1. Name of Property

historic name American Tobacco Company Prizery

other names/site number Nantucket Warehouse

2. Location

street & number 619 North Herritage Street

city or town Kinston

state North Carolina

country Lenoir code 107

zip code 28502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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.)

Signature of certifying official 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

__ entered in the National Register
__ determined eligible for the National Register
__ determined not eligible for the National Register
__ removed from the National Register
__ other (explain): ____________________________________________________________________

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
American Tobacco Prizery
Name of Property

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)</td>
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<tr>
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<td><em>X</em> building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing 1 Noncontributing 0</td>
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<td>___ district</td>
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<td>___ object</td>
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Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

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<td>AGRICULTURE/storage</td>
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7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

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Materials
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<td>foundation BRICK</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>roof Rubber</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>walls BRICK</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>other</td>
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</table>

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 a 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.

### Period of Significance

Ca. 1901-1955

### Significant Dates

Ca. 1901

### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

### 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.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Previous documentation on file (NPS):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ previously listed in the National Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ previously determined eligible by the National Register</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ designated a National Historic Landmark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ________</td>
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</table>

### Primary Location of Additional Data

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

### Name of repository:

[Insert Name of repository]
American Tobacco Prizery
Name of Property

Lenoir County, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .994 acre

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

1 18 265095 3905770
Zone Easting Northing
2 3 Zone Easting Northing
4 See continuation sheet

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeffrey S. Smith and Susannah Franklin Buss, Historic Preservation Consultants
organization Landmark Asset Services, Inc. date November 15, 2003
street & number 406 East Fourth Street telephone 336.722.9871, ext. 106
city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27101

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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

name Nantucket Warehouse, LLC
street & number 406 East Fourth Street telephone 336.722.9871 ext. 102

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27101

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
American Tobacco Company Prizery  
Lenoir County, NC

Description

Situated on the southeast corner of North Herritage and West Lenoir Streets, the American Tobacco Company Prizery lies north of and just outside of Kinston’s downtown commercial business district. North Herritage Street runs parallel to Queen Street, Kinston’s primary historic and present-day business corridor. The prizery has been expanded four times over the course of the first half of the twentieth century to finally occupy almost an entire acre of land. The decorative masonry work on the exterior is in keeping with the industrial functions of the interior spaces. Built ca. 1901, the building now stands as one of the city’s last visible reminders of the days when tobacco was Kinston’s leading industry.

The two-story, load-bearing brick building was constructed in five phases beginning circa 1901. The first phase was the construction of the rectangular block that faces West Lenoir Street. As is evidenced by the Sanborn fire insurance maps, the second building phase resulted in two, two-story ells being added to the south elevation between 1901 and 1908. The western-most ell contained the boiler, and later housed a coal room and a cooper’s shop subsequent to alterations made to this ell circa 1908. The eastern-most ell provided additional space, as well as access to the building from the adjacent city alley and dates to ca.1908. The building was sold in 1911 to British American Tobacco Company and again in 1912 it was sold to Export Leaf Tobacco Company. The Export Leaf Company owned the building until 1963 and made the additions in 1925, 1930 and 1949. By 1925, in the third phase a two-story cooper shop was added to the rear of the west wing and a coal room added at the rear of the east wing. By 1930, a receiving room and blending room were added to the rear of the coal room (fourth phase). The fifth phase of construction, by 1949, added a large, one-story receiving room between the western and eastern ells, resulting in a small, open-air courtyard around the circular, brick smokestack.1 (See Figure 1) All of the additions have architectural and decorative details that are in keeping with the style of the original building.

1 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, 1901-1949.
Because of the multiple phases of development, the building has a complex roof form. Stepped parapets conceal side gables on the west and east elevations of the ca. 1901 section. The west ell has a stepped parapet that faces North Herritage Street and that complements the roofline of the ca. 1901 section. A stepped parapet also conceals the gabled-roof of the ca. 1908 eastern ell while the ca. 1949 section has a flat roof. All of the roof surfaces are covered in modern, rubber roofing material.

Three large segmental arched openings along the north elevation provided access for receiving on the first floor and a pedestrian entrance on the west elevation provided access to the first floor office. Segmental arches surmount the entries to subsequent additions.

The segmental arches above the entries and each window and the decorative brickwork—stepped parapets, corbelled cornices, water table and belt course—reflect decoration that was commonly applied to beautify turn-of-the-century industrial buildings. The water table is a plain, projecting band of brick. Both the belt course and cornice consist of a corbelled sawtooth band. The belt course and water table were continued around the entire building during the additions, but the cornice was not continued on the façade of the last addition.

The original metal sash windows are intact on all elevations of the building, albeit of different styles. Six-over-six, double-hung sash windows are found in the original block and three-over-three, double-hung sash are found in the c. 1908 eastern and western extensions. The windows in the ca. 1949 extension give the appearance of the original six-over-six windows, but are actually six-over-six, awning-style, metal windows.

The interior of the building is typical of industrial architecture, with thick, load-bearing masonry walls and heavy slow-burn timber posts. The interior of each of the two floors is essentially an open floor plan interrupted by the large, wooden posts. Large, wooden freight doors that are sheathed in metal provide access to the interior. A smaller door on the North Herritage Street elevation provides access to a small original office.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _7_ Page _3_

American Tobacco Company Prizery
Lenoir County, NC

The American Tobacco Company Prizery is virtually unaltered from its appearance during its period of significance, which ends in 1955. It maintains a high level of integrity and stands as one of Kinston’s few remaining tobacco industry-related buildings. In its evolution from the original ca. 1901 two-story, parapeted-gable building built by the American Tobacco Company into a larger building that served two other tobacco companies until 1963, the building reflects the growth and change in the tobacco processing industry.
The American Tobacco Company Prizery, constructed in five phases between 1901 and 1949, is a two-story brick multi-parapeted tobacco-industry building. It is located just outside of Kinston’s central commercial district. It is one of the few extant tobacco-related buildings in Kinston from the period when tobacco was the leading cash crop in the Coastal Plain region of North Carolina. Situated on the southeast corner of West Lenoir and North Heritage Streets, the building was at one time surrounded by other prizeries, tobacco warehouses, factories, and stemmeries. Tobacco supplanted cotton as ‘king’ in the late nineteenth century in and around Kinston. Kinston’s American Tobacco Company Prizery is locally significant under Criterion A for industrial history as well as under Criterion C for its local architectural significance as the only extant example of a tobacco prizery in the area. The period of significance is 1901-1955. Though the building’s use as a tobacco prizery continued until 1963, these last years of operation do not meet criterion consideration G for exceptional significance.

Historical Background and Tobacco Processing Context

Kinston, originally established as Kingston in 1740, was chosen as the county seat of Lenoir County in 1762. Due to the self-sufficient nature of the large land holdings of so many in Lenoir County, Kinston served primarily as a trading post and governmental center. The town was laid out in a twenty-five-block grid, with the western boundary being the bend of the Neuse River. The town remained relatively small throughout the eighteenth century and into the mid-nineteenth century. It was not until the arrival of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad in 1858 and the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in the 1890s that Kinston grew both in physical size and population.¹

During the antebellum period, Lenoir County farmers’ cash crops included corn, peas, sweet potatoes, wheat, rye and cotton. Pork and naval stores also played a large role in the agricultural economy of the county. Cotton did not become a major cash crop until after the Civil War as the plantation economy gave way to smaller, more numerous farms worked by tenant farmers and various technicological advances occurred. Although Southern farm values plummeted after the war, farms in Lenoir County rebounded by

American Tobacco Company Prizery
Lenoir County, NC

about 1870 after “King Cotton” became the leading cash crop in the region. By 1880, twenty-three percent of the tilled land in Lenoir County was planted with cotton, yielding in excess of 8,000 bales.² Despite its high yield, the price for cotton peaked in 1868 at twenty-five cents a pound and continued to fall to less than a dime per pound into the 1880s.³

As cotton prices continued to drop, North Carolina businessmen began promoting and investing in tobacco. By 1895 North Carolina was producing over 100-million pounds of tobacco and was quickly overtaking Virginia in production volume.⁴ In 1895, Jesse W. Grainger, a Kinston farmer and businessman distributed five hundred dollars worth of tobacco seeds among local farmers in exchange for their willingness to grow the crop. Grainger also agreed to build a tobacco warehouse in Kinston from which the tobacco would be sold. Following the successful harvest, the Kinston-Carolina Warehouse was constructed at the corner of Herritage and Vernon Streets in 1895. More than 800,000 pounds of tobacco were sold from this first attempt at tobacco cultivation in Lenoir County. The Kinston Free Press reported in August of 1895:

A new era for Kinston! That is what the opening of a tobacco market here last week meant.….Our businessmen are united and enthusiastic for making Kinston a great tobacco town. With a united effort on the part of our citizens, Kinston will be the leading town of Eastern Carolina. The following year, over two million pounds of leaf were sold during the tobacco market season.⁵

With its conducive climate and soils, Kinston and Lenoir County became part of the “New Bright Belt,” the group of counties in the Coastal Plain--Lenoir, Duplin, Pitt, Nash, Onslow and Greene--that, during the last part of the nineteenth century, adopted the bright tobacco leaf as their primary crop. With the increased tobacco sales came advances in farming technology, additional businesses, and population growth throughout Lenoir County and the region. The popularity of Kinston jumped from 1,700 people in

² Ibid, 74.
³ Ibid, 74.
⁵ Ibid, 102.
American Tobacco Company Prizery
Lenoir County, NC

1890 to 9,700 in 1920, while the county had 18,369 citizens in 1900 and by 1920 the county’s population had reached almost 30,000.

With tobacco’s introduction to Kinston and Lenoir County, both the urban and rural landscape changed dramatically. Tobacco-related buildings such as barns and pack houses were constructed on farms throughout the countryside. During the 1890’s, a series of fires, both accidental and intentional, destroyed the frame buildings that comprised Kinston’s business district. The reconstruction of the business district and the development of the adjacent warehouse district occurred in a late nineteenth-century/early twentieth-century building boom that was the direct result of the flourishing tobacco economy. Brick tobacco warehouses were constructed on Herritage Street, near the Neuse River. The Atlantic Warehouse and the Eagle Warehouse in 1898; the Central Warehouse in 1899; the Farmers Warehouse; and the Knott Brothers Warehouse circa 1900 joined Grainger’s 1895 Kinston-Carolina warehouse. Other tobacco-related buildings constructed in Kinston during the period included John R. Hughes Tobacco Company’s tobacco factory, Hoge Irvine’s ca.1898 stemmery, where stems were removed, and Imperial Tobacco Company’s ca.1902 processing plant. During the early 1900’s, six prizeries, including the American Tobacco Company prizery, were constructed. Here the cured tobacco was “prized,” or packed into large wooden hogsheads.

The American Tobacco Company, based in Durham, constructed a prizery in Kinston about 1901 to package their locally purchased tobacco for shipment to factories in Durham. American Tobacco expanded the building by 1908. In 1911, American sold the building to British American Tobacco Company, Ltd., and then relocated their business to a prizery at 300 East Vernon Street. It was then sold to Export Leaf Tobacco Company in 1912. By 1925, Export added a five bay, two-story cooper shop and coal room to the rear (phase 3). Export added a receiving and blending room to the rear by 1930 (phase 4) and another receiving room to the rear by 1949 (phase 5).

The success of Kinston’s tobacco market continued through the first half of the

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7 Lenoir County Deed Book 24, page 258; Book 44, page 56; Book 44, page 531.
American Tobacco Company Prizery
Lenoir County, NC

By 1914, Kinston had become one of the largest markets in the world although by 1919, Wilson, in neighboring Wilson County, surpassed Kinston’s record. By 1942, fifty million pounds of leaf were sold in Kinston to some of North Carolina’s largest tobacco producers, Liggett and Myers, R. J. Reynolds and American Tobacco. By 1950, there were fourteen warehouses and seven processing factories in Kinston, and by this point, Kinston had reached its zenith in the industry. By the mid-1960’s Wilson claimed to be the world’s largest bright-leaf tobacco market. During the second half of the twentieth-century other Bright Belt market towns -- Greenville, Rocky Mount, and Wilson -- surpassed Kinston. Although the three largest tobacco producers in North Carolina purchased tobacco in Kinston, they took the leaf elsewhere to be processed.

During the last part of the twentieth century, as a reflection of the decline of the tobacco industry in Kinston, the former American Tobacco Company prizery no longer served the needs of the tobacco industry. Sold in 1963 to Albain Shirt Company, Inc. (Lenoir County Deed Book 524, page 44), the building became locally known as the Nantucket Warehouse. The Kinston city directories show that the building was used by Albain as a warehouse until 1974 when offices were added to the building. In 1984 the function was changed to “shipping and cutting.” According to Michael Bain, son of the founder of the Albain Company, the name of the sales organization which sold the merchandise wholesale across the United States was “Nantucket.” That name was also the brand on the clothing labels. This sales organization, established ca. 1978, had its offices in the building, which became known as the Nantucket Warehouse. The Albain Shirt Company also owned a manufacturing plant at 501 North East Street in Kinston. Albain sold the buildings and company in 1998 and vacated the prizery building. It was purchased in 2003 by Nantucket Lofts, LLC and is currently being rehabilitated for adaptive reuse as apartments.

Despite the decline of the tobacco industry in Kinston and the change in function of the American Tobacco Company Prizery, the building still maintains a high level of integrity from its period of significance. It is one of the few remaining buildings relating
American Tobacco Company Prizery
Lenoir County, NC

to Kinston’s early tobacco industry, an industry that modernized both the community and the surrounding landscape during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Architectural Context

The American Tobacco Company Prizery is a well-preserved two-story brick tobacco prizery exhibiting decorative brickwork typical of industrial buildings of the turn-of-the-twentieth-century. It is the only prizery remaining in Kinston. It was expanded four times between 1901 and 1949. The original ca. 1901 section of the building has a gable roof with stepped parapets at each end. The entire building is of heavy timber and load-bearing masonry construction ornamented by stepped parapets and corbelled bands, cornices, water table, and belt course.

Only a few tobacco prizeries remain in the “New Bright Belt” region of eastern North Carolina. In the Tobacco Warehouse Historic District, in Greenville, NC, is the E.B. Ficklen Tobacco Company. The building was constructed in 1897 as the B.E. Parham & Company tobacco stemmery and prizery. It was expanded in 1925 and 1945. The original building was six bays wide and thirteen deep. Like the American Tobacco Company building, it is constructed out of brick and has a parapet roofline, belt course and segmentally arched windows. Though the E.B. Ficklen building stands one story higher and the parapet and window designs differ slightly, these two buildings are similar.

The Briggs & Fleming Tobacco Prize House in Wilson is another prizery that has survived in the “New Bright Belt.” The building was built and operated by Roscoe Briggs and Charles M. Fleming until 1908 when it was owned by R.P. Watson & Company. Built c. 1895, the building had five-and-a-half-stories by 1908, with a gabled roof and dormers. The two-story brick lower section is probably the original building, and the upper stories, of frame construction, were probably added soon afterward. In 1922 the building was expanded again. The top story-and-a-half frame section, along with the gabled roof with dormers, were removed in 1969. As originally constructed, the Briggs & Fleming prizery followed the same two-story brick model, with lots of sash windows, as the Ficklen prizery and the American Tobacco Company Prizery.
American Tobacco Company Prizery
Lenoir County, NC

The American Tobacco Company Prizery is a rare and very well-preserved example of a tobacco-processing building in the “New Bright Belt” of eastern North Carolina. Though the reign of tobacco ended decades ago, this building stands as testament to the industry that once supported the town of Kinston, North Carolina. Because of its importance to local history and its position of being the only extant prizery in Kinston, the American Tobacco Company Prizery is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C.
American Tobacco Company Prizery
Lenoir County, NC

Bibliography

Bain, Michael, Interview by telephone, October 25, 2004.


American Tobacco Company Prizery
Lenoir County, NC

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of Lenoir County tax parcel 1265 as delineated by a heavy black line on the attached “tax map.”

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes all land historically associated with the tobacco prizery.
FIGURE 2

AMERICAN TOBACCO CO. PRIZERY
SANBORNE MAPS, 1901, 1908, 1914, 1925, 1930, 1949

1901

1908

1925 COOPER SHOP

1925 COAL

1949 RECEIVING

1930 RECEIVING/BLENDING

PHASE 1 - 1901
PHASE 2 - 1908
PHASE 3 - 1925
PHASE 4 - 1930
PHASE 5 - 1949

NOT TO SCALE
Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Topography compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1977. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1998 and other sources. Survey control current as of 1979

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1 000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 18

2 500-meter ticks: North Carolina Coordinate System of 1983

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

Landmark buildings verified 1979