NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Standard Drug #2
Kinston, Lenoir County, LR1437, Listed 12/1/2014
Nomination by Sherry Wyatt and Sarah David
Photographs by Sarah David, December 2013

Façade view

Overall view
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 National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any 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.

1. Name of Property
   Historic name: Standard Drug # 2
   Other names/site number: __________________________
   Name of related multiple property listing: __________________________
   (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location
   Street & number: 100 South Queen Street
   City or town: Kinston State: NC County: Lenoir
   Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
   I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets
   the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
   Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.
   I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
   level(s) of significance:
   ___ national ___ statewide X local
   Applicable National Register Criteria:
   X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

   Signature of certifying official/Title: __________________________
   North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

   In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

   Signature of commenting official: __________________________
   Date:
   Title: __________________________
   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
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

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)

<table>
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buildings
sites
structures
objects
Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
- Commercial: restaurant
- Commercial: business

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
- Vacant
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commercial Style
___________________
___________________
___________________
___________________
___________________
___________________
___________________

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Metal

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Standard Drug # 2 located at 100 South Queen Street, stands on the southeast corner of Queen Street and East Caswell Street in downtown Kinston, the county seat for Lenoir County in eastern North Carolina. Constructed between 1918 and 1924, Standard Drug #2 is a two-story, brick, Commercial Style building situated within Kinston's historic central business district. The building has a good level of integrity, retaining its historic Art Deco-style lunch counter and pressed metal ceiling on the first floor and nearly unaltered second floor with single-loaded corridor floor plan. Since its construction up until 1992, the building functioned as a drugstore on the first floor and office space on the second floor.

Narrative Description
The terrain in Kinston is flat and streets in the business district follow a grid pattern on a north-south axis with Queen Street as the primary north-south street and King Street as the main east-west street. The county courthouse stands on the northeast corner of King and Queen and Standard Drug # 2 is situated one block north of the courthouse. Immediately to the east (rear), a narrow two-story commercial building fronts East Caswell Street and abuts the entire rear
Standard Drug # 2                   Lenoir Co., NC
Name of Property                   County and State

elevation of Standard Drug. Sanborn maps indicate the Standard Drug building was constructed between 1918 and 1924 replacing an earlier drugstore on this site. To the south, another two-story commercial building adjoins Standard Drug’s south side. The 1901 Sanborn Map illustrates this building as under construction.

Standard Drug # 2 sits adjacent to the sidewalks on its west and north elevations. The entrance addresses the corner and faces northwest. The entrance is recessed on a diagonal and features a modern, mid-to-late-twentieth-century plate-glass configuration consisting of a double-leaf door, sidelights and a transom. A column supports the corner and is clad in mirrored glass panels, most likely dating from the mid-twentieth century. Although the entrance is on a corner, the building’s primary façade is its Queen Street elevation. On this side of the building, at the street level, plate-glass windows above a brick knee-wall occupy the width of the storefront. These store windows and knee-wall appear to date from the mid-twentieth century. On the second floor of the Queen Street side, two sets of paired one-over-one wood sash windows punctuate the façade.

On the north (East Caswell Street) elevation ghost marks in the brickwork immediately adjacent to the corner entrance have been enclosed with brick. This brick matches the brick knee-wall on the Queen Street elevation and likely dates from the mid-twentieth century; this area was likely storefront windows. From the entrance to the rear of the building, the first floor is a blank brick wall. The bricks in this section appear to match those used at the upper level, but a curtain wall on the interior suggests that changes to this wall have been made over time. Near the eastern end of this elevation, the brick changes and ghost marks indicate that a door was enclosed at an unknown point in time. Also at this location, a single-leaf plate-glass door with sidelights and transom was likely added in the mid-to-late twentieth century. It is unknown if this door is occupying an original opening or one that was created at a later date. Immediately east of this door is a large plate-glass storefront window. Based on Sanborn Maps, this door was likely opened up between 1925 and 1930. To the east of this door and storefront is another single-leaf door with a transom. This easternmost door opens into the stair hall providing access to the second floor, and this door appears to have always had a Caswell Street address, based on Sanborn Maps and City Directories. This door and the adjacent storefront window appear to occupy original openings, although changes in materials have been made, probably in the mid-to-late-twentieth century. These changes include plate glass and a brick knee wall below the storefront window. The second floor of the north elevation features eight bays, each punctuated with a pair of large, one-over-one, wood sash windows.

Between the first and second floors, a flat metal awning runs the length of both exposed elevations. The awning likely dates from the 1940s or 1950s. At the upper level on both elevations, soldier courses of brick enliven the facades with courses extending around the building immediately below and above the windows, with two additional courses banding the building above the windows to create a cornice that vertical courses divide into flat panels. Behind a parapet, the roof slopes gently toward the rear of the building.

The first floor interior of Standard Drug # 2 is mostly composed of one large open room. The floor features linoleum tiles in a checkered pattern. Pressed metal panels in a ribbon pattern cover the ceiling in the front half of the room. Some pressed metal crown molding and some of the ceiling tiles have been damaged or are missing. Beadboard clads the ceiling in the back half
of the main room. The walls are covered with drywall except where exposed brick trims the entrance and where the brick knee wall is exposed below the windows facing Queen Street. Along the north wall, a secondary wall that encapsulates the original interior wall has been constructed. It is unclear what if any historic materials might remain behind this wall. On the south wall, about mid-way along the length of the main room, a partition wall projects into the room to enclose a kitchen area at the end of the existing historic soda fountain and lunch counter.

The Art Deco-style soda fountain/ lunch counter extends forward from the kitchen enclosure and features an ebony base trimmed with aluminum and topped with a Formica countertop also trimmed with aluminum. The counter is probably not as old as the building, but it retains a Liquid Carbonic Company logo with a red diamond behind “Liquid” written in script.\(^1\) The aluminum trim on the counter suggests that the counter could date from the 1930s, although such streamlined trim was popular into the 1950s. Aluminum posts to support bar stool seats are mounted along the length of the counter. The seats have been temporarily removed for rehabilitation. These posts were probably installed at the same time as the counter.

At the west end of the soda fountain, a trapdoor located between the soda fountain and Queen Street wall opens to a set of narrow wooden steps leading into a cellar. The space is less than six feet tall and approximately four feet wide by six feet long. It has a combination of earth and concrete walls and houses two pieces of machinery. One appears to be an old refrigeration compressor, presumably linked to the soda fountain above. The other machine may have been part of a hot water heating system. Along the cellar’s south wall, a false wall creates a space between it and the actual foundation wall. The current owner has accessed the space and retrieved pharmaceutical bottles and trash.

In the rear section of the first floor, a combination of modern and historic walls creates a warren of small rooms. These rooms appear to have been created over time on an as-needed basis with no discernible timeline for their construction. Along the south interior wall of the rear section, ghost marks indicate the locations of a staircase, other walls, and a now-infilled opening to a courtyard bounded by this building and the ones to the south and east. Sanborn maps indicate a wall separating this back space from the drugstore space was a solid wall at the first floor, but between 1930 and 1948, that wall was opened up and a door (now closed up) was added to the south elevation of this rear section. It is likely that the staircase was reconfigured during this eighteen-year period.

Standard Drug’s second story has undergone few alterations and retains most of its original materials, finishes, and its original floor plan. The second story is reached via an enclosed straight-run stair accessed from an exterior door on the building’s north elevation. Currently, no internal stair connects the first and second stories, and based on city directories, it appears that this configuration was in place by the 1940s, if not from the building’s earliest

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1 According to the Wikipedia soda fountain entry (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soda_fountain, accessed March 22, 2014) and to American Soda Fountain, Inc., a soda fountain parts supplier and restoration company (http://americansodafountain.com/id5.html, accessed on March 22, 2014) The Liquid Carbonic Company began as a carbon dioxide manufacturer in the 1880s but quickly expanded to dominate the soda fountain trade. The company built counters and soda fountains and could supply a drugstore with everything needed to operate a soda fountain or lunch counter, right down to paper napkins and shirts for the soda jerks.
Standard Drug # 2

Name of Property: Standard Drug # 2

Lenoir Co., NC

County and State: County and State

The stair rises within a plastered stairwell and extends in a straight run. A landing about mid-way up the stair features a low door that opens into a mechanical mezzanine that housed the building’s heating and air conditioning systems. A boiler remains in this space, but otherwise, it is used for storage.

A railing with square balusters runs along the western side of the stairwell and terminates at a square newel post at the top of the staircase. From this stair hall, a door opens into a long corridor extending toward the front of the building. Except for two bathrooms located on the south side of the corridor at the back of the building, the corridor is single loaded to the front of the building. Along the north side of the corridor, are six spacious offices each lit with a pair of large windows. Each office features a hallway door and a connecting door between offices. Most of the offices also contain a sink and pneumatic tubing, presumably used by the doctors and dentists that city directories list as tenants at various points during the mid-twentieth century.

The west end of the corridor terminates at an office suite and the western most pair of windows on the north elevation lights one room within this suite and the western most pair of windows on the north elevation lights one room within this suite. The original door to this suite was stenciled with “Hardison Detective Agency” and that door has been removed and is owned by a local antiques dealer. The suite contains six connecting rooms of varying size, all with finishes to match the rest of the upstairs space. One of the smallest rooms in the suite has been painted black, suggesting its use as a darkroom, and, indeed, the 1949 City Directory lists a photographer’s studio in this building.

About mid-way along the corridor, a skylight originally illuminated the passage. It has been covered over on the exterior, however the boxed opening remains. Toward the west end of the corridor, a modern wall has been constructed to box-in the duct work for the range vent that serves the lunch counter below. The corridor also houses a shower added by a previous owner. The shower is poorly constructed and is not enclosed from the hallway space. The current owner plans to remove the shower. As noted on the first floor, ghost marks indicated the presence of a different stair configuration in the past; it is likely that a stair following those ghost marks would have landed around the location of this shower and the shower’s removal may reveal the location of an earlier stairwell.

The second floor is finished throughout with plaster walls, chair rails, baseboards, flat door surrounds featuring square corner blocks, and a combination of five-panel doors and doors with a large square glazed panel above three horizontal panels. Molded wood window sills are the primary window trim; the window surrounds are plastered, without wood trim or molding. In some locations, a band of quarter-round molding finishes the intersections between the walls and beaded board ceilings, but in many rooms, there is no crown molding. Some spaces are floored with oak, some with linoleum.

Integrity Assessment

Standard Drug # 2 retains the integrity of location and setting because it has not been moved and its downtown environment remains intact. Despite mid-twentieth century alterations to the first-floor exterior elevations and changes in layout in the rear of the building’s first floor,

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2 Kinston’s city directories are not organized by street until the 1940s, and at that time, address listings for Caswell Street indicate that the second floor had a Caswell Street address.
the building retains its overall integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The building’s second story is nearly unaltered and at the ground-level, beadboard, a pressed metal ceiling, original or historic linoleum, and a historic soda fountain still exist. As a downtown commercial building with offices on the second floor and a lunch counter and drugstore on the first floor, the building clearly retains the integrity of feeling and association with its uses and with the peaceful sit-ins that occurred here in 1960 and 1961.
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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

   Social History

Section 8 page 9
Standard Drug # 2
Name of Property

___________________
___________________
___________________

Period of Significance
1960, 1961

___________________

Significant Dates
1960
1961

___________________

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
n/a

___________________

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

___________________

Architect/Builder
unknown

___________________

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.

Kinston is the county seat of Lenoir County located in eastern North Carolina. The Standard Drug # 2 building was built sometime between 1918 and 1923, replacing an earlier building. A drugstore was located at this site in the historic central business district of the city from 1875 until 1992 and was known as Standard Drug #2 from 1937 until 1992. Located near the county court house, the lunch counter at Standard Drug # 2 was frequented by local businessmen, attorneys, and other professionals. As a meeting place, it played an important role among Kinston's leaders. Yet, like other businesses in Kinston during the Jim Crow period, the lunch counter was racially segregated. The grass roots Civil Rights movement came to fruition during the early 1960s in North Carolina as African American groups (often student groups)
demonstrated for equality. This was the case in Kinston, particularly during the 1961-1963 period when the Kinston Chapter of the NAACP Youth Council, under the guidance of Alice Hannibal and Annie Whitehead among others, pressured the local white business community with sit-ins, picketing, and economic boycotts bringing about the desegregation of many downtown Kinston businesses. Two separate sit-ins occurred at the Standard Drug #2 lunch counter, which because of its preference by local white leaders, was a logical place for protestors to focus their attention. The first sit-in occurred in 1960, shortly after the February 1960 Greensboro Woolworth's sit-in. Three African American high school students from Kinston used a clever subterfuge to gain service for one of the youths at the lunch counter. While fear of repercussions prevented the young men from publicizing their actions, the incident underscores the growing dissatisfaction among many African Americans with the status quo. The second, larger sit-in at Standard Drug #2 was held in 1961, although the day is not known. At this time, the store management agreed to serve the protestors and the lunch counter was desegregated from that time forward. Boycotts and picketing followed the 1961 sit-in at several of the most important downtown Kinston businesses including the department stores and the theater. These actions brought about meetings between the protesters and downtown businessmen, including Henry Suddreth the owner of Standard Drug #2. The meetings resulted in desegregation of downtown Kinston businesses. The Standard Drug #2 building has retained good integrity from 1960-1961 and it meets National Register Criterion A for local social history with a period of significance of 1960-1961.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Background

The lot at 100 South Queen Street was the site of St. Mary's Episcopal Church by the 1850s. After the congregation relocated around 1875, a drugstore was constructed on the site. An 1895 fire consumed the courthouse and much of this block, but the drugstore survived and appears as a one-story building on the 1896 Sanborn map. This early store was owned by W. D. and Mattie Hood.3

During the first two decades of the twentieth century, Kinston expanded greatly reaching a population of 10,000 around 1920. The city was an important agricultural trade center, situated on the navigable Neuse River and served by four railroads as well as highways connecting both north-south and east-west. Cotton, tobacco, and other goods from the surrounding farm areas created a booming business community along Queen and Gordon streets during the early twentieth century.4

It was during this period of growth that the original building at 100 S. Queen St. was sold to Dan W. and Alice Parrott. The extant building was built on the site between the time of their

purchase in 1918 and 1923. The 1921 city directory lists Caswell Pharmacy, operated by B. Robin Hood, at this address. It is unclear, however, if this was the earlier or current building. The 1923-1924, Hill's Directory is more definitive, showing Dixon's Drugstore occupying the building at 100 S. Queen Street. The building was clearly in its current two-story form by this time as the office of dentist Dupree L. Justice was located at “Monument Corner, over Dixon's Drugstore.” Creech's Drugstore occupied the building by 1928, when Hill's Directory lists Creech Drug Company at this address with Seth J. Creech, S. L. Stough, J. C. Hood, and R. T. Hood as proprietors.⁵

Henry and Maude Suddreth bought Creech Drug Company in 1937 and the business became Standard Drug # 2. Kinston City Directories are not available for much of the 1920-1950 period, but the 1953 city directory lists Standard Drug # 2 at this address. By 1960, the Suddreths owned six Standard Drug stores and it is thought that the company offices were located on the second floor of 100 S. Queen Street. The 1960 directory continues to list Henry Suddreth (who resided on North Queen Street) as the owner of Standard Drug Company; Thomas H. Suddreth was the manager at Standard Drug # 2. The business listing for Standard Drug # 2 appeared in subsequent directories until 1994, which roughly coincides with the closure of the business in 1992. Alice Parrot Lowery sold the property to Mitch Cooper in 2003. The current owners purchased the building in 2013.⁶

Located one block from the Lenoir County Courthouse, the lunch counter at Standard Drug # 2 was a local gathering place for downtown businessmen, politicians, and attorneys for decades. George Skinner ran the lunch counter from 1948 until 1992. Mr. Skinner recalled that politicians vying for public office in Lenoir County had to make an appearance at Standard Drug. Local tradition holds that Daniel K. Moore, Governor of North Carolina 1965-1969, launched his Lenoir County campaign at the lunch counter. Governor Moore appointed Lenoir County native B. Cameron Langston to the North Carolina Highway Commission.⁷

The importance of the lunch counter as a social hub in the influential business and professional community in Kinston is underscored by the honorary degree society founded by Dr. Jesse McDaniel. Through the society, also known as “the round table,” Standard Drug patrons made donations to a Lenoir Community College scholarship fund in order to nominate community leaders and politicians for honorary degrees voted on by the group. Degree recipients included Governor Daniel K. Moore, Governor Robert Scott (1969-1973), and Congressman L. H. Fountain. This influential group seems to have functioned as a private club of sorts. Posts by a Kinston-native Facebook group generated the following recollection by Mike Kohler: “Funny story about 'the round table'. In order to sit there, you had to be 'invited' by another member who put up money in your support. But, any other member could 'black ball' you by putting MORE money against you. Sometimes the 'bidding' was intense and quite a lot of money was raised [for

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⁵ Archie, deed research; 1896, 1914, and 1925 Sanborn Maps; 1921, 1923-1924, and 1928 Hill's Kinston City Directory.
⁶ Archie, deed research; Kinston City Directories; Deeds; and Hill's Kinston City Directory, 1960, accessed at <https://archive.org/stream/hillskinstonleno1960hill#page/n3/mode/2up>
⁷ Archie, oral history, “Standard Drug # 2 Study List Application, 2004”
Civil Rights and the Sit-in Movement

Between 1900 and 1940, the African American population in North Carolina changed significantly. The number of black men engaged in agriculture decreased and the number of blacks populating the state declined as farm-to-city and South-to-North migration held steady.9 These demographic changes took place during the strict racial segregation of the Jim Crow10 period from the late 1870s until the mid-1960s.11

Historian Jeffery Crow, et. al. writes in *A History of African Americans in North Carolina* that “segregation had attempted to define the actual physical place of blacks in southern society, as well as their place in a caste system.” Throughout the first half of the twentieth century, black ministers, educators, and business people often voiced concern about, and sometimes protested against, the unequal educational, medical, recreational, and economic conditions their communities faced. The 1930s and 1940s saw a variety of boycotts and refusals to participate in segregated events in North Carolina. In 1957, seven black activists conducted what may have been North Carolina's first sit-in at a Durham ice cream parlor. These local protests took place within a national context of increased activism in the wake of *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954); the Montgomery, Alabama Bus Boycott (1955); and the integration of Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas (1957).12

In North Carolina, the battle to desegregate schools in Greensboro during the late 1950s became one of several catalysts for change across the state. African American families in the city were repeatedly thwarted in attempts to integrate the schools. Further, a report conducted by the American Friends Service Committee found that nearly all families applying to transfer children into all-white schools had been harassed in some manner. This illustrated, the report concluded, an “atmosphere of caution and resistance to further progress.” Historian William H. Chafe notes that North Carolina carried a reputation as being progressive in race relations, but finds that the reputation was based on little real progressivism. The experience in Greensboro and elsewhere in the state helped spur an increase in grassroots involvement in civil rights activism in North Carolina by the late 1950s.13

The touchstone event during this period was the 1960 Greensboro Woolworth's sit-in, which sparked similar protests across the state and nation.14 On February 5, 1960, four North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College students, Joseph McNeil, Ezell Blair, Jr., Franklin McCain,

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8 Ibid; “Lenoir County Community College History” accessed at <http://www.lenoircc.edu/Publish/2%20History.htm> and Mike Kohler, Facebook post, February 9, 2012, screenshot provided by Judy Johnson.
10 The term “Jim Crow” was derived from a stereotyped black character in a late-nineteenth century minstrel show.
11 Crow, 180.
12 Crow, 180-6.
and David Richmond, sat down at the Woolworth's lunch counter in downtown Greensboro and politely asked for service. It was morally incongruent, they reasoned, for Woolworth's to sell them toothpaste and other small items at the store counter, but refuse service at the lunch counter. The four young men were prompted by a number of ideas and ideals including an admiration of Gandhi’s pacifist theories and Martin Luther King Jr.'s handling of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The young men's personal experiences of segregation, Dr. King's inspirational 1958 talk at Greensboro's Bennett College, and a personal feeling of pride were also catalysts. All of these factors built upon a sense of activism instilled in them by their parents, ministers, and other adults; in other words the grassroots involvement.15

Over the next five days, as many as 300 other students joined the sit-in and by the end of the week the store was forced to close due to the number of protestors on both sides of the issue. The negotiations that followed the Greensboro sit-in lasted throughout March, without success. In the spring and summer of 1960, African Americans reinitiated picket lines and instituted a boycott of Woolworth's. Finally, the economic pressure and national support for the protesters, led management to agree to desegregate as long as other downtown Greensboro lunch counters did the same. On July 25, 1960, F.W. Woolworth employees Charles Bess, Mattie Long, Susie Morrison and Jamie Robinson became the first African Americans to eat at the lunch counter.16

Students were the primary force behind the Greensboro and many subsequent sit-ins. The national activist organization, Congress on Racial Equality (CORE), sent representatives to North Carolina to offer assistance, but each local group acted on its own accord. Free from the fear of job loss, the students could act where their elders often could not. In its history of the sit-in movement, CORE's website states that about 70,000 students participated in sit-ins or support marches throughout the country during 1960. This background of student involvement would later be important to the civil rights story in Kinston and other communities.17

The effect of the Greensboro sit-in was far-reaching. On February 10, 1960, a Charlotte UPI report stated that “lunch counters in a dozen dime and department stores closed here today and in Winston-Salem and Fayetteville as Negro protest against segregated eating facilities spread across North Carolina.” By the end of the month, sit-ins had been staged in more than thirty cities in eight states. In North Carolina, sit-ins were held in Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Durham, Elizabeth City, Fayetteville, High Point, and Raleigh. By the end of March, fifty-five cities in thirteen states witnessed sit-ins. By the end of 1960, civil rights demonstrations had spread “to nearly every city in the South” and “more than 100 towns had already desegregated their lunch counters.”18

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15 Ibid, 111-4 and 116.
Kinston was a small city of 25,000 in 1950. The racial makeup of the city was about 55 percent white and 45 percent nonwhite. Civil rights activities were well under way in Kinston during the 1950s, highlighted by the important 1951 Adkin High School walk-out. On November 22, 1951, about 600 students from grades seven through twelve at Adkin High School left classes in protest. The students lobbied for a school gymnasium as the Adkin gym had recently burned, repairs and upgrades to other building facilities, new textbooks and equipment, and other items to bring their school's condition up to the standard of the all-white Grainger High School. Led by the Class of 1952, the walk-out was organized by the students without the knowledge of school staff in order to avoid negative impacts for the adults. The carefully planned walk-out was signaled when a false announcement “Carolyn Coefield has lost her red pocketbook” was made over the intercom. Without blocking streets or sidewalks, the students marched downtown to the courthouse. After the demonstration, Adkin High Principal C. B. Stewart contacted the Citizen's Welfare League for help. This was a local group of African Americans who worked for racial equality and the welfare of other African Americans. League member and local activist, Mrs. Alice Hannibal, stepped in to speak for the students. A court case was brought by parents (including Mrs. Hannibal) of several school children in 1952 following the students' actions and a new gym and classrooms were built at Adkin High School. Details of the court case were reported in Durham's African American newspaper the Carolina Times, which stated that although forty-seven percent of Kinston students were black, they had access to only twenty-eight percent of the county's library books and only forty-four percent of the city's school property. The gym and overcrowded classrooms were also specified. The news report goes on to discuss the “orderly two-day strike and parade” that preceded the lawsuit.

Sometime during the 1954-1955 period, local youth Samuel Dove refused to give up his seat to a white person on a Kinston city bus. In the aftermath of the incident, local African American activist, Mrs. Alice Hannibal, initiated a suit with the ICC to force the city to abandon its segregated bus policies. The suit ended when Kinston officials shut down bus service altogether rather than integrate. The city has not had bus service since, according to Mr. Dove.

Nearly a decade later, civil rights activists in Kinston worked to desegregate the city's businesses and schools rather than make equal facilities available. This shift in policy followed state and national trends and was certainly influenced by the sit-ins of the early 1960s and the flurry of peaceful demonstrations that followed. The stage for the civil rights story in Kinston during the early 1960s can be set with an understanding of who was undertaking the role of activist. While older college students were driving the Civil Rights movement across the state and nation, in Kinston, teenagers took up the cause. The NAACP Youth Council was founded in 1943 and produced untold numbers of civil rights leaders including one of the young men at the Greensboro sit-in. The Kinston NAACP chapter was organized in 1956 with George Marks as

21 Samuel Dove, oral history interview, Sherry Wyatt 17 July 2014.
Mrs. Hannibal was one of two devoted women who guided the Kinston NAACP Youth Council and lead Kinston’s civil rights movement; the other was Annie Whitehead. A native of Onslow County, Mrs. Whitehead and her husband moved to Kinston in 1954. Disturbed by poor conditions for African Americans in Kinston, she “set out on a mission to provide change.” Mrs. Whitehead met Alice Hannibal in 1956 as the latter was planning her city council campaign. Gregor Hannibal recalled the work of his mother and Mrs. Whitehead in a 2006 *Free Press* article following a ceremony honoring Mrs. Whitehead: "Many of the gains (voter registration, adult education, and integration of businesses, restaurants and theaters) back then were accomplished because of her work,” he said. Mrs. Whitehead stated some of her recollections in another 2006 interview: “It was terrible, it was a bad feeling, it felt like you wasn't even a human being. But to tell you the truth, they didn't think we were.” Mrs. Whitehead assisted Mrs. Hannibal's campaign effort by coaching potential African American voters to pass the voting test: writing their name and reciting parts of the constitution. Mrs Whitehead helped form the Citizen Improvement Association, which was aimed at voter registration and work to alleviate the rampant poverty among African Americans in Kinston.

Mrs. Whitehead's oral history makes it clear that there was not always complete agreement within the African American community about how, when, and what social change should happen. After losing her city council seat, Alice Hannibal ran for county commissioner. During that campaign, the male leaders of the Citizen Improvement Association gave their support to a male candidate. In response, Mrs. Whitehead helped to found the Volunteer Housewives Association that worked to forge the way for equality by promoting education, fighting poverty, and helping to register 3,000 new Lenoir County voters in the 1960s. The group's voter education program, which included volunteers to escort applicants through the process at the courthouse, became a model eventually used statewide. The group grew into the Concerned Citizens of Kinston. Mrs. Whitehead was appointed by Gov. Bob Scott to the North Carolina Board of Health's Advisory Committee for Medical Assistance in 1969 and served six years. Also about this time, Mrs. Whitehead was offered a radio show. According to Mrs. Whitehead the station owner, Jack Rider, used the station to espouse racism and hate-speech. When he was forced to racially diversify his station, Mrs. Whitehead became the host of a talk show called “The Spot Light.” As time passed, Mrs. Whitehead's calm and welcoming demeanor on the air won Jack Rider's respect. Mr. Rider made his feelings public by issuing compliments to Mrs. Whitehead on the air.

Mrs. Whitehead recalled the dangers of her activism: “As we were out there doing these things it was real dangerous because we got threats, we got phone calls . . . When I talk about it,

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22 Ibid; Chafe, 337; and Annie Whitehead, oral history interview by Sarah Woodard David, 20 June 2014, Kinston, N.C.
it just hurt[s] me so bad it almost brings me to tears what we went through.” What Mrs. Whitehead went through was at times harrowing. She recalled that KKK marches through town were common and that crosses were burned in her yard as well as at the Hannibals. Another time, someone threw a torch through the window of her home. Once, an armed Klansman came to Mrs. Whitehead's front door. She opened the door and invited him in, which completely unnerved him and other Klan members. She concluded her 2012 interview by placing an emphasis on duty and responsibility stating: “Each one of us owes something to society in the community where we live.”

The power of the vote played an important role in Kinston's civil rights history. Alice Stateman Hannibal was a New Jersey native and was a strong advocate for civil rights. In 1959, she became the first woman and the first African American to be elected to the Kinston Board of Aldermen. Her election was reported in the Statesville Record and Landmark on May 6, 1959. The report stated that city elections produced “several surprising – and impressive – victories by Negro candidates.” Mrs. Hannibal had been the third highest vote-getter in a field of twenty-one candidates vying for five council seats. Mrs. Hannibal's husband, Dr. J. J. Hannibal, was a native of the West Indies who was among the few black physicians in the area. Dedicated to helping their community the Hannibals are today honored in various ways in Kinston for their service: Dr. Hannibal was inducted into the Lenoir Memorial Hospital Wall of Honor and the Hannibal Building in downtown Kinston is named for Mrs. Hannibal.

Another activist was Samuel Dove. Still a teenager, Mr. Dove was a senior at Adkin High School in 1960 and was living with his family in Mitchell Wooten Courts housing complex in Kinston. A few weeks after the 1960 Greensboro sit-in, Mr. Dove and his friends Curtis Henderson and Thomas Henderson staged a sit-in at Standard Drug #2 although their action was known to few people other than the participants and witnesses. Inspired by the Greensboro events, the youths made a careful plan. With Thomas Henderson posted outside the building to serve as the "look-out" in case of "trouble," Dove and Curtis Henderson, who was Thomas' brother, went into the drugstore. Mr. Dove was an excellent student in French and the pair used this to their advantage. Dove introduced Curtis Henderson to the white waitress as an African diplomat from Washington. This subterfuge included Mr. Dove speaking French to Curtis Henderson who replied in gibberish. Mr. Dove "translated" Henderson's food order of eggs, bacon, and coffee to the waitress. She hesitated, Mr. Dove recalled, and went to get the "young manager" who responded to the word "Washington" in the introduction and ordered the food to be prepared. An African American waitress, who happened to be a neighbor of Mr. Dove's, wanted to be the one to deliver the plate to the false ambassador. When she started towards them with the plate and realized who it really was, “she nearly dropped the plate,” Mr. Dove said. She then asked the white waitress to make the delivery. Mr. Dove remained standing at the counter beside Curtis Henderson until he was nearly finished with his meal when Dove too, took a seat. The pair paid the bill and left the building. Mr. Dove remembered that the three youths "ran all

25 Klindworth; and Annie Whitehead, oral history.
27 Ibid.
the way back to East Kinston." Fearing repercussions for themselves and their parents (both of the boys' mothers were ministers) they did not publicize their act.28

While the 1960 sit-in may not have had lasting effects, in retrospect, it illustrates the increasing dissatisfaction among many Kinston African Americans with the status quo. The 1960 sit-in was following in February 1961 with a second sit-in at Standard Drug #2. Annie Whitehead was a participant at the 1961 sit-in. She recalls that the group of about twenty protesters marched to Standard Drug #2 and looking in the windows, saw that the group of white customers, whom she refers to as “the officials,” were “meeting.” Her description of the event highlights the tradition of important political gatherings held over meals at the lunch counter. Mrs. Whitehead also notes that Standard Drug #2 was chosen specifically because of its prominent role in Kinston politics.29

The sit-in began as youths Simeon White and William Cheeks “rushed” inside the lunch counter and claimed the only two vacant seats, while other members rushed to the front door. The hurried actions of the group caused anger and panic among the white patrons, many of whom ran out the back door. Mrs. Whitehead found their reaction ironic since the back door had long served as the African American entrance to the store.30

The protesters sat at the counter, ordering and eating for about two hours. They were served and, according to Mrs. Whitehead, not asked to leave. Afterwards the group returned to their Youth Council headquarters. An oral history account from George Skinner, who was the store manager during the 1950s and 1960s, differs slightly in the details. Mr. Skinner recalls that the protesters were served, but were eventually asked to leave. According to Mr. Skinner the store closed for a short time “in order to keep everyone calm,” but reopened later that day. Mrs. Whitehead remembers that for several days following the sit-in, African Americans returned to the lunch counter and continued to be served. Change at the Standard Drug #2, occurred peacefully in large measure because of store owner Henry Suddreth's willingness to change policy. Mrs. Whitehead now feels that Suddreth lost business over the incident, but that he “was very nice about it - acted like it didn’t bother him.” Mr. Skinner's recollections about Mr. Suddreth fit with this picture. According to Skinner, Standard Drug #2 was one of the first businesses in Kinston to hire African Americans to “work in front” serving food. He himself hired several young African American women to work at the counter.31

The after effects of the Standard Drug #2 sit-in are recorded in a news report in the Carolina Times on June 13, 1963. The article, which is about later protests at downtown Kinston businesses stated simply: “Lunch counters in Kinston desegregated in December 1961.” The discrepancy between the December date and the recollections of Mrs. Whitehead may have a number of explanations. The most likely is that the varying dates reflect the delay between the Standard Drug #2 sit-in and desegregation actions among other drugstore owners. This is supported by a February 3, 1963, article in the Carolina Times giving a review of the activities of the Youth Council chapters statewide. The Kinston Youth Council reported that “after brief sit-

28 Samuel Dove, oral history.
30 Annie Whitehead, oral history.
31 Annie Whitehead, oral history and George Skinner, oral history interview by Sarah Woodard David, 13 June 2014.
ins, the group was successful in getting the management of ten drugstores to drop their segregated lunch counter policy." The names of all of these drugstores are not known, but Kinston drugstores in 1960 included: the six Standard Drug stores, College Street Pharmacy, Hogan's Pharmacy, J. E. Hood & Co., Hood's Prescription Shop, Hood's Rexall Drugs, Lenior Drug Co., Parkview Drug Co., Sewall's Pharmacy, and Temple Drug. It should be noted that Mrs. Whitehead reports that the only lunch counter sit-in held in Kinston was at Standard Drug # 2. Mr. Skinner recalls that Standard Drug owner, Henry Suddereth, was one of the business owners who met with the protesters to arrange a date for integration.32

The period between 1961 and 1963 was an active one in the long civil rights struggle in Kinston. On December 23, 1961, page one of the Carolina Times announced "Kinston Stores to Discuss Fair Employment." A meeting of merchants, city officials, and members of the NAACP was announced for January 1962 after four local stores targeted on the "Negro citizen's boycott list" agreed to conditions set by the NAACP Youth Council. The stores were Brody's, Belk-Tyler, and Pearson department stores all on North Queen Street as well as the Winn-Dixie grocery store. Annie Whitehead and George Marks were the primary adult organizers of this action and in the interview with Mrs. Whitehead she adds H. L. Green five and dime store to the list of businesses targeted for picketing.33

Although no news report was found, the meeting set for January 1962 apparently did not produce the desired results. On March 9, 1962, the Statesville Record and Landmark reported that the “Kinston Youth Council of the NAACP has announced resumption of a selective buying campaign” against five stores: Brody, Belk-Tyler, Pearson and Green department stores all on N. Queen Street and the Piggly Wiggly food store. The “selective buying campaign” referred to the economic boycott of these stores.34

In the midst of the campaign to desegregate downtown Kinston businesses, the October 1962 Kinston Bicentennial celebration also became a rallying point for protestors. Celebration planners offered African American leaders a budget of $400 if they would organize a separate black event. This brought a refusal from adults and protests from youths. Among the protestors at the city council meeting was Mrs. Annie Whitehead. She recalls that so many protestors came to the meeting the council was forced to move to the courthouse for more space. Tensions eased until the Deputy Mayor of Kingston, Jamaica, an invited special guest, was denied a room at the downtown all-white hotel. A personal apology from Governor Sanford was issued to the people of Jamaica.35

The work to desegregate Kinston businesses continued through 1962 and into 1963 with protests, picketing and meetings with Kinston businessmen. The meetings were recalled by Margret Dickson; she remembers Simeon White, William Cheeks, and Dan Clark met with businessmen to arrange a desegregation plan. The youths were prepared for their meeting by well-known North Carolina African American civil rights lawyer Floyd McKissick and local activist leader Alice Hannibal. On June 13, 1963, the Kinston Free Press reported an

32 Carolina Times, 3 February 1963; 1960 City Directory; Annie Whitehead, oral history; and George Skinner, oral history.
33 Annie Whitehead, oral history and Carolina Times, 23 December 1961. Note: No Winn-Dixie was listed in the 1960 City Directory, this may have actually been the Piggly-Wiggly on Gordon Street.
34 Statesville Record and Landmark, 9 March 1962.
35 Carolina Times, Durham, 20 October 1962 and Annie Whitehead, oral history.
announcement by local businessmen that downtown hotels and thirty-eight restaurants, cafes, cafeterias and drive-ins were voluntarily lowering racial barriers. The claims of voluntary action, may have been somewhat overstated, however, as the *High Point Enterprise* reported on June 14, 1963, that the businessmen's announcement followed three days of demonstrations.36

Still more protests immediately followed the June 13 hotel-restaurant announcement. Young demonstrators were this time arrested for blocking the entrance to the Paramount Theater on Queen Street. Annie Whitehead described this event as a “mob” of people that included protesters from out of town. According to the *Free Press*, 111 young people ages 10 to 22 (including 52 juveniles less than age 16) were summoned to Recorder's Court with charges ranging from trespassing to disturbing the peace and obstructing sidewalks after a 6:00 p.m. incident on June 13, 1963. The young people who were arrested had been denied admission to the theater, but refused to leave. Other reports indicated there were only 50 arrests.37

Demonstrations against downtown businesses during 1961-1963 described by the scant news reports and oral history were two-pronged: physical protests (the sit-in and picketing) and quieter, but effective, boycotts. Annie Whitehead, who like Mrs. Hannibal served as a leader for the Kinston Chapter of the NAACP Youth Council, helped with these activities. Mrs. Whitehead said in a 2006 interview: “After we started killing their business, then they began to want to negotiate and talk with us.” Youths did most of the picketing because adults were afraid of losing their jobs. Margaret Dixon was one of these youths. She recalls seeing her teachers cross the picket lines to shop saying that “really hurt me to the bone,” but she went on to acknowledge that she understood that they wanted to keep their jobs.38

Civil rights activists in Kinston were attacking many areas of segregation during the early 1960s. In 1963-1964, Gregor Hannibal, the son of Dr. J. J. and Alice Hannibal, was one of two students who integrated Kinston's Grainger High School. Gregor Hannibal recalled in a 2012 interview: "To knowingly walk into a world where you are not wanted is very, for a 12, 13 year old kid, it's almost surreal.” Mr. Hannibal remembered radio announcers calling for action against the Hannibal family; there were teachers who never spoke to him in class. The family's participation in civil rights protests drew unwanted attention. Mr. Hannibal's recollections were reminiscent of those of Mrs. Whitehead. He recalled that “. . . we had 3 crosses burned in our yard, death threats, constantly, we lived in fear.”39 Although there were times, he said, when he wanted out, Mr. Hannibal went on to graduate from Grainger High School. Dedicated to helping their community, the Hannibals are today honored in various ways in Kinston for their service:

Standard Drug # 2                  Lenoir Co., NC
Name of Property                   County and State

Dr. Hannibal was inducted into the Lenoir Memorial Hospital Wall of Honor and the Hannibal Building in downtown Kinston is named for Mrs. Hannibal.40

The history of the sit-ins at Standard Drug # 2 are not written down in any single source. The racial attitudes of the time perhaps contribute to the lack of contemporary documentation. No news report of either sit-in at the Standard Drug # 2 has been found. Samuel Dove who went on to be heavily involved in the Civil Rights movement as a college student, recalled that white leaders and the white media "suppressed anything out of the black community at that time…” It is clear that the Standard Drug sit-ins were part of many relatively small events that make up a tremendous effort to achieve racial equality. Pressure by the NAACP Youth Council, with dedicated leaders Alice Hannibal and Annie Whitehead, brought about the desegregation of many business places in Kinston from 1961 through summer 1963. Business establishments on Queen Street, like Standard Drug # 2, were economically and culturally important within the Kinston community, making them obvious targets for demonstrations. The buildings that were part of this landscape of social change have apparently not been the focus of preservation activities. The Paramount Theater still stands and is in the Queen Street National Register Historic District, but the department stores mentioned in the newspaper accounts of the civil rights demonstrations (the addresses were found in the 1960 city directory) are not mentioned in either the Kinston or Queen Street historic districts. This makes the preservation and documentation of the Standard Drug # 2 of even greater importance.

40   Ibid.
9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


*Carolina Times*, Durham, N.C., 8 March 1952
16 March 1952
23 December 1961
20 October 1962
3 February 1963 accessed at DigitalNC database.


Dickson, Margret. Oral history by Sarah Woodard David, 20 June 2014,


*Hill's Kinston City Directory* for 1921; 1923-1924; and 1928.

Standard Drug # 2


Kinston Daily Free Press, 13 June 1963


Kohler, Mike. Facebook post, February 9, 2012, screenshot provided by Judy Johnson.

“Lenoir County Community College History” accessed at <http://www.lenoircc.edu/Publish/2%20History.htm>.


Sanborn Maps for 1896, 1914, and 1925.


Previous documentation on file (NPS):
Standard Drug # 2
Name of Property: ________________________________

Lenoir Co., NC
County and State: ________________________________

___ 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 # __________
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # ____________

Primary location of additional data:
___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
   Name of repository: ______________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): __LR1437________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __.06_____________
Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: ____________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
1. Latitude: 35.260137   Longitude: -77.580839

2. Latitude:               Longitude:

3. Latitude:               Longitude:

4. Latitude:               Longitude:

Or

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927  or  [ ] NAD 1983
**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The boundary of the Standard Drug # 2 is shown as a bold solid line around parcel 13296 on the accompanying map labeled “Standard Drug # 2, Kinston, Lenoir County, North Carolina” at a scale of one inch to 115 feet.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary encompasses the property historically associated with the Standard Drug #2 building.

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
Standard Drug # 2
Name of Property: Standard Drug # 2

Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn’t need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Standard Drug # 2
City or Vicinity: Kinston
County: Lenoir County
State: North Carolina
Photographer: Sarah Woodard David. Digital files are at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation, Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh.

Date Photographed: December 2013
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera

1. Queen Street (west) elevation
2. Caswell Street (north) elevation
3. First floor, main room, from front of the store looking back
4. First floor, main room, lunch counter
5. First floor, main room, lunch counter detail
6. First floor, main room, ceiling detail
7. Second floor, from front of the building looking toward the back
8. Second floor, typical doors

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.
Standard Drug # 2
Kinston, Lenoir County, N.C
Standard Drug #2 parcel # 13296 outlined in bold
Tax Map accessed July 2014 via Lenoir County Online Mapping Services, http://www.co.lenoir.nc.us/docs/disclaim.htm
Standard Drug #2
National Register Nomination
100 South Queen St., Kinston, Lenoir County, N.C.
35.260106° -77.580935°