

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 Kinston Commercial Historic District

other names/site number Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District (Boundary Increase)

### 2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by East and West Blount St., North  N/A not for publication

Herritage St., West North St. and North Queen St.

city or town Kinston  N/A  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Lenoir code 107 zip code 28501

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

William S. Price  
Signature of certifying official/Title

4-26-94  
Date

State of Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

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

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

Kinston Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Lenoir Co., North Carolina  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
30	13	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
30	13	Total

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

Historic and Architectural Resources of Kinston,  
North Carolina

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

2

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE/business
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater
- INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility
- GOVERNMENT/government office
- TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
- OTHER/automobile garage

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE/business
- COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
- OTHER/automobile garage

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Romanesque
- Art Deco
- Commercial Style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick
- walls Brick
- Marble
- roof Asphalt
- other Metal
- Glass

**Narrative Description**

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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

c. 1896-1941

Significant Dates

1909

1900

c. 1930

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mallard, L. L.

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:

Heritage Place-Lenoir Community College

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County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 21 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 

18	26149120	39015200
Zone	Easting	Northing

3 

18	26153610	39014740
Zone	Easting	Northing

2 

18	2615360	39015280
Zone	Easting	Northing

4 

18	26149140	39014760
Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Eastern Office

organization N. C. Division of Archives & History date March 1994

street & number 117 W. 5th Street telephone (919) 830-6580

city or town Greenville state NC zip code 27858

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

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

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

**Photographs**

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

**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

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

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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Lenoir County, NC

## Description

The Kinston Commercial Historic District is an expansion of the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District listed in the National Register in 1989. This nomination addresses expansion areas along North Queen Street, East and West North Street, East and West Blount Street, and North Heritage Street, thereby incorporating two individually listed properties, the Sumrell & McKoy Building at 400 North Queen Street and the Atlantic & North Carolina Railroad Depot at the 100 block of East Blount Street. The new nomination also changes the name of the district in acknowledgment of broader representation of downtown Kinston's commercial area. The original district comprises 23 resources, primarily on North Queen Street. With this expansion, the district becomes roughly H-shaped, embracing another commercial focus in the downtown area in the vicinity of West North and North Heritage streets running principally north-to-south with an east-to-west cross-link. The entire area including the Queen-Gordon Streets district and the expansion area contain 65 resources: 29 on North Queen Street, 14 on North Heritage Street (parallel to North Queen Street and one block west), 3 on West and East Blount Street, 10 on West and East North Street and 9 on Gordon Street. The expansion area has 30 contributing resources and 13 non-contributing.

Like the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District, the expansion area follows the standard grid pattern containing primarily commercial buildings with several service/industrial-oriented structures on North Heritage Street. In traditional fashion, buildings are sited flush with the sidewalk and share common walls repeating the density of development found throughout the central business area. This area presents a cohesive collection of commercial buildings with only a few vacant lots--several which have never been built upon. Many of the same amenities found in the Queen-Gordon Streets district including concrete sidewalks and plantings are present. The expansion area's buildings are a mix of brick vernacular commercial architecture composed primarily of one and two-story buildings dating from the first third of the twentieth century. The commercial buildings in the expansion area located north and south of the original Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District illustrate a continuation of the styles and forms found in the adjoining National Register district. Denoted primarily by their modest brick detailing, one building punctuates the otherwise typical commercial row--the c. 1935 Carolina Theatre, a streamlined Art Deco facade rendered with spandrels of cream and black tile set below a crenellated cornice.

In the portion of the expansion area located along North Heritage and West North streets, several rows of buildings display simple vernacular brick details such as corbelled cornices, quoining, inset diamond and keystone motifs and multipaned transoms above shop fronts. The majority of these buildings date from the 1920s and 1930s and illustrate modest examples of the pervasive Art Deco style. The commercial building located at 200 North Heritage Street illustrates this type of "stripped down" Art Deco design denoted primarily by inset keystones below the parapet roof and unadorned brick walls.

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A few buildings in the expansion area, particularly on North Herritage Street, display a slightly more sophisticated level of embellishment such as the Cash Supply Store Building at 222 N. Herritage, built c. 1914, and ornamented with a denticulated brick cornice and multipaned transoms above the shop front. Similar in design, though larger in size is the Spence Motor Company Building at 129 W. Blount Street. The building's rusticated first story and arched windows on the third, provide a level of embellishment not found on most buildings throughout the expansion area.

In addition to the commercial buildings in the expansion area are several industrial buildings such as the 1908–1914 Ellis Carriage Factory which likewise exhibits modest commercial features including large display windows and simple brick detailing. These structures represent the development of the expansion area when Kinston's commercial growth was fueled by the production and expanding use of the automobile.

### Inventory List

#### Sources

Historical information contained in the inventory list is based on material from the Multiple Property Listing entitled *Historic and Architectural Resources of Kinston, North Carolina* (1988); city directories; Sanborn maps; Elmore, *Illustrated City of Kinston, Lenoir County, North Carolina* (1914); Johnston & Holloman, *The Story of Kinston and Lenoir County* (1954); Powell, *Annals of Progress: The Story of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina* (1963); and oral history. Entry names refer to the original owner/occupant or business occupant of the building unless otherwise noted.

#### Date

The date of the resource is largely based on a combination of city directory entries, Sanborn maps and oral history information. Because Sanborn maps and city directories exist for sporadic years between 1901 and 1953, many resources are shown with dates covering a range such as "1930–1936." This does not mean that it took six years to construct the building but that sources indicate that the building was erected sometime during the period. More precise dates came from research of individual property histories, date plaques on buildings or eye-witness accounts. Other property dates, particularly major additions or renovations to buildings which have a decade notation such as "1920s" or "1940s," are derived by architectural evidence.

#### Status

The letter "C" indicates a contributing building. A property deemed noncontributing is given the letter "N" and is so classified either because it was built after 1941 or because it has been altered to the extent that it has lost its historic integrity. Resources that have been modified or modernized with newer shop fronts, painting or modern

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upper-story windows are still considered contributing if the overall historic appearance of the building remains intact. But when a major change or series of changes obscure or alter the original character, the resource is considered noncontributing.

Methodology

The north-south streets are listed first, beginning with Queen Street on the east and ending with North Heritage Street on the south. The properties are listed from south to north, first those on the east side of the street, and then those on the west side of the street. Then the east-west streets are listed, beginning with West Blount on the north and ending with West North Street on the south. These properties are listed west to east, first those on the north side of the street, then those on the south side of the street.

List   Addr   Date   Status   Entry Description

**NORTH QUEEN STREET, EAST SIDE**

- |    |     |               |   |  |
|----|-----|---------------|---|--|
| 1. | 121 | c. 1896, 1935 | C | <p><b>(former) Carolina Theatre:</b> This 2-story building was altered for use as a movie theater in 1935. The Art Deco facade features two rows of four very narrow 8-pane fixed windows in the upper elevation. The spandrels between the windows are cream and black tile. The use of tile is repeated in diamond motifs set in narrow recessed panels rising from the top of the windows to the cornice. The vertical strips of windows and panels alternate with the brick wall which appears as pilasters vertically bisected by V-shaped ribs extending to a crenellated cornice. A flat metal awning shades the modern plate glass storefront.</p> |
| 2. | 123 | c. 1896, 1938 | C | <p><b>Smart &amp; Thrifty Clothing Store Building:</b> This Moderne facade, added in 1938 by the Smart &amp; Thrifty clothing store, is constructed of large white and pink marble tiles. The use of the pink tiles the full height of the 2-story building at the outer edge, flanking the slightly taller white expanse of the rest of the area, lends the facade a vertical emphasis, which is countered at the top by narrow recessed horizontal bands. A flat metal awning shades the modern glass storefront.</p>  |

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- |  |         |          |   |   |
|--|---------|----------|---|---|
| 3.   | 125     | c. 1896  | C | <b>The Clothing Shop Building:</b> Removal of a later false facade from the upper elevation and the re-creation of a corbelled sheet metal cornice mark the recent changes made to this 2-story brick building under the local Facade Grant Program. The second story features three double-hung sash windows with lunettes, each in a recessed window plane that is corbelled at the top. A deeply recessed entry marks the modern plate glass storefront. |
| 4.   | 127     | pre-1930 | N | <b>Commercial Building:</b> An applied facade of vertically corrugated metal covers the upper elevation of this building, and a flat metal awning shelters a modern glass storefront.   |
| 5.   | 129     | pre-1930 | N | <b>Edwards Clothing Store Building:</b> A modern brick veneer conceals the original facade. Deeply recessed entrance has terrazzo floor. Damage and paint marks on the neighboring building indicate height of original cornice which was removed.  |
| [See Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District for 131 to 311 N. Queen St.] |         |          |   |   |
| 6.   | 313     | 1990     | N | <b>Commercial Building:</b> The design of this recent infill is compatible with neighboring historic buildings in its scale, massing, and neoclassical motifs. Striated piers mark three recessed bays with double doors or windows under fanlights and a panelled parapet flanked by urns tops a dentil cornice.   |
| 7.   | 317-321 | pre-1930 | N | <b>Commercial Building:</b> An austere expanse of buff colored brick veneer covers the upper elevation of this building, obscuring all original window openings. The first story displays modern plate glass and marble-veneered storefronts.   |
| 8.   | 323     | c. 1930  | C | <b>A &amp; P Food Store Building:</b> This red brick 2-story building was designed by architect L.L. Mallard of Kinston and retains its original upper facade of stepped parapet, molded cornice, windows in banks of two and four, and rectangular panels of soldier course brick with white   |

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concrete corner blocks beneath the windows. Original molded concrete trim surrounds the storefront with transom covered by metal, flat metal awning, and plate glass display windows and doors.

- |     |         |           |   |   |
|-----|---------|-----------|---|---|
| 9.  | 329     | 1925-1930 | N | <p><b>Kinston Fertilizer Company Building:</b> Concrete and buff-colored brick make up the windowless upper facade of this 2-story building. A cloth-trimmed flat awning shades the metal-clad storefront.</p>  |
| 10. | 333-337 | c. 1901   | C | <p><b>T. W. Mewborn &amp; Company Building:</b> This brick corner building, originally a department store, retains its original brick quoins and cornice of corbelling and mousetothing on the Queen St. facade. The second-story windows are capped with brick jack arches with keystones. The three modern storefronts are sheathed in wood and metal with plate glass display areas. Small single-sash windows fill the original openings on the ground floor along the building's north wall facing the railroad tracks. The brickwork along the ground floor is divided into horizontal bands. By 1936 the building housed the Lenoir County Farmers Co-Operating Exchange Service which located there until 1946.</p> |
| 11. | 403     | 1914-1919 | C | <p><b>T. A. Cobb &amp; Company Building:</b> This two-story wedge-shaped brick building--built to house a grocer--addresses both N. Queen St. and the railroad tracks with a storefront on each elevation. Although plywood fills the first-story windows on the south side facing the tracks, all of the fenestration, the configuration of the N. Queen St. storefront, and the second-story windows remain intact. The second-story N. Queen St. windows are 12-over-12 sash in contrast to the 1-over-1 windows on the south elevation. A corbelled cornice caps the railroad elevation and transoms are thought to be intact behind the modern coverings.</p>  |
| 12. | 405     | 1914-1919 | C | <p><b>Monticello Cafe:</b> This two-story brick restaurant building has two 1-over-1 double-hung sash windows at the second story, simple corbelling</p>  |

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directly above, and a simply corbelled cornice. A metal awning shades a modern brick-veneered and glass storefront. -----

- |     |     |           |   |   |
|-----|-----|-----------|---|---|
| 13. | 407 | 1914-1919 | C | <p><b>Peoples Cafe Building:</b> The upper facade of this austere two-story brick building, from which paint recently has been removed by a low-pressure water wash, has two 1-over-1 double-hung sash windows, a full-width soldier course band, and a plain flat parapet. The storefront has replacement plate glass and brick infill, but the original prism glass transom remains in place.</p>   |
| 14. | 415 | c. 1910   | C | <p><b>(former) Spear Motor Company Building:</b> The original molded sheet metal cornice, a row of eight small, decorative diamonds, and nine evenly spaced second-story windows with cast stone rectilinear lintels and sills characterize this large buff-colored brick building's facade. The main facade second-story windows have new single-pane fixed lights, a new sign has been applied within the original concrete sign borders, and a new cloth awning shades the metal and glass storefront. Originally a standard commercial building with two storefronts, now of modern aluminum framed plate glass, the building was more than doubled in size with a large rear addition in 1925 when it was converted to an automobile dealership, garage, and repair shop. This rear addition is pierced by large 25-pane Hopper windows on two stories and features a ramp leading to the second floor. The building was outfitted with an elevator--a modern convenience in the early twentieth century. The rear addition is clearly discernible with large stepped parapets at the rear elevation and where it meets the original part of building. In 1936 the business was changed to the Harvey Motor Company. The Spear family originally occupied an upstairs apartment in the building.</p> |

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### NORTH QUEEN STREET, WEST SIDE

[See Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District for 136 to 300 N. Queen St.]

- |     |     |      |   |  |
|-----|-----|------|---|--|
| 15. | 400 | 1909 | C | <p><b>Sumrell and McCoy Building (National Register 1989):</b> Built by the Sumrell and McCoy Wholesale Company, this two-story with basement structure was individually listed in the National Register in 1989. A gable projects from the center of the parapet wall of the front facade. Brick quoins frame the second floor wall containing two sets of triple, four-over-four vertical pane sashes, with vertical pane transoms. Brick moldings with cast iron keystones form the lintels of these windows. The upper and lower facades are separated by a projecting string course above the storefront. The southern corner of the facade has a clipped corner entrance with an iron column support. A prism glass transom light extends over two large display windows and another side door on the northern end of the facade. The wholesale grocery business was significant in the booming commercial economy of Kinston during the first three decades of the twentieth century. The building was renovated by the Kinston Community Council for the Arts in 1989 for use as an arts center.</p> |
|-----|-----|------|---|--|

### NORTH HERRITAGE STREET, EAST SIDE

- |     |     |           |   |   |
|-----|-----|-----------|---|---|
| 16. | 213 | 1925-1930 | C | <p><b>Lenoir Auto Parts Building:</b> This modest single-story brick building is capped by a low, unadorned parapet wall. A course of molded stone defines the cornice which is supported by three, symmetrically-placed pilasters with simple molded capitals. Detailed signage panels are located above the shopfront and applied metal awning. The original storefront with a recessed entry is distinguished by replacement black pigmented structural glass below the display windows.</p> |
| 17. | 211 | 1930-1936 | N | <p><b>Byrd's Garage Building:</b> Built as a service station,</p>   |

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this building has been altered by the enclosure of the service canopy with thin, textured brick. The rear portion of the L-shaped building had three garage openings, two of which have been enclosed with concrete block.

- |     |         |           |   |   |
|-----|---------|-----------|---|---|
| 18. | 307-309 | 1919-1925 | N | <p><b>C. A. Dawsons Building:</b> Originally operated as a cotton gin and farm supplies business, by the 1930s Pully's Barbecue restaurant was listed at this address and remained there until the 1960s as one of Kinston's most enduring eateries. A total remodeling in the 1980s resulted in the two-story building being completely sheathed in vinyl siding leaving only two fixed-sash windows exposed on the front facade.</p>  |
| 19. | 417     | 1979      | N | <p><b>Auto and Muffler Center:</b> This single story infill building is constructed of brick with Colonial Revival detailing. A large denticulated cornice separates a parapet wall from the remaining portion of the facade which features paired windows and a metal doorway.</p>   |
| 20. | 419     | 1919      | C | <p><b>Fowler Wholesale Company Building:</b> This wedge-shaped, two-story brick building has two similar facades--one facing the railroad and the other facing North Herritage Street. Composed of modest brick decoration, the facades feature string courses below the windows and solider courses above. A stepped brick cornice separates the parapet wall from the rest of the facade. The six bay facades are marked by single windows except for the central bays which are pierced by loading docks on the first floor and paired windows on the second. The buiness was conveniently located adjacent to the railroad and responds to the site by its wedge shape.</p> |

**NORTH HERRITAGE STREET, WEST SIDE**

- |     |     |           |   |   |
|-----|-----|-----------|---|---|
| 21. | 200 | 1914-1919 | C | <p><b>Worthington's Grocery Store Building:</b></p> |
|-----|-----|-----------|---|---|

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- Anchoring the south end of the 200 block of N. Heritage Street is this two-story red brick building. Inset cast concrete panels define the two-bay front facade and three-bay side elevation. A dentil string course delineates the first story from the second. The original transoms and storefront are separated by a replacement metal awning. Burgundy pigmented structural glass covers the area between the street and the bottom of the display windows along the front and recessed entrance.
22. 204-206 1925-1939 C **Dudley's Dry Cleaners Building:** Remaining nearly completely intact, this small store building is unique in that it features corner recessed entrances. The one-story brick building is very plain in appearance distinguished primarily by a stepped parapet facade and original shopfront. Transoms and large display windows are set above a low wall composed of "ribbon" brick.
23. 208-210 1925-1930 C **Noble's Grocery Store Building:** A low parapet and recessed signage panel provide the major features on this otherwise plain one-story brick building. A metal awning shades the original transom windows above the building's storefront. The entry and display windows, like most commercial buildings in small towns, have been upgraded with aluminum-framed glass.
24. 212 1925-1930 C **Simmons Grocery Store Building:** Similar to other stores in the 200 block of N. Heritage, this building has a simple recessed sign panel and simple brick cornice. The original eleven light transom above double doors in a recessed entry are original as well as the display windows.
25. 214-216 1919-1925 C **Commercial Building:** Functioning as two storefronts, this one-story brick building is divided into two bays with a recessed-panel in the parapet above each. A full-width metal awning shades the identical shopfronts which retain original transom lights, recessed entries,

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wood and glass display windows, double doors and iron ventilation grills set in the brick walls beneath the front windows.

- |     |         |           |   |  |
|-----|---------|-----------|---|--|
| 26. | 218     | 1930-1936 | C | <p><b>Hines Barbecue Building:</b> This diminutive one-story brick building is the smallest storefront on the 200 block of N. Herritage. Like adjoining buildings, it has a recessed-panel parapet above the single-bay transom. The recessed entry has updated display windows, though the overall character of the store is intact.</p>  |
| 27. | 220     | 1930-1936 | N | <p><b>Flowers Grocery Store Building:</b> A modern flat stucco facade covers this building, pierced only by a deeply recessed doorway and two narrow windows.</p>  |
| 28. | 222     | 1914-1919 | C | <p><b>Cash Supply Store Building:</b> Anchoring the north end of the 200 block of N. Herritage Street, the Cash Supply Store—a hay, grain and feed dealer—is by far the most stylish of commercial buildings on the west side of the street. Defined principally by a high parapet wall and molded brick cornice, this two story brick building has two primary elevations. The well-appointed brick cornice and frieze are located above a concrete string course which delineates the ceiling of the second story. This continuous course also serves as lintels for the second floor windows which are fashioned with 12/1 sash. Another concrete band encircles the building below the windows serving as a sill. A projecting brick string course delineates the second floor from the first. The first floor entrance remains remarkably intact with original transom lights, brass and wood trimmed display windows, marble facings below windows and double doors in the recessed entry with a tile floor.</p> |
| 29. | 300-304 | 1930-1936 | C | <p><b>Miller Brothers Fruit/Harris Supply Store Building:</b> Commanding five bays along its primary elevation, this two story brick building is the most substantial, in size, of any buildings in the expansion area. A high parapet wall capped by a modest brick cornice is</p>  |

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characteristic of this otherwise austere building. Brick pilasters divide the front facade into five bays of unequal width--an unusual treatment for a building of this era. The southernmost bay contains four windows, the next two bays contain two, the following one has two windows and the northernmost bay has only one window. All windows are eight-over-eight double hung, wood sash. A string course beneath the windows divides the upper and lower floors of the building. Typical metal awnings shade the storefronts on all but the northernmost unit. The ground floor has three original recessed entries, one in each of the three southern bays. The bay furthest to the north contains a single door which leads to a stairwell. The one to the south has a display window.

30. 336 1914-1919 C **Commercial Building:** This modest commercial brick building has a simple corbelled cornice which projects at the top of the parapet wall. Three recessed sign panels are positioned above the building's three front bays. A projecting string course crosses the facade arching slightly over the center bay. The entry level is shaded by a cloth awning over the updated entry and windows.

## EAST BLOUNT STREET, SOUTH SIDE

31. SW side 1900 C **Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Freight Depot (National Register, 1989):** This turn-of-the-century brick depot is essentially intact and represents the last surviving early building in Kinston associated with the expanding railroad network. With Kinston established as a major trading center for eastern North Carolina, a new freight facility was needed by the late 19th century. This building replaced an earlier depot on the site. The exterior appearance is defined by the tan brick which covers the building. A standing seam tin roof with a monitor tops the depot. In typical fashion, the main roof has broad eaves with board-and-batten panels

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which separate two-pane windows in the clerestory. The interior remains virtually intact with an exposed truss system--a variation of a standard timberframe king-post truss.

WEST BLOUNT STREET, NORTH SIDE

- |     |     |           |   |  |
|-----|-----|-----------|---|--|
| 32. | 105 | c. 1915   | C | <p><b>Kinston Garage, Inc:</b> Originally constructed to house the Kinston Garage, this two-story brick building has continued to serve an automotive-related function to the present. By 1928 the business had expanded to include the sale of Cadillac motor cars and Hudsons. The business was converted to the City Garage by 1936 and owned by the Spear Motor Company. Perhaps Kinston's best expression of the Art Deco style, the building is framed with vertical towers at each end which are defined with stuccoed caps. A wide stucco band fitted with red brick and tile diamonds traverses the upper facade. Replacement five pane jalousie windows are located on the second floor. A single sign panel is located in the area below the second story windows. A flat metal canopy separates the upper and lower facades. The ground floor of the building has been modernized with an applied modern brick facade and new display windows.</p> |
| 33. | 129 | 1914-1919 | C | <p><b>Overland Garage Company Building:</b> Unquestionably the most architecturally enriched building in the expansion area, this three-story brick building has historically been linked with the automotive industry--a function originally shared by several surrounding buildings. Known first as the Overland Garage Company, the business was, by 1928, operated as the Harvey Motor Company and by 1936 as the Spence Motor Company. Distinguished principally by its commodious size and interesting decorative embellishments, it has a rusticated first story on its two primary elevations. Concrete bands delineate the first and third stories as found on other buildings</p>  |

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in the expansion area. Arched windows on the third floor and a corbelled brick cornice add a decidedly Victorian appearance to what is otherwise a standard commercial design. The shopfronts have modern windows with signage covering the transom windows. The Herritage Street side is pierced by double doors with original transom, three double hung sash windows and two garage doors, one of which is arched.

## WEST BLOUNT STREET, SOUTH SIDE

34. 126 1908-1914 C Ellis Carriage Works: Although originally constructed to house the Ellis Carriage Works, the majority of this rambling, two-story brick building was converted to an automobile garage and showroom early in its history and continued in related uses until recent times. Since the building faces both Blount and N. Herritage streets, several non-automobile related businesses have occupied the N. Herritage Street addresses. The building was updated in the mid 1930s with the addition of new facings on the north and west street elevations. The original elevations contained segmentally-arched, wood double-hung sash windows which are now only found on the second floor of the rear or alley sides of the building. This treatment was more in keeping with the Victorian appearance of the structure's original design. The facade and window changes of the mid 1930s were done by W. H. Jones Motor Company, a Ford dealership who occupied the building after the carriage works. The new front entrance on West Blount Street is divided into three bays with the two outer bays having two windows on the second floor above a large three pane display window with transom lights on the first--a treatment similar to other period buildings in the expansion area. The new Herritage Street facade has fifteen metal windows on the second floor above a first floor with five metal windows, three large display windows and two entrances. The facades to the rear and sides were

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less altered during the 1930s and still retain much of their integrity. The addition of a later service garage at the rear of the building is divided from the main block of the structure by a ramp leading to the second floor providing access to North Heritage Street.

WEST NORTH STREET, NORTH SIDE

[See Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District for 301 to 109 W. North St.]

- |     |         |           |   |   |
|-----|---------|-----------|---|---|
| 35. | 113     | 1901-1908 | N | <b>Courie Brothers Grocery:</b> Built as a grocery store, the building has been altered with the introduction of an applied blond brick facade. A flat metal awning shades a modern metal and glass storefront with recessed entry.   |
| 36. | 125-127 | 1908-1914 | N | <b>Commercial Building:</b> The original brick facade of this building can be seen in the upper part of the eastern third of the building, where a recessed panel topped by several courses of shallow corbelling appears above a later storefront. The western two-thirds of the facade were altered in 1954 by Sidney's Dry Goods Company with the addition of a blond brick facade above the storefront. The storefront itself is framed in salmon-colored structural glass with a recessed entry. |
| 37. | 131     | 1930-1936 | C | <b>Hodges Livestock Building:</b> This austere single-story red brick storefront has a flat parapet, a single soldier course in the upper facade, and vertically laid courses above a four-pane transom. The building retains its original wood-framed storefront with plate glass windows and a recessed double-door entry.  |
| 38. | 135     | 1930-1936 | C | <b>United States National Resettlement Administration Office:</b> This two-story red brick building was home to the local branch of the W.P.A. and the U.S. National Re-Settlement Administration during the 1930s. It is similar in design to the  |

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building next door (#34) in its restrained facade featuring a flat parapet topping a soldier course and vertically-laid brick above the transom. The second story is pierced by four windows, one to each side and a pair in the center, all double-hung sash windows containing four vertical panes above and a single pane. Stretchers outline each window and link the sills as a soldier course. A later flat metal awning shades the storefront with two recessed entries. The bulkheads are clad in black structural glass.

39. 137-139 1919-1925 N **City Drug Store Building:** This one-story brick structure originally built with three separate shops on the ground floor, was altered in the early 1950s to a drive-through drug store by the Standard Drug Company, advertised as the "World's Only Drive Through Drug Store." The facades of the building has been drastically altered with vinyl siding and replacement storefronts of brick and decorative concrete block.

### WEST NORTH STREET, SOUTH SIDE

40. 118 1908-1914 C **Heilig-Meyers Building:** A parapet bearing recessed panels and a denticulated and molded sheet metal cornice distinguish the upper facade of this tall one-story brick building. Brick pilasters flanking recessed panels and rising to Doric capitals supporting a simply molded sheet metal architrave delineate the front into four bays, with the eastern bay much wider than the other three of equal size. Below the pilasters, a flat metal awning shelters a single storefront of metal-framed plate glass windows flanking a slightly recessed entrance; gray stone panels cover the lower portions of the pilasters and the bulkhead. Apparently this configuration, if not the actual materials, dates to the beginning of the building's occupancy by the Heilig-Meyers Furniture Company in the early 1930s. The interior retains its original metal pan ceiling.

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|-----|-----|-----------|---|--|
| 41. | 128 | 1904-1908 | N | <p><b>(former) Henry Barnes Motor Company Building:</b> Originally built to house a store, this one-story brick building was converted into the Henry Barnes Motor Company in the early 1930s. In the early 1950s, when the building became part of the Heilig Meyers-Levine Furniture Company next door, the main facade openings were bricked in. The two infilled bays are topped by a flat brick wall containing a panel delineated by brick stretchers and topped by cast stone coping.</p>   |
| 42. | 130 | 1930-1936 | C | <p><b>Commercial Building:</b> First occupied by an ice cream shop, this brick storefront displays flat, rectilinear detailing evocative of the Art Deco style. Immediately above the storefront, stretchers outline an area for signage with cast stone squares at the corners, three larger cast stone squares "resting" on their corners adorn the upper expanse of the front, and outlines of headers lend the impression of pilasters to the flanking walls. The virtually intact storefront exhibits a recessed wood-framed entrance with two doors set at angles under a common transom, metal-framed plate glass display windows and four-pane transom extending the full width of the front, and ceramic tiled bulkheads.</p> |

**EAST NORTH STREET, SOUTH SIDE**

- |     |     |         |   |   |
|-----|-----|---------|---|---|
| 43. | 109 | c. 1925 | C | <p><b>Commercial Building:</b> Bands of cream-colored brick at the base of a flat parapet and as a ribbon between and across the two pairs of second-story windows adorn this austere red brick building. Except for board-and-batten covering the transom and bulkhead, the two storefronts with adjoining recessed entries remain basically intact.</p> |
|-----|-----|---------|---|---|

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### Summary

The Kinston Commercial Historic District, which expands the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District that was listed in 1989, is significant because it represents a larger, relatively intact concentrated collection of primarily 1920s and 1930s commercial buildings erected during one of the city's most progressive eras of development. With this nomination, a much greater percentage of Kinston's commercial core will be represented in the National Register--an increase large enough to justify a more applicable name for the district. Two previously-listed individual properties--the two-story, red brick 1909 Sumrell & McCoy Building and the 1900 Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad Freight Depot--anchor the north and east boundaries of the expansion area. This larger area originally was contemplated at the end of the survey conducted by Martha A. Dreyer in the mid-1980s, but due to the constraints of time and money, the decision was made to focus on the smaller and most architecturally distinctive area of the central business district near the intersection of Queen and Gordon streets when the multiple property listing was prepared in 1988 to 1989. The concentration of additional buildings in the expansion area is an important reflection of Kinston's early twentieth century commercial growth. This densely-developed collection of commercial buildings is significant for several reasons. A number of the buildings, principally located around the intersection of West Blount and North Heritage streets, historically have been associated with the automotive industry and represent Kinston's early 20th century embrace of the growing use of the automobile. Such examples include the Overland Garage Company building at 129 West Blount Street and the Ellis Carriage Works at 126 West Blount. Other buildings throughout the area were occupied by a variety of businesses including grocers, clothiers, restaurants and offices illustrating the commercial, service and professional growth of Kinston's downtown during the early twentieth century. Easy access to nearby railroads and the Neuse River made the western edge of the city's thriving business center a perfect place for expansion and new development. Lining less prominent thoroughfares than such streets as Queen and Gordon, most of the buildings erected in the expansion area illustrate restrained versions of the then stylish Art Deco and late Victorian styles such as Worthington's Grocery Store Building at 200 North Heritage Street. Several buildings of more ambitious design are scattered throughout the area--mostly occupying prominent corner sites. Taken as a whole, the Kinston Commercial Historic District that expands the Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District fully illustrates Kinston's importance during the early twentieth century as a regional tobacco market and trading hub for central eastern North Carolina. The period of significance for the expansion area falls within the years covered by the multiple property listing entitled *Historic and Architectural Resources of Kinston, North Carolina*. Associated historic contexts which cover this nomination include III. Kinston's Era of Accelerating Prosperity, 1890-1941; associated property types covering buildings discussed in this nomination include II. Late 19th/Early 20th Century Commercial and Industrial Buildings.

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## Historical Background

The Queen/Gordon Streets Historic District Boundary Expansion presents a broader view of Kinston's central commercial area by including another **forty-three** properties. This greater representation more fully reflects Kinston's major period of accelerated prosperity which occurred between 1890 to 1941. This prosperity came from the development of the textile and tobacco industries--significant activities which placed Kinston at the center of trade and commerce for central eastern North Carolina. Kinston's early-twentieth century prosperity was spurred, in part, by the coming of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad in 1858 which granted the city its first freight depot, constructed at the intersection of North Queen and Blount streets. This depot was replaced in 1900 by the current station (National Register, 1989) which responded to a need for larger storage and freight facilities. This location--a prime site at the north end of Queen Street--quickly changed the focus of the north side of the city from residential to commercial uses. It also led to a shift in the location of the central business district from Caswell Street north to Gordon Street in the area of the existing Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District and its immediate vicinity.

About 1895, a large fire in the area bounded by McLewean, Caswell, Gordon and Herritage streets destroyed much of Kinston's central business district (Dreyer, 111). Although a few buildings in the area survived the fire, most of the buildings date from the early portion of the twentieth century. A notable example is the Sumrell & McCoy Building which was erected in 1909 to house a wholesale grocery business. This business was located at this prominent site as a response to the changing nature of North Queen Street and remained one of Kinston's leading groceries for over fifty years. Rebuilding of the city's commercial core during this century's early decades allowed prosperous business leaders in the city to mold the appearance of the downtown, with the construction of popular urban designs. Kinston's buildings from this period typically reflect dominant commercial styles found in urban areas developed between 1895 and 1930 across the United States. Although most of the buildings are simple, vernacular adaptations of popular commercial designs, it is believed a few architect-designed buildings exist within the district (though only one architect has been identified) and represent quite distinctive stylistic mixtures. The A & P Food Store at 323 North Queen Street was built c. 1930--designed by L. L. Mallard of Kinston--and represents a typical Art Deco commercial design.

Unlike the portion of the business district in the original Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District, which was predominantly civic and commercially oriented, North Herritage Street and the northern end of Queen Street near the railroad depot supported manufacturing as each of these areas was home to a carriage factory during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Ellis Carriage Works (#31) at 126 West Blount Street opened in 1886 and soon developed a reputation and clientele that extended from Virginia to Florida (Powell, 55). The original building was replaced with a more

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modern structure in 1908 and that building later went on to become one of the leading wholesale grocery businesses in the city under the name of T. W. Mewborn and Company (Dreyer, 112). In the 1920s, when the automobile began to replace the horse and carriage, many of the city's carriage works, such as the Ellis Carriage factory, were converted to automobile showrooms for this latest mode of transportation. Auto-related businesses such as the City Garage (#29) located across West Blount Street from the Ellis Carriage Works, and Byrd's Service Station and Garage located nearby on North Herritage Street (#17) developed in the area during the 1920s (City Directories).

In addition to the industrial/automotive-based businesses which occupied buildings in the Kinston Commercial Historic District, many new commercial and service-oriented stores also located there. The United States National Resettlement Administration took up offices at 135 West North Street in the early 1930s as did a local office of the Works Progress Administration. The 200 block of North Herritage Street became a significant thoroughfare during the 1920s with such prominent businesses as Worthington's Grocery Store (#19), Dudley's Dry Cleaners (#20), Hines Barbecue (#24), and the Cash Supply Store (#26). Occupying modest, but then stylish new buildings, these businesses prospered throughout the years prior to and following World War II (City Directories).

The location of the automotive-related factories with that of supporting commercial activity, intermixed with commercial and service businesses illustrated the type of urban makeup typical of most early twentieth century towns of similar size in eastern North Carolina.

Since WWII very little building has occurred in the area. The fact that the majority of buildings in the expansion area are located on less prominent streets in the central business district might also account for the lack of modern facade coverings and major renovations. In more recent years renewed interest in preservation has stimulated several rehabilitation projects, particularly on the north end of Queen Street in the expansion area. Several certified tax credit projects have also spurred interest in the downtown revitalization efforts. The downtown redevelopment group named the Pride Of Kinston, Inc. administers a facade improvement grant program which assists building owners who wish to enhance the appearance of their property through renovation. With the expansion of the existing National Register historic district, it is the hope of the city that even more renovation and positive development will occur in Kinston's downtown.

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All photographs were taken 8/92 by Collin T. Ingraham. Original negatives are located at the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 109 East Jones Street, Raleigh, North Carolina.

**Photograph identifications**

1. 200 Block of North Herritage Street looking northwest.
2. Worthington's Grocery Store Building looking west at front and side elevations.
3. Ellis Carriage Works looking south at front and side elevations.
4. Overland Garage Company Building looking northeast at front and side elevations.
5. 130 West North Street looking north at front facade.
6. T. A. Cobb & Company Building looking east at front and side elevations.
7. 400 Block of North Queen Street, east side, looking northeast.
8. 100 Block of North Queen Street, east side, looking northeast.

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### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries are as shown in the bold line on the attached 200' = 1" sketch map.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary expansion includes a larger portion of Kinston's central business district and more fully represents the city's relatively intact collection of late 19th and early 20th century commercial buildings. This expansion more than doubles the size of the original Queen-Gordon Streets Historic District that was listed in the National Register in 1989.

