by 1825, was erected in the center of what was then known as Washington Square. No plans or photographs are known to exist for this building, but court records reveal that it was a two-story building with a portico, and it is believed to have been brick. Of great significance is the fact that the courthouse was designed by William Nichols (Sink and Matthews, 44). Nichols was an English-born architect who had produced significant buildings in eastern North Carolina, including, in particular, the 1820-22 remodeling of the State House in Raleigh. Nichols became official architect for the state before departing in 1827 for Alabama and Mississippi (Bishir et al., 126-129). Such an impressive start in the new county seat was a telling indicator of the quality of building to come.

The old part of Lexington and the new county seat soon merged, and the town was incorporated in 1827 (Sink and Matthews, 78). With

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the courthouse in place, Lexington--and particularly its commercial center surrounding the government center--began to take on new life. A major effort at bringing prosperity to Lexington was undertaken in 1839, when the Lexington Manufacturing Company built a large brick cotton mill. Unfortunately, the mill burned in 1844, and this disaster caused a setback in industrial development in the town for some years (Sink and Matthews, 82).

Of great significance to the nineteenth-century development of Lexington and other towns in North Carolina was the completion of the North Carolina Railroad from Goldsboro to Charlotte in 1855. Its arrival in Lexington was celebrated on July 4, 1855, by an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 people. As reported in the July 13, 1855, issue of the Greensborough Patriot and Flag (quoted from the Salisbury Whig), the celebration included a "sumptuous barbecue," an early reference to this important Lexington culinary tradition. The railroad brought a long-awaited transportation link between the eastern and western parts of the state and instigated a building boom in Lexington (Sink and Matthews, 83).

In its February 1856 session, the Court in Davidson County ordered that "building of new courthouse in the town of Lexington is necessary for safekeeping of records of several courts of this county" (Sink and Matthews, 44). Accordingly, five commissioners were appointed to superintend the location and erection of a new courthouse. They selected the southwest quadrant of the courthouse square on which to build the new courthouse, thus removing its location from the center of the square, and chose George Dudley and William Ashley to build it. The cost for the new courthouse given in the March 20, 1857, Greensborough Patriot and Flag was \$20,000. On October 8, 1858, the same paper reported that "The new courthouse at Lexington will be christened this week by the Davidson County Superior Court. . . .," and the October 15th issue of the paper carried the following description:

The new building is indeed magnificent, by far the best we ever saw and we presume the finest in the state. Beautiful and magnificent Temple of Justice, it will stand for ages as a monument both of their taste and liberality, while the stranger in passing will involuntarily stop to gaze on its beautiful proportions, its majestic columns and admire the artistic skill of the master workmen which is so admirably and tastefully displayed in every part of the building. Messrs. Dudley and Ashley have done themselves great credit and the committee may deem themselves fortunate in having

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secured for the work gentlemen of so much taste and skill and who have so conscientiously and faithfully fulfilled their contract. . . . The foundation of the main building and also the steps and platform upon which rest the lofty columns of the portico which extends the entire front of the building are of granite and cost about \$4,000. The Courtroom is on the second floor and is most beautifully and tastefully finished. . . . (Sink and Matthews, 45).

Davidson County's new "Temple of Justice" was indeed a source of pride for the county. Lexington citizens evidently thought that proximity to the courthouse made business property more valuable, for when J. P. Mabry advertised his hotel for sale in 1858, he stated that it was the only hotel in town and that it was "situated on Main Street, near the new \$20,000 courthouse and 300 yards north of the railway station" (Sink and Matthews, 84). Thus, it was a terrible blow to the county and to the citizens of Lexington when, seven years later, the courthouse burned on November 23, 1865, during the time General Kilpatrick and his men were occupying Lexington. Whether or not Union soldiers were responsible for the fire has never been proven. Nevertheless, the county was insistent upon rebuilding the courthouse, and this undertaking continued through 1868. Since the total cost for "rebuilding" was under \$11,000, and the original cost of the courthouse had been \$20,000, of which \$4,000 had been for the granite foundation, steps, and platform, it is assumed that the walls and columns also remained after the fire and that the primary work at this time centered on the interior (Sink and Matthews, 47, 86).

Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1867-68 provides a sense of the condition of Lexington in the years immediately following the Civil War. At that time there were seven merchants (out of eleven listed in the county as a whole), one hotel, two churches (Methodist and Presbyterian), one school, six lawyers (out of nine in the county), and two physicians. Ten years later, The North Carolina Business Directory for 1877-78 demonstrated the tremendous growth which had taken place in the county seat. Lexington's population was given as 600, well above the next largest town in the county, Thomasville, at 300. In the decade since 1867-68, Lexington had quadrupled its number of merchants. In 1877-78 the town could boast twenty-nine merchants--nearly half of all those listed in the county and almost twice as many as were listed in Thomasville. There were also two hotels, three boarding houses, nine churches, five lawyers, and three physicians. There were, however, only three manufactories listed--cabinet making, cabinet and undertaking, and millwrighting--

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out of twelve for the county as a whole (six of which were in Thomasville). Clearly, at this time commerce rather than industry was Lexington's drawing card.

An interesting off-shoot of Lexington's commercial prosperity at this time was the attempt by the Davidson County Commissioners in 1873 to have a bill passed in the State Legislature to allow them to sell the three plots of the public square (other than the one on which the courthouse stood). The reasoning of the commissioners was that the county was in debt and these three parcels of public land afforded no income to the county. Each of the three plots was to be divided into three lots--obviously with the hope of capitalizing on the desirability of commercial land close to the courthouse. Fortunately, the owners of the adjacent properties sought and won a court-ordered injunction restraining the commissioners from selling the lots, and this decision was eventually affirmed by the North Carolina Supreme Court (Leonard, 42-43). Thus, the public square was saved and remains intact at the center of today's Uptown Lexington Historic District.

Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1884 showed continued growth in Lexington. Sixty merchants and tradesmen were listed, which were twice as many as were listed in the second busiest town, Thomasville. This listing showed the wide variety of goods and services offered in the county seat. There were, for example, general stores, furniture stores, jewelers, confectioneries, millinery shops, drug stores, fertilizer and grain dealers, a sewing machine dealer, livery stables, shoe stores, hardware stores, a saddle and harness dealer, a lumber dealer, and a marble yard. In addition, there were painters, a mineralogist, a miner, an auctioneer, a notary, an artist, and brick masons. Manufactories included foundry and machine shops, wagon making, cabinetmaking, millwrighting, blacksmithing (2), whiskey distilleries (3), and tobacco factories (3), among others.

In 1885 Sanborn Insurance Maps were first produced for Lexington. These maps, which were updated in 1890, 1896, 1902, 1907, 1913, 1923, and 1929, show graphically the growth of the town and particularly its governmental and commercial core which became today's Uptown Lexington Historic District. The 1885 maps show that there were both frame and brick stores in the uptown area--primarily along Main Street--and also a few scattered houses. Both sides of S. Main Street between Center Street and First Avenue were filled with stores, including the present-day brick commercial buildings at 16, 18, 22, 15, and 17-21 S. Main Street (#6, 7, 9, 37, and 35). In the next block to the south, the precursor of present March Hotel building was in place as a frame building on the southwest corner of S. Main Street and W. Second Avenue. North of Center Street, stores were filling in the west side

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of N. Main Street between Center and W. First Streets and on the east side of Main between First and Second Streets.

Other improvements in the 1880s were reported by Mayor M. H. Pinnix. He reported that more street grading was done and more sidewalks laid out in the year ending 1888 than had ever been done for the town in its whole history; that hundreds of loads of stone and gravel had been spread upon the streets; and that rotten plank walk had been taken up and stone and gravel put down. At the same time, the greatest addition to the industrial life of Lexington was the building in 1886 of the Wennonah Cotton Mills, a manufacturing plant still in operation (Sink and Matthews, 90-91).

In 1890 an event occurred in Lexington that was destined to shape the appearance of the town's architecture. This was the arrival in Lexington of a brick making machine which could produce a stronger and more durable brick and at the same time render the surfaces in a smoother and cleaner fashion better suited for late nineteenth-century construction. The Davidson Dispatch announced that

Messrs. [William A.] Watson and [D. K.] Cecil have moved their brick machine from Concord, N C where they have been making brick for some time and will put it up at once in Lexington. It will be placed in the northern part of town, near the cemetery. They will make the brick for a larger block of buildings to be put up soon near where Mr. Leach's law office now stands. . . .

With a capacity of shaping fifty to eighty bricks a minute, this new brick machine facilitated the manufacture of building brick at a time when major portions of Lexington's commercial and domestic architecture were being replaced (Touart, 31).

Change indeed was coming to Lexington. Between 1890 and 1900 the population grew from 626 to 1440, and the Sanborn Maps for 1890 and 1896 reflect a parallel growth in the commercial buildings erected along Main Street both north and south of the courthouse square. Some of these survive today, including the commercial buildings at 117 and 125 S. Main Street (#27 and 26), the Marble Works at 12 E. Center Street (#41), and the commercial buildings at 5, 7, and 11-15 N. Main Street (#44, 45, and 48).

Growth continued unabated in Lexington after the turn of the century and brought the construction of some of the district's finest buildings. The population jumped from 1440 in 1900 to 4163 in 1910--an increase of 189.1 percent. In 1908 the North Carolina Division of the Travelers Protective Association published a Commercial History of

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the State of North Carolina, which summed up Lexington's situation in glowing terms:

Lexington, North Carolina, presents in a nutshell the story of the new South. In less than a decade it has developed from a straggling village into a splendid modern town, bustling with activity, throbbing with new-found energy, accomplishing each day more than the old town did in twelve months.

Since 1900 Lexington has planted more than thirty manufacturing industries; the municipality has built modern streets, waterworks, sewerage, electric lights, and perfected a system of public education that cannot be surpassed in the State. . . .

About one and one-half millions are invested in manufacturing; the output is valued at about three millions; fifteen hundred workingmen find employment.

Industrially, educationally, socially, Lexington is an ideal town. Its homes are elegant, its churches and schools numerous and ample; its climate and drainage all that could be desired. It offers opportunities, it possesses possibilities. It extends a welcome to the world. . . .
(Sink and Matthews, 93).

Several significant achievements of this period had a direct impact on the physical character of the district. In 1905 the Confederate Monument was erected at the center of the square where the two major streets--Main and Center--intersect. It remained at that location until some time after 1929, when it was moved to the southeast quadrant of the courthouse square (#38), doubtless to preserve it in the face of increased vehicular traffic. Around 1907 the Raper Building (#2), designed by Knoxville architect George F. Barber, was built directly behind the Courthouse, beginning what was to become known as Lawyers' Row. Around 1900 the frame March Hotel was replaced by a two-story brick hotel, which was itself substantially remodeled around 1910 into the elegant Renaissance Revival building (#11) which stands today at the corner of S. Main Street and W. First Avenue. Then in 1911-1912 the Neo-classical Revival United States Post Office (#25), designed by supervising architect James Knox Taylor, was built at the northwest corner of S.

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Main Street and W. Third Avenue, where it provides a solid anchor for today's Uptown Lexington Historic District. Not surprisingly, it was during this period, on October 30, 1909, that the leading men in town organized the Lexington Board of Trade during a luncheon meeting at the March Hotel. The slogan for Lexington became "The Center of the Great Piedmont Section, in the midst of the famous cotton and furniture manufacturing district, the junction and distributing point of the South's two greatest railroads " (Sink and Matthews, 96). (The two railroads were the Southern Railway and the Winston-Salem Southbound. The route for the latter had just been selected. Sink and Matthews, 96)

The Sanborn Maps for 1902, 1907, and 1913 show the overall and continued progress of building in the district. Several buildings, in addition to the Raper Building, the March Hotel, and the Post Office, are worthy of note. These include the 1900 Smith-Thompson Block (#35) at 23 S. Main Street with its ironwork oriel balcony and granite-outlined leaded glass arched window; the Hankins Building (#54) and Hedrick's Hall (#55) at 107 and 109-111 N. Main Street, both built in 1902, which are excellent examples of turn-of-the-century standard commercial design; the Hinkle Block (#53) which was built between 1902 and 1907 at 101-105 N. Main Street with its small, polygonal turrets; and the three-story Development Building (#39) with its prominent location adjacent the southeast quadrant of the courthouse square. All are brick buildings.

The 1910s and 1920s were prosperous years for uptown Lexington with much new building and re-building. One-third of the buildings in the Uptown Lexington Historic District date from this time. Many exhibited standard commercial design for the period, while others--particularly those built during the 1920s--were infused with classical design influences. The years between 1913 and 1923 brought many new, and often large, buildings north of Center Street. Among these are the J. C. Smith Building (#60) at 100-102 N. Main Street, the commercial building at 104 N. Main Street (#59), the Hege-Harmon Building (#63) at 12-20 N. Main Street, and the commercial building at 2-10 N. Main Street (#65) which has housed the Conrad and Hinkle Grocery since at least 1925. The former Lexington Fire Department (#61) at 8 W. First Street was built during this time, and the town's police station was located on S. Main Street, though it now longer survives. South of Center Street were the Varner Building (#29) at 103-107 S. Main Street and the commercial building (#12) built in 1919 at 106-114 S. Main Street. During the 1920s, law offices (#4 and 5) filled in along Lawyers' Row behind the courthouse, the Earnhardt Building with its shaped parapet facade was built at 27-31 W. Second

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Avenue, the large Buchanan-Siceloff Building (#22) was erected at 200-202 S. Main Street, and the classically-detailed commercial building (#57) at 121 N. Main Street was built.

Supporting this growth was the Lexington Merchants Association, which was organized in 1917 with forty-five charter members. The purpose of the association was to boost Lexington and encourage new industry to locate in the city. Population figures for Lexington reinforce the image of growth and prosperity suggested by the new uptown construction. While in 1910 the population was 4,163, and in 1920 it stood at 5,254, by 1930 it had leaped to 9,652 (Sink and Matthews, 98, 101, 103, 105).

The Great Depression of the 1930s hit Lexington hard and strongly affected the town's commercial center. Little new construction took place in the 1930s and 1940s. In sharp contrast to the busy decades prior to 1930, fewer than ten buildings which survive today in the Uptown Lexington Historic District are believed to have been built in the 1930s and 1940s. These include the ca. 1937 Office Building (#3) at 1 W. Center Street, the ca. 1935 commercial buildings (#15, 16) at 22-24 and 28 W. Second Avenue, the ca. 1945 commercial building (#17) at 30 W. Second Avenue, the former Vestal Building (ca. 1935 but remodeled around the 1960s) at 109 S. Main Street (#28), and the former City Barbecue, built ca. 1940 at 5 Greensboro Alley. Most of these are extremely simple brick structures, and four of the six are only one story in height.

Since 1946 and the close of the district's period of significance, several events have had a strong effect on the district, helping to establish its character today. First of all, in 1958 the county built a new courthouse, and a new post office was erected in 1967--both outside the district. The fire department and the police station also were moved to buildings outside the district. However, the majestic former Davidson County Courthouse has continued to be used by the county for various offices, and since the nation's Bicentennial in 1976, it has housed the Davidson County Historical Museum. The former United States Post Office, now owned by the county, was used as the Davidson County Library from around 1970 to 1986, and since 1986 it has been used as the Davidson County Arts Center. In 1991, the Davidson County Commission donated a preservation easement to the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. for the 1856-58 Davidson County Courthouse building, thus helping to ensure its long-term preservation. Davidson is the only county in the state to have thus far taken such a measure. In 1993 Uptown Lexington, Inc. was formed as part of the North Carolina Main Street program. The focus of this non-profit organization is

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revitalization of uptown Lexington, which includes the historic district, based on the Main Street four-point approach of organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring. For Uptown Lexington, Inc. historic preservation plays an important role in this process and includes the sponsorship of this National Register district nomination and the encouragement of Tax Act rehabilitation projects once the district is listed. All these factors have worked to preserve the distinctive historic and architectural character of Lexington's commercial and governmental core.

Architecture Context:

The Uptown Lexington Historic District has the largest and most concentrated collection of commercial buildings from ca. 1885 to ca. 1945 in Davidson County. Several of the buildings--including the former Davidson County Courthouse (#1), the former United States Post Office (#25), and the former March Hotel (#11)--are architecturally significant on an individual basis. Together, the collection of fifty-two contributing buildings in the district forms a cohesive continuum of commercial architecture representative of the period.

Arranged primarily along Main Street between Third Avenue and Second Street, but also along the side streets which cross Main, the district is centered on the unusual four-part courthouse square. The grid plan of streets with central courthouse square that was laid out for the county seat in 1824 is unlike any other town arrangement in Davidson County. Thomasville, the closest town to Lexington in the county in terms of size and economic character, presents a totally different image with its commercial area divided by the railroad tracks which run through the center of town.

Lexington's plan with the central square intersected by the main streets in town provided, historically, a focus for the development of the town's commercial center. The closer to the courthouse, the more desirable the location, and, in fact, the construction of stores and other commercial buildings did proceed outward along Main Street both north and south of the courthouse. Lexington's commercial center also provided the perfect setting for a variety of professional and business offices. These were generally located on the upper floors of buildings, except in the case of law offices, where it was most prestigious to occupy a first-floor office on Lawyers' Row, as the alley behind the courthouse came to be known.

The buildings in the Uptown Lexington Historic District follow two primary stylistic themes--classicism and so-called standard

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commercial design. The first building of great importance to the district no longer survives but set a precedent for good design. The first Davidson County Courthouse, built ca. 1825, was designed by English-born architect William Nichols, whose academic designs earned him the title of official state architect. That two-story building was apparently classical in design, judging from the fact that it had a portico. This building was replaced in 1856-58 by one of grandest surviving Classical Revival courthouses in the state. The temple-form second Davidson County Courthouse (#1)--with its stone base, hexastyle Corinthian portico, elaborate classical cornice, and cupola--provided a powerful center point for the district then and now. When the Neo-classical Revival style former United States Post Office (#25) was built in 1911-12, its stone construction and colossal Tuscan portico not only added an impressive architectural gem to Lexington's uptown at the time, but today provides a solid anchor for the south end of the historic district. It survives as a prime example of the monumental buildings which were typical of federal post office architecture of its period. When the three-story March Hotel (#11) was remodeled in the Renaissance Revival style around 1910, it made a clear statement as to the prestige associated with staying at this elegant hotel. Though no longer a hotel, the building's well-preserved appearance is still a dominant feature in the Uptown Lexington Historic District.

A number of other buildings in the district, while perhaps not of major architectural significance individually, nevertheless reflect well the continuation of classical design into the 1910s and 1920s. Italianate classicism is seen in some of the district's oldest commercial buildings through the use of arcaded windows and rusticated stonework trim. Examples include the commercial buildings at 17-21 S. Main Street (#36) and 16 and 18 S. Main Street (#6 and 7). In buildings of the 1910s and 1920s, classical influence was typically expressed through the use of classical detailing around doors and windows and on string courses and cornices. These details are often emphasized by the use of white stone or terra cotta in contrast with red brick walls. Particularly good examples include the J. C. Smith Building (#60), the Moffitt Building (#30), and the commercial building (#57) at 121 N. Main Street.

So-called standard commercial design characterizes most of the other historic commercial buildings in the district. These one, two, and three-story buildings vary in width. Red brick is the usual primary building material, but variations include brown or yellow brick and multi-colored brick. Ornamentation is achieved primarily through the use of brick, stone, terra cotta, stucco, metal, and/or

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wood facade detailing. Decorative treatment often takes the form of brick patterning, raised brick detailing, brick panels, and brick corbeling, although such detailing can also be achieved through the use of contrasting materials. Decoration varies from the very simple--particularly on one-story buildings--to the elaborate. Among the many good examples of standard commercial design in the district are the commercial buildings at 104 N. Main Street (#59), 22 S. Main Street (#9), and the south side of E. First Avenue (#32-34); the Smith-Thompson Block (#35), the Development Building (#39), the Buchanan-Siceloff Building (#22), the Hankins Building (#54), and Hedrick's Hall (#55).

Typical of most active commercial areas, many of the buildings in the Uptown Lexington Historic District have altered first-story shopfronts while retaining relatively intact upper stories. In Uptown Lexington the quality of design continues to convey the appearance of a commercial district which evolved primarily between the mid-nineteenth century and the mid-twentieth century. And while buildings of standard commercial design can be found in historic commercial areas of towns throughout North Carolina, the number and cohesiveness of those found in the Uptown Lexington Historic District create a unified image worthy of recognition and preservation.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Uptown Lexington Historic District is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying district map.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the Uptown Lexington Historic District is drawn to include all those commercial and public buildings erected during the period of significance, 1824-1946, which form a discrete and cohesive group in the center of Lexington.

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PHOTOGRAPHS:

The following information applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1) Uptown Lexington Historic District
- 2) Lexington, Davidson County, North Carolina
- 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 5) State Historic Preservation Office

The photographs are keyed by letter to the district map.

- A: 1) Streetscape: W side S. Main St. bet W. Center St. and W.
First Ave.
4) 1/96
6) View to north
- B: 1) (former) Davidson County Courthouse
4) 12/95
6) View to north
- C: 1) Streetscape: E side S. Main St. bet E. Center St. and E.
First Ave.
4) 12/95
6) View to south
- D. 1) (former) March Hotel
4) 12/95
6) View to west
- E. 1) Streetscape: S side E. First Ave. bet S. Main St. and
Marble Alley
4) 12/95
6) View to west
- F. 1) Commercial Building: 125 S. Main St.
4) 12/95
6) View to north
- G. 1) Buchanan-Siceloff Building
4) 12/95
6) View to west
- H. 1) (former) United States Post Office

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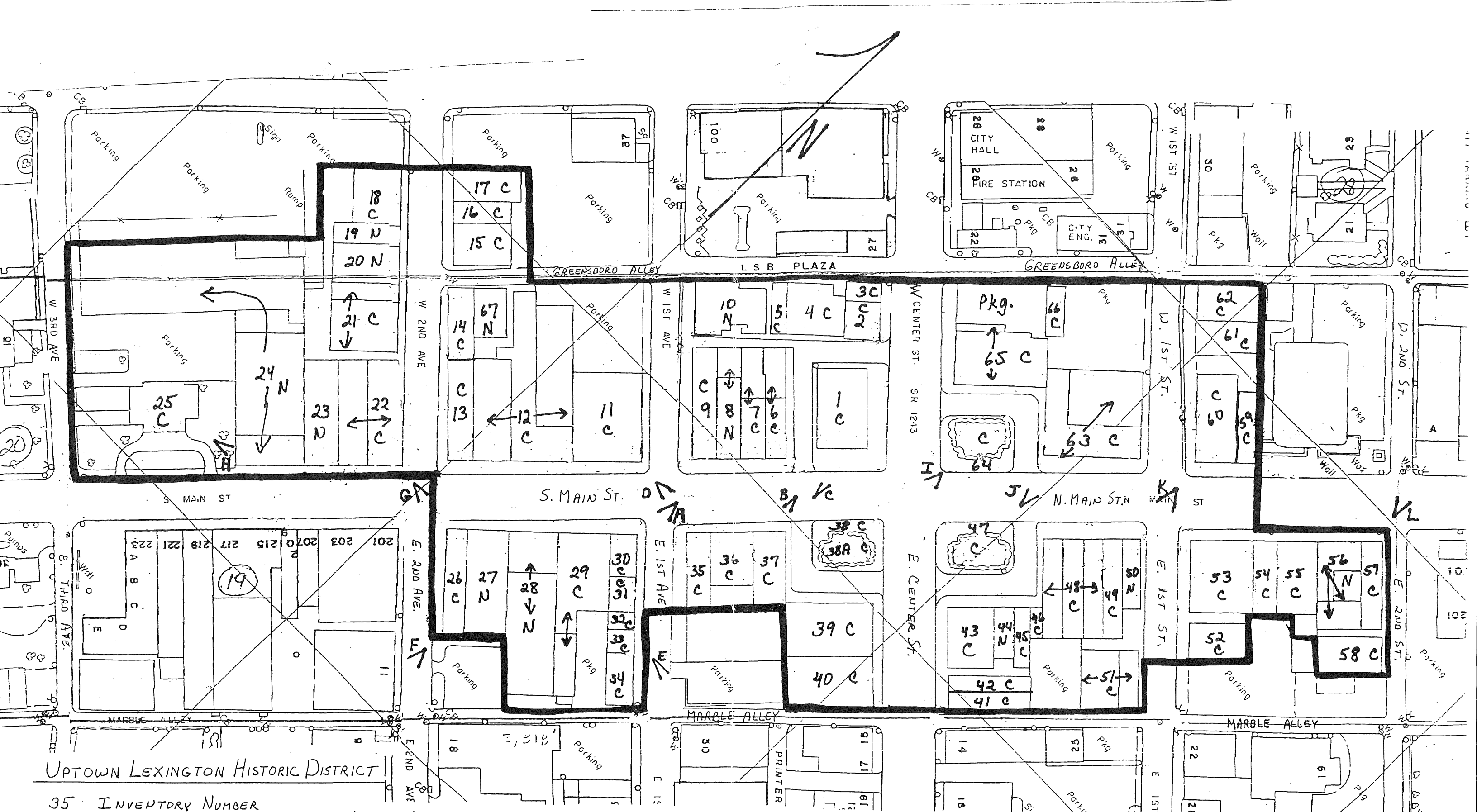
- 4) 12/95
- 6) View to southwest

- I. 1) Courthouse Square (Northwest Quadrant)
- 4) 1/96
- 6) View to north

- J. 1) Streetscape: E side Main St. on N and S sides of E.
 Center St.
- 4) 12/95
- 6) View to south

- K. 1) J. C. Smith Building
- 4) 1/96
- 6) View to north

- L. 1) Commercial Building: 121 N. Main St.
- 4) 1/96
- 6) View to south



UPTOWN LEXINGTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

- 35 INVENTORY NUMBER
- C CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- N NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
- A 1 PHOTO VANTAGE POINT
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Lexington
Davidson County, NC

1"=100'

