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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name: Main Street Historic District
   other names/site number:

2. Location
   street & number: see continuation sheet
   city, town: Hendersonville
   state: North Carolina code: NC
   county: Henderson code: 089
   zip code: 28739

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property: [X] private
   Category of Property: [X] district
   Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 55, Noncontributing 20
   buildings
   sites
   structures
   objects
   Total 55

   Name of related multiple property listing:
   Historic and Architectural Properties in Hendersonville, NC: A Partial Inventory

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.
   Signature of certifying official: [Signature]
   State Historic Preservation Officer
   State or Federal agency and bureau
   Date: 12/28/88

5. National Park Service Certification
   I, hereby, certify that this property is:
   [ ] entered in the National Register.
   [ ] See continuation sheet.
   [ ] determined eligible for the National Register. [ ] See continuation sheet.
   [ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
   [ ] removed from the National Register.
   [ ] other, (explain:)
   Signature of the Keeper
   Date of Action
Street and number:  
(See sketch map included with this submission for exact location)

The Main Street Historic District includes all buildings on the west side of S. Main Street beginning with 127 S. Main and continues north to the northern border of the district which is 529 N. Main on the west and 6th Avenue on the east encompassing all buildings fronting onto Main Street. Also included are the county courthouse and jail, the Federal Building at 4th Avenue and Church Street, and several other commercial structures bordering on Church Street. The eastern portion of the district begins with the block of buildings between First and Second Avenues, starting with the Davis Store Block and proceeding north to include all buildings fronting on N. Main Street up to 6th Avenue. Also included are the City Hall building at 145 5th Avenue E. and several other commercial structures just off Main Street, between Main and King Street.

Historic functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty store
" " Financial Institution
" " Business
" " Professional

GOVERNMENT: City Hall
" " Government Office
" " Courthouse
" " Correctional facility

Current functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty store
" " Financial Institution
" " Business
" " Professional

GOVERNMENT: City Hall
" " Government Office
" " Courthouse
" " Correctional facility
Main Street Hendersonville today retains much of the character it has possessed since the height of its development in the late 19th - early 20th centuries. Commercial and Neo-Classical building styles, mostly of brick or stone, are still the predominant feature along the six blocks of Main Street between Allen and 6th Avenue, reflecting the prosperity the community experienced in this time period. Remnants of antebellum Hendersonville still exist on Main Street as well, as in the Ripley and Major Noe buildings (ca. 1850). The typical pattern of commercial districts where buildings adjoin each other in distinct rows, is clearly still in evidence in Hendersonville's downtown. Even newer buildings along Main Street (e.g. the First Union Bank 1970s, [849] at 245 N. Main) maintain the same setback and pattern of buildings surrounding them. Only minimal changes to the historic pattern of Main Street's buildings have occurred over the years. This has been primarily in alterations of the buildings at the storefront level, with a few buildings being covered completely by false aluminum facades.

Downtown Hendersonville sits on a small hill, once know as Chinquapin. The hill is bounded on the east and south by the Mud Creek. Historically, the Mud Creek set the eastern limit of the city of Hendersonville. (1) The city limits now overstep this boundary only along two "strip" developments along the major highways (US 64 and US 176) into town.

The street plan of the central business district is basically a simple grid, a plan which has endured since the town was laid out in 1841. The heart of the business district is still Main Street which runs in a general north-south direction (NNW to SSW to be more exact). James Dyer Justice, the original surveyor of Hendersonville, laid the main street out at a remarkable one hundred feet in width (2). The street remained this wide until the 1970s when the four lanes of Main Street were reworked into a two lane serpentine configuration and brick planters, seating and additional parking was added.

Two major roads parallel Main Street one block to either side; King Street on the east, Church Street to the west. These roads now take the north-south through traffic on US 25, cutting down on use of Main Street. These north-south streets are intersected by numbered avenues. The historic commercial section of Main Street lies primarily between 1st and 6th Avenues.
The block between 1st and 2nd Avenue on the west side of N. Main Street has always been the site of the courthouse. Originally this was conceived as a public square which extended two blocks to the west. However, the larger courthouse and private commercial development on the west side has left no public "green." In 1904, the original stuccoed brick courthouse, built in the 1840s, was replaced by the present imposing Neo-classical Henderson County Courthouse [NR] [#44] though the courthouse site has remained consistent through Hendersonville's history.

Aside from the courthouse, N. Main Street between 1st and 6th Avenue is a dense commercial district. Most residences and fields or vacant areas on Main Street had been eliminated by the 1920s. Later commercial growth one block back on King and Church streets has also replaced most of the residential blocks. These streets are not as dense as Main Street, however, with parking lots creating the greatest open space. Beyond Church and King, the number of residences dramatically increases, though commercial development is rapidly encroaching on the adjacent areas.

Hendersonville was laid out in 1841, three years after Henderson County was created. During its early years, the town served primarily as a judicial center and as a stopover on the Buncombe Turnpike. Considering the later railroad development of the town, it is remarkable that two structures survive on Main Street from the town's formative years. Both are reputed to have been built for Colonel Valentine Ripley, an early entrepreneur who operated a stagecoach line on the turnpike and owned the town's first hotel. One is the circa 1850 stone building on the southwest corner of Main Street and First Avenue, later known as the Huggins Building. [#43] (3) The other structure, probably also built in the 1850s, is the brick store with the high hipped roof at 218 N. Main. [#7]. This building, originally known as the "Ripley brick store house", is believed to have later served as a Confederate commissary under the direction of a "Major Noe."(4)

Although profound economic change came to Hendersonville in the last quarter of the 19th century, as a result of the arrival of the railroad in 1879, the commercial district along Main Street primarily reflects the growth of the first quarter of 20th century. The Sanborn Insurance Map of 1896 shows a Main Street still dominated by frame structures--private homes, boarding houses and hotels, and a scattering of businesses--with only a few brick or stone structures. Surviving later 19th-century structures include the brick store (222 N. Main) [#8] just north of the Major Noe Building, and the Cole Bank Building [#61] at the SW corner of Main Street and 4th Avenue which houses Henderson County's first bank, established during the 1880s. (5) Between 1886 and 1901, several more brick commercial structures were built on Main Street. These include the Justus Pharmacy, [#51] which continues to
operate under the same name today, and the Davis Store Block, [#1] the three stores which still grace the northeast corner of Main Street and 1st Avenue.

(6) By the early 20th century, the physical growth of Hendersonville must have seemed phenomenal. In 1906 a local paper in an article entitled "Progressive Hendersonville" noted, "We have grown from a town of about 1200 to about 3000 in the last four years. Most of our buildings are new and of neat and pretty design." (7) The gold-domed, Neo-Classical courthouse [#44] replaced the old stucco structure on Main Street in 1905. The architect was Richard Sharp Smith, associate of Richard Morris Hunt and supervising architect of Hunt's Biltmore House. (8) Prior to 1900, Hendersonville had only one bank. During the early 20th century several more were established. Monuments to this period of economic development are the former bank buildings at 421 N. Main (Commercial Bank, later Wanetska Trust), [#66]; 400 N. Main (Citizens Bank) [#23], and 229 N. Main (People's National) [#48]. (9) Many other buildings were added to Main Street during this period. A. F. Baker built a new photo studio, the three story building which stood at the southwest corner of Main and Sixth, but was demolished while this nomination was in progress. For several years it was the tallest commercial building in town. Other surviving landmarks, though substantially altered, are the Hunter Building which originally housed Hunter's Pharmacy [#71], the Maxwell Store building and the adjacent feed and hardware stores on the west side of the 500 block of Main, [#72 - #75], and the structure at the southeast corner of Main and Fifth, [#32] which once served as Hendersonville's first movie theater. Most of the commercial structures built during the early twentieth century are of a standard nature, brick, with variation primarily in the embellishments in entrances and cornices, brickwork and the design of windows. The notable exception is the former People's National Bank, [#48] ca. 1910, unique for its time in Hendersonville in its use of reinforced concrete construction and a Neo-Classical facade.

While there has been commercial "strip" development on the edge of town, the older commercial districts such as Main Street have been changed relatively little since the 1920s. The 1970s brought a re-landscaping of Main Street with the reworking of the street into a serpentine form and the planting of trees, though there are relatively few intrusions in the way of buildings between 1st Avenue and 6th Avenue. Many older buildings have been altered at street level, and some have been obscured by entire modern facades. However, with the recent prosperity of the town, there seems to be an increased interest in the restoration of commercial structures on Main Street. Much of the work in the downtown area has consisted of private rehabilitations of commercial properties on Main Street. The effect has been cumulative, as the number of rehabilitated buildings increase, so does the enthusiasm for this type of activity.
Main Street Historic District

Inventory List

C Contributing

NC Non-contributing

NOTE: Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps were used to date bldgs.

106-114 N. Main. Davis Store block. 1900. Block of three two story brick stores built by W. J. Davis. Center store is beige brick; two end stores are red brick. Corner store has corbelled brick cornice and segmental arch windows; the other two have a continuous cast concrete denticulated cornice. During the early 20th century the corner shop served as Liverett's Clothing Store, and later M. M. Shepard's mercantile business. The other stores served variously as a harness shop, a printing shop, and as general stores. All three stores have recently undergone extensive rehabilitation at the storefront level.

First Avenue East and Edwards Street alley, north side of First Avenue. Ca. 1901. One story rusticated concrete block structure. Front facade intact with some minor changes; transom windows above garage door. Roof line steps back from street to a one story brick addition to rear with rough-cut stone lintels and sills on all windows. According to Sanborn maps, this structure was built ca. 1901 and was first used as a livery stable. By 1912 it was changed to a garage use and general auto repair shop. By 1922, it was used partially as a garage, and partially as a feed warehouse. Building is now vacant.

116-116 1/2 N. Main. Early 20th century. Two-story painted straited brick commercial structure. Four bays wide at second floor level. Parapet has been rebuilt with no cornice. Building is extremely plain except for recently constructed new storefronts.

122-130 Main. 1920s. Plain two-story brick building with three storefronts. 126-130 have been modernized with enameled panels at street level, and original windows replaced.
East side, 200 block N. Main Street

C 5. 202-206 N. Main. Late 1920s. Plain one-story painted brick commercial structure with recessed panels above modern storefront. Transoms with structural glass remain above modern aluminum awning.

C 6. 210-214 N. Main. 1920s. Plain two-story striated brick commercial building. Storefront has been rehabilitated, which included introduction of three-foot recess at street level.

C 7. 218 N. Main. Major Noe Building. 1850s. Believed to be the second oldest building on Main Street; one of several structures built by Colonel Valentine Ripley, and once known as the "Ripley Brick Store House." It is said to have served as a district commissary under a Major Noe during the Civil War and was Hendersonville's post office during the tenure of James Waldrop (1876-1883). Having served many commercial purposes, the two story brick structure is still remembered for Shepherd and Hart’s furniture and undertaking business and its long association with the Shepherd family. Distinctive on Main Street for its high hip roof and bracketed eaves, the store has been altered at street level for modern commercial purposes.

C 8. 222 N. Main. Dotson Store Building. ca. 1895. Two-and-a-half-story brick commercial building with elaborate brickwork ornamentation including corbeling and at its cornice, recessed panels, and a segmental string course above its windows. Street level has been altered with plate glass display windows. Sanborn maps indicate this structure was built by 1896 and served as a general store in the early 20th century. During the 1920s W. F. Dotson ran a harness shop and shoe store in the building.


C 10. 236 N. Main. Early 20th century two-story painted striated brick commercial structure. Two second-story windows have been filled in with brick panels with diamond ornament.

C 11. 238-244 N. Main. Brunson's Store block. Ca. 1905. Low brick commercial structure with corbeled cornice and a row of diamond-shaped projections below this corbel table. Five cast iron pilasters survive at irregular intervals between shop windows. Modernized at street level. Sanborn maps indicate construction between 1901 and 1908. Brunson's Furniture Store has occupied building since 1920s.
3rd Avenue East, between Main and King Street.

C 12. 146 3rd Ave. E. Between 1922 and 1926. One story simple brick building divided into 3 bays, with an inset brick panel at each bay. Sanborn maps indicate that until 1922, G. P. Liverett's livery stable occupied this corner. It was gone by 1922, and this building was built by 1926 as a wholesale drug establishment.

C 13. 132 3rd Ave. E. Ca.1920. Deep red/black striated brick one story commercial building of long, linear configuration. 5 bays wide. All display windows have been infilled with modern materials, but original brick framing around storefronts is intact.

C 14. 128 3rd Ave. E. Ca.1920. Simple, one story striated red brick building with a decorative row of vertical brick above all facade openings. Windows and storefront altered. Sanborn maps indicate this was built by 1922 as a tire shop.

V Vacant lot where an early 1900s building was demolished 6/87.


East side, 300 block, N. Main Street.

NC 16. 300 A,B,C N. Main St. ca. 1896 and ca. 1950. Two-story brick commercial structure with facade dating from ca. 1950. Facade designed in minimal Art Moderne style. Central bay projects slightly, steps up at parapet. Glass block panels in central bay at second floor, ribbed or fluted brick panels to either side. Recent storefronts at street level. Older (ca. 1896) building fabric visible behind facade down side street elevation.

NC 17. 314 N. Main. Toms Block. Ca. 1906. Two-story brick commercial structure covered with corrugated metal false facade. Decorative brick cornice apparent above metal facade. Reportedly a portion of a row of commercial buildings built ca. 1906 by Captain M. C. Toms, the east side of Main Street between 3rd and 4th Avenue long been known as the Toms Block. French Broad Hustler reported construction under way by May 3, 1906, and almost complete by September 13, 1906: "It will make a very handsome row of stores when finished and a credit to the city."


C 20. 338-340 N. Main. 1920s. Two-story and one-story combined yellow brick commercial structure with stepped and pointed parapet. Decorative panel set off by soldier course border, white block corners, herring bone pattern and white diamond block in center. Three bays on second floor on two-story section to north. Modern storefronts.


NC 22. SE corner Main and 4th Avenue. 1920s. Two-story brick commercial structure with stone window lintels and sills. Decorative brickwork and diapering on left elevation. Front covered with modern aluminum false facade.

East side, 400 block, N. Main Street

C 23. 400 N. Main St. State Trust Company and Citizens Bank. 1923. Two story stone-faced, monumental Neo-Classical Revival style bank designed by Erle Stillwell. Entrance deeply recessed under entablature supported by doric columns. Built to house Citizens Bank, the structure also has served as State Trust and more recently Bank of North Carolina.

C 24. 125-135 4th Avenue E. Between 1922-1926. (One building divided into several storefronts). One story red striated brick structure. Storefronts all altered, but basic brick framework remains intact. 125-129: inset "colonial" panels 131: retains recessed entry, but kickplates are stuccoed, vertical wood siding has been added, and new windows put in 133: storefront altered 135: infilled with stucco; fixed glass window with multiple panes Sanborn maps indicate a residence stood here in 1912, up until the time this building was constructed.

NC 26. 412-414 N. Main. Storefront has been stuccoed and modernized.

NC 27. 416 N. Main. Modernized with recessed facade.

C 28. 418-420 N. Main. 1920s. 1 story striated red brick with 2 recessed entrances. Plate glass is aluminum frames. Transom intact beneath awning. Unadorned parapet.

NC 29. 422 N. Main. Former J. C. Penney's. ca. 1950s plain, two-story striated brick structure with concrete cap at parapet. Projecting lines of brick at second story windows and vertical articulation at cap give facade a minimal art moderne look. Presently divided into a mini-mall.

NC 30. 430-432 N. Main. Modern one-story brick building with one deeply recessed glass storefront, and one single-bay front. Presently divided into two shops at #430.

C 31. 434 N. Main. (Former) Queen Theater. Ca. 1915. Two story brick movie theater. Second floor still retains the Neo-Classical facade designed by Erle Stillwell with its brick pilasters and elaborate terra cotta ornament. Ornament includes parapet cap, entablature with denticulated cornice, pilasters of brick with decorative capitals, and panels between the windows. The first floor has been replaced by glass display windows and a pent roof.


East side, 500 block N. Main Street

C 33. 502-512 N. Main. Ca. 1905. Two story brick commercial structure divided into four store units. Only one still has corbelled cornice. Diamond shaped openings in recessed panels at top of each store. 2nd story windows are single with brick voussoirs and keystone lintels and granite sills. All sash is replacement. All storefronts have been altered: 502-506 covered with wood siding; 508-512 recessed with new facades. During the first part of this century the stores served various mercantile purposes (hardware, furniture, wholesale groceries), later (by 1912) the corner structure was "The Palace", Hendersonville's first movie theater. The four store units were built by several men, one of whom was Mr. Joseph Bailey, who owned and lived in "The Cedars."
C 34. 121 5th Ave. E. Ca. 1926. Two story red brick structure with elaborate parapet roof line and inset brick panels. Second story windows have been covered over with sheet metal. Soldier course above storefront transom and second story windows. Framework of storefront remains, but it has been infilled with concrete block and metal. Sanborn maps indicate a residence was located here until about 1926. This building, initially a wholesale grocery, was then built, by 1926.


C 36. 145 5th Ave. E. Hendersonville City Hall. 1926-1928. A conservative, Neo-Classical Revival structure, designed by Erle Stilwell. It is a rectangular, two story brick structure with a raised basement. A flight of stairs leads up to the main entrance which is under a full height tetrastyle portico. The actual entrance consists of a bracketed, pedimented doorway. The roof is flat and unadorned. Windows are double hung, framed by molded concrete surrounds and cornice on first floor, and arched brick with a concrete keystone above 2nd floor windows. An inscription above the portico reads "Erected by the People/Dedicated to the Perpetuation/of Civic Progress Liberty and/The Security of Public Honor." Most of the original interior fabric is intact. Hendersonville's City Hall is one of several public structures executed by local architect Erle Stilwell during the 1920s. Although he sometimes employed other styles, Stilwell worked most frequently in a conservative Neo-Classical style in his non-residential buildings. The structure reflects both the prosperity of Hendersonville during the 1920s and the architectural sophistication Erle Stilwell's practice brought to the city. It replaced a circa 1892 Romanesque City Hall and Opera House which had been on Main Street. The new structure was started in 1926 and dedicated in November of 1928.

NC 37. 514-528 Main. 1920s. Two story striated brick commercial structure, unadorned. Windows infilled and replaced with aluminum casements and shutters. Storefronts are new. Awnings over both.

NC 38. 532 Main. One story commercial structure. Storefront altered. Applied wooden sign board rises up above roofline from just above storefront.
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Continuation Sheet  

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Hendersonville, NC - Main Street HD

C 39. 534-544 N. Main St. Skyland Hotel. 1929. Six story beige brick structure with cast concrete details on cornice and frieze. Concrete band runs beneath 6th floor windows. Metal replacement windows when building converted to apartments. Central 3 bays of 2nd floor project out over sidewalk supported by brick and metal piers. This originally served as a balcony from the second floor. (From the Banks of the Oklawaha, photograph). Modern storefronts. Built at the urging of individuals who wanted a hotel in the main commercial district, the opening came only months before the crash of the stock market which ended the 1920s boom era. The hotel survived the Depression and received considerable additions in 1947.

West side, 100 block Main Street

C 40. 119 S. Main. ca. 1925. One story simple brick commercial building. Roof line steps up and back down across the front. One original garage door opening remains intact; one has been replaced with glass. Central doorway replaced with aluminum frame door. Brick framing around doors and windows has been sandblasted.

Early 20th c.

C 41. 117 S. Main. Simple one story striated red brick building with inset decorative panels of yellow brick. Storefront openings remain intact although original door and window framing has been replaced with aluminum framing.

C 42. 107-111 S. Main Street. Ca. 1900. Two story brick commercial structure, pressed brick with narrow mortar joints. Has been sandblasted. Two equal storefronts separated by door to stairs at grade on Main Street. Storefronts altered. Modern door in center bay. Six 1/1 double-hung windows under round arch overlights at second floor level. Crenelated corbelled cornice. Blonde brick string course at 2nd story window sill. Perforated brick string course at first floor cornice and between second story windows.
C 43. 101-105 S. Main St. Ca. 1850. Ripley Building (Huggins Building). Two story coursed ashlar stone commercial structure built by Colonel Valentine Ripley and believed to be the oldest surviving structure on Main Street. Has a hipped roof with broad eaves. Modern storefront has been added between existing stone piers. Six tall, double hung windows at second story replace paired casement windows. Stone corbeled under eaves. One story brick addition to rear.

West side, S. Main, between First and Second Avenues

C 44. Henderson County Courthouse. 1905. NR. The site of the courthouse square has remained constant since the town was laid out in 1841. The gold-domed Neo-Classical Revival Courthouse, begun in 1904, and completed in 1905, replaced a two story, stuccoed brick structure which had been one of Hendersonville's earliest buildings. In 1903, the county commissioners deemed the old courthouse inadequate, and appointed Frank P. Milburn as architect for a new courthouse. However, they rejected Milburn's plans, and accepted instead the plans of Richard Sharp Smith. R. S. Smith, an Englishman, had come to Asheville to supervise construction of the Biltmore House. After the death of Richard Morris Hunt, the architect of the Biltmore House, Smith served as Vanderbilt's resident architect. Though he exerted a strong influence over the architecture of Asheville for several decades, the courthouse is Smith's only structure in Hendersonville. The contractor was local builder and architect, W. F. Edwards.

The most notable feature of the three story brick courthouse is the gold domed three-stage cupola, which consists of a columned drum and domical roof, crowned by a statue of Blind Justice. The rectangular building has front and side entrance pavillions; a pedimented hexastyle portico with corinthian columns at the main entrance, and tetrastyle porticoes at the sides. The interior is finished simply with gray granite floors and brick wainscot. The courtroom has been remodeled. On a whole, the relative sophistication and grandeur of the courthouse seems a reflection of the aspirations of a small county seat whose economy was booming and whose population was beginning to soar.
According to Sanborn maps, the present jail building, which adjoins the courthouse to the rear, appears to have been built ca. 1926, of fireproof materials. It is a 3 1/2 story red brick building with Neoclassical detailing. On the 2nd Avenue facade is a limestone entry portico with doric columns. The 2nd and 3rd stories each have limestone pilasters dividing the building into three bays. There are vertical bands of windows in each bay, 3 above and 3 below, divided by limestone panels. Dentilwork in the cornice divides the 3rd story from the small half story above. A limestone band divides the 1st and 2nd stories. A small one story addition has been built at the NW corner of the building which wraps around to the rear. The Church Street facade is also 3 1/2 stories with similar detailing as outlined above. At the southernmost point of this facade is a more modern 2 1/2 story addition of yellow brick which wraps around onto the 1st Avenue facade. A small alley separates most of the jail building from the courthouse, except where the two buildings are joined. Detailing on this facade is much the same as the Church Street facade. A large chimney with a limestone cap projects upward.

West side, 200 block N. Main St.

C 45. 201-205 N. Main St. Built soon after 1926. Simple, striated brick two story commercial building. Recessed panel above 2nd story windows. Row of corbelling and a concrete cap. Modern awning, windows, and doors at street level. This corner lot was the location for several prominent hotels in Hendersonville's early history.

C 46. 211 N. Main. Ca. 1920. Small one story brick building with unusual applied Neo-Classical cornice and lions' heads on frieze. Stained glass panel above door and display window. 1926 Sanborn Map indicates that this was once a dry cleaning establishment. Recently rehabilitated.

NC 47. 215-221 N. Main. Mid 20th century. One story plain commercial building divided into section by change in color of brick.

2nd story windows to either side of entrance bay, grouped in pairs with a common sill and a limestone lintel above each. Limestone trim on the parapet cap, lower part of entablature, over 2nd story windows, sills, columns, and bases of columns and piers. 2nd story windows in flanks and flanking storefronts altered.

Earliest use of the Neo-Classical style and reinforced concrete construction for a commercial structure in Hendersonville.

Concrete made its splashy debut as a building form in 1910, when W. F. Edwards, the most active builder in Hendersonville during this period, decided to try out this material for a new bank. Mr. Edwards had already been the contractor responsible for much of the town water and sewer system, the present Court House and the Hendersonville Town Hall.

For the People's National Bank, he worked with a Mr. Blythe. The project clearly caught the fancy of the local citizens. The following reports came from the French Broad Hustler.

(1/27/10) "Messrs. Edwards and Blythe have returned from Atlanta, where they purchased the latest improved machinery for re-inforced concrete construction. This machinery will be used for the first time in the construction of the People's National Bank." (2/17/10) "Concrete mixer arrives for People's National Bank job." (4/14/10) "...over a thousand barrels of cement will be used in the construction of the People's National Bank." (6/23/10) Edwards and Blythe are through with the concrete part of the People's National Bank's new building and are now starting to finish."

NC 49 245 N. Main. First Union Bank. 1970s. Only structure of a distinctly modern design on Main Street.

C 50. 142-146 3rd Ave. W. Two story, deep red striated brick commercial building of square configuration, built between 1922-1926. Metal cornice with modillions. North facade (facing Third Avenue) has minimally altered storefronts; transoms covered; central doorway to upstairs appears original with multi-pane glass transom; west facade (facing Church Street), double entry door appears original. Pairs of 1 over 1 double hung windows, with rusticated stone sills. Band of vertical brick surrounds the building, dividing the 1st and 2nd stories, and also appears above tops of windows at 2nd story. Was once "Brooks Apartments."

C 51. 303 N. Main. Justus Pharmacy. Ca. 1900. Two story brick building with stucco applied to front facade. Underlying brick shows
shows through, including crenellation beneath corbelled cornice. Glass block and black carrara glass added at storefront. Built as a pharmacy for W. H. Justus, remaining in the same family until 1957, and still run under the same name. Interior retains much of its earlier character. According to the French Broad Hustler, April 19, 1906 "The Justus Pharmacy, newly painted and decorated, inside and out, with its handsome new awning presents a handsome appearance." Mr. Hunter and Mr. Justus were continually trying to outdo the other with new soda fountains. French Broad Hustler, April 11, 1907 "The new fountain at the Justus Pharmacy is now almost ready, only a little plumbing required to put it in working order. It is of the new style, the clerks drawing different beverages from under the front counter. It is undoubtedly one of the handsomest fountains to be found anywhere. The massive back is of mahogany and plate glass, and remarkably beautiful glass, outlined with electric lights of different sizes. The electric light fixtures are of brass, very pretty in design. The counters and front are entirely of marble, with a heavy brass rail at the top and bottom. The latest appliances and cleanliness and quickness are incorporated in the big fountain, and the whole effect is most pleasing."


The Citizens Bank of Hendersonville was incorporated on March 30, 1908, according to Fain (p. 348) The March 26, 1908 French Broad Hustler notes that there will be a "new bank--ready for business--June 5th."

Mr. Fain writes that the "Citizens Bank was located on the west side of Main between Third and fourth (sic) Avenues, the building then occupied by Ewbank and Ewbank Insurance firm, later by Southern Public Utilities (Duke Power) and now by McFarlan's Bakery. There is a picture of this bank in the May 6, 1909 edition of the French Broad Hustler.

closest to Justus Pharmacy (SE side of building) wraps around into the alley forming an angled entry. Original wood framing been replaced with aluminum. Storefront at SW side of building is intact except for covered transom lights and aluminum framing around glass. All 2nd story windows have been replaced with aluminum frames; stone sills remain. According to Sanborn maps, this was built by 1912.


C 55. 313 N. Main. 1920s. One and a half story brick commercial building with corbelled cornice and recessed panels. Modernized at first floor level.

C 56. 315 N. Main Street. Ca. 1929. One and a half story striated brick commercial structure. Decorative rectangular patterns created through use of a yellow brick. Storefront altered.


NC 58. 321 N. Main. 1920s. Two story brick commercial building with lightly corbelled cornice. Second story divided into 4 broad bays by paired, modern windows. Altered at street level with deeply recessed entries to storefronts and stairs down. Modern entrances to two shops.

C 59. 323-329 N. Main. 1920s. Two story yellow-cream brick building with white glazed terra cotta ornament. Ornament includes coping, inset shield, 2nd-story window band (4 windows set in terra cotta band), molded terra cotta enframement around storefront and 2nd story windows, terra cotta frame and cornice around storefront. Door and storefront altered, glass block added.

NC 60. 333-341 N. Main. 1920s. #341 is a simple one story brick commercial structure with recessed panel. Diamond accent in recessed panel. Modernized storefront. #337 has been completely remodeled with stucco facade and new storefront. #333 has a modern storefront and a pent-roofed sign.
C 61. 343-345 N. Main. Cole Bank Building. 1880s. Plain, painted brick, two story structure. Five bays at second floor. End windows are wider, all are 1 over 1 double hung. Flat arches with projecting keystone above all windows. Substantial alterations include completely modernized storefronts with plate glass and stone veneer. Structure was built to house the first bank in Hendersonville, first known by its founder's name George H. P. Cole and later as State Bank of Commerce.

According to James T. Fain, Jr., author of 'A Partial History of Henderson County' (Arno Press, New York 1980, see pp. 344-345), a story in the Hendersonville News (May 24, 1923) dates Hendersonville's first bank in the year 1888, coinciding with the arrival of Dr. George H. P. Cole, reputed to be the first man to open a proper banking establishment. A Savings and Loan Association was opening just prior to this time, according to Mr. Fain. The Cole Bank became the State Bank of Commerce on January 25, 1889.

Mr. Fain quotes at length from a Hendersonville Times article of 1895, describing this bank building to be

One of the most substantial and attractive improvements in Hendersonville...[Its cost was $5000 and its arrangement and equipment are conceded to be the best in the South. The materials used and the furniture are all products of Henderson County and the work of native skill. We would not describe fully the interior fittings of the bank were we to fail to mention the fine vault and burglar proof safe with time lock... while the safety boxes for rent within the vault renders the loss of papers and other valuables by fire impossible.

The structure served as Hendersonville's post office from 1905-1914, and more recently as Rose Pharmacy.

C 62. SE corner of 4th Ave. W and Church Street. The Federal Building. 1914. Neoclassical two story building of symmetrical balance and proportion. Front entry has fanlights above 12-over-12 double hung windows. Front door slightly modified. Building is primarily red Flemish bond brick with inset panels of painted relief limestone ornament in a garland motif alternating with circles. Row of 4 brick pilasters in front are capped by the same limestone in modified corinthian capitals, dividing the 5 bays of the building. Dentil molding and egg-and-dart motif adorns building in cornice around all 4 sides of building. East and west facades also contain 12-over-12 windows with keystones on alternate windows. Alternate windows are 4-over-4. Second band of decorative stonework just
above 2nd story windows on all four sides of building. Cast iron railings at first floor windows and basement windows. Stone foundation. South (rear) facade has pilasters dividing the 5 bays, same as the front, and pairs of 6-over-6 windows between them with keystones above. A small 1 story brick addition wraps around the SE corner and part of the rear. According to Lenoir Ray's Postmarks, this building was constructed in 1914 for use as the post office (verified by Sanborn Maps) and continued as such until 1966. (p. 188)

West side, 400 block Main Street

C 63. 401 N. Main Street. First Bank & Trust Company. 1923. Three-story yellow brick building with Neo-classical limestone detailing including pilasters and terra cotta ornamentation. Pilasters support limestone entablature above 2nd story windows. All windows and doors modern. Simple, classical limestone enframement surrounds entrance. Designed by Erle Stilwell for First Bank and Trust; later owned by State Trust which merged with Northwestern in 1958.

C 64. 411 N. Main. Ca.1920. Two story yellow brick building with limestone detailing. Storefront pilers and lintel are limestone. Three bays at 2nd story with limestone trim and shelf architraves supported by brackets on all windows. Denticulated cornice.

C 65. 125-147 4th Ave. Staton Building, built by 1922. Two story red striated brick commercial building covering approximately 1/3 of block. Tiled pent roof extends out over 2nd story with pairs of brackets in eaves beneath, on south and west sides. West facade--windows in 3's, l-over-l double hung, 5 central windows l-over-l double hung. South facade--windows in pairs, 3's and 4's. Storefronts modified with metal panels and aluminum frame display windows and doors. Some (#133) retain original configuration with tile window aprons and paneled ceiling. Central entry to 2nd floor retains original door and transom. North facade (facing alley), 6-over-1 windows, with some 4-over-1. Small 1 story addition in L-shape behind this building and those facing into alley to the east. East facade--brick less decorative; 6-over-1 windows. According to Sanborn maps, the Staton Building was built sometime between 1912-1922. Some original uses in the building included a drugstore, offices, and postal telephone." This site was originally occupied by the Kentucky Home Annex.

C 66. 5th Ave. & Wall St. 1922-1926. One story commercial building divided into several storefronts. A green tile pent roof extends over a portion
of building. Storefronts intact or very minimally altered. Red striated brick on all but two which have been painted or had paneling applied. Storefront furthest to the north is part of an auto repair shop. This is perhaps an original use since windows here are multi-pane fixed glass facing into a garage space.

Presssed brick two-story commercial structure divided into two distinct sections. Three rough-faced stone piers with corbeled and pointed caps at corners and between building sections. Narrow stone string courses. Keystones in flat lintels above windows in southernmost storefront. A stone arch in northern storefront projects up into the second story. Storefronts modernized.

On January 23, 1905 the Commercial Bank of Hendersonville was officially incorporated. (Fain, p. 348) The construction of the building began in early February, and was hailed as Hendersonville's second bank. The Feb. 9, 1905 French Broad Hustler notes that "Work on the new bank has begun..." Apparently this bank became the First National Bank of Hendersonville, and stayed in this building until the summer of 1909. The French Broad Hustler of July 29, 1909 records the reopening of another bank in this same building, the Wanteska Trust and Banking Company. The First National Bank moved into a new building located at the present site of the Northwestern Bank. The Western Carolina Democrat and French Broad Hustler edition of January 2, 1918 mentioned the consolidation of the First National Bank and the Wanteska Trust to form The First Bank and Trust Company. (Fain erroneously dates this merger as 1913).


C 69. 425 N. Main. 1920s. Two story striated brick commercial building in a range of lighter colors. 3 bays at second story, with 6-over-1 windows. Stone piers on either end of building. Storefront modernized.

C 71. 437-451 N. Main. Hunter Building. Ca. 1912. Two story brick commercial building built to house Hunter's Pharmacy, formerly located down the street. Says "Morey Building" in tinwork at parapet. Long building divided into two unequal sections by doorway to stairs to 2nd floor. North section longest: presently two modern storefronts; south section has central arched opening at 2nd floor now filled in with wooden grillwork. Three windows to either side. Window over door to stairs. Twelve windows to north. Flemish bond brickwork with darkened headers. Tinwork at parapet and cornice with modillions. Limestone keystones above 2nd floor windows. Limestone recessed panel beneath each with molded tin cornice, above. First floor intact, north section. Rusticated piers flank door to stairs. Some of the second story windows have been filled in with wood panels. Building damaged by fire in 1926.

West side, 500 block Main Street

C 72. 501 N. Main Street. 1920s. Plain two story striated brick commercial building. Lightly corbeled cornice. 1-over-1 double hung windows. Modern storefront.

NC 73. 507 N. Main. 1909. Two story brick commercial structure, completely obscured by modern aluminum facade. Modern storefront. A large, two story commercial building occupying two 30 foot lots, this structure became a part of the Clarke Hardware Company. In the January 7, 1909 edition of the French Broad Hustler, one can read that

W. A. Smith and Henry Jordan have let the contract for a new office building they will erect on Main Street, between Dr. Howe's office and the new Clarke building. The building will have 56 feet and 4 inches frontage and run back 115 to the alley. The cost will be $12,000, the building will be owned jointly by these two gentlemen, and others, and will be built by Mr. Jordan. The excavation is now being made.

This newest addition to Main street will be two stories high, with a large basement suitable for business, and will set back a few feet from Main street, sufficient to give entrance to the big basement. Pressed brick will be used on the front of the building and the store fronts will be of solid glass...
The following May, a glowing description of this new store appeared in the *French Broad Hustler* (5/13/1909).

The store would really be a credit to any large city. Outside the mere size, the pretty decorated walls of green, the white iron ceiling liberally dotted with electric lights, the modern store fixtures, impresses one forcibly with the fact that Hendersonville is certainly growing to number among its business enterprises so handsome and modern a business house as this.

The floor space covers 7,015 square feet. The basement underneath the whole building is stocked with hardware, the entire ground floor is used as a salesroom, while upstairs are two seven room flats, equipped with all modern conveniences, with hot and cold water in every room.

The building is substantial—built to last, and is extremely handsome in appearance with its pressed brick front, its enormous plate glass windows and large projecting [wrought iron] balconies,...

NC 74. 525 N. Main. 1909. Two story brick commercial structure, obscured by aluminum facade. Modern storefront. Appears to have been built as the first part of the Clarke Hardware Company, mentioned as the "new Clarke building" in the French Broad Hustler of January 7, 1909, scheduled to be completed by June 1, 1909. It is today a part of Houston's Furniture Company.

The Main Street Historic District, Hendersonville, containing 55 contributing commercial and public buildings built between 1850 and 1929, is one of the most intact early twentieth century main streets in western North Carolina. As discussed in the Hendersonville Multiple Property Form, primarily in the historic context section for "Commercial Development in Hendersonville: 1850–1929," the district contains a few buildings from Hendersonville's earliest phase, when it was a stop on the Buncombe Turnpike in the mid-nineteenth century, but the majority of buildings were built between 1879, when the railroad arrived from Spartanburg, and 1929—Hendersonville's boom period when it became one of the major middle-class resorts in North Carolina's Blue Ridge mountains. Although a few buildings, such as the gold-domed 1905 Neo-classical Henderson County Courthouse and the 1910 People's National Bank, are architecturally outstanding, the backbone of the district are the well-preserved modestly ornamented two-story brick commercial buildings that form the six-block long streetscape.

Historical Context

Unlike larger Asheville, in adjacent Buncombe County, which has a dispersed business district, Hendersonville is a one-street town, with sparse development one block back from Main Street in each direction. This makes Hendersonville a typical western North Carolina county seat and market town. The Main Street District contains many fine examples of building styles popular during its period of significance.

The district includes a small group of buildings from its earliest period of growth, the 1850s and the early 1880s, following the 1879 arrival of the railroad, but the majority of the buildings date from the first quarter of the twentieth century.

The most striking building in the district is the Neoclassical, gold-domed courthouse [NR][#44] designed by Richard Sharp Smith, an associate of Richard Morris Hunt, and built in 1904. Its refined design and detailing exemplifies Hendersonville's turn-of-the-century prosperity, and is as striking today as
Historic and Architectural Properties in Hendersonville, NC - Main Street HD

when it was built. The two turnpike-era buildings, the Ripley Building [I#43] and the Major Noe Building [I#7], 1850s two-story commercial buildings, are unique in Hendersonville and rare in western North Carolina for they represent the pre-railroad era. Indicative of the modern spirit of Hendersonville in the early twentieth century, the former People's National Bank, ca. 1910 [I#48], built by local contractor W. F. Edwards, remains as one of the earliest known examples of reinforced concrete construction in Hendersonville. Both its materials and its refined Neoclassical design give it distinction.

The majority of buildings in the district are modest two-story brick commercial row buildings, dating from the early twentieth century, with well-preserved second story facades with simple brick cornice embellishment.

Historical Background

Hendersonville, established in 1847 as the county seat of the new county of Henderson, is located on this site because of the Buncombe Turnpike, built in 1827 from South Carolina through southwest North Carolina to Tennessee. Hendersonville's Main Street was the Buncombe Turnpike, and the Ripley Building and Major Noe Building, from the 1850s, represent this turnpike era.

In 1879, when the railroad arrived from Spartanburg, South Carolina, the sleepy turnpike county seat began to change. Its importance as an agricultural market town increased. One interesting entrepreneur, Flave G. Hart, built up a large produce business in the 1880s, and would ship out great box carloads of cabbages on the railroad. Farmers brought their goods to him at his store on Main Street, Drakes's Store, where they gathered in what came to be known as the Jokey Lot. [FitzSimons, p. 275].

During the railroad era, Hendersonville developed as a middle class resort. Although there is only one tourist building in the district, the Skyland Hotel, 1929 [I#39], many of the businesses here were partially dependent on tourist trade, such as the post office, livery stables, a tire shop, a restaurant, a general store, banks, movie theatres, an auto showroom, pharmacies, and real estate office.

Between 1902 and 1906 Hendersonville's population nearly tripled, from 1200 to 3000. The new courthouse was built in 1905, and in 1910, Main Street was the first street in town to be paved. By the 1920s, real estate speculation in town and in the scenic mountainous countryside reached unrealistic proportions. The 1929 Stock Market Crash put an end to many grandiose resort schemes, and the influx of tourists declined precipitously. The local economy remained stagnant until quite recently, when tourism and its reputation as a retirement mecca have revitalized Hendersonville.

2. Ibid.


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Photos Page 1

Historic and Architectural Properties in
Hendersonville, NC - Main Street HD

1) Name of Property and Address: will vary
   A-Z, AA-BB are all Main Street Historic District

2) City, State: Hendersonville, North Carolina

3) Photographer: Doug Swaim

   All 1985 photos have been field checked and reflect current condition

5) Location of Original Negative: Archives and History - Western Office,
   Asheville, NC

6) Description of View Indicating Direction of Camera: will vary

7) Photograph Number: will vary

A. 1) Davis Store Block, 106-114 N. Main Street
   6) Looking east
   7) A

B. 1) Major Noe Building, 218 N. Main Street
   6) Looking northeast
   7) B

C. 1) 222 N. Main Street
   6) Looking east
   7) C

D. 1) 238-244 N. Main Street
   6) Looking southeast
   7) D

E. 1) 300 A, B, C N. Main Street
   6) Looking northeast
   7) E

F. 1) 330 and 338-340 Main Street
   6) Looking northeast
   7) F

G. 1) 400 N. Main
   6) Looking northeast
   7) G
## National Register of Historic Places
### Continuation Sheet

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<th>Section number</th>
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Historic and Architectural Properties in Hendersonville, NC - Main Street HD

T. 1) 313 and 315 N. Main Street
   6) Looking northwest
   7) T

U. 1) 333-341 N. Main Street
   6) Looking northwest
   7) U

V. 1) Federal Building, SE corner 4th Avenue W and Church Street
   6) Looking southeast
   7) V

W. 1) 401, 411 & 421 N. Main Street
   6) Looking northwest up Main Street
   7) W

X. 1) Staton Building, 125-147 4th Ave. W.
   6) Looking northwest
   7) X

Y. 1) 5th Ave. & Wall Street
   6) Looking southwest
   7) Y

Z. 1) 427 - 429 Main Street
   6) Looking northwest
   7) Z

AA. 1) Hunter Building, 437-451 N. Main Street
      6) Looking southwest
      7) AA

BB. 1) 529 N Main Street
      6) Looking southwest down Main Street
      7) BB
9. Major Bibliographical References


French Broad Hustler. 1905, 1906, 1907, 1909.


10. Geographical Data

Approx. 30 acres.

UTM References

A [3,7] [3,6,7] [3,2,5] [3,9] [0,9] [3,0,0] B [1,7] [3,6,7] [4,2,0] [3,9] [0,8] [6,0,0]

C [1,7] [3,6,7] [1,9,0] [3,9] [0,8] [5,6,0] D [1,7] [3,6,7] [1,0,0] [3,9] [0,9] [2,1,0]

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Sybil Argintar Bowers, consultant; Martha Fullington, staff

Organization: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office

Date: 1987-1988

Street & Number: Western Office, Queen Center

City or Town: Asheville

State: North Carolina Zip Code: 28805