

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Downtown Sylva Historic District

Sylva, Jackson County, JK0586, 9/3/2014

Nomination by Heather Fearnbach

Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, January 2014



400 – 500 Block of West Main Street, looking northeast

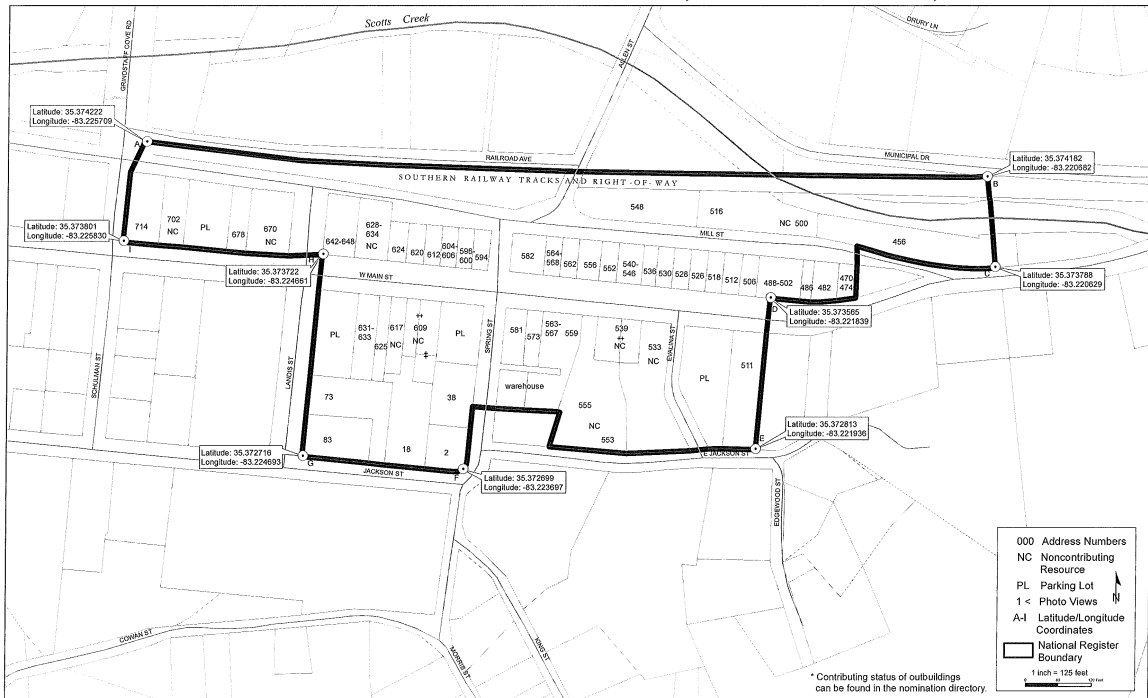


594-642 Block of Mill Street, looking west



488-502 West Main Street, looking northeast

DOWNTOWN SYLVA HISTORIC DISTRICT, JACKSON COUNTY, NC



Historic District Map

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 Downtown Sylva Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by the Southern Railway tracks and right-of-way, and Main, Landis, and Jackson Streets **N/A** not for publication

city or town Sylva **N/A** vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Jackson code 099 zip code 28779

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 for 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Downtown Sylva Historic District

Name of Property

Jackson County, 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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
41	11	buildings
0	0	sites
3	2	structures
0	0	objects
44	13	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

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

DOMESTIC: Hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

LANDSCAPE: Parking Lot

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Commercial Style

Classical Revival

Modern Movement

Queen Anne

Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

CONCRETE

STONE

roof ASPHALT

RUBBER

other METAL: Cast iron

SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

Narrative Description

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

Downtown Sylva Historic District

Name of Property

Jackson County, 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1900-1964

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wells, Charles Marion (builder)

Ellington, Douglas (architect)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository:

Hunter Library Special Collections, Western Carolina University

Name of Property

County and State

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Section 6. Function or Use (continued)

Historic Function

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
HEALTH CARE: Medical Office
RECREATION/CULTURE: Theater
RELIGION: Religious Facility
SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

Current Function

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
HEALTH CARE: Medical Office
RELIGION: Religious Facility
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related
VACANT/NOT IN USE

Section 7. Description (continued)

Materials

Walls SYNTHETICS: Vinyl
WOOD: Plywood
WOOD: Weatherboard
METAL: Tin

Roof METAL: Tin

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Section 7. Narrative Description

Sylva, population 2,680, is located in western North Carolina's Tuckasegee River basin between Balsam and Cowee mountains.¹ The town grew to become Jackson County's commercial hub after 1884, when the Western North Carolina Railroad extended its line originating in Salisbury to Sylva, and has functioned as its governmental center since being designated the county seat in 1913. Asheville architects Richard Sharp Smith and Albert Heath Carrier designed the Classical Revival-style courthouse that stands on the hill at Main Street's west end, the 1914 completion of which escalated the town's development. The Downtown Sylva Historic District contains the municipality's most intact and cohesive collection of early-to-mid-twentieth-century commercial and residential buildings. These structures represent the predominant architectural types and styles executed in North Carolina communities as the twentieth century progressed.

The largely linear district encompasses fifty primary resources situated on 13.07 acres on Main, Mill, Jackson, Landis, and Spring streets from Schulman Street on the west to Main and Mill streets' intersection on the east. Eight blocks at the town's center are arranged in a grid pattern, while the surrounding street configuration conforms to the rolling topography. Main and Mill streets, which run east-west through the district, constitute Sylva's primary business corridors. Landis and Spring streets intersect Mill and Main streets within the district. Scotts Creek flows through the district's northeast corner. The Norfolk Southern Railroad (historically Southern Railway) tracks and right-of-way provide a distinct north boundary. Jackson Street and early to mid-twentieth-century residential neighborhoods comprise the south boundary, while late twentieth-century commercial development flanks the district's east and west ends. Just east of the district on Main Street's south side, a large municipal parking lot occupies three tax parcels. Additional parking lots occupy the southeast corner of Main and Landis streets, the southwest corner of Main and Spring streets, and the southeast and southwest corners of Main and Evalina streets.

Building rhythm and massing is regular throughout the Downtown Sylva Historic District. Most structures are brick, one or two stories tall, and situated close to concrete sidewalks, although a few three-story edifices stand at key locations. Many buildings take advantage of the rolling terrain and are situated above full basements, which function in some cases as storage areas. However, basements on Main Street's north side often contain additional storefronts encompassing retail concerns or offices fronting Mill Street.

Sylva's first commercial buildings, as illustrated by late nineteenth-century photographs, were simply finished one- or two-story weatherboarded structures, often with full-width shed-roofed front porches.

¹ "Tuckasegee" is spelled in many ways. This document reflects that variation, as the name is spelled as it was historically or is currently used by different businesses and entities.

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It appears that only one late nineteenth-century commercial building of this type is extant, but is noncontributing due to the one-story, brick, circa 1975 façade that covers the original storefront at 628-634 West Main Street. The earlier front-gable-roofed, two-story, frame structure and its east and west shed additions extend to Mill Street.

As they prospered, merchants replaced utilitarian frame commercial structures with stylish and fire-resistant masonry edifices intended to advertise their success and attract customers. The C. J. Harris Building at 582 West Main Street and the commercial buildings at 594 and 596-600 West Main Street, erected between 1900 and 1908, epitomize this trend. Masons executed brick corbelling, pilasters, and decorative parapets evocative of the Italianate style. The structures also exhibit another popular early twentieth-century commercial building element: the use of cast-iron and pressed-metal storefront, window, and cornice ornamentation. The noncontributing commercial building at 539 West Main Street is not as elaborate, but its tall stepped parapet, designed to attract customers, distinguishes the 1903 structure from its neighbors.

Community investment in the built environment during the 1920s is manifested in twenty extant structures within the downtown historic district. Contractors completed the New Jackson Hotel, Jackson Hardware Company, J. S. Higdon's Garage, and three other commercial buildings around 1920. Sylva experienced a renaissance after suffering an April 6, 1923, fire that destroyed the Commercial Hotel, Medford Furniture Company, Zachary's Barber Shop, and merchant Abraham M. Simons's and his wife Fannie's Main Street residence. Medford Furniture Company erected a new two-story brick edifice by the end of that year. Other projects completed in 1923 include Hooper's Drug Store, the W. H. Rhodes Building, the Drs. McGuire's office, and the J. S. Higdon's Garage expansion. By 1928, the Bryson, A. J. Dills, Ray, I. H. Powell, and Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company buildings, the Sylvan Theatre, and one other commercial building joined those already lining Main Street.²

The district also includes two of Jackson County's most notable 1920s Classical Revival-style facades. The one-story brick building at 624 West Main Street, erected in 1926 to serve as Jackson County Bank's Sylva branch, retains a fully articulated entablature with Tuscan columns. Although First Citizens Bank demolished the 1928 Tuckasegee Bank at 609 West Main Street in 2011, the company salvaged the two-story, Classical Revival-style, white marble façade and installed it on the replacement edifice completed in 2012 at that location.

The banks' designs were an anomaly, as most Sylva structures continued to exhibit functional design

² JCJ, March 16, 1923, and October 5, 1923; U. S. census, 1920; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 442-443, 448-449; Jackson County Genealogical Society, *Jackson County Heritage, Volume II* (Waynesville, North Carolina: Walsworth Publishing Company, 2000), 3-4.

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with minimal ornamentation. The austere two-story brick Cogdill Motors dealership built at 456 West Main Street in 1934 is a good example. Executed in six-to-one common bond, it features an angled corner bay and retains some original steel-framed windows. Massie Furniture Company, completed in 1940 at 581 West Main Street just prior to widespread building materials shortages during World War II, is also simply executed. Brick pilasters frame the two-story red-brick commercial building's three-bay façade, extending above the parapet to create a slightly crenellated effect. The one-story brick 1946 Massie Furniture Warehouse on Spring Street behind the store is completely utilitarian.

A deep setback distinguishes the two-story, brick, hip-roofed, 1946 Moody Funeral Home at 714 West Main Street from the commercial buildings to the east. The property occupies a prominent corner lot and manifests residential characteristics such as double-hung, multipane, wood-sash windows, paired in many locations, and a full-width, flat-roofed porch supported by Tuscan columns.

By the late 1940s, Sylva's commercial buildings tended to incorporate elements of the Modernist style, reflecting the era's progressive thinking and optimism in the use of new materials, construction techniques, and spatial arrangements. Examples include the one-story 1946 building with a thin, red Roman brick-veneered storefront at 625 West Main Street. Masons utilized Tennessee Crab Orchard stone on the façades of the two-story commercial building newly-erected at 702 West Main Street in 1949 and to update the west storefronts of the 1920 New Jackson Hotel at 488-502 West Main Street and the 1920 commercial building at 631-633 West Main Street. A circa 1975 Tennessee Crab Orchard stone-veneered façade unifies the earlier one-story commercial buildings at 670 and 678 West Main Street.

The district's youngest two buildings, the 1956 Saint John's Episcopal Church and the 1964 United States Post Office, are Modernist in character. The front-gable-roofed sanctuary at 18 West Jackson Street, executed in variegated brick laid in running bond, features a full-height central tinted-glass window containing a tall cross. At 73 Landis Street, the one-story former United States Post Office façade comprises square stuccoed-panel wall sheathing at the north end and a taupe Roman brick-veneered storefront to the south.

The Downtown Sylva Historic also encompasses five residential buildings that manifest the area's early twentieth-century development. As proprietors, professionals, employees, and laborers lived within walking distance of Main Street businesses, offices, and institutions, neighboring residences ranged from expansive owner-occupied homes to modest rentals for working-class tenants. Houses lined Main Street through the mid-twentieth century, but only a few remain. The district's oldest extant dwellings—Asbury Sullivan and Rosa Cole Nichols's circa 1910 residence at what is now 83 Landis Street and Wayne and Daisy Zachary McGuire's circa 1910 house at 553 West Main Street—exhibit Queen Anne and Classical elements. The 1920s residence constructed for Marcellus and Laura

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Belle Buchanan at 2 West Jackson Street synthesizes Craftsman and Classical Revival attributes. The brick front-gable bungalow that Harry R. and Queen Duvall Hastings erected at 38 Spring Street in 1927 displays Craftsman-style features such as deep bracketed eaves and tapered porch posts on piers.

Integrity Statement

The Downtown Sylva Historic District contains fifty primary resources, approximately eighty-four percent of which retain the requisite architectural and historical integrity to contribute to its significance. Although the appearance of some buildings has evolved, the relationships among the district's extant resources have not changed for the past fifty years. In order for commercial buildings erected before 1964, which is the end of the period of significance, to be deemed noncontributing, entire façades have been significantly altered by a combination of storefront updates, replacement window installation, and the application of brick, stone, or cast-stone veneer after 1964. Multi-story buildings with modified storefronts but intact upper floors remain contributing. Residences may display minimal alterations, but multiple changes, such as replacement window and synthetic siding installation in conjunction with porch reconfiguration or large additions result in a dwelling being noncontributing. The houses included within the district boundaries are the few surviving downtown residences representing the much larger contingent that once lined Main and intersecting streets.

Only two primary resources post-date 1964. Vacant lots and buildings that do not contribute to the district's historic character due to age or loss of integrity were excluded from the district whenever possible, resulting in an irregular boundary that conforms to the property lines of contributing buildings and streetscapes. The Downtown Sylva Historic District retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to qualify for National Register listing.

Inventory List

The inventory list is arranged alphabetically by street name with properties enumerated by street address in ascending order. Parking lots are noted and illustrated on the district map. Each historic property is assigned a name, where possible, based on the first-known and/or a long-term occupant. Most information about these early tenants comes from historic photographs, newspapers, and plaques installed in building façades at the time of their construction. Actual or approximate completion dates and the dates of any major alterations or additions follow the property name. Construction and alteration dates are based on historic documents, photographs, newspaper articles, Sanborn Company maps (July 1933 was the only year published for Sylva), Jackson County property record cards, interviews with local informants, and architectural style. There are no city directories available for Sylva.

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Each resource is designated as contributing or noncontributing to the district's historic significance and integrity. The evaluations are based on age and degree of alteration. Buildings constructed in or before 1964 are considered to be contributing if they retain architectural and historic integrity from the period of significance. Contributing resources must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Noncontributing buildings post-date 1964 or were built before 1964 and have been heavily altered, therefore losing their integrity.

Jackson Street, North Side

Marcellus and Laura Belle Buchanan House, 1920s, Contributing Building 2 West Jackson Street

This one-story, hip-roofed, variegated brick bungalow displays both Craftsman and Classical elements. A round-arched portico supported by robust brick posts shelters the primary entrance, which comprises a multipane wood-framed door, sidelights, and fanlight. Four tall double-hung, eight-over-one, wood-sash windows surmounted by fanlights extend across the façade, while the secondary elevations contain six-over-one sash windows below fanlights. Cast-stone window sills and the soldier-course brick watertable and window and door lintels contribute to the dwelling's distinctive character, as do the eyebrow dormers with matching lunette windows that pierce all four roof slopes. The stone foundation is exposed on the east and north elevations at enough height to allow for multiple double-hung windows and a rear entrance. Steel posts and beams support the German-sided shed addition with double-hung, six-over-six, wood-sash windows that is cantilevered over the driveway. A corbelled chimney stack rises above the roof peak.

In 1880, Marcellus Buchanan resided in Webster with his parents Joseph D. and Eva S. Buchanan and his five younger siblings. He clerked in his father's retail store prior to attending the University of Virginia. Five years after his 1889 graduation, Marcellus married Webster native Laura Belle Leatherwood. Soon thereafter, the Buchanans occupied an expansive, two-story, weatherboarded Queen Anne-style house located at what is now 511 West Main Street in Sylva. The North Carolina General Assembly's 1899 Sylva charter appointed Buchanan to serve as one of the town's first commissioners. He pursued a wide variety of business opportunities, investing in retail and drug stores, logging, mining, and real estate. Buchanan managed a boarding house and a mica mining operation by 1900 and facilitated the October 1905 creation of Jackson County Bank, for which he functioned as an officer and cashier. In 1920, the Buchanans and their sons Marcellus, Harry, Carl, and Ralph resided on Cullowhee Road in Sylva Township. The federal census return indicates that Marcellus was a farmer at that time, but by 1930 his primary occupation was selling real estate. The family then occupied this house in Sylva. The Buchanans returned to rural life by 1940, when

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Marcellus and Laura Belle resided on Rhodes Cove Road.³

Saint John's Episcopal Church, 1956, early 1980s, Contributing Building, 18 West Jackson Street

This front-gable, metal-roofed Modernist sanctuary, executed in variegated brick laid in running bond, features a full-height, central, metal-framed, tinted-glass window containing a tall cross. Gothic Revival-style wrought-iron sconces flank the three-panel, single-leaf, wood door, which is painted bright red. A tall, wide, brick chimney rises at the façade's southeast corner. Pointed-arch stained-glass windows illuminate the sanctuary, piercing the side and rear elevations above the building's prominent sloped-brick water table. The site's grade slopes to the north, allowing for a full basement illuminated by fixed, metal-framed, single-pane, tinted-glass windows with sloped-brick sills. A one-story, brick, T-shaped, 1980s classroom and office building extends from the rear elevation. T-111 panels sheathe the gables beneath the low-pitched metal roof's deep eaves.

In 1879, Theodore Benedict Lyman, then assistant bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina, Sylva Lumber Company proprietor Dillard L. Love, and his niece Sarah Love organized what would become St. John's Episcopal Mission. Communicants met for worship, Sunday school, and academic instruction at various locations, including Love's lumber yard, until 1912. Love then provided a Jackson Street lot and the building materials with which the congregation erected its first sanctuary. Dr. D. H. Buel, head of Ravenscroft Associate Mission in Asheville, initially led worship services. By 1955, the parish's growth necessitated planning for the sanctuary completed the next year.⁴

Bell tower, 1956, Contributing Structure

The bell that occupied the 1912 sanctuary tower now hangs in a small, free-standing, metal-hip-roofed, brick structure southeast of the 1956 church. A single-leaf door created from a T-111 panel provides access to the tower interior.

³ U. S. censuses, 1880-1940; death certificates; Marcellus Buchanan III, "Marcellus Buchanan," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 122-123; Max R. Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County: Sesquicentennial Edition* (Sylva, North Carolina: Jackson County Historical Association, 2001); 119, 210, 393; photograph in Nick Breedlove and Lynn Hotaling, *Then and Now: Jackson County* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2009), 68.

⁴ Dillard L. Love, born on October 15, 1838 in Webster, North Carolina, died on August 23, 1923. Death certificate; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 260-261; Brooks Graebner and Lynn Hoke, "Theodore Benedict Lyman," in "The Bishops of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina;" "St. John's Episcopal Church, Sylva," in Jackson County Genealogical Society, *Jackson County Heritage, Volume I* (Waynesville, North Carolina: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1992), 519; "History of St. Johns," <http://saintjohnssylva.diocesewnc.org/AboutUs/history-and-mission.html>, accessed in December 2013.

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Landis Street, East Side

United States Post Office, 1964, Contributing Building 73 Landis Street

This one-story building's façade comprises square stuccoed-panel wall sheathing at its north end and a taupe-painted Roman brick-veneered storefront to the south. A flat metal canopy shelters the storefront's four tall, narrow, metal-framed, tinted-glass windows and matching double-leaf door and transom. Each façade window bay features solid square panels at the base and top. Three high, horizontal, three-part, metal-framed windows pierce the south elevation. The north elevation contains one identical window as well as two high square windows, a single-leaf steel door, and, at the east end, a roll-up loading-bay door. At the building's northeast corner, a flat-roofed metal canopy projects past the building footprint to cover the area adjacent to the recessed loading dock.

This building served as Sylva's United States Post Office from its 1964 completion until 2010. David Schulman purchased the property in September 2008 from the heirs of South Carolina resident William H. Burkhalter, who commissioned the construction of this post office and others throughout the southeast and leased the buildings to the federal government.⁵

Asbury Sullivan and Rosa Cole Nichols House, ca. 1910, Contributing Building 83 Landis Street

This two-story, weatherboarded, Queen Anne-style house features a side-gable main block with a projecting hip-roofed central façade bay ornamented with a decorative front gable. Sawnwork bargeboards and louvered attic vents embellish that and other gables. The façade gable's attic vent is articulated in the shape of a Palladian window, while the south gable's vent has two rectangular sections topped by a sawnwork hood. Sawnwork bargeboards also enhance the first-story cut-away bay on the south elevation. A small gable surmounts the single-story front porch entrance and Ionic columns support the hipped porch roof, which extends south to a pyramidal pavilion. The porch originally wrapped around the dwelling's southwest corner, but its north end and south section have been enclosed to create additional living space. A handicapped ramp with a turned balustrade matching that of the porch connects its south end and the sidewalk, and similar railings secure the front steps. The stone veneer on the foundation and front steps is a twenty-first-century modification.

Double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows illuminate the interior. South of the double-leaf front door, which features leaded-glass upper sections above raised panels, the first-story window is the

⁵ Jackson County Deed Book 288, p. 252; Deed Book 1757, p. 156; Deed Book 1758, pp. 743 and 746; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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most elaborate in the house, comprising a short, leaded-glass, upper sash and a large, single-pane, lower sash. The door near the façade's south end and those on the south side and rear elevations contain glazed upper sections above raised-panel lower halves. Molded trim boards cap the butt-corner, flat-board door and window surrounds.

A hip-roofed dormer pierces the east roof slope and a series of one-story gable, shed, and hip-roofed rooms extend from the east (rear) elevation. The hip-roofed southeast section may have originally been a free-standing outbuilding. A pedimented gable tops the small bathroom that rises above the central rear shed room near a brick chimney stack.

Georgia native Asbury Sullivan Nichols, born on May 7, 1881, studied at Cullowhee Normal School, Davidson College, and Tennessee Medical College, where he attained a degree in 1905. That year, he married Cashiers resident Rosa Cole, born on November 19, 1882, and soon established a general medical practice in Sylva. By 1910, the couple lived on what was then Walnut Street. Dr. Nichols and his older brother Alvan A. Nichols, also a physician, owned Sylva Pharmacy for many years and later invested in Professional Drug Store. Asbury and Rosa Nichols were civic leaders and attended Sylva Methodist Church. After Dr. Nichols died on November 6, 1950, Rosa remained in the home until her December 18, 1968, death.⁶ From 1973 until December 2005, the building contained a thrift store established by the C. J. Harris Community Hospital auxiliary in 1962 as a fundraising mechanism. Dave Hart and Pat Kessing purchased and rehabilitated the Nichols House in 2008 to serve as an antiques shop.⁷

Main Street, North Side

Cogdill Motors, 1934, Contributing Building 456 West Main Street

This austere two-story brick building executed in six-to-one common bond features an angled corner bay at Main and Mill Street's intersection. Original steel-framed windows illuminate the west elevation and the façade's second floor at its west end, while replacement grey-tinted display windows light the remaining areas. Wood shingled shed canopies surmount the first-story windows as well as the two garage bays in the one-story, brick, shed-roofed addition. A gabled, wood-shingled entrance portico supported by rustic wood posts shelters the double-leaf wood door that fills what was a loading

⁶ Nichols House photograph in "Some Residences in Sylva," image from a 1914 Greater Western North Carolina Association publication in *SHR*, October 2, 1980, p. 3; U. S. censuses, 1900-1940; death certificates; Jerry N. Cooke, "Dr. Asbury Sullivan 'Big Doc' Nichols," *Jackson County Heritage, Volume I*, 365; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 215-216.

⁷ Samantha Blanton, "Grand opening set for new hospital auxiliary thrift shop," *SH*, Thursday, May 18, 2006; Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, "The Hart of what matters," *Our Town*, 2013, p. 23.

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bay at the façade's center. Stucco sheathes the first story on the area surrounding the entrance and to the building's west corner. On the west elevation, a long concrete ramp with stone retaining walls leads to a metal sliding door that provides access to the second story. As the lot borders Scotts Creek, the dramatic elevation drop allowed for a basement roll-up garage door surmounted by a steel balcony with a metal-pipe railing outside the single-leaf entrance north of the ramp.

Samuel Candler Cogdill and his son Ray partnered to establish a Chrysler-Dodge-Plymouth automobile dealership in 1931 and expanded the venture to occupy the building they constructed at 456 West Main Street in 1934. The men erected the adjacent Standard service station in 1941. After Samuel's 1952 death, Ray oversaw the complex's operation until he died in 1976. Ray's son Sam joined the family business in 1961 and retained ownership until 1995. Western Carolina Chrysler acquired the dealership and utilized the property until around 2005, after which Balsam Creek Designs purchased and remodeled the building.⁸

Sylvan Theatre, 1927, 1940s, ca. 2009, Contributing Building 470-474 West Main Street

This two-story brick commercial building is executed in running bond with a denticulated cornice, a header course separating the first and second stories, and a soldier course above three storefront bays. The replacement wood-framed west and central storefronts encompass single-leaf doors and plate-glass windows, while the matching east bay contains only one large plate-glass window. Three double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows pierce the façade's second story. The east elevation's second story, which is blind, is exposed as the contiguous building, which is not included in the historic district due to extensive alterations, is only one-story tall. Metal coping caps the flat parapet.

On the Mill Street elevation, laid in five-to-one common bond, two tall steel-framed windows with operable six-pane lower sections illuminate the second floor and a sliding wood basement door painted with a river scene hangs on a steel track.

Asheville and Waynesville movie theatre proprietor Theodore Stevenson engaged Asheville architect Douglas Ellington to design the one-story Sylvan Theatre erected by J. S. Higdon. The five-hundred-seat venue began operating on July 1, 1927, under Edwin B. Drake's management. Drake purchased the business in February 1928 and Lyric Theatre owner Harry E. Buchanan assumed oversight of the Sylvan Theatre in early 1929. The venture appears to have been short-lived, however, as the July 1933 Sanborn map indicates that the theatre was no longer functioning. Although the façade's second-story windows indicate that the building interior has an upper floor, only what was originally a small

⁸ Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 173; Amy C. Worsham, "Sam and Lula Alman Cogdill," *Jackson County Heritage, Volume I*, 160-161; photographs in *Hotaling, Sylva*, 36-37.

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projection room occupies the building's south end. The rest of the space had a full-height ceiling designed to accommodate the movie screen. Owners remodeled the façade to create two storefronts in the mid-twentieth century, shortly before the building's use as the Jackson County Public Library from October 1957 until October 1970. Sylva merchant Sol Schulman's son David Schulman purchased the building in 1971 and added a metal-screen façade prior to opening David's Stores, a clothing shop, in the east storefront in September of that year. After moving the business west on Main Street in November 1975, he leased the storefront as a professional office. Donald M. Ramsey, Sylva's first full-time optometrist, practiced from the building's west storefront from the 1950s through 1990. Sylva Insurance Agency, established in 1925, has occupied the east storefront since 1989. David Schulman returned the façade to a historically appropriate appearance around 2009.⁹

J. S. Higdon Garage, 1920, 1923, 1950s, Contributing Building **482 West Main Street**

Fluted mid-twentieth-century aluminum panels sheathe this one-story commercial building's stepped-parapet façade. A flat metal canopy from the same era shelters the storefront's aluminum-framed plate-glass windows and two doors. The paraged Mill Street elevation features a taller and wider stepped parapet. Two small, rectangular, steel-framed, two-pane windows pierce the second story's center, flanked by four tall, eighteen-pane, steel-framed windows. A wood-paneled roll-up door secures the east loading bay, while the west loading bay has been infilled with plywood and a single-leaf entrance.

Blacksmith J. S. Higdon adapted to changing markets as he shifted from wagon and buggy repair to become Sylva's first automobile dealer upon opening a Ford dealership in 1914. As a mechanism to demonstrate the Model T Ford's powerful engine, he drove a car up the steep courthouse steps. In addition to selling vehicles, Higdon garnered experience as a mechanic and opened a gas station. He erected this building around 1920 to house his Ford sales and service business and expanded it with a rear addition in 1923. The one-story brick façade encompassed a central garage bay flanked by two pairs of large four-pane windows surmounted by eight-pane transoms. A corbelled cornice capped the slightly recessed parapet panel that contained a painted "J. S. Higdon" sign. Historic photographs illustrate a weatherboarded front gable behind the metal stepped-parapet cornice. Subsequent

⁹ "Mr. Drake Buys Theatre," *The Ruralite*, February 21, 1928; Western Carolina Telephone Company, *Telephone Directory: Bryson City, Cashiers, Cherokee, Whittier, Cullowhee, Franklin, Highlands, and Sylva*, October 1965; Clay Griffith, "An Inventory of Douglas Ellington's Architectural Work in Western North Carolina," in *May We All Remember Well*, Vol. 2. (Asheville, North Carolina: Robert S. Brunk Auction Services, Inc., 2001), 102; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 393; J. D. McRorie, "Knowing Jackson...Library Usage," *SH*, October 7, 1976; "Sylva's early libraries were located up and down Main Street," *SHR*, June 9, 2011, p. 6C; "New WCU band scholarship honors memory of Meg Ramsey," *SHR*, July 8, 2010, p. 6B; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014; Phyllis Fox, Sylva Insurance Agency, telephone conversation with Paige Roberson, January 2014.

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proprietors included automobile purveyor C. C. Cagle and Son and Western Auto Association. Gainesville, Georgia, native Ed Wilson opened Sylva's Western Auto franchise following his military service during World War II. Later tenants included Sylva Herald publisher J. A. Gray's wife Eliza, who opened a Hallmark shop in one of the storefronts.¹⁰

Commercial Building, 1920, 1980, Contributing Building 486 West Main Street

This narrow two-story brick commercial building's execution in five-to-one common bond with wood lintels above the second-story replacement windows indicates a late nineteenth- or early twentieth-century construction date. The second story has been painted and a steel I-beam installed to support the storefront opening's upper edge. The replacement wood-frame storefront comprises a plate-glass door surrounded by matching windows and transoms. On the parged Mill Street elevation, two double-hung, six-over-six, wood-sash windows illuminate the second story, while a sixteen-pane wood-frame transom surmounts larger, paired, double-hung, six-over-six wood-sash first-story windows. A single-leaf entrance and brick infill have been added to the basement loading bay. Terra cotta coping caps the parapets.

The July 1933 Sanborn map indicates that the building functioned as a stock room, likely for J. S. Higdon Garage, which expanded west from 482 West Main Street into this structure. Western Auto Association utilized the storefront by 1955. Sossaman Furniture subsequently leased the space. By the early 1980s, the building served as Trull's Dance Studio.¹¹

New Jackson Hotel, ca. 1920, 1926, Contributing Building 488-502 West Main Street

This expansive three-story commercial building's façade is executed in wire-cut red brick laid in running bond. The seven-bay-wide structure encompasses three storefronts and two stair hall entrances on its Main Street façade. The flat parapet's cornice contains a soldier course capped with stretchers and a slightly projecting header course concealed by metal coping everywhere but at the façade's west end. One-over-one wood-sash windows, paired with the exception of the central bay,

¹⁰ *Jackson County Journal*, August 11, 1911, p. 2; *JCJ*, October 5, 1923; J. S. Higdon Garage advertisement, *The Ruralite*, June 22, 1926; "First Automobile Dealer in Sylva Drove Car Up Courthouse Steps," *SH*, February 28, 1957; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 449; photographs in *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, pp. 15 and 24; photograph in Lynn Hotaling, *Images of America: Sylva* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2008), 36; David Schulman, telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, April 23 and 25, 2014; W. Paul Holt Jr., telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 24, 2014.

¹¹ Photograph in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 45; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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illuminate the top two floors. At the façade's center, a second-story single-leaf wood-panel door with a glazed upper section, sidelights, and a transom indicates that a small balcony once existed. Tennessee Crab Orchard stone veneer sheathes the recessed, aluminum-framed, west storefront and stair hall entrance. The painted-brick east storefronts display mirrored fenestration in terms of central entrance and outer wood-framed plate-glass window placement. Both transoms have been enclosed and flat-sloped canvas awnings shelter the storefronts. A single-leaf entrance surmounted by a twelve-light transom occupies the façade's southeast corner. Metal coping caps the parapet, which is stepped on the side elevations.

On the Mill Street elevation, single, paired, and one group of tripled one-over-one wood-sash windows with brick header sills light the three primary floors. The basement contains four storefronts. At the east end, a roll-up corrugated-metal garage door and a single-leaf plate-glass door provide access to the interior. The central storefront of approximately equal width encompasses a single-leaf plate-glass door and matching display windows. The west storefront has been divided in half to create two units. A metal-roofed shed canopy covers the wood-shingled east storefront, which contains a single-leaf door and plate-glass display window. The west section has been infilled with brick around a residential two-pane window and a wood door with four tall vertical glazed panes above two horizontal panels.

J. S. Higdon, who then resided in the two-story frame dwelling erected by Erastus R. and Rachel Eva Hampton in 1879 just west of this site, commissioned the New Jackson Hotel's construction around 1920. Photographs and masonry variation illustrate that the building was initially two stories tall and five bays wide. The original wood-framed storefronts comprised recessed central entrances flanked by plate-glass display windows, all surmounted by transoms with large square panes. On June 29, 1926, *The Ruralite* announced that an addition comprising two west bays and third story was almost finished, resulting in a forty-room hotel with private and connecting bathrooms and a roof garden. The July 1933 Sanborn map shows that the lobby was in the west storefront, which had a prismatic glass transom. A frame, hip-roofed monitor rose above the roof near the Main Street façade, providing additional light for the third story.¹²

Queen Duvall Hastings and her mother-in-law Ebbie M. Hastings purchased the property in January 1936 and Poinsett Hotel proprietor C. B. Thompson leased the enterprise in April of that year, changing the name to Hotel Carolina. The P. L. S. Company, comprising Sol Schulman and his siblings, purchased the building from the Hastings family in the 1940s and leased it to a number of hotel operators. In August 1944, Cabarrus County entrepreneur Leroy Sossaman expanded his Statesville furniture business with a Sylva store utilizing the two east storefronts. His brother Boyd

¹² "New Jackson Makes Addition," *The Ruralite*, April 27, 1926; "Work on Hotel Completed," *The Ruralite*, June 29, 1926; "The New Jackson Hotel," photograph, *The Ruralite*, July 6, 1926.

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Sossaman operated the Sylva enterprise until around 1990. By 1971, Home Credit Company leased the west storefront, which the bank updated with a Tennessee Crab Orchard stone-veneered façade. In January 1977, Sol and Lillian Schulman conveyed the property to their son David Schulman, who with his wife Denissa sold the property to Frederick H. Williams and others in December 1982. Subsequent owners include Florida-based Kabboord Properties, Inc., and Gregory S. and Jennifer W. McPherson, who acquired the property in 2008.¹³

Eagle Five and Ten Cent Store – Karp’s Department Store, 1935, 1981, Contributing Building 506-512 West Main Street

Slightly recessed panels featuring basketweave-patterned brick bordered with header bands ornament this one-story, two-part commercial building’s stepped-parapet façade. A soldier-course lintel tops the storefronts, both of which have been replaced. The façades have been painted in different color schemes. The east storefront encompasses two aluminum-framed plate-glass doors flanked by matching display windows above black-and-white glazed ceramic tile kneewalls. The Tennessee Crab Orchard stone veneer on the adjacent storefront at 498 West Main Street extends slightly onto the 506 West Main Street façade’s east edge. The transom has been covered with plywood panels. As the west storefront functions as an extension of the business housed in the adjacent building to the west, it no longer contains a door. A flat-sloped canvas awning shelters the aluminum-framed plate-glass windows above a brick kneewall. Metal coping protects the parapet.

The west section’s Mill Street elevation is a bit taller and wider. Small, rectangular, steel-framed, two-pane windows pierce the second story’s center, flanked by four large, twenty-five-pane, steel-framed windows with operable central hoppers. A central second-story door once provided access to the west section, but brick now encloses the door opening. The east section’s central, second-story, paneled-wood door remains in place but is not operable. Both storefronts initially contained a central loading bay and have been painted. The west opening is now infilled with brick and single- and double-leaf aluminum-framed doors. Two small, rectangular, steel-framed, two-pane windows are east of the double-leaf door. In the east section, T-111 paneling fills the loading-bay space on either side of a double-leaf aluminum-framed door.

The July 1933 Sanborn map illustrates J. S. Higdon’s two-story dwelling with a full-width front porch at this location. Sol Schulman purchased the residence and demolished it in December 1934 in order

¹³ Jackson County Deed Book 121, p. 537; Deed Book 460, p. 70; Deed Book 550, pp. 155 and 222; Deed Book 878, p. 298; Deed Book 1724, p. 230; *JCJ*, March 5, 1936, April 16, 1936, April 23, 1936; *The Ruralite*, April 21, 1936; “Jackson County Ready for Large Tourist Season,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 13, 1937; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 173; 1920s, 1940s, 1955 and 1971 photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 22, 38, 45, 123; 1920s; interior photograph in *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 33; David Schulman, telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, April 23 and 25, 2014.

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to erect a commercial structure on the site. His first tenant, Eagle Five and Ten Cent Store, commenced operating in the west storefront on July 6, 1935, and remained until 1941. A. J. Dill's Meat Market subsequently opened at that location, but David Parker's Blue Ribbon Shoe Shop was the longest tenant, leasing the storefront from the 1950s until about 1981. Dave Karp's Department Store occupied the east storefront from July 1935 until 1961. Thrift-Tee Discount utilized that storefront by 1971, followed by Jaygees Craft Shop. David and Denissa Schulman acquired the property in January 1977. Around 1981, Schulman opened a doorway in the wall shared with 518 West Main Street to facilitate the expansion of his clothing shop, David's Stores, from that building into 512 West Main Street. He replaced the recessed storefront with a flush storefront but refurbished the original pressed-metal ceiling. Soon after David's Stores closed in 1991, the Schulmans sold the property to Livingston and Linda Kelley, who retain ownership.¹⁴

A. J. Dills Building, 1926, 1979, Contributing Building 518 West Main Street

This two-story painted-brick commercial building is executed in running bond with a flat-parapet cornice comprising a soldier course capped with a slightly projecting header course. At the parapet's center, headers border a cast-stone plaque bearing the name A. J. Dills and the building's 1926 construction date. A header course spans the second story above a wide opening that, although infilled with recessed wood paneling and replacement windows, retains its original size. A flat-sloped canvas awning shelters the replacement storefront, which encompasses a recessed central single-leaf entrance surrounded by a brick wall and flanked by aluminum-framed plate-glass windows above brick kneewalls.

On the Mill Street elevation, two large, three-section, aluminum-framed windows illuminate the first and second stories. All appear to be late twentieth-century replacements. The first floor windows are shorter than the originals. Two single-leaf entrances, a metal-framed plate-glass window, and brick infill the two basement loading bays.

Sylva Realty Company manager Allen Jonah Dills oversaw the development of Oaklyn Hills, a residential subdivision located approximately one mile from Sylva, in 1926. On June 1st of that year, *The Ruralite* announced that Dills had commenced constructing a two-story brick commercial building on Main Street and that Sylva Realty Company would lease one of the storefronts. The July 1933

¹⁴ "Oldest Landmark of Town is Being Razed by Workmen," *JCJ*, December 29, 1934; "Schulman to erect building," *JCJ*, March 7, 1935; "Eagle Stores Will Open," *JCJ*, June 6, 1935; "Karp's Store Will Move," *JCJ*, June 27, 1935; "Eagle Store Opens Saturday," *JCJ*, July 4, 1935; Western Carolina Telephone Company, *Telephone Directory*, October 1965; "History on Main Street," *SH*, October 28, 2010; 1971 photograph in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 39; David Schulman, telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, April 23 and 25, 2014; Jackson County Deed Book 460, p. 70; Deed Book 1186, p. 69; Deed Book 1770, p. 208.

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Sanborn map illustrates that two businesses shared the first floor: a store on the east side and the Western Union Telegraph Company, which occupied the west storefront from 1926 until 1965. The second floor, a large open room, served as the Mead Corporation's Union Hall. A print shop utilized the basement. By 1960, Claude Campbell's electric company leased the east storefront, which then comprised three tall, central, aluminum-framed, plate-glass windows flanked by matching single-leaf doors and transoms. Seven double-hung, one-over-one sash, wood-frame windows illuminated the second-story. Campbell Electric Company expanded into the west storefront before relocating in 1975.¹⁵

In January 1979, Sol Schulman conveyed the property to David Schulman, who remodeled the façade and interior to house David's Stores, his clothing shop. The work included the storefront's replacement and the removal of the exterior entrance that provided access to stairs that led to the basement and the second floor. The renovation also involved the installation of dropped-acoustical-tile ceiling in the first floor and remodeling the second story to create an apartment. In July 1992, David and Denissa Schulman sold the property to Livingston and Linda Kelley, who retain ownership.¹⁶

Medford Furniture Company - Jackson Furniture Company, 1923, Contributing Building 526 West Main Street

This three-story brick commercial building features soldier and stretcher courses outlining the four window openings on each of the façade's upper floors. The edifice is executed in variegated textured brick laid in running bond with a flat-parapet cornice capped with metal coping. The storefront encompasses a single-leaf west entrance surmounted by a transom with a four-part aluminum-framed plate-glass window above a brick kneewall to its east. A flat-sloped ribbed-aluminum awning with a scalloped lower edge shelters the storefront.

On the Mill Street elevation, four one-over-one sash replacement windows illuminate the three upper stories. A hip-roofed frame elevator tower extends above the building's northeast corner. The stuccoed basement level is painted black with a recessed west loading bay that reflects a series of modifications. Plywood fills the large window opening to its east.

Canton native Boone Medford commissioned this building's construction, completed in September 1923. Medford Furniture Company initially occupied the first-floor space, selling home furnishings

¹⁵ A. J. Dills also sold fire insurance. *Tuckaseige Democrat*, 1911; Sylva Realty Company advertisement, *The Ruralite*, April 27, 1926; "Opening of Oaklynn Hills," *The Ruralite*, August 24, 1926; "Business Building Under Construction," *The Ruralite*, June 1, 1926; Western Carolina Telephone Company, *Telephone Directory*, October 1965; 1971 photograph in Hotaling, Sylva, 38; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 388.

¹⁶ Jackson County Deed Book 491, p. 633; Deed Book 836, p. 244; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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and appliances. P. E. Moody partnered with Medford from 1922 until 1935. J. R. Long, R. J. Snyder, and T. E. Reed then acquired the business and created Jackson Furniture Company, which remained in operation through the 1960s. Livingston and Linda Kelley purchased the property in January 1990.¹⁷

P. L. & S. Building, 1932, Contributing Building 528 West Main Street

Blonde brick laid in running bond and a stepped parapet with a central pointed section distinguish this one-story commercial building's façade. At the parapet's center, headers border a cast-stone plaque bearing the initials "P. L. & S." The plaque surmounts a slightly recessed panel featuring basketweave-patterned brick outlined with headers. Columns with inset panels of brick stretchers create a pilaster-like effect at the façade's outer edges. A soldier-course lintel tops the storefront, which comprises two aluminum-framed plate-glass doors surrounded by matching display windows above black glazed ceramic tile kneewalls. A flat mid-twentieth-century aluminum canopy shelters the storefront below a metal-framed textured-glass transom. Concrete coping caps the parapet.

On the red brick Mill Street elevation, two large, twenty-five-pane, steel-framed windows with operable central hoppers illuminate the second story. Wood lattice fills a small square central window, which is partially covered by a wood sign board. A wood-shingled hood tops the central single-leaf basement entrance, which is flanked by two twenty-pane steel-framed windows. Brick soldier-course lintels and header sills characterize the window openings. Late twentieth-century modifications include applied window surrounds featuring lintels with scalloped lower edges on the second story and side boards with a central, pierced, diamond motif on the first story. A long rectangular panel painted with black-and-white vertical stripes fills most of the space between the first- and second-story windows.

New York City native Soloman Schulman grew up in the Rockingham County, North Carolina, community of Reidsville and moved to Sylva in 1932 from Canton, where he had been working in his brother Barney Schulman's clothing store. Their father Samuel Schulman, who at that time resided in Cherryville, North Carolina, was also a clothing purveyor, as were Barney and Sol's sisters and their husbands: Isadore and Faye Londner of Marion, North Carolina, and Jacob and Rose S. Pliskin of High Point, North Carolina. Barney, Faye, and Rose partnered to subsidize the P. L. & S. Building's construction by Cherryville contractor L. S. Costner's company under J. N. McNeill's supervision. The building thus bears the initials of each of their surnames. Sol Schulman leased the building from his siblings and operated the department store from January 4, 1933, until 2002. His wife Lillian

¹⁷ Jackson County Deed Book 742, p. 646; *JCJ*, October 5, 1923; Medford Furniture advertisements, *The Ruralite*, May 25, 1926, March 26, 1929; "Furniture Stores in Sylva," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 32; "Moody Funeral Homes," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. II, 369; early 1950s photograph in Hotaling, Sylva, 53.

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assisted him until her death in 1981. Schulman bequeathed the store's inventory to the Westcare Foundation, who auctioned the contents following his November 11, 2003, death. He had purchased the building from his siblings and David and Denissa Schulman retain ownership.¹⁸

The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, 1925, Contributing Building 530 West Main Street

This two-story commercial building's façade is executed in blonde brick laid in running bond with a flat-parapet cornice featuring a slightly projecting stretcher course capped with a corbelled header course and terra cotta coping. A slightly recessed panel bordered with headers occupies the parapet's center. Soldier and stretcher brick courses outline the two second-story window openings containing paired, one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows above header sills. Slightly projecting pilasters with inset panels comprising brick stretchers flank the façade. A soldier course spans the storefront opening, which contains a recessed, aluminum-framed, plate-glass door surrounded by a matching transoms and display windows above a pale-red brick kneewall. Matching brick sheathes the storefront's outer edges. A late twentieth-century, hip-roofed aluminum canopy with a flared lower edge shelters the storefront. At the façade's west end, a flat-sloped canvas awning surmounts the replacement single-leaf door that provides access to stairs leading to the second floor.

On the red brick Mill Street elevation, large replacement one-over-one sash windows arranged in pairs flanking single windows illuminate each floor. Brick soldier-course lintels and header sills characterize the window openings. The former basement loading bay encompasses a recessed late twentieth-century storefront with a double-leaf door and tall narrow plate-glass windows surrounded by paneled beadboard. A flat-sloped canvas awning with a scalloped lower edge protects the storefront. Three large plate-glass windows provide additional light for the basement.

The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company (A & P) occupied the storefront from the building's 1925 construction until 1956. Entrepreneurs subsequently operated women's clothing stores, including Ladies' Town Shop, The Closet, and Cato's, in the storefront. The second floor housed apartments and a beauty shop.¹⁹

¹⁸ "Erecting Building on Main Street," *JCJ*, September 8, 1932; "Schulman's Department Store To Open Wednesday," *JCJ*, January 3, 1933, p. 6; "Sol Schulman," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 35; "Sol Schulman," *ACT*, November 11, 2003, p. C4; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 46, 47; death certificates; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

¹⁹ Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 174; Anna Candler letter, March 1941, reprinted in Lynn Hotaling, "Sylva's Main Street in 1941," *SH*, July 17, 2013; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 9, 34; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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Stovall's Five and Ten Cent Store, 1925, Contributing Building 536 West Main Street

This two-story commercial building's façade is executed in blonde brick laid in running bond with a flat-parapet cornice featuring a slightly projecting stretcher course capped with a corbelled header course and concrete coping. A slightly recessed panel bordered with headers occupies the parapet's center. The two second-story window openings contain paired, one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows framed by a continuous soldier-course lintel and header sills. Slightly projecting pilasters flank the façade. The storefront opening contains a recessed aluminum-framed plate-glass door surrounded by a matching transom and display windows above red brick kneewalls. A late twentieth-century, 5-V crimp metal, hip-roofed canopy surmounts a mid-twentieth-century, flat-roofed metal canopy above the storefront.

On the blonde brick Mill Street elevation, large replacement one-over-one sash windows arranged in pairs flanking single windows illuminate each floor. Continuous soldier-course lintels and header sills embellish the window openings. The basement encompasses a central, recessed, single-leaf door with a short transom and tall narrow flanking sidelights sheltered by a hip-roofed asphalt-shingled canopy. Three large plate-glass windows provided additional light for the basement, but the window just west of the door has been covered with plywood.

The July 1933 Sanborn map states that this building served a retail function. Dewey Stovall began utilizing the storefront as Stovall's Five and Ten Cent Store upon the building's completion and operated it until circa 1946, when his brother John Raymon Stovall purchased the business. In 1960, Stovall relocated the concern to 620 West Main Street. Later tenants at 536 West Main Street included Radio Shack and Petticoat Junction, a clothing store.²⁰

Bryson Building - Hale's Dress Shop, 1924, Contributing Building 540-546 West Main Street

This one-story brick commercial building's primary embellishment is its pressed-metal modillion cornice, which retains one console on its west end. The cornice tops a header course. Soldier courses spanning the red brick façade above the storefronts and below the cornice provide additional visual interest. At the façade's center between the soldier courses, a small cast-stone plaque identifies the Bryson Building and its 1924 construction date. Flat-sloped canvas awnings shelter the replacement storefronts, both of which contain aluminum-framed plate-glass doors and windows bordered by painted brick walls. T-111 panel-sheathed kneewalls flank the west storefront's recessed entrance.

²⁰ Ezra Stovall, "John Raymon Stovall Family," in *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 445-446; photograph in *Hotaling, Sylva*, 39; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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On the Mill Street elevation, the west section's parapet extends almost to the adjacent three-story building's height. Five second-story window openings contain double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows that have been painted or covered with plywood, while two additional openings of the same size have been filled with brick. The two-story east section's former basement loading bay contains a single-leaf door, a one-over-one sash window, and brick infill. In the wider west section, the storefront comprises a recessed central double-leaf door, a single-leaf west entrance, a plate-glass west window, short transoms, and paneled wood kneewalls. The matching east window has been boarded-up.

In 1924, the City Barbershop began operating in the Mill Street storefront, which housed a barber and beauty shop for decades. From 1928 until around 1957, Sadie Hale's dress shop occupied the Main Street storefront. Hale then relocated her business to Waynesville. Subsequent Main Street tenants included Eagle Five and Ten Cent Store; B & C Food Store, operated by brothers-in-law Jimmy Buckner and William Curtis; and Hooper's Hardware Store, owned by Dan Hooper and managed by his brother-in-law Pinky Monteith.²¹

The Paris, 1925, 1926, Contributing Building 552 West Main Street

Formed-concrete veneer that emulates stone block sheathes the façade and rear elevation of this two-story commercial building. A recessed sign band in the parapet contains the painted names of an early tenant, The Paris clothing store. Cast-stone lintels and sills span the second-story window openings, which have been filled with plywood. A dome-shaped canvas awning shelters the replacement aluminum-framed plate-glass storefront comprising a recessed west entrance and display windows above brick kneewalls. T-111 paneling covers the transoms above the storefront and metal coping caps the parapet.

On the Mill Street elevation, window openings on the upper two levels are boarded-up with the exception of three on the first story, which contain double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows. Cast-stone lintels and sills span the window openings. A single-leaf entrance occupies the former basement loading bay and the easternmost of the two large plate-glass windows east of the door has been enclosed with plywood.

²¹ Before opening her own shop, Sadie Hale sold millinery and women's wear at The Paris. *The Ruralite*, August 24, 1926; Hales's Department Store advertisement for first annual sale, *The Ruralite*, November 5, 1929; Jim Gray, "Herald Editor Recalls Sylva's Main Street Through the Years," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 10; "Barbershops of Jackson County," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 29; Anna Candler letter, March 1941, reprinted in Lynn Hotaling, "Sylva's Main Street in 1941," *SH*, July 17, 2013; "When Paris was on Main Street," *SH*, December 24, 2009; photograph in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 34; Lynn Hotaling, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 15, 2014; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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Clothing purveyor Abraham M. Simons operated The Paris in several Main Street locations from 1917 until the early 1930s. The business occupied the Main Street storefront as well as its Mill Street storefront, which housed his “bargain basement,” by 1926. In May of that year, he purchased the inventory of the adjacent A. F. Clouse and Company. In June, Simons engaged masons and carpenters to create interior access between his store at 552 West Main Street and Clouse’s former 546 West Main Street storefront and to remodel both spaces. He relocated to Bryson City in the early 1930s. The July 1933 Sanborn map indicates that 552 West Main Street’s basement served as lumber storage, the first floor a store, and the second floor a photography studio.²²

In March 1943, Hickory merchant Karl W. Broome expanded his Belk Department Store franchise to include a Sylva location, appointing Hickory Belk store manager H. J. Landis to oversee the operation. Landis remained in charge of the Sylva store until his 1971 retirement. A 1943 photograph illustrates that a tall neon sign projected from the formed-concrete-veneered façade and a flat-sloped canvas awning sheltered the storefront. The store offered a wide variety of goods on three floors including the “bargain basement,” accessed from a double-leaf door on the façade’s east side. The basement primarily contained work clothing, boots, and inexpensive fabric sold by the yard, while the company displayed men’s and boys’ clothing, dress shoes, luggage, gifts, high-quality fabric, and notions on the first floor and women’s and girls’ clothing, housewares, and home furnishings on the second floor. Belk Department Store moved to 670 West Main Street in September 1953. Eagle Five and Ten Cent Store subsequently expanded into the 552 West Main Street storefront.²³

Jackson Hardware Company, 1920, ca. 1982, Contributing Building 556 West Main Street

Formed-concrete veneer that emulates stone block sheathes the façade and rear elevation of this two-story commercial building. A recessed sign band in the parapet contains the painted names of an early tenant, Jackson Hardware Company. Cast-stone lintels and sills span the second-story window openings, which have been filled with plywood. A flat-sloped canvas awning protects the ca. 1982 storefront, which is mostly recessed with plate-glass windows surrounded by frame walls covered with diagonal boards. A replacement, single-leaf, residential-style, wood-paneled door with an oval glazed upper section and flanking sidelights occupies the storefront’s east end. A wood platform elevated above the concrete sidewalk contains a long wooden bench that spans the space beneath the three

²² “A.M. Simmons [sic] Buys the A. F. Clouse Stock of Goods,” *The Ruralite*, May 25, 1926; sale advertisements, *The Ruralite*, June 8 and July 20, 1926; “The Paris Remodeling Store,” *The Ruralite*, June 22, 1926; “Ninth Annual Sale of the Paris,” *The Ruralite*, July 13, 1926; J. D. McRorie, “Knowing Jackson...The Paris,” *SH*, April 4, 1974; “When Paris was on Main Street,” *SH*, December 24, 2009; photograph in *Hotaling, Sylva*, 34.

²³ “Belk Department Store, Sylva, N.C.,” undated 1970s press release, Communications Department, Belk, Inc., Headquarters, Charlotte, North Carolina; Sara Lambert, “Sylva Belk Store Noting 35th Year; Company, 90th,” *SHR*, May 25, 1978, pp. 1 and 3; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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central windows. T-111 paneling covers the transoms above the storefront and metal coping caps the parapet.

A stepped parapet topped with metal coping characterizes the Mill Street elevation, where the upper two levels' window openings are boarded-up, but retain cast-stone lintels and sills. Three former basement loading bays encompass two single-leaf doors, two small plate-glass windows, and plywood infill.

Clay County native Roy C. Allison, his brother A. O. Allison, and John R. Jones purchased the company that had belonged to Sylva hardware purveyor Benjamin Hamilton Cathey soon after his June 1917 death and established a new firm, Jackson Hardware Company. All three men were community leaders. Roy Allison served as the Sylva Merchants Association's first president, a Chamber of Commerce president, and one of Sylva Rotary Club's inaugural members. Newspaper advertisements indicate that Jackson Hardware sold items ranging from paint to housewares, linens, tools, appliances, and livestock feed. The company bought Sylva Supply Company's "light" hardware business from David McKee Hall in January 1930. John Jones sold his interest in Jackson Hardware Company to Roy Allison in 1939 and the store closed in 1941. Eagle Five and Ten Cent Store then purchased some of the inventory and leased the building, remaining there for forty-three years.²⁴

Leader Department Store, 1933, Contributing Building 562 West Main Street

Bright yellow brick laid in running bond and a stepped parapet characterize this two-story commercial building's façade. At the parapet's center, headers border a slightly recessed panel that emulates the parapet's shape. A continuous soldier-course lintel and header sill span one single and two paired double-hung, aluminum-frame, one-over-one sash second-story windows. Two slightly recessed panels outlined in headers surmount the flat-sloped canvas awning above the replacement storefront, which encompasses a central, recessed, double-leaf door and wood and aluminum-framed plate-glass windows with a wood-paneled surround. Cast-stone and metal coping caps the parapet.

The yellow brick Mill Street elevation is similar in terms of execution and the double-hung, one-over-one sash second-story replacement windows, but the first-story window opening contains an enormous, replacement, aluminum-framed window with ten multipane sections. Headers border a slightly recessed panel between the first and second stories. A continuous soldier-course lintel surmounts the

²⁴ Jackson Hardware Company advertisements and notices, *The Ruralite*, January 29, 1929, June 11, 1929, January 14, 1930; *JCJ*, February 6, 1941; Edward C. Jones, "John R. Jones," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 308; "History on Main Street," *SH*, October 28, 2010; Anna Candler letter, March 1941, reprinted in Lynn Hotaling, "Sylva's Main Street in 1941," *SH*, July 17, 2013; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 9, 22, 34.

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basement storefront, which contains a boarded-up, single-leaf, east door has been. The west storefront encompasses a recessed central double-leaf door flanked by plate-glass windows above a brick kneewall.

The July 1933 Sanborn map illustrates that this building served a retail function. A September 1936 photograph shows the original wood-frame storefront and one-over-one sash second-story windows. Benjamin and Sophia Lessing's Leader Department Store occupied the storefront until 1968, after which Dollar General Store briefly utilized the space. Adjacent Dennis Men's Store proprietor Hal Dennis then opened Dennis Ladies' Store in the space. Blackrock Outdoor Company acquired the building in December 1999.²⁵

Stovall's Café, ca. 1938, Contributing Building 564-568 West Main Street

This two-story red brick commercial building is devoid of embellishment other than the slightly projecting header course below four original steel-framed second-story windows comprising casements and four-pane transoms. Flat-sloped canvas awnings with scalloped lower edges protect the recessed entrance to the stairs leading to the second floor and the replacement storefront, which contains a central, recessed, single-leaf, aluminum-framed door, transom, and aluminum-framed plate-glass windows. The façade's first-story is painted and cast-stone coping caps the parapet.

Aluminum-framed double-hung, sliding, and plate-glass replacement windows have been installed on the Mill Street elevation. The second-story windows have cast-stone sills, while a continuous header-course sill extends across the building beneath the third-story windows. Two aluminum-framed, plate-glass, replacement doors provide access to the basement.

The July 1933 Sanborn map indicates that a two-story building at this location served a retail function. The front-gable-roofed weatherboarded structure housed Stovall's Café and featured a deep shed canopy that projected over the sidewalk. The owners demolished the building about 1938 to allow for a new restaurant's construction. A circa 1948 photograph shows the flat aluminum canopy with curved edges that sheltered the storefront, surmounted by a neon sign emblazoned with "Stovall's." Frank Fricks later opened a men's clothing shop at this location, followed by Leader Department

²⁵ Benjamin Lessing, born in Goniondz, Russia, on December 25, 1902, and his wife Sophia resided in Sylva's Central Hotel in 1940. Mr. Lessing died on June 30, 1968. His gravemarker gives his date of birth as April 14, 1903, conflicting with his death certificate and other primary source documents. Sophia Tursky Lessing, born in New York on April 14, 1913, died on January 5, 1992. The couple is interred in Hendersonville, North Carolina's Oakdale Cemetery. U. S. census, 1940; World War II draft registration card, 1942; death certificates; photographs in *Hotaling, Sylva*, 31, 33, 47; David Schulman, telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, April 23 and 25, 2014.

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Store's shoe shop, and, in 1965, by Hal Dennis's men's clothing store.²⁶

C. J. Harris Building - Sylva Supply Company, 1902, 1970s, Contributing Building 582 West Main Street

Upon completing the 1990 Jackson County survey, architectural historian Rachel Barber deemed the C. J. Harris Building to be the most architecturally and historically significant commercial building she documented. The sizable two-story brick structure, executed in five-to-one-common bond, occupies a corner lot. The eye-catching Main Street façade features a stepped pressed-metal cornice with end consoles and a pointed parapet embossed with proprietor C. J. Harris's name. The Mill Street elevation, which was identical, retains the consoles and parapet, but the cornice has been removed. The Main Street storefront retains fluted cast-iron pilasters manufactured by George L. Mesker and Company of Evansville, Indiana, bordering the wood-framed storefront sections, which include paneled kneewalls and an intact west entrance bay. Canted plate-glass display windows flank the recessed double-leaf glazed door, all surmounted by large square transoms. A deep, wood-shingled, hip-roofed, 1970s canopy shelters the storefront, covering its cast-iron cornice and the recessed sign band above. The five-bay second story retains two single and three pairs of double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows ornamented with cast-stone sills and pressed-metal keystone segmental arches, but all but one central window have been covered with plywood. The largest arch, at the façade's center, features a foliate motif.

The building's stone foundation is exposed on the west elevation. Two window openings with stepped brick lintels remain within the foundation wall. The openings are now partially below sidewalk level, with the grade sloping down to the north, and the south window is boarded up. Faint remnants of painted "Sylva Supply Company: Dealers in Everything" and flour company signs are visible on the west elevation's first story, which contains no windows. Pressed-metal arches originally surmounted the west elevation's second story windows, but they have been removed and the windows boarded-up.

On the Mill Street elevation, four pairs of double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows ornamented with cast-stone sills and pressed-metal keystone segmental arches illuminate the third story. Two adjacent slightly recessed sign bands, now painted black, occupy much of the space between the second and third stories. On the second story, the two outer bays contain paired windows and the central two single units. The basement level encompasses three entrances and two windows. Flat lintels top the outer two wide single-leaf doors. Tall, projecting, brick pilasters with corbelled caps and a pressed-metal keystone pointed-arch surround the recessed, double-leaf, central entrance, a

²⁶ Jim Gray, "Herald Editor Recalls Sylva's Main Street Through the Years," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 10; photographs in *Hotaling, Sylva*, 31, 33; David Schulman, telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, April 23 and 25, 2014.

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beadboard-covered transom, and the rectangular window above it. All three doors are paneled with glazed upper sections. Stepped lintels surmount the window openings, which pierce the painted stone foundation and have stone sills. The east window has been enclosed.

Sylva Supply Company, established in 1898, occupied this building from its 1902 construction until June 1, 1999. The concern served as the C. J. Harris Tannery's commissary in addition to catering to retail and wholesale clients. Businesses such as Jackson County Bank leased space in the building. After the bank moved into its newly-completed branch in 1926, Sylva Supply Grocery remodeled the storefront that the institution had occupied, installing refrigerated display cases and counters. The July 1933 Sanborn map illustrates that the structure encompassed a second-floor lodge hall as well as the grocery and feed store and that a full-width one-story porch extended across the façade. By 1936, a flat metal canopy sheltered the storefront. At least three fraternal organizations—Black Rock Lodge No. 247 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Sylva Lodge No. 186 and Tuckaseige Lodge No. 134 of the Knights of Pythias—alternated meeting days at Castle Lodge on the C. J. Harris Building's third floor.²⁷ Given competition from corporate grocery store chains, Sylva Supply Company ceased food sales in the mid-1950s but retained an active mercantile trade. African American salesman James Wells managed the feed and garden store, which had a Mill Street entrance. David Parker and his son Bob Parker acquired the concern in 1969 and Bob's wife Sara Parker assisted him with its management from 1980 until 1999. Crystal Cogdill Jones then leased the storefront to house Jackson General Store, which commenced operation in July 1999.²⁸

T. C. Bryson General Store, 1908, Contributing Building 594 West Main Street

This two-story painted-brick commercial building is simply executed with the exception of decorative masonry flanking two recessed parapet panels. Beneath each panel, bricks are angled to create a sawtooth effect, while brick soldiers and voids alternate above the panels, resulting in a fluted appearance. Cast-stone lintels and sills span the façade's four second-story window openings, which contain replacement double-hung one-over-one sashes, as well as those on other elevations. A canvas awning shelters the central recessed entrance, mid-twentieth-century aluminum-framed plate-glass storefront, and kneewalls sheathed with painted square tiles. Five-V crimp roofing cut to create an aluminum cornice that is several feet tall wraps around the parapet, which is topped with metal coping.

²⁷ Dr. L. B. McBrayer instituted Black Rock Lodge No. 247 on May 2, 1904. Advertisements, *JCJ*, May 25, 1906, June 1, 1906, July 13, 1906, August 3, 1906, January 3, 1908, August 7, 1908; Independent Order of Odd Fellows, "I. O. O. F. Grand Lodge Proceedings," 1907, p. 608.

²⁸ "Sylva Supply Company Moves Grocery Department," *The Ruralite*, April 27, 1926; Sylva Supply Company advertisement, *The Ruralite*, June 1, 1926; U. S. censuses, 1930; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 31, 33, 40; Lynn Hotaling, "Sylva Supply Co. to Close after 101 years downtown," *SH*, May 27, 1999, pp. 1A and 10A; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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On the east elevation, six replacement double-hung one-over-one sash windows illuminate the second story. The first floor is blind and the basement windows have been boarded-up. The stone foundation's concrete parging is spalling.

On the Mill Street elevation, four replacement one-over-one sash windows light the second story but the tall first-story windows have been enclosed with wood paneling. The basement encompasses two storefronts comprising single-leaf entrances, large plate-glass windows, and concrete-block central, end, and kneewalls. A steel I-beam has been installed to support the storefront opening's upper edge.

Thaddeus Clingman Bryson's general store occupied this building, followed by George M. Cole's 1920s venture of the same type. The July 1933 Sanborn map indicates that the structure housed three retail concerns. A circa 1939 postcard illustrates the corbelled cornice that originally ornamented the parapet. At that time, the sign band above the second store bore the name "G. M. Cole and Company," while a projecting sign advertised Sylva Army Store. A circa 1948 photograph shows the flat-sloped canvas awning above the storefront, as well as a neon sign advertising "Professional Drugs: Walgreen Agency." By 1951, the first floor was painted green, with the east elevation containing a full-width painted Professional Drug Store sign.²⁹

Sylva Pharmacy - Rexall Store, 1900, 1927, Contributing Building 596-600 West Main Street

This two-story brick commercial building retains a pressed-metal cornice embossed with acanthus leaf and wave-motif frieze bands. Embossed pressed-metal consoles flank the cornice. Pressed-metal keystoned segmental arches ornament the four second-story window openings, which are surmounted by a recessed metal panel topped with a corbelled brick cornice. The panel, which once contained signage, has been painted the same gray color as the rest of the façade. The cast-stone window sills are spalling. The mid-twentieth-century, aluminum-framed, plate-glass storefront contains two recessed entrances on either side of a central display window. At the façade's east end, cast-iron pilasters surround the single-leaf replacement door that opens into a stair hall leading to the second floor, where replacement, five-horizontal-pane, steel-framed windows illuminate the interior. Canvas awnings shelter this door and the storefront.

On the blonde brick Mill Street elevation, the metal cornice has been removed and the parapet covered

²⁹ T. C. Bryson's store advertisements, *Tuckaseige Democrat*, 1912; *JCJ*, April 25, 1913, August 1 and 22, 1913; George M. Cole advertisement, *The Ruralite*, April 27, 1926; death certificate; John Parris, "Sylva's Main Street in 1919-1920," *SHR*, September 28, 1989, p. 4; "Sylva, N.C.," Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards (P077), North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill; 1948 photograph in Hotelling, *Sylva*, 33; Jackson County centennial parade photograph, Sylva, 1951, Special Collections, Hunter Library, WCU.

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with sheet metal above a slightly recessed sign band with a corbelled cornice. Above the four window openings on each of the second and third stories, pressed-metal keystone segmental arches top recessed metal panels. The third-story contains replacement, five-horizontal-pane, steel-framed windows, while aluminum-framed storm windows protect the one-over-one second-story sashes. The painted basement level encompasses three replacement single-leaf doors, a replacement one-over-one sash window, and an enclosed window opening, all with flat cast-stone lintels.

Photographs illustrate that the Sylva Pharmacy's original second-story windows were double-hung one-over-one wood sashes. The storefront was almost identical to that of the C. J. Harris Building, and retains vine-motif cast-iron pilasters produced in George L. Mesker and Company's Evansville, Indiana, foundry. The original wood-framed storefront sections encompassed plate-glass windows, paneled kneewalls, and canted plate-glass display windows flanking the recessed double-leaf glazed door, all surmounted by large square transoms. Sylva Pharmacy's original proprietor Theodore Buchanan sold the business to brothers and physicians Alvan A. Nichols and Asbury S. Nichols, who maintained second-floor offices for many years. During the 1920s, Harry Lee Evans oversaw the operation then known as the Rexall Store, which included a soda fountain and lunch counter. In November 1926, Evans and A. A. Nichols announced plans to update the storefront, fixtures, and soda fountain in early 1927. By 1930, Dr. Gilbert Kent Bess managed Rexall Pharmacy, joined by his son-in-law Leo B. Cowan following World War II.³⁰

An open doorway allowed access to the stair leading to the second floor offices, occupied for many years by attorneys E. P. Stillwell Sr. and David Stillwell. The second floor briefly functioned as the Jackson County Public Library in the 1940s, when the structure was called the Sherrill Building. Around 1947, Joseph Douglas Wallin and his wife leased a storefront to house Wallin's Shoe Store. The building's storefronts subsequently housed Hollifield Jewelers, established by Linzie Hollifield in 1960, and his wife Anne Hollifield's dress store, the Ruth Ann Shop.³¹

³⁰ Virginia native Gilbert Kent Bess, born on September 9, 1896, worked as a clerk at the Thompson-Hagon Drug Company in Christiansburg, Virginia, before serving in the U. S. military during World War I. He died in the Veterans Administration Center in Mountain Home, Tennessee, on November 24, 1946. *Tuckaseige Democrat*, 1911-1913; *JCJ*, August 25, 1911; *The Ruralite*, November 30, 1926; World War I draft registration card, June 5, 1918; U. S. censuses, 1910-1940; death certificate; "Downtown Drug Stores," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 31-32.

³¹ Sylva Pharmacy advertisement, *The Ruralite*, May 18, 1926; "Downtown Drug Stores," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 31-32; Jim Gray, "Herald Editor Recalls Sylva's Main Street Through the Years," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 10; "Sylva's early libraries were located up and down Main Street," *SHR*, June 9, 2011, p. 6C; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 23, 35; "Anne Hollifield," *SH*, January 22, 2009; "Linzie Hollifield," *SH*, March 25, 2010; Lynn Hotaling, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 15, 2014.

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Hooper's Drug Store, late 1910s, 1923, Contributing Building 604-606 West Main Street

Textured variegated brick enlivens this two-story commercial building's façade. A denticulated cornice crowns the façade above a black brick soldier-course band. Three crosses, each comprising four black bricks, ornament the red brick parapet. Below the crosses, red and black brick stretcher bands alternate for seventeen courses. A yellow brick soldier course punctuates this section. A yellow brick header course marks its lower edge and outlines the marble plaque at the façade's center, which establishes that pharmacist Frederick Lambert Hooper commissioned the building's enlargement to its current size in 1923. Yellow brick headers and black stretchers alternate courses on the facade's outer edges. Cast-stone sills and black brick soldiers and stretchers with cast-stone corner blocks border the four second-story, replacement, three-part, metal-framed windows.

The fluted cast-iron pilasters manufactured by International Steel and Iron Construction Company of Evansville, Indiana, are intact on the storefront's outer edges, but the remainder of the storefront has been replaced with brick kneewalls and aluminum-framed plate-glass doors, transoms, and display windows. Red hexagonal tiles spell out "Hooper's Drugs" and punctuate the black-bordered white mosaic tile floor outside of the entrance. A substantial, wood-shingled, shed canopy shelters the storefront as well as the single-leaf, aluminum-framed, plate-glass door that provides access to the second floor.

On the red brick Mill Street elevation, executed in five-to-one common bond, denticulated classical metal hoods surmount the first and second-story replacement windows. On the first floor, original arched window openings are visible behind the hoods, with the central opening being twice as wide as the flanking openings. The basement level, which likely dates to the 1910s, has been parged and painted and the former loading bay enclosed with a single-leaf entrance and plywood. The west wood-paneled door is slightly recessed in an arched opening.

Frederick Lambert Hooper served in the United States Navy during World War I and earned degrees from the Atlanta School of Pharmacy and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's pharmacy school before establishing Hooper's Drug Store in a one-story brick building fronting Mill Street. He subsequently enlarged the structure and operated a successful pharmacy for fifty-three years. Frederick was physician Delos Dexter Hooper's younger brother.³²

Dr. D. D. Hooper opened a Sylva office within a few months of his 1905 graduation from the

³² Frederick Lambert Hooper, born May 26, 1890, to Charles Lambert and Annie Wike Hooper, died on April 23, 1973. Death certificate; U. S. censuses, 1900-1940, Fred Lambert Hooper Jr., "Hooper," in *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 297.

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University of Virginia's medical school and soon expanded his general practice to include pharmaceutical sales. He opened a Sylva drug store in 1911 and maintained an office at 606 West Main Street from the late 1910s until the mid-1930s, after which he practiced from his home at 773 West Main Street. Physician Charles Z. Candler leased a second-story office in the Hooper Building for a short time, as did dentist J. Robert Bell and physician Clifford Stillwell beginning in July 1926. Physicians J. B. Madison, formerly of Woodstock, Illinois, and W. H. Madison occupied offices in July and August 1930, respectively. The July 1933 Sanborn map and photographs illustrate that the building's full-width front porch had been removed by 1956. Bob Kelley acquired Hooper's Drug Store after Fred Hooper retired.³³

I. H. Powell Building, 1928, 1950s, Contributing Building 612 West Main Street

This two-story commercial building's façade is executed in wire-cut red brick laid in Flemish stretcher bond. The flat-parapet cornice comprises a soldier course capped with a stretcher course, a slightly projecting header course, and metal coping. Headers outline two rectangular parapet panels as well as a central marble plaque bearing the name I. H. Powell and the building's 1928 construction date. Four double-hung one-over-one sash replacement windows with header-course sills illuminate the second story. The first story has been painted. A continuous header-course lintel surmounts four enclosed transoms above the flat mid-twentieth-century aluminum canopy that shelters the storefront, which encompasses a central double-leaf aluminum-framed door, flanking aluminum-framed plate-glass windows, and wood-sheathed kneewalls. The east storefront has been recessed to create an outdoor dining area. An open doorway at the storefront's east end provides access to stairs leading to the second floor.

Textured stucco covers the Mill Street elevation, where only the four second-story window openings are intact. Replacement one-over-one sash windows light the floor. The four first-story windows have been enclosed with the exception of one small, square, metal-framed window in the otherwise infilled west opening. An aluminum awning protects the two aluminum-framed plate-glass basement doors as well as two plate-glass windows of different sizes that, along with brick, fill once-larger openings. Plywood and an air-conditioning unit cover the central window opening.

³³ Dr. D. D. Hooper's sixty-eight-year career included tenure as a Southern Railway surgeon and the consulting physician for what is now Western Carolina University's athletic department. "Dr. D. D. Hooper," *JCJ*, August 19, 1910; *JCJ*, August 11, 1911, p. 2; "Dr. J. R. Bell Opens Dental Office" and "Dr. Stillwell Opens Office of Hooper Drug Store Bldg.," *The Ruralite*, July 13, 1926; *The Ruralite*, July 29, 1930 and August 5, 1930; "Sylva, N.C.," Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards (P077), North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill; "Downtown Drug Stores," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 31-32; Ann Wike Hooper Hudson, "Delos Dexter Hooper, M. D.," in *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 296-297; photographs in Hotaling, Sylva, 40.

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Lumber company executive Ira Hawley Powell commissioned this building's construction. The July 1933 Sanborn map illustrates that a store occupied the first floor's east side and a stage its west side, but the building has almost continuously housed a restaurant. Early endeavors included Wolf's Café, followed by Clark's Café. In the late 1930s, Velt and Eula Wilson purchased the building and opened Velt's Café in the west first-floor storefront. According to its neon sign, the restaurant specialized in "steaks and chops." The Wilsons operated the eatery until June 1959, when they leased it to Dave and Blanche Harris. A March 3, 1960, fire damaged the restaurant, but the Wilsons quickly repaired it and a series of other entrepreneurs undertook its management. The Farmers Federation Store and Market leased the east storefront from 1947 through the mid-1950s. The concern also operated a frame warehouse that stood on the railroad's north side. The Main Street building's second floor housed a telephone exchange from soon after its construction until 1950. By 1941, apartments occupied the remaining second-story space and a barber and beauty shop the basement. Lulu's on Main restaurant has occupied the Main Street storefront since 1989. On Mill Street, Lewis J. Moore relocated the five-chair Sanitary Barbershop to the east storefront in February 1929. Jeff Hedden purchased Moore's business in 1942 and remained in operation until 1983.³⁴

W. H. Rhodes Building, 1923, 1950s, Contributing Building **620 West Main Street**

A parapet featuring a central step with sloped shoulders distinguishes this otherwise plain three-story red-textured-brick commercial building. A central marble plaque displays the Rhodes Building's name and 1923 construction date. Although the masonry veneer is executed primarily in running bond, embellishment includes headers outlining the parapet as well as the stretcher columns on the façade's edges. One central single and two paired one-over-one sash replacement windows with continuous soldier-course lintels and corbelled sills illuminate each of the upper floors. The first story has been painted. Headers border four brick stretcher courses above the metal-framed four-part insert that covers the original storefront transom. A flat mid-twentieth-century aluminum canopy shelters the façade below the transom, where the original storefront has been removed to create a recessed area for outdoor dining and round steel posts added to support the façade. The recessed wood-framed replacement storefront contains large plate-glass windows and doors. Cast-stone and metal coping caps the parapet.

The Mill Street elevation is similar in terms of execution, but the parapet is crenellated and the soldier-

³⁴U. S. censuses, 1920-1940; gravemarkers; *The Ruralite*, February 5, 1929; "Sylva, N.C.," Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards (P077), North Carolina Collection Photographic Archives, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill; "Sylva Café Is Damaged by Fire," *SH*, March 3, 1960; "Barbershops of Jackson County," and "Velt's Café," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 29, 36; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 149; Anna Candler letter, March 1941, reprinted in Lynn Hotaling, "Sylva's Main Street in 1941," *SH*, July 17, 2013; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 40, 48, 118.

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course window lintels are variegated in color and span individual windows. Seven one-over-one sash replacement windows light the upper three floors, but brick infills six window openings. Wood siding sheathes the basement storefront below a flat-sloped aluminum awning with a scalloped lower edge that shelters the central aluminum-framed plate-glass door and matching large flanking windows. A tall concrete block elevator tower extends above the roof's northwest corner.

Professor W. H. Rhodes, who had served as Webster High School and Sylva Collegiate Institute's principal, commissioned this building's construction. It was substantially complete by October 1923. The July 1933 Sanborn map shows that a store operated on the first floor, while the second and third stories comprised rooms that were available to rent. The map also illustrates the footprint of the two-tier shed-roofed front porch that featured turned posts spanned by turned balusters. The porch remained intact through the 1940s, but had been removed by 1951, at which time Park Lunch Room occupied the storefront. Raymon Stovall acquired the building in January 1960 to house Stovall's Five and Ten Cent Store, which he relocated from 536 West Main Street. At that time, the storefront encompassed a three-section, aluminum-framed, plate-glass display window with a matching double-leaf entrance at its west end. Stovall retired in 1969.³⁵

Jackson County Bank, 1926, Contributing Building 624 West Main Street

This one-story painted-brick building, erected to serve as Jackson County Bank's Sylva branch, has housed financial institutions since its completion. The fully articulated Classical Revival-style three-bay façade is intended to evoke a sense of permanence and stability. A soldier-course cornice with metal coping caps the parapet. The entablature frieze includes a sign band bearing the current occupant's name, SunTrust. Tuscan columns frame each bay and keystones and corner blocks set into stretcher surrounds accent the round-arched window openings. Each window's upper section has been enclosed and aluminum-framed tinted-glass windows installed in place of the originals. A canvas dome awning completely obscures the central window, which is shorter than the others as it surmounts the entrance. The single-leaf door is recessed as part of an aluminum-framed tinted-glass vestibule also containing a transom and sidelights. Square beige ceramic tile covers two steps secured by a metal railing as well as the landing outside of the door. Two large rectangular cast-stone planters flank the entrance.

On the Mill Street elevation, each of the three upper-story windows' top two-thirds have been enclosed and aluminum-framed, two-part, tinted-glass windows installed in place of the originals. A canvas

³⁵ JCI, October 5, 1923; "Sylva, N.C.," Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards (P077); Ezra Stovall, "John Raymon Stovall Family," in *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 445-446; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 448, 645, 650; Hotaling, Sylva, 39, 53; Breedlove and Hotaling, *Jackson County*, 57.

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dome awning shelters the single-leaf basement door and two large flanking glass-block windows.

In October 1905, entrepreneurs C. J. Harris, E. L. McKee, Thomas A. Cox, and Marcellus Buchanan, established Jackson County Bank's first branch, located in Webster. The institution expanded to Sylva when the county seat moved, operating from a storefront in the Harris Building before erecting a new structure on the former post office site in 1926. Jackson County Bank remained open through the depression, with no loss of depositor assets. First Union National Bank absorbed Jackson County Bank in 1962. Central Carolina Bank subsequently purchased First Union's Sylva branch and SunTrust acquired Central Carolina Bank in 2004.³⁶

Commercial Building, ca. 1890, 1960s, Noncontributing Building 628-634 West Main Street

This late nineteenth-century commercial building's south end fronting Main Street is disguised by a one-story, brick, circa 1975 façade with a tall flat parapet and terra cotta coping. The storefront contains two single and one double-leaf aluminum-framed doors and flanking aluminum-framed plate-glass windows. The earlier front-gable-roofed, two-story, frame structure and its east and west two-story shed additions are covered with a variety of sheathing materials installed in several orientations: German siding, stone veneer, plywood painted in bright colors, and flat, standing-seam, and corrugated metal. Four six-pane wood-sash windows pierce the north elevation's second story. A flat aluminum canopy supported by slender round metal posts shelters the stone-veneered Mill Street storefront, which contains a single-leaf aluminum-framed plate-glass door and matching window. A formed-concrete landing elevated a few feet above street level facilitates access to that entrance as well as the earlier board-and-batten door that opens into the German-sided east shed addition.

The July 1933 Sanborn map indicates that a wholesale grocer utilized the rear two-story section and a store and a print shop occupied two one-story Main Street storefronts at the building's southeast and southwest corners. A sign for Park Lunch Room extends from the building in a circa 1939 postcard. A 1951 photograph illustrates the two-part weatherboarded frame façade, which included a tall one-story east section with a wood-framed storefront that encompassed a central entrance, plate-glass windows, and a transom surmounted by a pent hood that extended across the façade. The west storefront comprised a single-leaf entrance and a plate-glass window.³⁷

³⁶ "Sylva Supply Company Moves Grocery Department," *The Ruralite*, April 27, 1926; "Jackson County Bank in Sound Condition," *The Ruralite*, July 22, 1930, November 25, 1930; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 210-211; photograph in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 30.

³⁷ "Sylva, N.C.," Durwood Barbour Collection of North Carolina Postcards (P077); 1951 photograph in Breedlove and Hotaling, *Jackson County*, 57.

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This building once housed Sylva Supply Company's farm equipment department. The law office that became Hall, Thornburg, and Holt in 1960 leased the west storefront from Sylva Supply Company owners Chester Scott and Edith Hall, David Hall's sister, until moving in 1969 to 702 West Main Street. Vance Hardware and Appliance Repair, established by R. O. and Willetta Cope Vance, occupied the east storefront from May 15, 1963, until December 23, 2013, expanding in 1969 into the west section. Vance Hardware and Cope's Newsstand and Superette utilized the Mill Street storefront during the same period. Willetta Vance's father Fred Cope and her brother Ed Cope operated the convenience store. Ed and Ann Cope's daughter Tanya Calhoun inherited the business in 2006 and managed it until its closure.³⁸

Ray Building, 1927, 1937, Contributing Building 642-648 West Main Street

Masons employed variegated wire-cut brick to embellish this two-story corner commercial building's façade. Black brick headers border four rectangular parapet panels, the central cast-stone plaque bearing the name "Ray" and the building's 1927 construction date, and the soldier-course band above the storefront. Black brick soldiers and stretchers outline the five double-hung one-over-one sash replacement windows that illuminate the second story. The central window is shorter than the others. The two storefronts have been replaced, but a prismatic glass transom is intact above the east plate-glass display window. Canvas dome awnings shelter the recessed central entrance bay and the single-leaf, aluminum-framed, plate-glass, east door that provides access to stairs leading to the upper floors. An adjustable triple-hung, wood-framed, canvas shade protects the tall, narrow, wood-framed, plate-glass window at the façade's west end.

The original building's secondary elevations are executed in five-to-one common bond with stepped parapets, while the three-story rear addition that almost doubled the building's size in 1937 is laid in six-to-one common bond on a stone foundation. Two large, square, first-story display windows occupy the west elevation's south end, further illuminating the storefront, while double-hung one-over-one sash replacement windows provide ample light elsewhere.

A diminutive one-story, shed roofed, rough-face concrete block building projects from the east elevation. The pent-roofed 642 West Main Street storefront comprises a recessed single-leaf entrance flanked by plate-glass windows above a brick kneewall. On the rear elevation, a shed-roofed hood supported by square wood posts shelters the double-leaf basement door, which is spanned by a wood

³⁸ Jim Gray, "Herald Editor Recalls Sylva's Main Street Through the Years," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 10; Nick Breedlove, "R. O Vance to retire after five decades on Main Street," *SH*, November 13, 2013; Lynn Hotaling, "Downtown store to close after almost 50 years," *SH*, December 8, 2011; W. Paul Holt Jr., telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 24, 2014.

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lintel set into the building's stone foundation. George D. Gillespie operated Gillespie's Fruit Stand at this location for many years before it briefly served as Sylva's police station and then housed a series of retail tenants.³⁹

A. F. Clouse and Company, established in August 1911, occupied a Ray Building storefront in January 1928. Merchant Joseph William Keener purchased the structure in April 1928. The July 1933 Sanborn map shows that an auto repair shop occupied the basement, a store the first floor's west side, and the Poinsett Hotel lobby its east side. Accommodations were on the second floor. Early proprietors included Bud Potts, Ernest Keener, and Cyrus Nicholson. Georgia plumber Evan Martin Lloyd and his wife Bertie acquired the seven-room hotel and tearoom in 1937 and soon added bathrooms and sixteen hotel rooms and replaced wood, coal, and oil-burning stoves with central heat. The Lloyds operated the hotel and restaurant until 1957, renting storefronts to entities such as the Jackson County Public Library from 1951 until 1957 and the newly-created Jackson Savings and Loan Association from September 1955 until September 1972. Belk Department Store manager Herbert Jefferson Landis and his wife Zena purchased the building and ran the hotel from summer 1958 until August 1979. Livingston's Photo leased the storefront after the bank moved out. Duane Jay and Irene Bell bought the property in 1987 and have utilized it as the Jewelry Outlet, Drifters Beauty Salon, and the Main Street Apartments since that time.⁴⁰

Belk Department Store, 1939, 1971, Noncontributing Building 670 West Main Street

A Tennessee Crab Orchard stone-veneered façade distinguishes this one-story commercial building, updated in 1971 by Belk Department Store with a tall, full-width, standing-seam-metal, pent-roofed canopy. Two double-leaf aluminum-framed doors and matching transoms provide access to the interior. The four large, three-part, aluminum-framed, plate-glass windows flanking the entrances are canted out at the top, emphasizing the pent canopy's angle. Projecting Tennessee Crab Orchard stone-veneered columns border each door and window bay.

³⁹ David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014; W. Paul Holt Jr., telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 24, 2014.

⁴⁰ "A. F. Clouse Market," *JCJ*, August 11, 1911, p. 2; "A. F. Clouse Market Just Opened in Old Pharmacy Building," *JCJ*, August 25, 1911; "A. F. Clouse Opens Store – Ray Building," *The Ruralite*; January 31, 1928; "Keener Buys Ray Building," *JCJ*, April 5, 1928; "Jackson County Ready for Large Tourist Season," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 13, 1937; J. D. McRorie, "Knowing Jackson...Library Usage," *SH*, October 7, 1976; "Jackson Savings and Loan Association Story," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 6; "Lloyd Hotel," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 33; Anna Candler letter, March 1941, reprinted in Lynn Hotaling, "Sylva's Main Street in 1941," *SH*, July 17, 2013; 1951 photograph in Breedlove and Hotaling, *Jackson County*, 57; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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The secondary elevations are executed in brick that has been painted. Square posts support the Mill Street elevation's upper story, which is cantilevered to shelter the rear entrance and loading bay. Steel-framed windows of various sizes and pane configurations illuminate the interior. On the north elevation, two wide rectangular window openings encompass glass block transoms above steel-framed windows with two horizontal panes. Metal coping caps the parapet.

Dan Allison erected this building to house his appliance sales business, but it has functioned as a department store since 1953, when Belk Department Store manager H. J. Landis oversaw the Sylva franchise's move to this location from 552 West Main Street. The company purchased 670 West Main Street from Dan and Emma Allison in June 1953 and opened in the larger space on September 1953. A photograph taken that year illustrates that a tall neon sign projected from the Tennessee Crab Orchard stone storefront and that translucent prismatic glass transoms surmounted the doors and display windows, which were canted and capped with a fluted aluminum band. Flat-sloped canvas awnings sheltered the storefront openings by 1960. In 1971, the company invested in \$125,000 in interior and exterior remodeling, a project that included adding the metal storefront canopy, and undertook another renovation in 1986. H. J. Landis served as the Sylva Belk store's manager from its March 1943 opening until his January 1, 1971, retirement, followed by Lloyd Cowan, who remained through 1986. Belk Department Store utilized the building until 1998. David and Denissa Schulman purchased the property in December 1998 and leased it in February 1999 to Peeble's Department Store.⁴¹

Allison's, Inc., 1950, Contributing Building 678 West Main Street

A Tennessee Crab Orchard stone-veneered façade embellishes this otherwise austere one-story commercial building. Large aluminum-framed plate-glass windows sheltered by canvas dome awnings pierce the façade and the west elevation's south end, illuminating the storefront in conjunction with the façade's matching central double-leaf door and transom. The secondary elevations are executed in red brick on a formed-concrete foundation. On the west elevation, two fifteen-pane steel-framed windows and two small, rectangular, two-pane, steel-framed windows illuminate the interior. The west elevation also contains one paneled-wood single-leaf door and one double-leaf replacement wood door with a two-part transom. On the north elevation, a straight run of steel steps leads to a first-floor entrance east of two fifteen-pane steel-framed windows and a large plate-glass display window. A

⁴¹ Jackson County Deed Book 200, p. 609; Deed Book 1026, p. 778; Deed Book 1034, p. 149; "Belk Department Store, Sylva, N.C.," photographs, 1943-1981, undated 1970s press release, and store history form dated May 9, 1987, from the Belk, Inc., Headquarters Communications Department files, Charlotte, North Carolina; "Formal Opening of Belk's New Store Draws Approval of Thousands," *SH*, September 17, 1953, p. 1; Sara Lambert, "Sylva Belk Store Noting 35th Year; Company, 90th," *SHR*, May 25, 1978, pp. 1 and 3; "Then and Now," *SH*, April 13, 2006; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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three-part wood-paneled door with a multipane upper section secures the basement loading bay. Terra cotta coping caps the parapet.

Dan Allison commissioned this building's construction to house his auto dealership, relocating from 539 West Main Street 1950. He utilized what is now the adjacent parking lot as the dealership sales lot. The building then functioned as a Sears appliance store franchise, followed by a Montgomery Ward store of the same type and a paint store.⁴²

Parking Lot

On May 21, 1959, a *Sylva Herald* advertisement for Allison's automobile dealership included a photograph illustrating a newly-constructed, multi-bay, open shed that spanned the distance between 678 and 702 West Main Street.⁴³ The long, flat-roofed, metal-framed structure was removed in the 1970s.

Commercial Building, 1949, 1980, Noncontributing Building 702 West Main Street

This two-story commercial building features a Tennessee Crab Orchard stone-veneered façade, red brick secondary elevations, and a formed-concrete foundation. Owner W. Paul Holt Jr. remodeled the interior in 1980, then removing the central façade door to create a recessed entrance vestibule. Since that time, vertical wood boards have enclosed the transom above the door opening as well as the large flanking display windows, where boards are also installed at angles to create central diamond-shaped sections. The first-story windows on the side and rear elevations have been boarded-up, but eight-pane steel-framed windows with operable central sections illuminate the second floor. On the north elevation, wood steps terminate at a wood landing outside the double-leaf first-floor entrance. A roll-up garage door provides access to the basement, a portion of which was finished in 1980 to serve as a law library. Terra cotta coping caps the parapet.⁴⁴

W. Paul Holt Jr. engaged contractors in 1980 to enclose the concrete steps on the building's east elevation, creating a narrow hall with formed-concrete and brick walls and an asphalt-shingled roof. Straight runs of stairs lead from the aluminum-framed, plate-glass, single-leaf, Main Street door to the basement and second floor. Vertical wood boards sheathe the façade around the door.

⁴² Jackson County centennial parade photograph, Sylva, 1951, Special Collections, Hunter Library, WCU; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

⁴³ 1959 photograph in Hotaling, *Jackson County*, 56.

⁴⁴ The building's west elevation and stone-veneered façade are visible in a photograph taken by J. D. Patterson in 1957. "Back Then," *SH*, March 20, 2008; W. Paul Holt Jr., telephone conversations with Heather Fearnbach, April 23 and 24, 2014.

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Soon after subsidizing this building's construction, Dan Allison leased the storefront to the United States Post Office. A series of professional tenants, including attorney Marcellus Buchanan III and insurance agent Tommy Thompson, rented second floor offices. Allison's automobile dealership utilized the basement as a service garage. After the post office moved in 1964 into a newly-completed building at 73 Landis Street, W. Paul Holt Jr. and Jennings Bryson, now deceased, purchased 702 West Main Street from Dan Allison's relatives in June 1966. Holt and Bryson briefly leased the building to Kearfott, a New Jersey-based defense equipment manufacturer. In 1969, the successor law firm to the practice established in 1932 by Asheville native Daniel Killian Moore, North Carolina governor from 1965 to 1969, occupied the storefront. The firm had previously leased other downtown office space, including from 1960 until 1969 the west storefront of the building at 628-634 West Main Street. Moore left the firm prior to being elected governor. His partners had included his nephew David M. Hall, who served successively as the town attorney for Dillboro and Sylva, Jackson County attorney, a North Carolina senator, and a United States congressman, prior to his death in 1960, and Lacy Herman Thornburg, who ceased practicing as an attorney upon becoming a judge. Thornburg's career encompassed terms as a North Carolina State representative (1961-1966), superior court judge (1967-1983), attorney general (1985-1993), and federal judge (1995-2009). W. Paul Holt Jr. became a partner in January 1960, creating the firm Hall, Thornburg, and Holt, which became Hall, Holt, and Haire, and then Holt, Haire, and Bridgers. That firm dissolved in 1985, after which Holt has maintained his law office in the building.⁴⁵

Moody Funeral Home, 1946, Contributing Building 714 West Main Street

This two-story, brick, hip-roofed funeral home occupies a prominent corner lot. Distinguished from the commercial structures to the east by its deep setback, the building manifests residential characteristics such as double-hung, multipane, wood-sash windows, paired in many locations, and a full-width, flat-roofed porch supported by Tuscan columns. The slightly projecting gabled entrance bay encompasses a twenty-four-over-one sash second-story window and a marble first-story entrance surround incised with "Moody's" and the dates 1922 and 1946. Large wrought-iron sconces flank the wood entrance surround, which retains tall narrow sidelights above raised panels although the double-leaf door has been replaced.

The first story is executed in six-to-one common bond on a formed-concrete foundation, while the second story is running bond accented with projecting header courses above and below the windows.

⁴⁵ Jackson County Deed Book 607, p. 305; Western Carolina Telephone Company, *Telephone Directory*, October 1965; John Parris, "Sylva's Main Street in 1919-1920," and "David M. Hall Was U. S. Congressman," *SHR*, September 28, 1989, pp. 4 and 9; W. Paul Holt Jr., telephone conversations with Heather Fearnbach, April 23-24, 2014; "Lacy Herman Thornburg," *Biographical Dictionary of Federal Judges*, <http://www.fjc.gov/public/home.nsf/hisj>, accessed in April 2014.

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A flush header course encircles the building above the first-story windows. Cast-stone sills span the first-story and basement window openings. Six west elevation windows that illuminated the basement have been enclosed, leaving only two operable at the north end. Two gables on the west roof slope contain rectangular attic vents. A small, hip-roofed, weatherboarded tower containing three small, square, six-pane windows surmounts the north gable. Stovepipe chimneys pierce the replacement 5-V crimp metal roof.

On the Mill Street elevation, paired stained-glass windows illuminate the chapel. A gabled bracketed hood shelters the single-leaf basement entrance and a roll-up garage door secures the adjacent loading bay.

At the front porch's east end, a one-story, flat-roofed, brick-veneered addition with an aluminum-framed plate-glass entrance and two large, square, fixed, multipane, façade windows abuts the two-story commercial building at 702 West Main Street. The flat-roofed, concrete-block addition that extends to the north is windowless with an oversized roll-up basement door.

Medford Furniture Store's co-owner P. E. Moody sold funeral goods such as caskets and worked as an embalmer from 1922 until 1935. That year, with his wife Dollie, he opened Jackson County's first funeral home. The Moodys initially operated the business from their residence at Main and what is now Schulman Streets' northeast corner, but commissioned in 1946 the construction of the expansive brick building that still occupies the site. Their grandson Reginald Enloe Moody and his wife Judith purchased the company in 1964 and expanded to other Jackson and Swain County locations. Houston, Texas-based Service Corporation International absorbed the business in 1993, but the Moody family managed the funeral home until 2013.⁴⁶

Main Street, South Side

Frank and Elsie Geisler Massie House, 1927, ca. 1950, Contributing Building 511 West Main Street

A single-leaf front door with multipane sidelights punctuates this one-story, frame, side-gabled-roofed dwelling's façade. Two groups of three Craftsman-style eight-over-one windows flank the gabled entrance portico, which is supported by square brick posts spanned by a Victorian-era sawnwork

⁴⁶ Dr. Alvan Alexander Nichols resided in the one-and-one-half-story, side-gable-roofed, weatherboarded bungalow that previously occupied this site. He lived on Maple (now Schulman) Street at the time of his August 9, 1951, death. "Buys Main St. Property," *The Ruralite*, June 1, 1926; "Some Residences in Sylva," image from a 1914 Greater Western North Carolina Association publication in *SHR*, October 2, 1980, p. 3; "Funeral Service in Jackson County- Reg Moody Sr.," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 32; "Moody Funeral Homes," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. II, 369.

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balustrade. A louvered lunette vents the porch gable, which, like other roof sections, has deep eaves supported by exposed rafter ends. In the mid-twentieth century, Elsie Massie added to the west a concrete porch extension sheltered by a flat metal canopy supported by decorative metal posts on brick piers. Metal railings enclose that area and border the steps leading to the porch. A brick end chimney on the east elevation pierces the eave, while a tall brick stovepipe chimney stack rises above the rear roof slope's center. The house rests on brick piers infilled with stone. Vinyl siding sheathes the exterior, including the soffits and triangular eave brackets. One-over-one sash replacement windows have been installed on the side and rear elevations with the exception of the attic, where paired Craftsman-style six-over-one windows remain in the gable ends. Porch enclosures on the west and rear elevations and a small shed-roofed addition on the east elevation have increased the living space.

A tall stone retaining wall laid with grapevine joints lines the lot's north edge and flanks the steps leading from the sidewalk to the front door. The steps split into two runs at a landing near the top in order to facilitate access to the Massie House as well as the two-story dwelling that stood to the west.

Jackson County residents John A. and Bessie Buchanan Geisler welcomed their fifth daughter, Elsie, into their family on May 18, 1919. Twenty years later, Elsie married Waynesville native Frank Cathey Massie, born on September 10, 1916. At the time of his death in an automobile accident on March 1, 1942, Frank managed the Lyric Theatre at 617 West Main Street, which was owned by his father J. E. Massie. Elsie worked at the theatre as a cashier in the early 1940s. When J. E. Massie opened a new endeavor, the Ritz Theatre, on April 1, 1942, she managed that venue. Elsie subsequently became one of Sylva's longest-tenured retail merchants, operating a dress shop at 539 West Main Street from 1950 until her 1980 retirement. She died on April 16, 2013. The modest home where Elsie resided for most of her life stands on the site of an expansive, two-story, weatherboarded Queen Anne-style house occupied by her grandparents Marcellus and Laura Belle Buchanan from the 1890s until the 1910s.⁴⁷

Carport, ca. 1950, Contributing Structure

Access to this one-story frame carport located at the Massie House lot's south end is from East Jackson Street. Square wood posts and braces support the flat roof.

Parking Lot

In 1900, John R. and Sadie Brown Long occupied the late nineteenth-century, two-story, weatherboarded, Queen Anne-style house that stood at this location. The Long family retained the property through the mid-twentieth century, after which T. A. Fuller and Sol Schulman successively owned it. Paul Melton Construction Company began demolishing the house in late February 1980 to

⁴⁷ U. S. censuses, 1880-1940; death certificates; "Elsie Massie," *SHR*, April 25, 2013, p. 6B; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 393; photographs in Breedlove and Hotaling, *Jackson County*, 68.

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facilitate owner David Schulman's use of the site as a parking lot.⁴⁸

Commercial Building, 1970, Noncontributing Building 533 West Main Street

T-111 panels sheathe this narrow, two-story, hip-roofed, frame commercial building. Shed porches supported by square wood posts spanned by a wood railings extend the full-width of the north and west elevations. The building abuts a concrete block retaining wall on the south and east elevations, rendering only the upper floor visible from those directions. Single-leaf entrances on the west elevation's first story and the east elevation's second story provide interior access.

Cagle Motors owner Fred Rhodes erected the building to serve as offices. The structure has subsequently housed a variety of businesses and briefly served as a residence.⁴⁹

A two-story dwelling stood on a hill overlooking Main Street at this location. After its demolition in the 1940s, Dave Cagle excavated the parcel's north end to Main Street's grade to serve as Cagle Motors's Used Car Lot, which it remained until around 1987.⁵⁰ The gravel lot has since provided parking for those working in the adjacent buildings.

Tuckaseegee Motor Company - Sylva Herald, 1903, Noncontributing Building 539 West Main Street

Executed in six-to-one common bond brick with an eye-catching tall stepped parapet, this two-story commercial building's facade has been painted red. The modern painted sign band above the storefront delineates that The Sylva Herald occupies the building. Wood panels enclose the storefront transoms and its west window and door openings. The central double-leaf door and wood-framed plate-glass east windows are replacements. Cast-stone lintels span the four second-story facade window openings, which contain aluminum-framed, two-part replacement sashes that are shorter than the original windows. Cast-stone coping caps the parapets.

The building's east elevation has been parged with rough-textured stucco and painted gray. Four identical windows illuminate the side (east) elevation's second-story, where a fifth (north) window opening has been enclosed and contains an air-conditioning unit. Three shorter first-story window

⁴⁸ Sanborn map, July 1933, Sheet 2; "Making Way For Parking Park," *SHR*, March 20, 1980, p. 1; Thomas Ramsey Goddard, "Sadie Jane Brown and John Richard Long," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 323.

⁴⁹ Livingston Kelly, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 31, 2014.

⁵⁰ Sanborn map, July 1933, Sheet 2; Jackson County centennial parade photograph, Sylva, 1951, Special Collections, Hunter Library, WCU; Jim Gray, "Herald Editor Recalls Sylva's Main Street Through the Years," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 10.

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openings contain one-over-one sashes and two air-conditioning units.

On the rear (south) elevation, wood steps lead to a wood second-story landing that wraps around the building's southwest corner and is sheltered on the west elevation by a shed-roofed canopy supported by wood posts. A long wood ramp leads to the south elevation's three-part, vertical-board, second-story loading-bay door. Cast-stone lintels span the door and the four window openings to its east. The first-story window and door openings have been enclosed.

Photographs illustrate that Tuckaseegee Motor Company, a purveyor of Willys-Knight and Overland vehicles, occupied the building by the 1920s. As of 1926, C.A. Bales served as the corporation's president and G. T. Cooper its secretary. The July 1933 Sanborn map illustrates that the structure housed an automobile repair shop. Jackson County Clerk of Court Daniel Moore Allison acquired an Oldsmobile franchise in November 1935 and soon purchased the Tuckaseegee Motor Company property. His business grew to include hardware, automobile part, and International Harvester agricultural equipment sales at that location. Allison later opened hardware and grocery stores as well as a Pure Oil Station at what is now Schulman and Main Streets's northwest corner, just west of where Moody Funeral Home now stands at 714 West Main Street. Allison's, Inc., expanded into the McGuire Building's first floor before relocating to 678 West Main Street in 1950. Sylva Herald publisher J. A. Gray acquired the building at that time. The newspaper offices remain in residence.⁵¹

Drs. McGuire Office, 1923, 1960, Noncontributing Building 539 West Main Street

This austere commercial building presents a two-story façade to Main Street and rises to three stories at its south end. The façade's sole embellishment is its execution in red wire-cut brick. The side and rear elevations are slightly lighter smooth-face brick laid in running bond. Cast-stone caps the parapets. A small cast-stone plaque at the façade's east side above what was a single-leaf entrance, now enclosed, bears the name "Drs. McGuire," identifying the building's original owners and occupants as well as its 1923 construction date. A pent-roofed canopy shelters the replacement storefront, which comprises board-and-batten wood walls, one-over-one double-hung sash windows, and a recessed entrance. Two replacement single-leaf doors, one with a covered transom, provide access to the building from the west elevation. Five one-over-one, double-hung, replacement windows illuminate the first floor. Four of these windows are shorter than those that originally filled the

⁵¹ In addition to his entrepreneurial activities, Allison was very politically active, serving on Democratic committees at the local and statewide level and one term in the North Carolina General Assembly from 1945 until 1947. He was Skyline Oil Company's president for more than three decades. Jackson County Deed Book 100, p. 275; Jean Allison Gegan, "Allison's, Inc.," and "Daniel Moore Allison," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 29, 55; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 22, 114; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 173; gravemarkers.

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openings. The remaining windows, with the exception of one second-story window on the rear elevation, have been enclosed with plywood panels. A one-story frame shed addition projects from the south (rear) elevation.

Dentists Wayne and Daisy McGuire erected this building to accommodate their practice as well as other businesses and organizations. The United States Post Office leased space from November 1923 until 1949. The July 1933 Sanborn map shows that the structure also housed a third-floor lodge hall. In 1934, the McGuires leased part of the first floor to Attie May Bridges Brown, who continued to publish *The Ruralite* and operate a print shop after her husband Everett's 1932 death. By 1941, Daniel Moore Allison expanded Allison's, Inc., into the storefront from the adjacent building, utilizing the first floor to sell wholesale and resale automobile parts, hardware, and appliances. A photograph taken that year shows the original wood-framed storefront, which encompassed a central double-leaf entrance flanked by plate-glass windows above beadboard kneewalls and a transom with ten tall rectangular panes. After Allison's, Inc., moved to 678 West Main Street in 1950, Elsie Geisler Massie opened a dress shop here that remained in operation until 1980.⁵²

On March 2, 1960, heavy snow, sleet, and ice accumulation resulted in the collapse of the north section of the third-story's roof. The McGuires immediately engaged contractors to remove the north two-thirds of the third floor construct a new roof above the second story. At that time, the McGuire office included a second generation of the family: Drs. Harold McGuire, Patsy McGuire, and Noracella McGuire Wilson, and dental laboratory technician Thomas Wilson. The McGuires relocated their second-floor offices to the first floor in 1980 and remained there until moving in 1987 to a newly-completed edifice at 45 King Street. Attorneys then leased the space until 1997, when Sylva Herald publisher Jim Gray acquired the building to allow for the expansion of the concern's adjacent offices.⁵³

Wayne and Daisy Zachary McGuire House and Office, ca. 1910, 2002, Noncontributing Building 553-555 West Main Street

This one-and-one-half-story, frame, gable-on-hip-roofed Queen Anne-style house displays some Classical features. In the front and side gables, grouped double-hung, sixteen-pane-over-one, wood-sash windows surmounted by arched attic vents emulate the shape of Palladian windows. Shed-roofed dormers on the east and west gables' north slopes each contain three square twenty-pane windows. Tuscan columns support the porch roof, which originally wrapped around the dwelling's northwest

⁵² *JCJ*, October 5, 1923, November 9, 1923; U. S. censuses, 1930-1940; J. D. McRorie, "Sylva's First Newspaper Was Published in 1888," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 36; Jim Gray, "Herald Editor Recalls Sylva's Main Street Through the Years," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 10; Jean Allison Gegan, "Allison's, Inc.," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 29; 1902s, 1941, and 1956 photographs in *Hotaling, Sylva*, 22, 43, 52.

⁵³ "Tons of Snow, Ice, Sleet, Cause Damage to Building," *SH*, March 10, 1960.

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corner but has been enclosed on the west elevation. The room at the porch's east end features window sashes like those in the gable, while double-hung two-over-two wood-sash windows pierce the façade's first story. Fenestration varies elsewhere. An exterior steel staircase leads to the single-leaf door which likely replaced windows in the east gable.

A long, narrow, gable-roofed addition extends from the building's southeast corner. The property owners, in 2002, replaced the original turned porch balustrade with a modern wood railing and added a handicapped ramp with a matching railing that extends along the west elevation to a hip-roofed pergola at its south end. They also replaced the front door, installed vinyl siding, covered the concrete steps and rough-face concrete block foundation with stone veneer, and erected the one-story flat-roofed addition that extends from the south (rear) elevation. Site modifications include a stone patio with a wood railing in front of the house, a winding concrete sidewalk, a stone fountain with a central metal crane and tree sculpture close to the street, and a metal fence at the sidewalk.

Daisy Dean Zachary was born on February 24, 1880, to James Madison and Mary Alice Josephine Rogers Zachary in the Jackson County community of Norton. In addition to farming, her father, who had studied with a Charleston, S. C., dentist, treated area residents' dental problems. Inspired by assisting her father, Daisy attained an 1898 apprenticeship in an Anderson, South Carolina, dentist's office. She then established her own practice, traveling throughout Western North Carolina before working in Norton and Asheville, North Carolina. Daisy married Wayne Patrick McGuire, a native of Highlands in Macon County who was then a carpenter, in 1901. The couple pursued formal training at Southern Dental College, which merged with Atlanta Dental College in 1917 and Emory University in 1944. Daisy McGuire became North Carolina's first licensed female dentist in 1908 and established a Sylva practice that year. Her husband joined her after attaining his degree in 1912. The McGuires rented a room in M. H. and Mary J. Morris's Main Street boarding house before erecting their own residence. In 1920, their household included three daughters and a young servant, Laura Stewman.⁵⁴

All three McGuire girls matriculated at Emory University's dental school. Noracella and her husband Thomas Corsey Wilson joined Wayne and Daisy McGuire's Sylva practice in 1938, followed the next year by Patsy and her husband Harold S. McGuire. Kitty Dean McGuire and Robert Lee Gamewell Jr. married in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1942. Robert led a United States Army mobile dental unit in India during World War II. The Gamewells then moved to the farm established in 1884 by Robert's grandfather in the Barfield community near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where they operated a dental practice for more than fifty years.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ U. S. censuses, 1900-1940; death certificates; Patrick McGuire, "Dentistry," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 17-18.

⁵⁵ Noracella McGuire, born on January 1, 1915, died on August 5, 1995. Her husband Thomas Corsey Wilson was born on January 22, 1913, and died on August 1, 1988. Patsy McGuire was born on January 1, 1917 and her husband

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Wayne and Daisy McGuire continued treating patients in Sylva until just a few years before their deaths in 1978 and 1980. Harold and Patsy McGuire's son F. Patrick McGuire joined the family dental practice in 1980, followed by his brother David S. McGuire in 1982. The men, operating as McGuire and McGuire Dentistry, moved their Main Street practice in 1987 to a newly-completed building at 45 King Street.⁵⁶ The McGuire House was heavily altered to serve as a restaurant in 2002 and functioned in that capacity until 2011. The following year, Current Medical Services acquired the property for use as medical offices.⁵⁷

Office, ca. 1910, Noncontributing Building

It appears that Wayne and Daisy McGuire erected this building at the same time as their house. The structure housed their dental practice until the completion of the brick commercial building to the northeast and then served residential and other functions. The weatherboarded structure has a side-gabled main block with a hip-roofed north wing and south shed additions with an inset rear entrance porch supported by a square post. At the northeast corner, an entrance porch with Tuscan columns shelters a wood door with three horizontal panes over three horizontal raised panels. The rear door has two tall vertical panes over two vertical raised panels. Double-hung one-over-one wood-sash windows light the interior. Pressed-metal panels sheath the hip-roofed wing's north and west elevations.

Outbuilding, ca. 1940, Noncontributing Building

A two-story, front-gable-roofed, vinyl-sided building with a double-leaf first-floor entrance stands southwest of the house. A wood façade staircase leads to the single-leaf second-story door. Paired one-over-one sash windows pierce the second-story's north gable end.

Harold S. McGuire on May 17, 1917. Kitty Dean McGuire was born on June 10, 1919. Her husband, Robert Lee Gamewell Jr., was born on August 5, 1919 and died on November 16, 2006. Death certificates; "Dr. Robert Lee Gamewell Jr.," obituary, Jennings and Ayers Funeral Home, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, November 17, 2006; Tennessee Century Farms, "Gamewell Farm," http://www.tncenturyfarms.org/rutherford_county/#Gamewell_Farm, accessed in December 2013.

⁵⁶ Wayne McGuire, born on February 22, 1883, died on January 1, 1978. Daisy McGuire died on March 6, 1980. Death certificates; "McGuire's Dental Practice Is Family Affair," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 28; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 215, 228, 448; 1915 photograph in Hotelling, *Sylva*, 25; Jackson County Chamber of Commerce, "A family tradition: The McGuires and dentistry in Jackson County," *Our Town*, 2011, pp. 22-23.

⁵⁷ Jackson County Deed Book 59, p. 202; Deed Book 100, p. 273; Deed Book 359, p. 10; 1968, p. 430; Deed Book 1972, p. 303.

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Pavilion, ca. 2002, Noncontributing Structure

An expansive frame entertainment pavilion erected in conjunction with the property's 2002 renovation to serve as a restaurant stands west of the house. Square wood posts spanned by wood railings support the gabled metal roof and its south shed extension.

Pavilion II, ca. 2002, Noncontributing Structure

A small frame entertainment pavilion completed soon after the property's 2002 renovation stands north of the office. Square wood posts support the shed roof.

Commercial Building, late 1930s, 1948, Contributing Building 559 West Main Street

A long, two-story, yellow-brick, common-bond façade encompassing three storefronts and a stair hall entrance unifies the three commercial buildings at 559, 563-567, and 573 West Main Street, but for the purposes of this inventory they are enumerated separately. Headers outline rectangular parapet panels above each storefront's second-story windows. The two-bay-wide east building comprises a deeply recessed, double-leaf, aluminum-framed door and flanking aluminum-framed plate-glass windows above brick kneewalls. A flat-sloped canvas awning with scalloped lower edges shelters the storefront. Two four-over-one double-hung wood-sash windows illuminate the façade's second floor and two identical windows pierce the east elevation's second story. The first story is blind. The secondary elevations are red brick laid in common bond with the exception of the west elevation's upper story, which is sheathed with asbestos-shingle siding. Two tall window openings on the rear elevation originally contained steel-framed, ten-pane windows, but the west opening now contains a replacement six-over-six sash window. Two single-leaf steel replacement doors allow access to the first floor.

Rexall Drug occupied this storefront soon after general contractor Harry Erastus Ferguson completed the building's construction. Ferguson leased the storefront to tenants including Eliza Gray's Hallmark Store, a clothing shop, and Radio Shack. Following Ferguson's April 1972 death, Sol Schulman acquired 559 and 563-567 West Main Street. David and Denissa Schulman and David's brother Herbert Schulman's heir retain ownership.⁵⁸

⁵⁸ Jackson County Deed Book 526, p. 55; Deed Book 1437, p. 28; photograph in *Hotaling, Sylva*, 52; death certificate; David Schulman, telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, April 23 and 25, 2014.

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Commercial Building, 1938, 1948, Contributing Building 563-567 West Main Street

A long, two-story, yellow-brick, common-bond façade encompassing three storefronts and a stair hall entrance unifies the three commercial buildings at 559, 563-567, and 573 West Main Street, but for the purposes of this inventory they are enumerated separately. Header courses outline rectangular parapet panels above each storefront's second-story windows. The seven-bay-wide central building comprises a recessed, double-leaf, aluminum-framed door and flanking aluminum-framed plate-glass windows above brick kneewalls. A flat-sloped canvas awning with scalloped lower edges shelters the storefront. At the façade's east end, a canvas dome awning surmounts the doorway that provides access to stairs leading to the second floor, which is lighted by seven four-over-one double-hung wood-sash windows with cast-stone sills.

The building's evolution is clearly visible on the south elevation. The Main Street façade parapet conceals the fact that the east bay is only one-story tall at its wedge-shaped south end, allowing for windows on the facing second-story elevations of the flanking buildings. The secondary elevations are common-bond red brick with the exception of the east elevation's upper story, which is sheathed with asbestos-shingle siding. Three tall second-story window openings on the rear elevation likely originally contained four-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows with cast-stone sills. The west window is intact, but the east windows have been replaced with steel-framed, ten-pane windows. Two narrow, three-pane, steel-frame windows, an opening filled with an air-conditioning unit, and a square opening containing a louvered vent punctuate the rear elevation's first story.

The July 1933 Sanborn map illustrates two one-story buildings at this location: a long, narrow dry cleaning establishment near what is now 563-567 West Main Street and a wider store to the west. Dixie Home Stores grocery opened in the storefront on April 1, 1938, with A. G. Huff serving as its manager and Roger Dillard the assistant manager.⁵⁹ The second stories of this building and the adjacent two structures, accessed only from the entrance east of the 563-567 West Main Street storefront, contained for many years offices occupied by a variety of physicians. Sylva residents therefore referred to the edifice as the "Doctors Building."⁶⁰

⁵⁹ *JCJ*, March 24, 1938; Jackson County centennial parade photograph, Sylva, 1951, Special Collections, Hunter Library, WCU; Jim Gray, "Herald Editor Recalls Sylva's Main Street Through the Years," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 11. The Jacksonville, Florida-based Winn and Lovett supermarket chain acquired 117 North and South Carolina Dixie Home grocery stores (headquartered in Greenville, South Carolina) in 1955, creating "Winn-Dixie Stores, Inc." "Winn-Dixie," <http://www.answers.com/topic/winn-dixie-stores-inc>, accessed in August 2012.

⁶⁰ David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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Commercial Building, late 1930s, 1948, Contributing Building 573 West Main Street

A long, two-story, yellow-brick, common-bond façade encompassing three storefronts and a stair hall entrance unifies the three commercial buildings at 559, 563-567, and 573 West Main Street, but for the purposes of this inventory they are enumerated separately. Header courses outline rectangular parapet panels above each storefront's second-story windows. The three-bay-wide west building comprises a recessed storefront with a double-leaf aluminum-framed door and transom on its east side and matching windows above replacement ceramic tile kneewalls. A replacement glass-block transom is behind the flat mid-twentieth-century aluminum canopy that shelters the storefront.

On the façade, fifteen-pane steel-framed windows with operable central sections provide ample light. Three twelve-pane steel-framed second-story windows, one wider first-story multipane steel-framed window, and a replacement wood-panel door pierce the rear elevation. Cast-stone sills span the window openings and cast-stone coping caps the parapet.

Sol Schulman owned this building, which housed from around 1955 until 1970 Bower's Store, Inc., a discount retail concern with the marketing slogan "outfitters for the entire family." Bower's Store later evolved into the Asheville-based Sky City discount store chain. Sol Schulman's son Herbert and his wife Norma Schulman conveyed the property to Lauren Calvert in April 1999.⁶¹

Massie Furniture Company, 1940, Contributing Building 581 West Main Street

Brick pilasters with stepped outer edges frame this two-story red-brick commercial building's three-bay façade, extending above the parapet to create a slightly crenellated effect. The façade's large second-story replacement windows are aluminum-framed plate-glass, as is the multi-section translucent transom that surmounts the storefront. The central double-leaf aluminum-framed door is deeply recessed, allowing for display platforms inside the matching windows large enough to accommodate furniture. The façade is executed in running bond, while masons laid the secondary elevations in five-to-one common bond inset with cast-stone sills below square, two-horizontal-pane, steel-framed windows. A large, plate-glass, first-story display window occupies the west elevation's north end below a painted "Massie Furniture Co." sign. On the south (rear) elevation, a roll-up garage door secures the loading bay. A concrete ramp extends east from the loading door along the south elevations of the commercial building at 559-573 West Main Street to a rear parking lot.

⁶¹ Ibid.; Western Carolina Telephone Company, *Telephone Directory*, October 1965; Jackson County Deed Book 438, p. 82; Deed Book 1040, p. 150.

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This lot was vacant in July 1933. Massie Furniture Company, established by Thomas Newton Massie on September 1, 1932, initially operated in a New Jackson Hotel storefront, but occupied this building from its 1940 completion until September 30, 2013. Massie was a community leader, serving in roles such as Chamber of Commerce president throughout his career.⁶²

First Citizens Bank, 2012, Noncontributing Building 609 West Main Street

In April 1909, Joseph J. Hooker, J. N. Wilson, and W. B. Davis formed Jackson County's second significant financial institution, Tuckaseegee Bank, in Webster. The bank expanded to Sylva in November 1913, operating from a newly-finished one-story, brick, Main Street building with a paneled corbelled parapet until the 1928 completion of the commanding two-story structure to the west. The Great Depression resulted in the bank's April 1930 closure due to insolvency. The institution's 1932 liquidation reclaimed only ten cents for every dollar lost by depositors.⁶³

Sol Schulman purchased the building and leased it to tenants for use as a cafeteria, an automobile service garage, and a storeroom for Vance Hardware. The building then housed Northwestern Bank until 1985, when First Citizens Bank acquired the property. First Citizens utilized it until demolishing the 1913 and 1928 structures in late August 2011 in order to build a new bank designed by Sylva architect Odell Thompson.⁶⁴

The white marble-veneered Classical Revival-style façade salvaged from the 1928 building graces the entrance, featuring a fully articulated entablature with four pilasters framing tall arched window openings and a Classical door surround. Roman numerals incised at the stepped parapet's center delineate the 1928 bank's construction date. The two-story structure's north section emulates that building's height. The taller, wider, two-story, red-brick rear section is ornamented by black brick soldier courses that wrap around the building above each floor. Black brick stretcher courses span the distance between twelve-pane fixed windows. A one-story flat-roofed wing with an automatic teller machine on its Main Street (north) elevation occupies the one-story 1913 bank's site. A flat-roofed steel canopy supported by paired square posts projects from the wing's east elevation above the drive-through teller window.

⁶² "Last Rites Held for T. N. Massie," *The Ruralite*, February 26, 1935; "Jackson County Chamber of Commerce," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 31, 1938; "Furniture Stores in Sylva," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 32; "Hensley to retire, Massie's to close at end of this month," *SH*, September 16, 2013; late 1940s photograph in *Hotaling, Sylva*, 34.

⁶³ "Announcement," *JCJ*, November 14 and 21, 1913; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 210-211; photograph in *Hotaling, Sylva*, 27.

⁶⁴ "First Citizens building is demolished," *SH*, September 1, 2011; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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Lyric Theatre/Commercial Building, 1920, 1927, 1990s, Noncontributing Building, 617 West Main Street

This two-story brick commercial building has been significantly altered several times. A large brick addition executed in common bond with cast-stone buttresses and stepped side parapets extends south from the original structure, more than doubling its square footage. Late twentieth-century stone veneer sheathes the façade's tall flat parapet and the pilasters separating two replacement storefronts, where horizontal board siding surrounds the replacement doors.

In 1924, Harry E. Buchanan purchased two Sylva movie houses: the 1920 Lyric Theatre and the 1920 Halson Theatre, named after its first proprietors David McKee Hall and Thomas Oscar Wilson. Three years later, Buchanan commissioned the construction of a four-hundred-seat Lyric Theatre next to the original building, which then served as the "Rodeo," a venue solely for Western films. The approximately \$50,000 Lyric Theatre featured state-of-the-art climate control and sound systems. In February 1930, Raymond Glen relocated his jewelry shop from Hooper's Drugstore to the Lyric Theatre Building. The July 1933 Sanborn map indicates that the building encompassed a store at its northwest corner and the movie theater entrance at the northeast corner. Buchanan sold the operation after experiencing economic challenges during the Great Depression. Waynesville entrepreneur J. E. Massie acquired the Lyric Theatre in 1937 and operated it until opening the Ritz Theatre in a new \$100,000 Art Moderne-style building on April 1, 1942. The structure at 617 West Main Street housed The Sylva Herald's printing operation from 1945 until 1950. Subsequent occupants included Sadie Queen's beauty shop, A. J. Dill's insurance agency, and the Sylva Police Department. In the 1980s, Emerson Phillips operated a newsstand and Herbert Schulman subsequently opened Another World Collectibles.⁶⁵

Tuckaseege Beauty and Barber Shop, 1946, Contributing Building 625 West Main Street

Long, thin, red Roman brick veneer distinguishes this one-story commercial building, sheathing the pilasters framing the central entrance and at the façade's edges as well as the planting beds under the windows, which, like the two single-leaf doors, are aluminum-framed plate-glass. A transom surmounts the central door and ceramic tile surrounds the east door, which has a deeper setback than the central entrance. A canvas dome awning shelters the storefront, mounted just below the cast-stone

⁶⁵ "Opening of Ritz Held Yesterday in the State's Finest Theatre Building," *JCJ*, April 2, 1942; Jean and Pearle Buchanan and Sarah Buchanan Porter, "Harry and Pearle Buchanan," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 117; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 392-393; Jim Gray, "Herald Editor Recalls Sylva's Main Street Through the Years," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 10; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 114; David Schulman, telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, April 23 and 25, 2014.

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coping that caps the flat parapet. Masons executed the secondary elevations in common bond with terra cotta tile covering parapets. A brick chimney rises from the building's southwest corner near the steel-framed ten-pane window on the west elevation.

In July 1933, this lot contained a one-story frame structure from which Glen Hooper sold candy, soft drink, and cigarettes.⁶⁶ That building had a deeper setback than the adjacent commercial structure at 631-633 West Main Street. Tuckaseege Beauty and Barber Shop occupied the building during the mid-twentieth century.

Commercial Building, 1920, Contributing Building 631-633 West Main Street

This two-story running bond brick commercial building features a flat-parapet cornice comprising a soldier course capped with a slightly projecting stretcher course. Four one-over-one wood-sash windows pierce the façade's second story. The building has been painted gray with the exception of the Tennessee Crab Orchard stone-veneered two-part storefront. The west section encompasses a deeply recessed double-leaf wood-framed replacement door and the east section a similar single-leaf entrance sheltered by a canvas dome awning. A slightly recessed matching door at the façade's east end provides access to the stairs leading to the second floor. Both storefronts retain mid-twentieth-century aluminum-framed plate-glass windows below matching three-part translucent glass transoms. Metal coping caps the parapet, which is stepped on the side elevations.

Five double-hung one-over-one wood-sash windows on each of the east and west elevations illuminate second story, but the west elevation's first story is blind. On the rear (south) elevation, a single-leaf entrance provides first-floor access near the southeast corner. Four one-over-one, wood-sash, second-story windows flank two small, central, rectangular windows that provide additional light.

The July 1933 Sanborn map notes that this building served a retail function. Lovedahl Furniture and a sporting goods store subsequently occupied the storefront, followed by Nantahala Power and Light Company, who leased the first floor until 1994. Tenants including Hennessee Lumber Company, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the North Carolina Division of Forestry leased the second-story offices. Harry Ferguson owned this building until his death in 1972 and David and Denissa Schulman purchased the property from his estate in 1984. Attorney James M. Spiro and his wife Julie bought the building in January 1994 and remodeled the interior, a portion of which serves as his law office.⁶⁷

⁶⁶ Jim Gray, "Herald Editor Recalls Sylva's Main Street Through the Years," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 10.

⁶⁷ Ibid.; Western Carolina Telephone Company, *Telephone Directory*, October 1965; Jackson County Deed Book 578, p. 244; Deed Book 850, p. 268; David Schulman, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 23, 2014.

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Parking Lot

Mill Street, North side

Commercial Building, 1968, Noncontributing Building 500 Mill Street

This austere flat-roofed one-story commercial building has a variegated running-bond brick facade and concrete block secondary elevations. Two single-leaf doors and three plate glass windows, all protected by aluminum awnings, pierce the façade. Terra cotta coping caps the parapets. The property is adjacent to Scotts Creek and the Southern Railway right-of-way.

Attorney Max K. Holland leased the building from around 1980 until 1995 to serve as his office.⁶⁸

Carolina Cleaners, 1950, Contributing Building 516 Mill Street

This utilitarian commercial building encompasses two large, flat-roofed, one-story sections that create an L-shaped complex with two small additions, one of which is shed-roofed and fills the space at the northeast corner of the sections' intersection. The other is a slightly shorter narrow extension at the east end. The facades are executed in variegated brick laid in running bond with concrete block secondary elevations. On the west end, which projects to the south, two tall aluminum-framed windows with six-horizontal panes flank a double-leaf door. To the west, one metal-framed plate-glass window, two replacement single-leaf doors, and a roll-up garage door pierce the façade. In the building's east section, a flat metal canopy shelters the aluminum-framed plate-glass windows and the matching single- and double-leaf doors and transoms. Terra cotta coping caps the parapets.

One large, eighteen-pane, steel-framed window remains on the west elevation, but the other has been enclosed with concrete block, as have all of the large window openings on the north (rear) elevation. A stovepipe chimney rises adjacent to a projecting shed-roofed bay that includes a single-leaf entrance. At the structure's northeast corner, the basement foundation is stone. The property is next to Scotts Creek and the railroad.

⁶⁸ Priscilla Holland, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 24, 2014.

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Erwin Heating and Plumbing - Ward Plumbing and Heating, 1951, Contributing Building 548 Mill Street

A façade executed in oversized red brick laid in running bond with a single header course above the storefront distinguishes this two-story building. Plate-glass windows with cast-stone sills topping brick kneewalls flank the recessed double-leaf entrance, which is surmounted by a sign band bearing the company's name. A replacement single-leaf door provides auxiliary access at the façade's west end. The garage door at the south end has been enclosed. Double-hung, one-over-one sash, aluminum-framed replacement windows, paired on the façade's second story, illuminate the interior. Cast-stone windowsills prevail with the exception of those on the second-story façade, which comprise brick headers. The secondary elevations are concrete block above a formed-concrete foundation with slightly projecting one-story buttresses delineating the east and west elevations' first-story bays, which are devoid of windows. Terra cotta coping caps the parapet, which is stepped on the side elevations. The north (rear) elevation includes large window openings on three stories and single- and double-leaf entrances. The property is adjacent to the railroad.

Ed Erwin and his employees, including Dan Ward, constructed this building to house Erwin Heating and Plumbing. By the 1960s, Erwin's commercial and residential clientele, serviced by his approximately forty-member crew, spanned western North Carolina and northern Georgia. Dan Ward and his son Keith Ward purchased the business in 1978 after operating elsewhere for about a year. Ward Plumbing and Heating, Inc., grew from two employees to twenty-five by 2007, but downsized during the subsequent economic recession. The company continues to undertake residential and commercial commissions.⁶⁹

Southern Railway Tracks and Right-of-Way, Contributing Structure

After the Southern Railway acquired the Western North Carolina Railroad following the company's August 21, 1894, foreclosure, the line that runs through Sylva became known as the Murphy Branch given its termination in the Cherokee County town of that name. The Southern Railway and the Norfolk and Western Railroad merged in 1982 to create Norfolk Southern Corporation.⁷⁰

The Southern Railway corridor through Sylva includes two long, narrow, right-of-way parcels north of the Downtown Sylva Historic District. The west tract, flanked by the railroad on the north and Mill

⁶⁹ Jim Gray, "Herald Editor Recalls Sylva's Main Street Through the Years," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 10; Keith Ward, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, April 25, 2014.

⁷⁰ Jennifer Davis McDaid, Historical Archivist, Norfolk Southern Corporation, Norfolk, Virginia, email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, May 12, 2014; Cary Franklin Poole, *A History of Railroading in Western North Carolina* (Johnson City, TN: Overmountain Press, 1995), 9, 11, 39.

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Street on the south, comprises brick-lined planter boxes at its west end, a central picnic area with concrete tables and benches, and a paved parking lot at the east end. In the east parcel, the railroad crosses and then runs north of Scotts Creek. The right-of-way between the railroad tracks and the parcels containing buildings in the Downtown Sylva Historic District fronting Mill and Main streets is undeveloped.

Spring Street, East Side

Massie Furniture Warehouse, 1946, Contributing Building Spring Street

Massie Furniture erected this one-story red-brick-veneered warehouse to house inventory. The façade encompasses a central, paneled-wood, roll-up garage door flanked by large wood-framed plate-glass display windows with cast-stone sills. An offset single-leaf entrance occupies the northwest corner. On the rear (east) elevation, the brick and hollow terra cotta block wall construction is exposed and two small, six-light, steel-framed windows illuminate the basement. Concrete coping caps the parapets.

Spring Street, West Side

Harry R. and Queen Duvall Hastings House, 1927, Contributing Building 38 Spring Street

This one-and-one-half-story front-gable bungalow is executed in running bond brick with a soldier-course watertable and lintels. A hip-roofed porch supported by tapered wood posts on brick piers spanned by a brick kneewall extends across the façade's north two-thirds. Single and paired double-hung, Craftsman-style, four-over-one, wood-sash windows with header sills illuminate the interior. Two German-sided shed dormers and a brick interior chimney stack pierce the south roof slope, while only one dormer occupies the north slope. Exposed rafter ends contribute to the dwelling's bungaloid character. Brick headers outline the round-arched front gable opening containing a louvered attic vent. The foundation is stuccoed on the north and west elevations.

Harry R. and Queen Duvall Hastings commissioned this home's construction at the southeast corner of the lot upon which the Commercial Hotel once stood. Harry's parents Thomas H. and Ebbie M. Hastings purchased the inn from proprietors Manus Hanley and Mary Jane Long Morris in 1915. After an April 6, 1923, fire destroyed the three-story, frame, Queen Anne-style structure and others in the vicinity, the Hastings family did not rebuild the lodging house. Harry R. Hastings, who served as Sylva's postmaster from April 6, 1918, until June 20, 1922, and his second wife Queen Duvall

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Hastings resided with his parents until the Spring Street bungalow's 1927 completion. Harry enjoyed the house for only a short time prior to his death on August 28, 1929. The following year, Queen Hastings resided in the home with her infant son John Harry, cook Maude Bumgarner, and two boarders: lumber company stenographer Evelyn Campbell and hardware store bookkeeper Myrtle Prater. In 1940, the Hastingses and three lodgers shared the residence. Boyd Sossaman acquired Queen Hastings's house around 1963 and conveyed it in 1970 to the town of Sylva to function as offices, but that use did not transpire. Marion and George DeVane purchased the property in 1978 and bequeathed it to their daughter Peggy Koenighaus, who resided there with her husband and children from 1995 until 2002. Since that time, St. John's Episcopal Church has owned the dwelling, which is adjacent to its sanctuary and education building.⁷¹

⁷¹ Harry Rutherford Hastings's first wife, Blanche King Hastings, died on April 16, 1926. Queen Hastings, born on July 30, 1891, died on December 11, 1970. U. S. censuses, 1920-1940; death certificates; gravemarkers; *Record of Appointments of Postmasters, 1832-1971*, *Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group Number 28*, National Archives, Washington, D.C; Rose Hooper, "Hastings House a part of downtown Sylva," SHR, February 21, 2001, p. C1; Jackson County Deed Book 1136, p. 639.

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Section 8. Statement of Significance

Sylva, population 2,680, is located in western North Carolina's Tuckasegee River basin between Balsam and Cowee mountains. The town grew to become Jackson County's commercial hub after 1884, when the Western North Carolina Railroad extended its line originating in Salisbury to Sylva, and has functioned as its governmental center since being designated the county seat in 1913. The Downtown Sylva Historic District contains the municipality's most intact and cohesive collection of early-to-mid-twentieth-century commercial, religious, and residential buildings and meets National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce and Architecture. The largely linear district encompasses fifty primary resources situated on 13.07 acres. These structures represent the architectural types and styles, ranging from Italianate to Queen Anne, Craftsman, Classical Revival, Commercial, and Modernist, that were executed in Western North Carolina communities as the twentieth century progressed. By 1910, Sylva entrepreneurs had established a bank, dental office, meat market, two blacksmith and wagon shops, two livery stables, and one hardware, two drug, and five general stores. Mercantile concerns, professional offices, restaurants, and entertainment venues proliferated through the mid-twentieth century.

The period of significance for the locally significant Downtown Sylva Historic District begins in 1900, the construction date of the district's oldest contributing building, the two-story, brick Italianate-style Sylva Pharmacy at 596-600 West Main Street, and ends in 1964, the year contractors completed the Modernist United States Post Office at 73 Landis Street. Although Sylva's businesses and local and county governments continued to operate after 1964, the town's activities and architectural development since 1964 are not of exceptional significance. With approximately eighty-four percent of its primary resources categorized as contributing, the Downtown Sylva Historic District retains a good degree of integrity.

Historic Background and Commerce Context

Jackson County, constituted in January 1851 from Haywood and Macon counties and named in memory of United States president Andrew Jackson, remained predominantly rural through the late nineteenth century. Given that many land grants and property acquisitions encompassed sizable tracts, residents typically lived at great distances from each other, meeting at churches and in crossroads communities and small towns to socialize, purchase goods, and address business matters. County court sessions convened in locations including Daniel Bryson Sr.'s home, Allen Fisher's store, and a church near Fisher's store until a courthouse's 1855 completion in the newly platted town of Webster. Although the governmental center soon attracted numerous inhabitants, the vast majority of the county's occupants operated subsistence farms. Some entrepreneurs were able to sell or trade surplus crops and agricultural products for locally made and imported commodities. Others engaged in

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manufacturing endeavors to generate supplementary income, processing raw materials such as corn, wheat, flax seed, and logs to produce meal, flour, linseed oil, and lumber. Industrial production increased exponentially after 1884, when the Western North Carolina Railroad extended its line originating in Salisbury to Jackson County. A fifty-year span of extensive growth ensued, with logging, mining, and tourism fueling the area's development.⁷²

As Webster was not situated on the railroad line, Sylva became the county's commercial center, evolving to meet the needs of local industries in addition to general consumers. Named after itinerant carpenter William D. Sylva in conjunction with its United States Post Office's August 6, 1880, opening, the town encompassed previously undeveloped acreage owned primarily by Judge Riley D. Cannon; his son-in-law Erastus R. Hampton, an attorney and saw mill proprietor; and merchants John H. Brendle and Allen Bartlett Dills. The men conveyed land to investors, including Marcellus Buchanan, M. C. Cowan, Dillard Love, M. H. Morris, Asbury S. Nichols, John Alfred Monteith, Henry Brendle, and J. N. McCombs, most of whom soon commissioned the construction of expansive Queen Anne-style houses on what became Main Street. Residents and tourists occupied boarding houses and inns such as Central Hotel, Hampton House, and Sylva House. Businessmen erected frame commercial buildings in the nascent community and funded a depot's completion in order to expedite its use.⁷³

In 1886, Jasper Allen constructed Sylva Graded School at what is now 755 West Main Street and A. E. Pinckard became its principal. Judge Cannon's daughter Lula A. Cannon, a teacher, received the first postmaster appointment, followed consecutively by her sister Rachel Eva Hampton, her brother-in-law E. R. Hampton, and John L. Potts through 1889. That year, the town's growth prompted the North Carolina General Assembly to issue Sylva a charter delegating Oscar Bowman Coward to serve as its mayor, J. C. Fisher the town's marshal, and E. R. Hampton, A. M. Parker, W. M. Burns, A. W. Bryson, R. L. Madison its commissioners. For some inexplicable reason, the general assembly incorporated Sylva for a second time in 1899, designating Dr. J. H. Wolf mayor.⁷⁴

The *Tuckaseige Democrat*, a weekly Sylva newspaper created by E. R. Hampton, promoted the town's potential beginning in December 1888. Felix A. Luck and his father of the same name published the periodical through October 1896. After that endeavor failed, E. R. Hampton and Felix A. Luck Sr.

⁷² Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 105, 108-109, 119, 199.

⁷³ Ibid., 119-120, 169, 643; U. S. censuses, 1870-1880; *Tuckaseige Democrat*, 1889; death certificates; "Judge Riley Cannon Was Owner of Most Sylva Land," and "Town Received Name In Dramatic Storybook Tale," *SH*, August 30, 1951; Carey Phillips, "W. D. Sylva's Daughter Is Still Living In Texas," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 3; Jonnie Clasen, "Early Industry Provided Varied Economic Base For Towns of Sylva and Dillsboro," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 33.

⁷⁴ Ibid.; *Record of Appointments of Postmasters, 1832-1971, Records of the Post Office Department, Record Group Number 28*, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

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attempted to launch a newspaper called the *Sylva Sentinel*, but its run lasted only from March until December 1897. It was then nine years before a Sylva printer undertook newspaper publishing. In the fall of 1906, brothers W. E. and Bert Gaillard, previously Greenville, South Carolina, residents, moved the weekly *Jackson County Journal*, created in 1904, from Webster to Sylva.⁷⁵

Entrepreneurialism drove Sylva's development. Concerns established by 1889 include W. A. Enloe and Company's dry goods store, Hall and Buchanan's drug store, Sylva Barber Shop, Sylva Produce Market, and Sylva Mills. In 1897, M. W. Young sold watches, clocks, and jewelry and Dr. J. H. Knight operated a drug store. Allen B. Dills, Mack Fowler, and partners Oscar Coward and Ernest Lyndon McKee opened general stores in the 1890s. Coward sold his interest in the venture with McKee to Dillsboro resident Charles Joseph Harris in 1898, resulting in Sylva Supply Company's creation. Harris, an alumnus of Yale University and Brown's Law School in St. Louis, Missouri, had moved to Jackson County in 1889 after his marriage to wealthy Colorado resident Florence J. Rusk ended. He undertook a series of ventures including forming Blue Ridge Locust Pin Company, which manufactured locust ship nails and pins used to mount glass insulators on utility poles. Harris and his brothers Edward and Theodore, who had established Harris Clay Company in 1888, acquired the Boston-based Carolina Clay Company's Hogrock kaolin mine and two factories outside Dillsboro in 1891. The firm supplied American and English potteries with fine porcelain used to create myriad ceramic products. C. J. Harris also invested in the leather tanning industry, operating a plant that extracted tannic acid from chestnut wood chips for use in leather hide processing. The concern's name varied with his business partnerships, ranging from Harris to Harris-McKee, Harris-Rees, Sylva, Parsons, and Armour Tanneries. Harris's endeavors were closely connected, as Sylva Supply served as the tannery's commissary. E. L. McKee oversaw the store's management until assuming a leadership role at the tannery in 1902, after which his brother J. W. McKee ran the store through 1913. E. L. McKee diversified into the building supply business in 1906, establishing Sylva Lumber Company with thirty employees who produced hardwood floor boards and trim moldings in a plant adjacent to Scotts Creek.⁷⁶

As Sylva grew, E. R. Hampton donated a lot near Main Street's west end upon which builders completed in 1894 a structure to serve as a public school and a church for the town's Baptist, Methodist, and Episcopal communicants. By 1899, Anna M. Chisholm operated another school for the area's youth under the auspices of the Episcopal Church and Sylva Training School offered business

⁷⁵ Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 379-381; J. D. McRorie, "Sylva's First Newspaper Was Published in 1888," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 36.

⁷⁶ C. J. Harris, born in Putnam Heights, Connecticut, on September 11, 1853, died in Asheville on February 14, 1944. *Tuckaseige Democrat*, 1889; *Sylva Sentinel*, December 10, 1897, p. 3; "A New Plant Worthy of Mention," *JCJ*, July 13, 1906; "Armour Leather Buys Interest in Tannery," *JCJ*, December 24, 1915; *SH*, August 6, 1959; "Sylva Supply, Oldest Downtown Business Began Operations Here in 1898," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 32; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 160, 164, 172-173, 187-188; death certificate.

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courses to older scholars. Local industries included Baum Kaolin Works and Marcellus Buchanan and B. C. Grindstaff's mica concern, which became Sylva Mica Mining Company. Fire remained a constant threat in the densely clustered downtown, spurring A. J. Dills' 1899 formation of the Sylva Bucket Brigade. Merchants replaced frame commercial structures with stylish and fire-resistant masonry edifices such as the C. J. Harris Building at 582 West Main Street and the commercial buildings at 539, 594, and 596-600 West Main Street as they prospered. Farmers frequented Sylva to buy, sell, and trade. Tax revenue generated by commercial ventures and ongoing industrial expansion funded municipal infrastructure improvements such as board sidewalk installation.⁷⁷

The community's growth attracted professionals ranging from carpenters to teachers, physicians, bankers, and merchants who served the burgeoning population. In 1900, Sylva encompassed 281 residents, Sylva Collegiate Institute enrolled fifty-seven students during its inaugural year, and black teacher William McDonnell instructed the community's few African American youth. Georgia native Alvan Alexander Nichols, a general practice physician, resided in Cullowhee in 1900. He was one of eleven Jackson County doctors at that time. He later moved to Sylva, as did his younger brother Asbury Sullivan Nichols, a physician and surgeon who worked from an office in the Harris Building by 1908. Physician Delos Dexter Hooper, born in Tuckasegee, opened a Sylva general practice within a few months of his 1905 graduation from the University of Virginia's medical school and soon began selling pharmaceuticals as well. His younger brother, pharmacist Frederick Lambert Hooper, operated a Sylva drug store for fifty-three years beginning in the late 1910s. After graduating from Southern Dental College, Daisy McGuire became North Carolina's first licensed female dentist in 1908 and began treating patients in Sylva that year. Her husband Wayne P. McGuire joined her practice after attaining his degree in 1912.⁷⁸

By 1906, Sylva's general store proprietors included M. Buchanan and Company; Sylva Racket Store owners J. S. Garrett and Company; and John W. Keener, whose concern was called the "Bee Hive." Entrepreneurs Gidney and Frady ran Sylva Wagon Company. In 1908, businesses included blacksmith W. S. Friday's repair shop, W. R. Stedman's livery, and C. W. Arnold's photography studio. A. B. and A. J. Dills, Laura Dills, and T. O. Bryson partnered to establish Dills and Bryson Manufacturing Company, producing men's work shirts and boys' pants from a factory in the first and no longer extant

⁷⁷ "Sylva," *The School Advocate*, February 1, 1899; "Sylva Sidewalks Built in 1895," *SH*, August 30, 1951; "Early Schools Are Now Gone From Sylva, Dillsboro," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 27; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 119-120, 295; *JCJ*, January 3 and 17, 1908,

⁷⁸ Asbury S. Nichols advertisement, *JCJ*, January 17, 1908; Daisy McGuire advertisement, *JCJ*, August 7, 1908; U. S. censuses, 1900-1920; William R. Merriam, director, *Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900, Population, Part I* (Washington, D. C.: U. S. Census Office, 1901), 467; World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1917; *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 17-18, 513; Ann Wike Hooper Hudson, "Delos Dexter Hooper, M. D.," in *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 296-297; Fred Lambert Hooper Jr., "Hooper," in *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 297; "McGuires' Dental Practice Is Family Affair," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 28.

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Dills Building. Great Southern Mica Company of Cleveland, Ohio, absorbed Sylva Mica Mining Company but retained Marcellus Buchanan as its president. At least three fraternal organizations—Black Rock Lodge No. 247 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows and Sylva Lodge No. 186 and Tuckaseige Lodge No. 134 of the Knights of Pythias—alternated meeting days at Castle Lodge on the C. J. Harris Building's third floor.⁷⁹

Dillsboro and Sylva residents benefited when C. J. Harris began experimenting with hydroelectric power to supply his Dillsboro home and increase efficiency at his nearby Blue Ridge Locust Pin Company in 1907. Two years later, he commissioned the construction of a second facility capable of providing power to Dillsboro and Sylva homes and businesses including Harris Roller Mill in Dillsboro and Harris-Rees Tannery in Sylva. Champion Paper Company electrician C. G. Logan completed the system's installation in March 1911.⁸⁰

Sylva's populace increased one hundred and forty-eight percent to 698 residents between 1900 and 1910. In order to meet the needs of these inhabitants, entrepreneurs established a bank, dental office, meat market, two blacksmith and wagon shops, two livery stables, and one hardware, two drug, and five general stores. The town facilitated access to such concerns by engaging contractors to install concrete sidewalks on Main Street in February 1909. Patrons frequented businesses including Ensley and Hooper's City Market, Ellias and Wilson's moving pictures, Hooper's Drug Store, Sylva Cash Store, Sylva Feed Company, Sylva Market House, Sylva Millinery Company, and the general stores of T. C. Bryson, B. C. Grindstaff and Company, and John W. Keener and Sons. The Rhinehart-Powell Company offered "everything good to eat, wear, or use." In 1911, Sylva Pharmacy proprietor Theodore Buchanan leased a second floor office to optometrist H. B. Humphrey and John A. Parris rented space for his jewelry store in the C. J. Harris Building. Prior to opening a hardware and furniture store in August 1913, Marcellus Buchanan attempted to assume control of the local market by purchasing Sylva Cash Store's hardware and paint lines and acquiring Sylva Supply Company's furniture and paint vendor connections. Industries such as Beta Fertilizer Company, East-Marr Mica Company, C. J. Harris Tannery, H. Stein Marble Works, Sylva Harness Company, and Sylva Lumber Manufacturing Company contributed to the community's high freight volume, which, coupled with passenger traffic, necessitated the depot's 1913 remodeling and expansion.⁸¹

⁷⁹ Dr. L. B. McBrayer instituted Black Rock Lodge No. 247 on May 2, 1904. Advertisements, *JCJ*, May 25, 1906, June 1, 1906, July 13, 1906, August 3, 1906, January 3, 1908, August 7, 1908; Independent Order of Odd Fellows, "I. O. O. F. Grand Lodge Proceedings," 1907, p. 608.

⁸⁰ Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 202; "Nantahala Has Supplied Power To Sylva Since 1933 Line Built," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 28.

⁸¹ B. C. Grindstaff and Company was the successor business to M. Buchanan and Company. "About Sylva," *JCJ*, June 20, 1913; "Sylva: The New Town!" *JCJ*, July 25, 1913; *JCJ*, August 28, 1908, August 8, 1913; "Cement Sidewalks for Sylva," *JCJ*, February 5, 1909; "Tuckaseige Democrat, 1911-1913; "Work Begun on New Depot," *JCJ*, February 28,

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School facilities grew to accommodate more students. Kenneth I. Rice and his wife operated the Episcopal school. Contractors Charles Marion Wells and Claude E. Wilson finished the \$10,000 Sylva Graded School just prior to classes commencing on September 9, 1910, with 125 elementary and high school pupils under the oversight of Professor C. E. Owen. The two story-frame building comprised a side-gable-roofed central block flanked by front-gable wings. The Southern Baptist Church's Home Mission Board continued to operate Sylva Collegiate Institute, which had grown to a four-building campus where three teachers instructed eighty-seven pupils.⁸²

Sylva's prominence among Jackson County's towns precipitated a proposal to move the county seat from Webster. C. J. Harris led the relocation initiative, promoting the 1907 Madison County courthouse as the prototype for Jackson County's building. Much debate precluded the May 1913 vote, which was approved on the condition that Sylva erect a courthouse and jail. After county commissioners accepted Harris's \$30,000 bid for the construction contract, his crews executed Asheville architects Richard Sharp Smith and Albert Heath Carrier's plans for the commanding Classical Revival-style courthouse completed in February 1914.⁸³

Banking institutions followed government entities to Sylva. C. J. Harris, E. L. McKee, Thomas A. Cox, and Marcellus Buchanan established in October 1905 Jackson County Bank's first branch, then located in Webster. The institution operated from a storefront in the C. J. Harris Building in Sylva from 1914 until erecting a Classical Revival-style structure in 1926. Joseph J. Hooker, J. N. Wilson, and W. B. Davis formed in April 1909 Tuckasegee Bank, Jackson County's second significant financial institution, in Webster. The bank moved its primary office to Sylva in November 1913 and built a new branch with a sophisticated Classical Revival-style façade in 1928.⁸⁴

1913; *JCJ*, July 25, 1913; John Preston Arthur, *Western North Carolina: A History [From 1730 to 1913]* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company, 1914), 436.

⁸² Shed-roofed porches sheltered Sylva Graded School's entrances and four-over-four sash windows illuminated the interior. "Episcopal School to Open Again," *JCJ*, August 28, 1908; "New Graded School Building," *JCJ*, August 19, 1910; *JCJ*, September 9, 1910; "Sylva: The New Town!" *JCJ*, July 25, 1913.

⁸³ "Mr. Harris' Bond," *JCJ*, April 18, 1913; "Overwhelming Majority for Removal of County Seat," *JCJ*, May 9, 1913; "Com. Selects Sites for Co. Build'gs," *JCJ*, May 23, 1913; "Court House Work Begins," *JCJ*, July 25, 1913; Jackson County Public Building Committee minutes, 1913-1914, in the collection of the *Sylva Herald*; Lynn Hotaling, "Ledger chronicles Courthouse construction," *SHR*, June 2, 2011, pp. 4A and 6A.

⁸⁴ Jackson County Bank remained solvent through the depression, with no loss of depositor assets. Tuckasegee Bank failed and closed in April 1930, with its 1932 liquidation reclaiming only ten cents for every dollar lost by depositors. "Announcement," *JCJ*, November 14 and 21, 1913; "Sylva Supply Company Moves Grocery Department," *The Ruralite*, April 27, 1926; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 210-211; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 27, 30.

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By 1920, Sylva's population had climbed almost twenty-four percent to 863 occupants.⁸⁵ Residential development continued to move away from the downtown commercial and industrial district during this period, encompassing both speculative housing and architect-designed residences. In some cases developers and prospective homeowners purchased plans and specifications from mail-order catalogs, while in others contractors provided guidance based on prior experience or employed draftsmen to render construction drawings.

The town's schools accommodated escalating enrollment numbers, necessitating reorganization and new facilities. The public school housed both upper and lower grades but split institutional oversight in 1915, when O. S. Dillard served as Sylva High School's first principal. The North Carolina General Assembly's 1920s funding of consolidated school construction allowed for the completion of Sylva's Central High School at a cost of \$65,000 in 1924 and the fourteen-classroom Sylva Graded School in 1929. The brick structures, which stood north of Mill Street on the site of what is now Mark Watson Park, replaced frame buildings.⁸⁶

Given town leaders' business acumen, local enterprises successfully weathered the economic challenges wrought by World War I. Production remained strong at Armour Leather Company, where in 1922 350 Sylva employees could generate as many as 300 hides per day. Manager Ernest Lyndon McKee facilitated the 1928 sale of the tannic acid extraction component of the plant to George H. Mead, who used the acid and residual chestnut chips to produce cardboard boxes under the auspices of the Sylva Paperboard Company. McKee also pursued other business ventures, purchasing in 1923 the High Hampton estate to develop as an exclusive tourist destination and incorporating the Sylva-Cashiers Telephone Company on November 28, 1924.⁸⁷

As the booming economy spurred construction, materials vendors proliferated. J. Claude Allison's Builder's Supply and Lumber Company, incorporated on April 1, 1920, tripled in net worth by 1928. Daniel G. Bryson and his son-in-law Vernon V. Hooper established Sylva Coal and Lumber Company in June 1923 and Hooper's Building Supply soon followed. Carolina Pole Company, operated by Harry E. Buchanan, began marketing creosote-soaked chestnut poles to vendors including Western Electric Company in 1923. With fellow chestnut pole purveyor T. H. Hastings and Son, Carolina Pole Company estimated sales of approximately sixty-five thousand poles in 1926. Beginning that year,

⁸⁵ Leon Truesdell, supervisor, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Volume I* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1942), 778.

⁸⁶ Mark Watson Park's name commemorates a Sylva High School coach who was a 1944 casualty of World War II. The park was originally called Mark Watson Memorial Field. *JCJ*, August 29, 1924; *The Ruralite*, August 7, 1928; "JC's Dedicate Monument Honoring Mark Watson," *SHR*, August 11, 1977, p. 6; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 459, 644.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*, 165, 189; "Sylva-Cashiers Telephone Company," <http://www.secretary.state.nc.us/corporations>, accessed in December 2013.

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print shop proprietors Everett E. and Attie May Bridges Brown published such achievements, advertisements, and local happenings in a weekly newspaper, *The Ruralite*.⁸⁸

Community investment in the built environment during the 1920s is manifested in twenty extant structures within the downtown historic district. Contractors completed the New Jackson Hotel, Jackson Hardware Company, J. S. Higdon's Garage, and three other commercial buildings around 1920. The town's infrastructure improvements included paving city streets with concrete in 1922. Sylva experienced a renaissance after suffering an April 6, 1923, fire that destroyed the Commercial Hotel, Medford Furniture Company, Zachary's Barber Shop, and merchant Abraham M. Simons and his wife Fannie's Main Street residence. Medford Furniture Company erected a new two-story brick edifice by the end of 1923. Other projects completed that year include Hooper's Drug Store, the W. H. Rhodes Building, the Drs. McGuire's office, and J. S. Higdon's garage expansion. By 1928, the Bryson, A. J. Dills, Ray, I. H. Powell, and Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company Buildings, the Sylvan Theatre, and one other commercial building joined those already lining Main Street.⁸⁹

In 1924, Harry E. Buchanan purchased two Sylva movie houses: the Lyric Theatre and the 1920 Halson Theatre, named after its first proprietors David McKee Hall and Thomas Oscar Wilson. Three years later, Buchanan commissioned the construction of a four-hundred-seat Lyric Theatre adjacent to the original building, which then served as the "Rodeo," a venue solely for Western films. The approximately \$50,000 Lyric Theatre featured state-of-the-art climate control and sound systems.⁹⁰

Physicians Charles Z. Candler and Harold Tidmarsh initiated plans in 1925 to operate the county's first hospital, erected in Sylva southwest of the Jackson County Courthouse two years later. In 1928, Dr. Alvan A. Nichols partnered with Dr. Candler to operate what became known as Candler-Nichols Hospital. Despite a funding subsidy from C. J. Harris, the men found it impossible to meet the facility's cost and thus conveyed the property to the Duke Foundation on August 1, 1930. A board of trustees then oversaw the community hospital, which was named in Harris's honor.⁹¹

⁸⁸ "The Chestnut Pole Industry a Big One," *The Ruralite*, April 27, 1926; Sylva Coal and Lumber Company advertisement, *The Ruralite*, April 27, 1926; Builder's Supply and Lumber Company advertisements, *The Ruralite*, April 27, 1926, June 15, 1926, and June 11, 1929; Nina L. Anderson, "Sylva Builders Supplies' History Told," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 25; Jonnie Clasen, "Early Industry Provided Varied Economic Base For Towns of Sylva and Dillsboro," *SHR*, CS, p. 33; death certificates.

⁸⁹ *JCJ*, March 3, 1922, October 20, 1922, March 16, 1923, and October 5, 1923; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 442-443, 448-449; Jackson County Genealogical Society, *Jackson County Heritage, Volume II* (Waynesville, North Carolina: Walsworth Publishing Company, 2000), 3-4.

⁹⁰ Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 392-393; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 114.

⁹¹ "Sylva Have Modern Hospital," *The Ruralite*, August 10, 1926; "Candler-Tidmarsh Hospital," *The Ruralite*, March 20, 1928; "C. J. Harris Hospital Gets Duke Donation," *The Ruralite*, April 16, 1935; Joyce Middleton Fish, "C. J. Harris Community Hospital," *Jackson County Heritage, Vol. I*, 18; "Harris Regional has tradition of community service," *SHR*, SS, September 27, 2001, p. 21; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 216.

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E. L. McKee and his wife Gertrude Dills McKee, the daughter of Dillsboro founders William Allen and Alice Enloe Dills, continued to lead civic initiatives. Among many other activities, Mrs. McKee became president of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs in 1925 and organized Sylva's Junior Woman's Club in May of the following year. She was the first woman elected to the North Carolina Senate in 1930 and served three subsequent terms.⁹² The Woman's Club, in association with Sylva's Chamber of Commerce, instigated efforts such as creating Jackson County's first public library. Librarian Lillian Buchanan and her assistants Hicks Wilson and Margaret Freeze oversaw its operation beginning on April 2, 1928, in a frame Main Street commercial building owned by Carrie McKee that stood in the vicinity of what is now 573 West Main Street.⁹³

The October 1929 stock market crash and ensuing Great Depression greatly slowed the area's growth. Although the local economy remained relatively stable, Sylva Collegiate Institute closed in 1932. Businesses such as Sylva Paperboard Company maintained production, benefiting from increased electrical service provided by Nantahala Power and Light Company beginning in 1933. Sylva Supply Company ran newspaper advertisements encouraging consumers to barter for goods in its general store. In several particularly notable instances entrepreneurs launched endeavors that proved successful despite the depressed economic climate. Samuel Cogdill and his son Ray partnered to establish a Chrysler-Dodge-Plymouth automobile dealership in 1931 and expanded the venture to occupy the building they constructed at 456 West Main Street in 1934. New York City native Sol Schulman moved to Sylva and opened a department store at 528 West Main Street on January 4, 1933. T. N. Massie founded Massie Furniture Company on September 1, 1932, initially operating from a New Jackson Hotel storefront. Tourism and associated concerns burgeoned, reflecting a one-hundred-and-fifty-percent increase in Great Smoky Mountains National Park visitation numbers between 1931 and 1933. Daniel Moore Allison acquired an Oldsmobile franchise in November 1935 and soon purchased the Tuckaseegee Motor Company property to accommodate his business, which grew to include hardware, automobile part, and International Harvester agricultural equipment sales at that location. He later erected a Pure Oil Station at what is now Schulman and Main Streets's northwest corner, just west of where Moody Funeral Home now stands at 714 West Main Street.⁹⁴

New Deal agencies also provided jobs for Jackson County residents. The North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA) was the state's first New Deal program that attempted to alleviate the effects of the Great Depression by creating jobs for unemployed citizens, many of whom were farm

⁹² "Sylva Woman's Club," and Doris Dills Beck, "Gertrude Dills McKee," *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 22, 27.

⁹³ *JCJ*, March 29, 1928, April 5, 1928, April 19, 1928; *The Ruralite*, April 10, 1928, May 8, 1928; Lynn Hotaling, "Sylva's first library opened 83 years ago," *SH*, April 21, 2011, pp. 4A and 9A.

⁹⁴ "First Automobile Dealer in Sylva Drove Car Up Courthouse Steps," *SH*, February 28, 1957; "Nantahala Has Supplied Power To Sylva Since 1933 Line Built," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 28; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 171, 173, 384, 451; *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. I, 35, 513.

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laborers. Projects funded by the NCERA in Sylva from 1932 to 1935 included building a school walkway and a rock wall around the cemetery, cleaning streams, repairing the courthouse and town streets, establishing reemployment and ERA offices, opening a sewing room, and assisting the county farm agent with clerical work. NCERA projects throughout the county were similar in scope.⁹⁵

The federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) followed in 1935, engaging citizens in endeavors ranging from public health and education initiatives to cultural activities, manufacturing projects, and building and park planning and execution. Efforts such as paving secondary “farm-to-market” roads, placing culverts, creating drainage systems, and erecting bridges, sanitary privies, agricultural extension service offices, and vocational buildings at schools occupied many work crews. In Sylva, WPA programs funded school library operation, classes for adult students intended to ameliorate high illiteracy rates, and lunch rooms for pupils of all ages. Construction projects included completion of the municipal swimming pool, American Legion Hall, Jackson County Community House, and Sylva High School’s fieldstone agriculture and home economics building. United States president and New Deal proponent Franklin D. Roosevelt had the opportunity to see some of these projects as he passed through Sylva on September 9, 1936, on his way to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Sylva residents celebrated his visit with festivities including a parade. Later that month, State Federation of Women’s Clubs president Glen Weaver Hunter, Cullowhee College president Hiram Tyram Hunter’s wife, presided at the Jackson County Community House’s dedication. By May 1938, federal allocations to Jackson County projects totaled more than \$448,000.⁹⁶

Sylva’s population changed only slightly between 1930 and 1940, increasing from 1,340 to 1,409 people over the course of the decade.⁹⁷ The 1940s began auspiciously, as the approximately four-million-dollar Glenville hydroelectric plant’s construction on the Tuckasegee River a few miles north of Sylva benefited the town’s economy on every level. The Nantahala Power and Light Company engaged contractors who commenced work on June 27, 1940, employing almost one thousand people to plan and erect two dams, a power house, three tunnels, power lines, and a reservoir that flooded 1,500 acres. Direct impacts included booming railroad, trucking, retail, business, and restaurant trade. Housing demand and tourism increased, as evidenced by the approximately 4,200 visitors who stopped at the Chamber of Commerce in 1940, estimated to be about one-sixth of the total number. Key

⁹⁵ J. S. Kirk, Walter A. Cutter and Thomas W. Morse, eds., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina: A Record of the Development and Activities of the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1932-1935* (Raleigh: North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1936), 491-492.

⁹⁶ “Rotary Club will sponsor swimming pool for Sylva,” *The Ruralite*, February 12, 1935; “The President Was Here Wednesday,” and “Swimming Pool for 100 Will be Constructed Here,” *JCJ*, September 10, 1936; “Community Club House is Being Built in Sylva,” *ACT*, September 27, 1936; *JCJ*, May 26, 1938; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 303, 453.

⁹⁷ Truesdell, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Volume I*, 778.

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industrial employers included Sylva Paperboard Company, which utilized 170 workers, and Armour Leather Company, which maintained a payroll of 115.⁹⁸

T. N. Massie completed the construction of a brick edifice to house Massie Furniture Company in 1940 and Sylva business owners updated their storefronts' appearance with neon signs intended to attract customers just prior to widespread building material shortages during World War II. The neon advertising was not universally popular. In a March 1941 letter describing downtown, physician C. Z. Candler's wife Anna wrote: "The whole street above McKees on both sides is all ablaze at night, with red and blue and green bands and words all over the place. As yet, neither the churches nor the dwelling houses have put up neon lights and signs, but we don't know how soon they will do so. No more quiet old Main Street Sylva."⁹⁹

Over the course of World War II, 2,162 Jackson County men and women served in the U. S. military. Area residents supported the war effort in a variety of ways, from filling vacant positions in local manufacturing plants to participating in bond drives and planting victory gardens. Although some industries suffered from material scarcity, unemployment was not an issue. When defense-related production escalated in 1942, the federal government established Colonial Mica Corporation to insure ample mica supply for use in electronic vacuum tube manufacture. Graham W. Grindstaff oversaw the Jackson County mining operation as well as the construction and operation of a Sylva mica sheet trimming facility.¹⁰⁰

Commercial and residential development resumed in the late 1940s. Returning veterans starting families supported local businesses and created a need for housing after years of market stagnation during the depression and war. Contractors erected four Main Street commercial buildings, Massie Furniture Company's Spring Street warehouse, and Moody Funeral home between 1946 and 1949. One of the most substantial construction projects executed during the period was C. J. Harris Community Hospital's seventeen-bed T. N. Massie Wing, completed in May 1949 at a cost of \$37,000. The facility remained in use until November 1959, when the new fifty-bed hospital began admitting patients.¹⁰¹

⁹⁸ "Dam Project Makes Sylva Prosperous," *ACT*, November 3, 1940; Kin M'Neil, "Western N.C. Hills And Valleys Lure Industries Allied with U. S. Defense," *Charlotte Observer*, February 16, 1941; Herbert Gibson Jr., "Big Power Project Nears Completion," *ACT*, June 29, 1941; "Moving a Mountain," *Raleigh News and Observer*, October 19, 1941.

⁹⁹ Anna Candler letter, March 1941, reprinted in Lynn Hotaling, "Sylva's Main Street in 1941," *SH*, July 17, 201.

¹⁰⁰ Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 154; The Sylva Herald, *Jackson County Heroes of World War II* (Sylva: The Sylva Herald, no date), Special Collections, Hunter Library, WCU; Spencer B. King Jr., *Selective Service in North Carolina in World War II* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1949), 321-322.

¹⁰¹ "Harris Regional has tradition of community service," *SHR*, SS, September 27, 2001, p. 21; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 216.

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Sylva's population remained stable in the 1940s, with the 1950 federal census count of 1,382 residents reflecting a loss of 27 residents since the previous tabulation. The next decade brought a thirteen percent increase, however, as the economy strengthened.¹⁰² In 1953, children's outerwear manufacturer Skyland Textile Company opened Sylva's first significant clothing fabrication plant with 250 employees. That same year Mead Corporation, formerly Sylva Paperboard Company, closed its tannic acid extracting plant due to the unavailability of chestnut chips after the chestnut tree blight. However, as the concern had purchased forty thousand wooded acres from Blackwood Lumber Company in 1945, the closure did not negate its status as Jackson County's largest manufacturer. Approximately three hundred workers facilitated timbering in the company-owned forest as well as other local timber stands. When declining shoe sole leather demand forced Armour Leather Company to cease production in 1957, Mead Corporation acquired the adjacent plant. Enduring business entities created during the 1950s include Jackson Savings and Loan Association, which occupied a storefront in the Lloyd Hotel from September 1955 until September 1972.¹⁰³

Sylva experienced a thirteen percent population increase to 1,564 in 1960, when Sylva and Webster high schools consolidated in a new building. The school system integrated in 1965.¹⁰⁴ Municipal improvements included the 1963 installation of stone and concrete planters throughout downtown. Sylva Garden Club, established in 1959, has cultivated the planters since that time.¹⁰⁵ Development during the 1950s and 1960s was concentrated on Mill Street and at Main Street's west end. The historic district's two buildings on Mills Street's north side are utilitarian, one- and two-story, brick, early 1950s structures. The district's youngest two buildings, the 1956 Saint John's Episcopal Church and the 1964 United States Post Office are Modernist in character. On Main Street between the historic district and the courthouse, the 1957 Town House Motor Court, a 1962 branch bank currently occupied by Wells Fargo, a 1963 Colonial Revival-style office building, the 1970 Jackson County Public Library, and the 1972 Jackson Savings Bank, all of which display Modernist features, possess a different feeling and association than earlier downtown buildings.

Downtown Sylva's most recent improvement initiative is the June 2011 completion of a \$7.19-million courthouse renovation and 20,000-square-foot library addition designed by Spartanburg, South Carolina, architects McMillan Pazdan Smith and executed by Brantley Construction Company of Canton. The Friends of the Library's capital campaign garnered an additional \$1.84 million to equip

¹⁰² Howard D. Brunzman, supervisor, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Eighteenth Decennial Census of the United States: Census of Population, 1960, Volume I, Part A* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1961), 35-17.

¹⁰³ Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 164-165; "Jackson Savings and Loan Association Story," *SHR*, CS, September 28, 1989, p. 6.

¹⁰⁴ Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 309, 311, 314.

¹⁰⁵ Brunzman, *Census of Population, 1960*, 35-17; *Jackson County Heritage*, Vol. II, 29.

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the facility. The 6,000-square-foot courthouse now accommodates community programming and offices for the Jackson County Arts Council and genealogical and historical societies.¹⁰⁶

Architecture Context

Commercial and Religious Buildings

Sylva's first commercial buildings, as indicated by late nineteenth-century photographs, were simply finished, one- or two-story, weatherboarded structures, often with full-width, shed-roofed front porches. Some of these early buildings survived growth precipitated by the railroad's arrival and ensuing industrial development, remaining in use until the 1920s. It appears that only one late nineteenth-century commercial building is extant, but the edifice is noncontributing as it is disguised by a one-story, brick, circa 1975 façade and aluminum-framed storefront at 628-634 West Main Street. The earlier front-gable-roofed, two-story, frame structure and its east and west shed additions extend to Mill Street and are covered with a variety of sheathing materials.

As they prospered, merchants replaced utilitarian frame commercial structures with stylish and fire-resistant masonry edifices intended to advertise their success and attract customers. The C. J. Harris Building at 582 West Main Street and the commercial buildings at 594 and 596-600 West Main Street, erected between 1900 and 1908, epitomize this trend. Masons executed brick corbelling, pilasters, and decorative parapets evocative of the Italianate style. The structures also exhibit another popular early twentieth-century commercial building element: the use of cast-iron and pressed-metal storefront, window, and cornice ornamentation. The noncontributing commercial building at 539 West Main Street is not as elaborate, but its tall stepped parapet, designed to attract customers, distinguishes the 1903 structure from its neighbors.

The district's oldest intact edifice, the two-story brick commercial building at 596-600 West Main Street, constructed in 1900, served as Sylva Pharmacy for many years. Façade embellishment includes a pressed-metal cornice embossed with acanthus leaf and wave-motif frieze bands and consoles. Pressed-metal keystoned segmental arches ornament the four second-story window openings, which are surmounted by a recessed panel topped with a corbelled brick cornice. The mid-twentieth-century, aluminum-framed, plate-glass storefront contains two recessed entrances and a single-leaf door leading to the second floor. The storefront, originally almost identical to that of the C. J. Harris Building, retains vine-motif cast-iron pilasters. George L. Mesker and Company's Evansville, Indiana, foundry manufactured both buildings' storefronts.

¹⁰⁶ Lynn Hotaling, "Courthouse, addition create impressive library," *The Sylva Herald Library Section*, June 9, 2011, p. 4L.

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Upon the 1990 Jackson County survey's completion, architectural historian Rachel Barber deemed the 1902 C. J. Harris Building at 582 West Main Street to be the county's most architecturally and historically significant commercial structure. The sizable two-story brick building, executed in five-to-one-common bond, occupies a corner lot. The eye-catching Main Street façade features stepped pressed-metal cornices with end consoles and pointed parapets embossed with proprietor C. J. Harris's name. The Main Street storefront retains fluted cast-iron pilasters bordering the wood-framed storefront sections, which include paneled kneewalls and an intact west entrance bay. Canted plate-glass display windows flank the recessed double-leaf glazed door, all surmounted by large square transoms. Although a deep, wood-shingled, hip-roofed, 1970s canopy shelters the storefront, covering its cast-iron cornice and the recessed sign band above, the five-bay second story is intact, with two single and three pairs of double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows ornamented with pressed-metal keystone segmental arches. The largest arch, at the façade's center, features a foliate motif. Faint remnants of painted "Sylva Supply Company: Dealers in Everything" and flour company signs are visible on the west elevation's first story, which contains no windows.

On the Mill Street elevation, the upper two stories' fenestration and embellishment match the façade, while the basement level encompasses three entrances and two windows. Brick pilasters and a pressed-metal keystone pointed-arch surround the double-leaf central entrance and the rectangular window above it. All three doors are paneled with glazed upper sections. Stepped lintels surmount the window openings.

T. C. Bryson's general store occupied the 1908 building at 594 West Main Street, followed by George M. Cole's 1920s venture of the same type. The two-story brick commercial structure is simply executed with the exception of decorative masonry flanking two recessed parapet panels. Beneath each panel, bricks are angled to create a sawtooth effect, while brick soldiers and voids alternate above the panels, resulting in a fluted appearance. Cast-stone lintels span the façade's four second-story window openings as well as those on other elevations. A canvas awning shelters the mid-twentieth-century aluminum-framed plate-glass storefront, which contains a central recessed entrance. A corbelled cornice originally topped the parapet.

Community investment in the built environment during the 1920s is manifested in twenty extant structures within the downtown historic district. Contractors completed the New Jackson Hotel, Jackson Hardware Company, the J. S. Higdon Garage, and three other commercial buildings around 1920. Sylva experienced a renaissance after suffering an April 6, 1923, fire that destroyed the Commercial Hotel, Medford Furniture Company, Zachary's Barber Shop, and merchant Abraham M. Simons's and his wife Fannie's Main Street residence. Medford Furniture Company erected a new two-story brick edifice by the end of that year. Other projects completed in 1923 include Hooper's Drug Store, the W. H. Rhodes Building, the Drs. McGuire's office, and the J. S. Higdon Garage

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expansion. By 1928, the Bryson, A. J. Dills, Ray, I. H. Powell, and Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company Buildings, the Sylvan Theatre, and one other commercial building joined those already lining Main Street.¹⁰⁷

Contractors executed a few of the new edifices in the same manner as those built earlier, but most were much simpler in design, manifesting stylistic trends. The Commercial Style, popular from the 1920s through the 1940s, represented a complete departure from ornate Victorian-era architectural styles. Patterned masonry, shaped parapets, bands of large rectangular windows, and sparingly used tile, concrete, stone, or terra cotta insets distinguish these otherwise austere commercial buildings. All relatively inexpensive ways to enliven a façade, such features exhibit the economical design sensibilities and construction practices of that period.

The 1923 structure at 604-606 West Main Street, formerly Hooper's Drug Store, provides an excellent illustration of the style. Textured variegated brick embellishes the two-story façade, which is crowned by a denticulated cornice above a black brick soldier-course band. Three crosses, each comprising four bricks, ornament the red brick parapet. Below the crosses, red and black brick stretcher bands alternate for seventeen courses. A yellow brick soldier course punctuates this section. A yellow brick header course marks its lower edge and outlines the cast-stone plaque at the façade's center, which establishes that pharmacist Frederick Lambert Hooper commissioned the building's construction. Black brick soldiers and stretchers with cast-stone corner blocks border four second-story, three-part, steel-framed windows. Although much of the storefront has been replaced, the flanking fluted cast-iron pilasters manufactured by International Steel and Iron Construction Company of Evansville, Indiana, are intact. Red hexagonal tiles spell out "Hooper's Drugs" and punctuate the black-bordered white mosaic tile floor outside of the entrance.

Masons also utilized employed textured variegated brick to adorn the two-story edifice at 642-648 West Main Street. Black brick headers border four rectangular parapet panels, the central cast-stone plaque bearing the name "Ray" and the building's 1927 construction date, and the soldier-course band above the storefront. Black brick soldiers and stretchers outline the façade's five second-story windows. The two storefronts have been replaced, but a prismatic glass transom is intact above the east plate-glass display window.

Most surviving downtown Sylva façades are much more austere, often employing textured brick veneer laid in running bond as a primary decorative element. Red brick examples include the circa 1920 New Jackson Hotel at 488-502 West Main Street, the 1923 Drs. McGuire's office at 539 West

¹⁰⁷ JCY, March 16, 1923, and October 5, 1923; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 442-443, 448-449; Jackson County Genealogical Society, *Jackson County Heritage, Volume II* (Waynesville, North Carolina: Walsworth Publishing Company, 2000), 3-4.

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Main Street, the 1923 W. H. Rhodes Building at 620 West Main Street, the 1926 A. J. Dills Building at 518 West Main Street, the 1928 I. H. Powell Building at 612 West Main Street.

Brick colors other than red add variety to the streetscape. The façade of the two similar two-story 1925 commercial buildings at 530 and 536 West Main Street are executed in blonde brick laid in running bond. Slightly recessed panels bordered with headers occupy each parapet's center, although the east building's panel is smaller and higher due to taller second-story windows. Soldier and stretcher brick courses outline the two window openings in the east building's upper story. In the west building, a continuous soldier-course lintel tops the windows. Slightly projecting pilasters flank each façade, with recessed panels comprising brick stretchers ornamenting the east building. A soldier course spans the storefront. Businesses including Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company and Stovall's Five and Ten Cent Store once used these buildings.

The 1931 one-story P. L. & S. Building at 528 West Main Street features blonde brick and a stepped parapet with a central pointed section. At the parapet's center, headers border a cast-stone plaque bearing the original business's initials: "P. L. & S." The plaque surmounts a slightly recessed panel featuring basketweave-patterned brick outlined with headers. Slightly recessed columns of brick stretchers create a pilaster-like effect at the façade's outer edges. A soldier-course lintel tops the storefront, which contains two aluminum-framed plate-glass doors surrounded by matching display windows above black glazed ceramic tile kneewalls.

Bright yellow brick laid in running bond and a stepped parapet characterize the two-story 1933 Leader Department Store at 562 West Main Street. At the parapet's center, headers border a slightly recessed panel that emulates the parapet's shape. A pale yellow brick 1948 façade unifies the three earlier commercial buildings at 559-573 West Main Street.

Downtown entertainment venues included four theatres erected between 1920 and 1942, none of which are intact. In 1924, Harry E. Buchanan purchased two Sylva movie houses: the Lyric Theatre and the 1920 Halson Theatre, named after its first proprietors David McKee Hall and Thomas Oscar Wilson. Three years later, Buchanan commissioned the construction of a four-hundred-seat Lyric Theatre next to the original building, which then served as the "Rodeo," a venue solely for Western films. The approximately \$50,000 Lyric Theatre at 617 West Main Street featured state-of-the-art climate control and sound systems.¹⁰⁸ Theodore Stevenson, the proprietor of several Asheville and Waynesville movie theatres, engaged Asheville architect Douglas Ellington to design the one-story Sylvan Theatre erected by J. S. Higdon at 470-474 West Main Street. Architectural historian Clay Griffith asserts that Sylvan Theatre is one of only a few Ellington-designed Western North Carolina buildings outside of

¹⁰⁸ "H. E. Buchanan Leases Sylva Theatre," *The Ruralite*, January 1, 1929; Williams, ed., *The History of Jackson County*, 392-393; photographs in Hotaling, *Sylva*, 114.

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Asheville. The five-hundred-seat venue began operating on July 1, 1927, but the venture appears to have been short-lived, as the July 1933 Sanborn map indicates that the theatre was no longer functioning. The façade's original appearance is unknown as owners remodeled it shortly before the building's function as the Jackson County Public Library from October 1957 until October 1970.¹⁰⁹

The district also includes two of Jackson County's most notable 1920s Classical Revival-style facades. Ancient Grecian and Roman architecture was a fashionable choice for buildings intended to symbolize democracy, permanence, and refinement, thus an appropriate archetype for the district's two banks.¹¹⁰ The one-story brick building at 624 West Main Street, erected in 1926 to serve as Jackson County Bank's Sylva branch, retains a fully articulated entablature with Tuscan columns framing each of the three façade bays. Keystones accent round-arched window openings. Although First Citizens Bank demolished the 1928 Tuckasee Bank at 609 West Main Street in 2011, the company salvaged the two-story, Classical Revival-style, white marble façade and installed it on the replacement edifice completed in 2012 at that location. Four pilasters frame tall arched window openings and a Classical surround ornaments the front door. Roman numerals incised in the stepped parapet delineate the original building's construction date.

The banks' designs were an anomaly, as most Sylva structures continued to exhibit functional design with minimal ornamentation. The austere two-story brick Cogdill Motors dealership built at 456 West Main Street in 1934 is a good example. Executed in six-to-one common bond, it features an angled corner bay and retains some original steel-framed windows. Massie Furniture Company, completed in 1940 at 581 West Main Street just prior to widespread building material shortages during World War II, is also simply executed. Brick pilasters frame the two-story red-brick commercial building's three-bay façade, extending above the parapet to create a slightly crenellated effect. The one-story brick 1946 Massie Furniture Warehouse on Spring Street behind the store is completely utilitarian.

The two-story, brick, hip-roofed, 1946 Moody Funeral Home at 714 West Main Street is unusual, however. Distinguished from the commercial buildings to the east by its deep setback, the property occupies a prominent corner lot and manifests residential characteristics such as double-hung, multipane, wood-sash windows, paired in many locations, and a full-width, flat-roofed porch supported by Tuscan columns. The slightly projecting gabled entrance bay encompasses a twenty-four-over-one sash second-story window and a marble first-story entrance surround incised with "Moody's" and the dates 1922 and 1946. Large wrought-iron sconces flank the replacement double-leaf door. The first

¹⁰⁹ Clay Griffith, "An Inventory of Douglas Ellington's Architectural Work in Western North Carolina," in *May We All Remember Well*, Vol. 2. (Asheville, N.C.: Robert S. Brunk Auction Services, Inc., 2001), 102; J. D. McRorie, "Knowing Jackson...Library Usage," *SH*, October 7, 1976; "Sylva's early libraries were located up and down Main Street," *SHR*, June 9, 2011, p. 6C.

¹¹⁰ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, portable edition (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 457.

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story is executed in six-to-one common bond on a formed-concrete foundation, while the second story is running bond accented with projecting header courses above and below the windows.

By the late 1940s, commercial buildings tended to incorporate elements of the Modernist style, reflecting the era's progressive thinking and optimism in the use of new materials, construction techniques, and spatial arrangements. These structures display sleek lines, smooth facades, and the aluminum-framed plate-glass windows, doors, and curtain walls that characterize the Modernist design aesthetic. Storefronts featured asymmetrical entrances, angled or cantilevered display windows and side walls, flat-roofed canopies, and neon or aluminum-lettered signage in an effort to project an up-to-date image that would appeal to consumers. Materials including structural and spandrel glass, glass block, porcelain-enameled steel, anodized aluminum, natural and cast stone, wood, cast concrete, and long, thin Roman brick were used to embellish facades in Sylva and throughout the nation during this period.¹¹¹

Sylva storefronts manifesting mid-twentieth-century design principles and materials include the one-story 1946 building at 625 West Main Street, where thin, red Roman brick veneer sheathes the pilasters framing the central entrance and at the façade's edges as well as the planting beds under the aluminum-framed plate-glass windows. Masons utilized Tennessee Crab Orchard stone on the façades of the two-story commercial building newly erected at 702 West Main Street in 1949 and to update the west storefronts of the 1920 New Jackson Hotel at 488-502 West Main Street and the 1920 commercial building at 631-633 West Main Street. A circa 1975 Tennessee Crab Orchard stone-veneered façade unifies the earlier one-story commercial buildings at 670 and 678 West Main Street.

The district's youngest two buildings, the 1956 Saint John's Episcopal Church and the 1964 United States Post Office, are Modernist in character. The front-gable-roofed sanctuary at 18 West Jackson Street, executed in variegated brick laid in running bond, features a full-height central tinted-glass window containing a tall cross. Gothic Revival-style wrought-iron sconces flank the paneled single-leaf wood door, which is painted bright red. A tall, wide chimney rises at the façade's southeast corner.

At 73 Landis Street, the one-story former United States Post Office façade comprises square stuccoed-panel wall sheathing at the north end and a taupe Roman brick-veneered storefront to the south. A flat metal canopy shelters the storefront's four tall, narrow, metal-framed, tinted-glass windows and matching double-leaf door and transom. Three high, horizontal, three-part, metal-framed windows pierce the south elevation.

¹¹¹ Carol J. Dyson, "How to Work with Storefronts of the Mid-Twentieth Century," presentation for the National Main Streets Conference, Philadelphia, April 2, 2008, <http://www.illinois-history.gov/ps/midcentury.htm>.

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Residential

As Sylva's population grew, landowners near downtown took advantage of the opportunity to profit from the subdivision of their large parcels of land into smaller residential lots. This push outward from the center of town translated into the construction of houses on streets only one or two blocks beyond main transportation arteries and commercial and industrial areas. During the first decades of the twentieth century, it was common for professionals and workers to live in close proximity to their work places and each other. The differences in the two groups' income and social standing were made clear by the size of their houses and the lots they occupied. This disparity is still apparent in Sylva, but was especially pronounced when more Main Street housing stock was intact.

The Downtown Sylva Historic District includes five residential buildings that manifest the area's early-twentieth-century development. The district's oldest extant single-family dwellings exhibit Queen Anne and Classical elements. One brick bungalow displays Craftsman-style features such as deep bracketed eaves and tapered porch posts on piers. A second bungalow synthesizes Craftsman and Classical Revival attributes.

Most Sylva dwellings were modest frame houses with minimal ornamentation, but some reflected the increasingly elaborate architectural expression made possible by the industrial advances of the late nineteenth century. Steam-powered factories produced vast quantities of dimensional lumber and inexpensive millwork which was sold locally and moved by rail throughout the country.¹¹² Beginning in the 1920s, concerns such as Sylva Coal and Lumber Company, J. Claude Allison's Builder's Supply and Lumber Company, and Hooper's Building Supply provided contractors with construction materials ranging from window sashes to doors, shutters, porch elements, and eave brackets.

The Queen Anne style, which became popular in the 1880s, utilizes these mass-produced components to exemplify the most up-to-date design sensibilities. Queen Anne-influenced buildings are characterized by irregular massing, manifested on the exterior by features such as projecting bays, wings, towers, gables, dormers, and balconies, and on the interior by asymmetrical plans. Tall hipped roofs often shelter these dwellings, and porches wrap around facades and side elevations, sometimes encompassing corner towers or pavilions. Contrasting siding materials including various weatherboard styles, wood shingles, brick, stucco, faux half-timbering, and pebbledash add decorative interest, as do sawnwork porch elements, eave brackets, and gable ornament. Windows of different shapes, sizes, and sash configurations illuminated interior spaces. Local builders quickly incorporated these elements into their repertoires.¹¹³

¹¹² Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, 328.

¹¹³ Ibid., 329, 402-403. Federal census takers enumerated fifty-five Sylva households in 1900.

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West of the Downtown Sylva Historic District, Delos Dexter and Rebecca Wilson Hooper's 1906 house at 773 West Main Street, which was listed in the National Register in 2000, is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style. The asymmetrically-massed, two-story, weatherboarded residence has a pyramidal roof with projecting pedimented bays and deep eaves. Foliate sawnwork embellishes the gable above the two-bay entrance porch, which is surmounted by a single-bay upper porch. Turned posts support both porches. The Hoopers engaged Sylva carpenter Charles Marion Wells to construct their home.¹¹⁴

Wells executed many other commissions during his more than forty-year tenure in Sylva. The town's turn-of-the-twentieth-century growth also attracted others proficient in the building trades: house carpenters Haywood J. York, Rufus E. Moore, and Wesley J. Warren; brick masons John C. Reynolds and George A. Smith; and blacksmith Thomas J. Cabe. Charles M. Wells partnered with Claude Edmond Wilson by 1908 and advertised contracting services in the *Jackson County Journal*. Contractor Henry O. Curtis also supplied plans and specifications for the buildings he erected, which ranged from houses to commissions such as the 1908 Beta School. In 1910, Sylva craftsmen included carpenters James M. Crawford, James R. Crawford, Ira Evander Franklin, Benjamin Bryson Green, Fred McLean, William Russell Painter, Charles M. Wells, and Claude E. Wilson; blacksmiths Sylvanus R. Brooks, Jonathan L. Corbin, and John Samuel Higdon; brick masons Joseph N. Davis and Andrew Dehart Womack; German stone cutter Hugo Stein; and house painter Edward Reece.¹¹⁵

Main Street was once lined with homes that used scale and massing rather than an abundance of architectural ornament to convey the wealth and social status of their early owners, but few survive. Within the Downtown Sylva Historic District, the residence erected around 1910 at what is now 83 Landis Street for Asbury Sullivan and Rosa Cole Nichols is quite similar to the Hooper House. The two-story, frame, Queen Anne-style dwelling has a side-gable main block and a projecting hip-roofed central façade bay ornamented with a front gable. Sawnwork bargeboards and decorative attic vents embellish the gables. The façade gable's attic vent is articulated in the shape of a Palladian window. A smaller gable surmounts the front porch entrance. Ionic columns support the porch roof, which

¹¹⁴ A one-story office wing constructed in the mid-1930s extends from the front porch's east end. Mahaley Odell Thompson, "Hooper House," National Register nomination, 1999.

¹¹⁵ Edward Reece was A. D. Womack's nephew. Buncombe County native Charles Marion Wells, born on September 5, 1860, lived with his widowed mother Mary Jane Robinson Wells and cultivated the family's Macon County farm in 1880. He resided in Sylva with his wife Mary Ellen Cowan and their daughter by 1900, when federal census takers listed his occupation as "house carpenter." Charles and Mary Ellen Wells resided in a home adjacent to the Hoopers by 1920. Mary Ellen died on April 27, 1928 and Charles died on March 17, 1935. Glenville, Jackson County, native Claude Edmond Wilson, born on December 18, 1875, and his family resided in Buckhead, Georgia, by 1920. Wilson died on December 29, 1955, in San Bernardino, California. Death certificates; gravemarkers; U. S. censuses, 1870-1940; *JCJ*, July 3, 1908, August 28, 1908, March 13, 1909, September 2, 1910; August 25, 1911; "New School at Bela," *JCJ*, August 7, 1908.

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extends south to a pyramidal pavilion and originally wrapped around the dwelling's southwest corner. Double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows illuminate the interior. A hip-roofed dormer pierces the east roof slope and a series of one-story gable and hip-roofed wings extend from the east (rear) elevation. A pedimented dormer rises above the central rear wing adjacent to a brick chimney stack.

Wayne and Daisy Zachary McGuire's one-and-one-half-story, frame, circa 1910 cottage at 553 West Main Street, which is a more modest example of the Queen Anne style, also displays some Classical features, but is noncontributing due to extensive alterations. Arched attic vents emulate the shape of Palladian windows in the front and side gables above grouped double-hung, sixteen-pane-over-one, wood-sash windows. Tuscan columns support the porch roof, which originally wrapped around the dwelling's northwest corner. The room at the porch's east end features windows like those in the gable, while double-hung two-over-two wood sashes pierce the façade.

Building forms that rejected the extravagance of late nineteenth-century eclectic architecture began to exert a greater influence on Sylva's residential design by the 1910s. The Craftsman style became prevalent during this period. American stonemason, furniture maker, and metalworker Gustav Stickley visited England in 1898 and, upon his return home, promoted the tenets of the English Arts and Crafts movement—a reaction against the loss of manual skills and traditional crafts due to the mechanization of the Industrial Revolution—through his magazine, *The Craftsman* (1901-1916). The publication emphasized the use of natural, handcrafted materials and low, horizontal massing to allow for harmony between a house and its surrounding environment. Henry H. Saylor's 1911 book, *Bungalows*, guided the consumer through the process of planning, designing, and building informal, cozy homes. Building plans for these houses, with their wide overhanging eaves, open arrangement of rooms, and inviting porches, appeared in national magazines such as *House Beautiful* and *The Ladies Home Journal*. Stickley, Radford, Sears, Montgomery Ward, Aladdin, and others sold bungalow plans by mail.¹¹⁶ Such promotion resulted in the Craftsman bungalow's national popularity during the 1910s and 1920s and the construction of typically scaled-down versions of the form throughout North Carolina into the early 1940s. Bungalows were inexpensive, easy to build, and appealed to families' desires for modern, efficient houses.

Although many Craftsman-influenced homes occupy neighborhoods south of the Downtown Sylva Historic District, only a few stand within the district boundaries. The 1920s residence constructed for Marcellus and Laura Belle Buchanan at 2 West Jackson Street is the most distinctive. The one-story, hip-roofed, variegated brick bungalow manifests both Craftsman and Classical elements. A round-arched portico supported by robust brick posts shelters the primary entrance, which encompasses a multipane wood-framed door, sidelights, and fanlight. Four tall double-hung, eight-over-one, wood-

¹¹⁶ Paul Duchscherer and Douglas Keister, *The Bungalow: America's Arts and Crafts Home* (New York: The Penguin Group, 1995), 2, 7-8, 14-15.

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sash windows surmounted by fanlights extend across the façade, while the secondary elevations' windows contain six-over-one sash below fanlights. Eyebrow dormers with matching lunette windows pierce the roof slopes.

Harry R. and Queen Duvall Hastings commissioned the construction of the simple, one-and-one-half-story, front-gable bungalow at 38 Spring Street in 1927. Executed in running bond brick with a soldier-course watertable and lintels, the house features a hip-roofed porch supported by tapered wood posts on brick piers spanned by a brick kneewall. Single and paired double-hung, four-over-one, wood-sash, Craftsman-style windows illuminate the interior. Two shed dormers and a brick interior chimney stack pierce the south roof slope, while only one dormer occupies the north slope. The porch, windows, and exposed rafter ends contribute to the dwelling's Craftsman character.

The craftsmen involved in these homes' construction are unknown. However, federal census takers enumerated in 1920 Joseph Collins, Samuel Roscoe Fullbright, Edward Reed, and Charles M. Wells as house carpenters; William A. Clark as a house painter; and Joseph N. Davis and William Russell Painter as brick masons. W. M. Brown provided excavation and concrete services for projects such as the 1926 bridge that carried Allen Street over Scotts Creek and Sylva Paperboard Company's 1928 plant. Charles Wells was still living in Sylva and working as a building contractor in 1930, as were Cowan Coleman, Henry Curtis, and Norman Hanner. Harley Stanley, Joseph N. Davis, and W. R. Painter and his sons Elbert and Anderson executed brick masonry. Others involved in the building trades included plasterer Lucius Wilson and sign painter Charles Sanford.¹¹⁷

The Downtown Sylva Historic District contains Jackson County's largest and most intact collection of historic commercial buildings. Other small communities such as Dillsboro, established a few miles north of Sylva in 1882, retain a few early twentieth-century commercial structures, but no other locale compares with the county seat. The district also encompasses residential buildings that represent the area development from around 1910 through the 1920s.

¹¹⁷ "Last Rites Held for C. M. Wells," *The Ruralite*, March 12, 1935; U. S. censuses, 1920-1930; "Paving Started to Build a New Bridge," *The Ruralite*, August 17, 1926; "W. M. Brown Gets Contract," *The Ruralite*, January 10, 1928.

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Charlotte Observer

Jackson County Journal (abbreviated *JCJ* after first appearance in notes)

Raleigh News and Observer

The Ruralite

The Sylva Herald (abbreviated *SH* after first appearance in notes)

The Sylva Herald and Ruralite (abbreviated *SHR* after first appearance in notes)

The Sylva Herald and Ruralite, Centennial Section (abbreviated *SHR*, CS, after first appearance in notes)

The Sylva Herald and Ruralite, Sesquicentennial Section (abbreviated *SHR*, SS, after first appearance in notes)

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10. Geographical Data

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

A. Latitude: 35.374222
Longitude: -83.225709

B. Latitude: 35.374182
Longitude: -83.220682

C. Latitude: 35.373788
Longitude: -83.220629

D. Latitude: 35.373565
Longitude: -83.221839

E. Latitude: 35.372813
Longitude: -83.221936

F. Latitude: 35.372699
Longitude: -83.223697

G. Latitude: 35.372716
Longitude: -83.224693

H. Latitude: 35.373722
Longitude: -83.224661

I. Latitude: 35.373801
Longitude: -83.225830

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Downtown Sylva Historic District are indicated by the bold line on the enclosed map drawn at a scale of one inch equals 125 feet.

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Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Downtown Sylva Historic District are drawn to encompass the most intact and cohesive concentration of historic commercial and residential buildings in the downtown area constructed during the period of significance—1900 to 1964—that contribute to the district's historic and architectural character. The area immediately outside the district is characterized by residential and later commercial development.

Photograph Catalog

All photographs by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc., 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, in October 2011 and January 2014. Digital images located at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh.

1. Sylva Pharmacy, 596-600 West Main Street, façade (October 2011)
2. Jackson County Bank, 624 West Main Street, façade (October 2011)
3. Looking northwest from the P. L. & S. Building at 528 West Main Street (far right) (January 2014)
4. Looking northeast from the New Jackson Hotel at 488-502 West Main Street (left) (January 2014)
5. Moody Funeral Home at 714 West Main Street (left) and Commercial Building at 702 West Main Street (January 2014)
6. First Citizens Bank at 609 West Main Street (left) and the Lyric Theatre/Commercial Building at 617 West Main Street, both noncontributing buildings (January 2014)
7. Asbury Sullivan and Rosa Cole Nichols House, 83 Landis Street, façade (October 2011)
8. Marcellus and Laura Belle Buchanan House, 2 West Jackson Street, façade (October 2011)
9. Saint John's Episcopal Church, 18 West Jackson Street, southeast oblique (January 2014)

DOWNTOWN SYLVA HISTORIC DISTRICT, JACKSON COUNTY, NC

