

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Lumberton Commercial Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Elm, Chestnut, First-Fifth streets not for publication N/A
city, town Lumberton vicinity N/A
state North Carolina code NC county Robeson code 155 zip code 28358

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>66</u>	<u>23</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>67</u>	<u>23</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

William S. Price 11/13/89
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: specialty stores
Commerce/Trade: financial institutions
Commerce/Trade: warehouse
Commerce/Trade: department stores
Transportation: rail-related

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: specialty stores
Commerce/Trade: financial institutions
Commerce/Trade: warehouse
Commerce/Trade: restaurant
Transportation: rail-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Commercial style
Classical revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Brick
roof unknown
other rusticated concrete block

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Lumberton, located in east central Robeson County, is the largest town (population 18,340) and the governmental, commercial and residential center of the rural county. Robeson, North Carolina's largest county with 949 square miles, lies in the southeastern coastal plain section of the state and borders South Carolina. The irregularly shaped, compact, Lumberton Commercial Historic District encompasses 89 commercial structures dating from c. 1840 to c. 1941. The majority of the district's structures date from c. 1890 to c. 1920, a major period in the town's growth. The district also includes one site, a portion of the east bank of the Lumber River, between Fourth and Fifth streets. The scenic river, an important early transportation route, forms the western border of the central business district; the riverbank is now used as a linear urban park/greenspace. The flat terrain of Robeson County is reflected in the level, evenly spaced street layout of the district.

The historic district's buildings comprise the oldest portion of the central business district and are located along portions of the area's principal north-south streets, Elm and Chestnut streets, and the principal east-west cross streets, First through Fifth streets. The boundaries of the district have been drawn to focus on the architecturally and historically significant commercial buildings and to exclude later commercial development to the east and south, a residential neighborhood to the north, and the Robeson County Courthouse and associated parking lots and plazas (constructed, 1979-1980) which stand near the center of the business district. The overscaled, contemporary courthouse is not architecturally compatible with the predominantly early twentieth century downtown area; the open plaza one block south is a departure from the densely developed streetscapes of the central business district. Documentary photographs indicate that a number of early twentieth century vernacular brick commercial buildings were razed in order to create the underutilized and somewhat barren plaza.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 1

The historic district is distinguished by several, largely intact, blocks of masonry commercial buildings. The buildings in the district range in size from one to five stories with the majority two stories, and in extent from individual buildings with a single tenant, to double or triple-storefront buildings with individual entrances, to multi-story buildings which house several tenants. The buildings represent a broad variety of nationally popular architectural styles ranging from various classical and period revival styles to Art Moderne; the district also is characterized by many early twentieth century vernacular brick commercial buildings with either relatively simple or highly ornate decorative brickwork. The integrity of the buildings ranges from those which are intact, such as the (former) Carlyle Law Office (#52) and Planters Building (#45, NR), to the more typical building at 411 N. Elm Street (#12) where street level alterations have occurred but the upper story remains intact, to buildings such as 302 N. Elm Street (#34) where the original facades were altered during the early twentieth century, to those such as the cluster of buildings in the 300 block of N. Elm Street (#s 16-19) where the original main elevations are completely obscured by metal replacement facades. In general, the buildings on the numbered side streets are modest in decoration and scale, with the larger, more ornate buildings lining the main thoroughfares, Elm and Chestnut streets. The most prominent structures and businesses occupy corner lots where their more elaborate designs are displayed on two elevations; these include banks (#s 7, 14, 20, 44, 45), office buildings/retail (#s 8, 25), and a theatre (#36). In usage, most of the retail and office buildings are located north of Second Street; various automobile-related buildings are located along Second Street (#s 70, 73, 74, 75, 76, 80, 82, 83); two major brick warehouse complexes (#s 48, 84, 86) and 87-89) line First Street between Chestnut and Walnut streets; just south of the warehouses is the railroad depot (#50) with railroad-related businesses located nearby (#27).

Lumberton was established in 1787. The area which now comprises the historic district originally contained a mix of residences and businesses. Slowly, over the ensuing 200 years, the district became exclusively commercial. Lumberton is Robeson County's seat, but the town's location on the Lumber River was as important to its growth as the presence of the courthouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 2

As a major eighteenth and nineteenth century transportation route for the area's produce and timber, the Lumber River formed the natural focus of the town's early commercial activity (see #53 for a discussion of the river's importance in Lumberton's initial settlement and commercial development). Most of the early businesses and residences, nearly all of frame construction, lined Water and Elm streets and the numbered side streets near the river. The c. 1840 Proctor Law Office (#3), a typical early nineteenth century one-story gable-roofed brick building (perhaps originally a residence, but in office use since 1869) is the only antebellum building in the district and is the oldest extant structure in Lumberton.

The railroad came to Lumberton in 1860 when a spur of the Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherfordton Railroad Company was completed late that year. In 1865, however, the depot, a mile of track and the railroad bridges over the Lumber River were destroyed by Union troops. The depot (#50) was probably rebuilt during the mid-1870s, although the exact date is unknown. The center portion of the depot exhibits fine decorative corbeled brickwork, arched openings and graceful paired sawn brackets which carry the wide overhanging roofline. The presence of the railroad was instrumental in re-establishing the town's financial stability after the Civil War. Gradually, the focus of the commercial district shifted from the river at Water Street to Elm Street south of Sixth Street. In 1870 and 1876 disastrous fires almost completely destroyed the frame buildings in the commercial district. In response to the fires, a few commercial buildings were rebuilt with brick during the late 1870s; the McLeod Building (#8), built in 1879, is the sole surviving example from this period. The McLeod Building was remodeled in 1905 in the then fashionable Renaissance Revival style and the brick walls were covered with stucco at that time. This large three-story building, with its fine classical detailing which includes arched and pedimented windows and a roof-top balustrade, is one of the most prominent and impressive structures in the district.

Only a handful of other pre-1900 buildings survive in the district and many of those are unrecognizable since their main elevations are covered with aluminum panels (#s 17, 18, 19, 30). In recent years the obscuring aluminum panels were removed from the (former) National Hotel (#29). In May, 1988 Lumberton was designated a "Main Street" community and plans for facade renovations and restorations are being formulated; these plans

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 3

will address the problem of metal replacement facades. In particular, the 300 block of Elm Street, near the district's center, has several visually jarring aluminum-clad structures. However, adjacent buildings are significant, contributing anchors for the district. It is thought that most of the hidden brickwork survives nearly intact. In August 1989 the aluminum panels were successfully removed from the (former) Efird's Department Store (#32) with good results. This was an encouraging initial project for the Main Street program. Other important late nineteenth century buildings have survived largely intact. Among these are the c. 1895 Huggins Star Shoe Shop (#65) and the neighboring building (#66), both ornamented with ornate corbeled brickwork. The c. 1895 building at 302 N. Elm Street (#34) also exhibits elaborate brickwork along its side elevation, but the rather severe main elevation reflects a partial c. 1920 remodeling. The use of cast iron and tin, primarily for cornices, continued into the early years of the twentieth century (#s 12, 23, 39, 44). The Southern Express Building (#27), built c. 1910 and recently restored, is particularly notable because it displays the town's only extant row of cast iron storefronts.

The vast majority of the buildings within the historic district were constructed between 1900 and 1920. Several of these have handsome classical details, reflecting the national popularity of various classical revival styles during those decades. The dignified orderliness of the classical styles appealed to the builders of the town's banks. For instance, the (former) Bank of Lumberton (#14), built c. 1904, is a good example of the cubical Renaissance Revival style; the first story has been altered, but the upper stories retain string courses, arched windows, a pronounced tin cornice and a windowless attic with decoratively screened vents. The (former) National Bank of Lumberton (#20), erected in 1914, is an excellent example of the full-blown Neo-Classical Revival style; it displays a wealth of classical details including Corinthian columns and elaborate carved cornices and window and door surrounds. More restrained, but equally elegant Neo-Classical Revival style buildings include the Planters Bank Building (#45, NR), the (former) First National Bank Building (#7) and the Carolina Theatre (#36, NR). Other buildings in the district

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 4

exhibit an imaginative combination of classical influences and the vigorous decorative brickwork more characteristic of Lumberton's commercial buildings. Examples include the (former) Farmers & Merchants Bank (#44) which is ornamented with a cast iron cornice, raised brick panels and molding, and molded stone pilaster capitals; and the imposing three-story Dresden Cotton Mills Office Building (#25) with a prominent stone cartouche centered on the main elevation and contrasting masonry which is flat for lintels and keystones and molded for the cornice and pilaster capitals. The Colonial Revival style, a more domestic-scale and eclectic classical revival style, is also represented in the district in the (former) Lumberton Municipal Building (#35) constructed in 1917. This dignified building displays classically influenced features typical of the style including a high slate-covered hip roof crowned with a wooden balustrade and cupola, modillion cornice, tripartite windows and an elaborate main entrance fashioned after a Palladian window.

Some of the most striking buildings in the historic district dating from the turn of this century have no readily labeled style. Instead, they are ornamented with extraordinary sculptural brickwork, generally concentrated at the eaves and second story windows. The names of the talented masons who created these facades are unknown. Especially fine groups of such buildings are located on the east side of the 400 block of Chestnut Street (#s 39-44) and the 100 block of Fourth Street (#s 63-66), with other good individual examples of the masons' art scattered throughout the district (#s 6, 23, 24, 34, 88). The Barnes-Stephens Building at 414-416 N. Chestnut Street (#41) and the Huggins Star Shoe Shop at 111 W. Fourth Street (#65) exemplify these highly ornamented vernacular commercial buildings. The Barnes-Stephens Building features a stepped parapet and eave with corbeled pendants, recessed corbeled flat lintels and drop pendants at the windows, corbeled dentils, a projecting pier with corbeled cap and multiple rows of mousetoothing. An exuberant display of corbeled pendants of alternating lengths and rows of brick dentils almost overwhelms the main elevation of the one-story Huggins Shoe Shop. While most of the buildings with ornamental brickwork date from c. 1895-c. 1920, an exception is the eastern portion of the warehouse complex located at 102 N. Chestnut (#84), erected

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson county

Section number 7 Page 5

c. 1946. Here corbeling is utilized to create a Art Moderne-influenced striated base and vertical lines which suggest pilasters. (This portion of the warehouse complex must be considered non-contributing because it does not meet the age criterion.)

In addition to the classical revival buildings in the district, a variety of other period revival styles are represented, particularly in the designs for small buildings which provide interesting accent notes in the streetscapes. The Stephens Funeral Home (#1) was constructed c. 1936 in an imaginative version of the Spanish Colonial Revival style. This intact residential-scaled building displays smooth stuccoed walls, terra cotta tiled shed roof overhangs, an arched center parapet at the roofline and a stepped parapet at the projecting arched entry porch and paired arched casement windows separated by Corinthian half columns; the arched parapet and terra cotta tiled overhangs are repeated on the attached garage. Period revival styles were popular for "first generation" early gas stations. Stylistic identification with an earlier period glamorized the building and the familiar, often residential, styles utilized were comfortable and easily identifiable for the customer. Two of the more popular gas station styles in North Carolina were the Spanish Mission and English Tudor revivals. The Spanish Mission style was used for a gas station constructed c. 1935 at 221 E. Second Street (#75). The building is characterized by stuccoed walls, bulky corner piers and a roof covered with red terra cotta tiles. The Pure Oil Company erected Tudor Revival style gas stations all across the state in the 1920s and 1930s. Many of these buildings survive in various states of preservation, sometimes recognizable only by their characteristic steeply pitched gable roofs. Lumberton's (former) Pure Oil station at 118 W. Second Street (#s 70 and 71) is virtually intact, displaying a steep multi-gable roofline, nonfunctional decorative chimney stacks marked with a Gothic style letter "P" on the most prominent stack, applied half-timbering, an arched "cottage" door main entrance and a bay window with copper hood. The Lumberton Pure Oil station departs from the norm somewhat in that the brick wall surfaces are skinteled rather than smooth.

The full-blown Art Moderne style is represented in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 6

district by the diminutive building at 310 N. Elm Street (#31). This intact building exemplifies the smooth, rounded and streamlined look of this popular style of the 1930s and 1940s. It has a curved plate glass display window and a vivid maroon and peach color scheme used for the mirror glass panels outlining the display window and for the abstract geometric pattern of the entryway floor.

There are two notable recent adaptive reuse projects in the historic district. In 1975 a local architect purchased and remodeled the building at 407 N. Elm Street (#13) as office space for her firm and a bank. The owner designed a graceful and compatible new recessed main entrance marked by four arched, corbeled openings which echo the arched form of the original second story windows. The other adaptively reused commercial building is located at 121 W. Fourth Street (#61). Here, two storefronts were combined to create an airy, open restaurant which retains the original pressed tin ceiling. Lumberton's Economic Development Office has targeted this block of Fourth Street for redevelopment and plans are being made for other restaurants and specialty shops to locate here.

Seventy-four percent (or 67 of the district's 90 resources) are counted as "contributing." These buildings are intact or have altered first stories with intact second stories. Twenty-six per cent (or 23 of the district's resources) are counted as "non-contributing." Many of the non-contributing buildings were "modernized" in the 1950s and 1960s with the application of aluminum panels which completely obscure the original main elevations (#s 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 30). Other non-contributing buildings have received new brick veneer facades, often coupled with large pent roof overhangs, (#s 2, 5, 26, 37, 67) or do not meet the age criteria (#s 38, 49, 80, 81, 82, 84). The Art Moderne influenced brick warehouse (#84) located at the Second and Walnut streets was included within the district boundaries because it is an integral part of the adjoining contributing warehouses (#s 48 and 86) and because it visually reinforces the established character of the streetscape in that area. One of the non-contributing buildings (#54) has been so altered as to lose its architectural integrity. The non-contributing structures do not severely detract from the overall historic character of the district.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 7

The Lumberton Commercial Historic District survives as a clear statement of the town's importance as a late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial center.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 8

INVENTORY LIST - LUMBERTON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Numbering system: The following inventory list includes all properties located within the Lumberton Commercial Historic District, keyed by number to the inventory map. The inventory list and map are numbered according to the following system: beginning with the two principal north-south streets, Elm and Chestnut streets, the buildings are numbered from north to south, running first along the west side of the street, then along the east side; the principal east-west cross streets, First through Sixth streets, are numbered from north to south, running first along the north side, then along the south side of the streets.

Assessment: All properties are coded by letter as contributing (C) or non-contributing (NC) according to their relative architectural and/or historical significance within the district, and these assessments are, in turn, coded on the inventory map.

Dating: Dates are based on information available from Sanborn Insurance Maps for Lumberton: 1893, 1898, 1904, 1908, 1914, 1924; from a newspaper column entitled "Now and Then News" by R.G. Cashwell written between 1968 and 1975 for the Robesonian, Robeson County's major daily newspaper; from a variety of miscellaneous newspaper articles; from documentary photographs; from information supplied by past and present tenants or owners; from field notes compiled by various principal investigators during 1979-1980 and 1989 surveys and inventories of the district (working files on deposit at North Carolina Division of Archives and History in Raleigh, N.C.); and from entries contained in Diane E. Lea and Claudia P. Roberts' An Architectural and Historical Survey of Central Lumberton, N.C., North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C., 1980.

Information Sources: In parentheses following each entry is an abbreviated notation citing the principal sources of information used in the inventory list. The notations are as follows:

SM - Sanborn Maps

RC - R.G. Cashwell's "Now and Then News" newspaper articles

N - Miscellaneous newspaper articles included in the working files

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 9

- O - Information supplied by property owner or tenant
AH - North Carolina Division of Archives and History, working files compiled during 1979-1980 and 1989 inventories of portions of the City of Lumberton
AS - An Architectural and Historical Survey of Central Lumberton, North Carolina (see above). Inventory List entries quoted or adapted from entries in this publication.
DP - Documentary photos
-

1. (former) Stephens' Funeral Home
605 N. Elm Street
c. 1936-1939
C

Intact, one-story Spanish Colonial Revival style building with flat roof; smooth stuccoed walls; terra cotta tiled shed roof overhangs and gabled porch roof; cleanly incised window and door openings; centered arched parapet at the roofline; stepped parapet at the projecting arched entry porch; paired six-light casement windows topped with arched two-light lunettes (pairs separated by a Corinthian half-column); and attached garage set back at the left (south) with one wide bay ornamented with a shallow arched parapet and terra cotta shed roof overhangs. Stephens Funeral Home, established in 1912 and originally located on the second floor of the Barnes-Stephens Building (#41), erected this building in the late 1930s and was located here for approximately fifty years. At present the building is occupied by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints. (RC, SM, AS)

2. Office Building
601 N. Elm Street
1982
NC

Small, one-story rectangular brick-veneered office building with large eighteen-light fixed windows flanking the main entrance. Located on the site of the old Lumberton Hotel and Opera House (destroyed c. 1975). During the early years of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 10

this century the Opera House hosted traveling road shows and in the early 1910s was used for showing silent movies. The derelict hotel was torn down in the mid-1970s and the vacant site used as a parking lot for several years until 1982 when the present office building was constructed for a finance company. (RC, O, SM)

3. Proctor Law Office
517 N. Elm Street
c. 1840
C

This one-story, one-room rectangular gable-roofed brick building constructed c. 1840 is the oldest extant structure in Lumberton. The building is characterized by six-over-six windows with plastered lintels, trabeated entrance with sidelights and transoms, standing seam metal roof, and interior end chimney. Documentary photographs reveal that the building had a hip-roofed porch as late as 1960 (porch removed at unknown date). Windows on both the west and north elevations have wooden aprons and were originally doorways (alteration date unknown). The early history of the building is uncertain. According to local tradition, the 19' by 42' building, constructed of hand-made brick, originally served as a dwelling built by the Rhodes family who owned the land from c. 1790 until 1869 when it was purchased by Edward Knox Proctor who had moved to Lumberton from Connecticut. Proctor's deed refers to the structure as a "brick store building." At that time the building had two separate, non-communicating rooms; one of the rooms served as the local Post Office and the other was used as a hardware store operated by Mr. Proctor. From the 1880s until the late 1930s the building housed law offices, initially for the firm of Proctor, Lawrence and McIntyre until the mid-1920s and then for attorney Robert Proctor, son of Edward Knox Proctor. According to Mrs. Donald P. Sanders, Edward Proctor's daughter (quoted in a 1967 newspaper article), about 1900 a barn was located behind the house and a man-drawn fire truck was parked there. Mrs. Sanders also recalled that one of the first telephones in Lumberton was located in the office. After the late 1930s the building housed various commercial enterprises until 1975 when it was acquired by a local

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 11

preservation organization, Historic Robeson, and subsequently rehabilitated as a house museum and community meeting space. An examination of the building's fabric and the Sanborn Maps, indicates that the building has undergone a number of alterations during its long history. The 1893 Sanborn Map reveals that the building was then almost twice its present size (and nearly square in floor plan), and was used as an office, hardware store, and post office. Between 1893 and 1898 the structure was altered to its current configuration. According to local tradition, at some point in the late nineteenth century a top half-story was removed and the brickwork in the gables substantiates this alteration, possibly done when the building was reduced to its present rectangular shape. Only one fireplace (with a handsome molded and paneled mantel) served the building; when the building contained two separate non-communicating offices a stove might have been used in the other room. In 1977 a handsome c. 1850 wrought iron fence, which once encircled former Governor Angus W. McLean's Lumberton home, was donated to Historic Robeson. The fencing was installed around a small recreated formal garden located along the south side of the building. (SM, RC, N, AH, AS, O)

4. Commercial Building
513 N. Elm Street
1939
C

Two-story red brick commercial building with symmetrically stepped parapet; main elevation veneered in two shades of large yellow bricks, the lighter bricks slightly recessed in bands extending from the windows to the roofline, creating a striped effect. The windows on the main elevation, composed of two vertical panes over a shorter horizontal pane, are late (c. 1970s?) replacements; thirty-six light metal trimmed casement windows are located on the second story side elevations. The building originally housed the D.G. Best & Son Furniture Company. Firestone Home and Auto Store has been located here since the early 1950s. (AH, O)

5. Commercial Building
507-509 N. Elm Street
c. 1930
NC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 12

One-story brick commercial building with two storefronts, recently renovated with new mottled brick veneer main facade and a large, exaggerated pent roof which extends almost to the stepped pediment roofline and across both storefronts. Photographs taken in 1980 indicate the storefronts were originally recessed and one of the storefronts retained its original double-leaf main entrance. Firestone Auto & Home combined the stores in the 1940s and was located here before moving next door (#4). (AH, O)

6. Commercial Building
503 N. Elm Street
c. 1910
C

Two-story, single-storefront brick commercial building with altered first story and intact second story. The building retains original trio of second story one-over-one sash windows set in a slightly recessed panel and elaborate decorative brick work concentrated above these windows and at the eaves. The fancy brickwork includes a staggered corbeled string course with a row of mousetoothing above, corbeled lintels with brick "dentils" topped by a triple row of corbeling underscored with a row of recessed mousetoothing, and a bold row of corbeled pendants at the eave of the flat roof. According to the Sanborn Maps a two-story frame store and bicycle repair shop was located on this site from c. 1893 to 1904. The lot was vacant in 1908. The present brick building, then housing a grocery store, appears on the 1914 map, and the 1924 map indicates the building was the location of a general store. At present the building houses law offices. (SM, AH)

7. (former) First National Bank Building
501 N. Elm Street
c. 1924
C

Largely unaltered, substantial Neo-Classical Revival style ochre-colored brick building constructed about 1920 to house the First National Bank. Classical details include stuccoed panels above the one-over-one second story windows, molded string course and cornice, arched window openings topped by stuccoed panels, arched deeply recessed main entrance framed by Tuscan columns, and scrolled consoles which support a projecting masonry

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Lumberton Commercial Commercial District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 13

(concrete) cornice and simplified pediment. Prior to the bank's construction in the early 1920s, a frame building was located here and used variously as a grocery store (1893), a general store and barber shop (1898), and laundry and barber shop (1904). The lot was vacant in 1908 and then in 1914 a small frame restaurant was located on the site. The bank apparently failed during the Depression and a variety of commercial enterprises have occupied the building since then; Brown House, a crafts store, has been located here since 1975. (SM, AH, AS, O)

8. McLeod Building
433 N. Elm Street
1879; remodeled 1905
C

This striking, well-preserved three-story, six-bay brick building was erected in 1879 and known as the "McLeod Brick Building," after its first tenants, the general retail firm of Pope and McLeod. They were followed by Aaron Weinstein who located his first general merchandise store here in 1897; Weinstein's store occupied the ground floors with offices and perhaps residences on the upper two stories. According to the Sanborn Maps a variety of commercial enterprises were located here in addition to the general merchandise stores, including a millinery shop (1893), dry goods and barber shop (1898), offices and Masonic Hall (1904). In 1905 the building was remodeled in the then fashionable Renaissance Revival style by stuccoing the brick walls and adding rich classical trim. Classical influence is seen in the squat Palladian windows at the ground level; shallow Ionic pilasters extending the height of the upper two stories; alternating pediment and cornice window heads at the second story level and projecting flat lintels at the third, all supported by consoles (all windows, one-over-one sash); and the crowning entablature with closed pediments fronting a roof top balustrade. The window heads, Ionic pilaster capitals, balustrades, and pediments at the roof are all of cast iron. The building has a cutaway corner entrance framed by maroon and green tile panels. The interior has a well-preserved embossed tin ceiling. Upon completion of the 1905 remodeling, the building housed the First National Bank (which later moved across Fifth Street to 501 N. Elm, see #7), Post Office, offices, and Masonic Hall. Alford Hardware Co. has been located here since 1949. (SM, AH, AS)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 14

9. (former) Pastime Theatre
413 N. Elm Street
c. 1890
NC

At present Cato's Department Store occupies this and the adjacent commercial building (#10); both facades are now completely obscured by unifying panels of ribbed aluminum (installed in the early 1980s). The condition of the original brick facades is unknown. This building (the northern half of the present Cato's Store) was constructed by 1898 as a one-story brick gable-roof structure used for a millinery shop (1898) and a grocery (1904-c. 1910) before being remodeled in 1914 for use as the Pastime Theatre, Lumberton's first movie theatre, and occasional use for traveling theatrical productions. In this remodeling the building was lengthened, a second story was added, and the main elevation reworked in the Neo-Classical mode. By 1924 a three-story tower was added to accommodate a movie screen. When the theatre building reverted to commercial use in the 1960s, the tower was removed and the Neo-Classical facade stuccoed over and a severe modern storefront added. (RC, SM, AH)

10. (former) Pope's Drug Store
413 N. Elm Street
1904
NC

This two-story building (the southern half of Cato's Department Store #9) was constructed in 1904, at a cost of \$4,000 by the Pope family to house their family drugstore business, the H.T. Pope Drug Company. Principals in the company were Dr. H.T. Pope, his brother Ira L. Pope, who managed the store and Ira's son Julian A. Pope, a registered pharmacist. The drugstore also included a soda fountain. The offices of Pope and McIntyre, Physicians were located on the second story. The Pope Drug Store operated for a number of years, and in subsequent years the building housed at least two other drugstores and a restaurant. Photographs taken in 1980 reveal that the now obscured main elevation displayed extraordinary decorative brickwork (including arched corbeled window hoods and rows of mousetoothing), and a pressed tin bracketed cornice topped by finials at each end. (RC, SM, AH)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 15

11. Commercial Building

413-A N. Elm Street

c. 1914

C

Narrow, two-story, one-bay brick commercial building with a stuccoed main elevation whose severity is relieved by projecting horizontal brick bands (now stuccoed) above and below a pair of two-over-one double-hung sash second story windows. The first story storefront has been altered by the application of vertical wood sheathing above the display window. In 1914 the building housed a jewelry store, in 1924, a general store, and later a variety of commercial enterprises including an optician in 1975. At present the building houses a bail bond service. (SM, AH)

12. Commercial Building

411 N. Elm Street

c. 1900

C

Handsome two-story double-storefront brick commercial building with intact second story main elevation with three pairs of one-over-one sash windows, ornamented by corbeled lintels and embossed tin keystones and corner blocks, set in a recessed corbeled window wall. The lower elevation was altered c. 1940 with Art Deco style black and tan mirror glass enframed window walls. Sanborn Maps indicate a hardware store was located here from c. 1908-c. 1914, replaced by a general store by 1924. A hat and wig store and sewing machine store occupy the building at present. (SM)

13. Commercial Building

407 N. Elm Street

1898

C

Notable two-story, double-storefront brick commercial building constructed in 1898 to house two unrelated dry goods stores. K.M. Biggs operated a general store here in the early years of this century; in 1914 a general store was located in the southern store and a jewelry and dry goods store operated in the northern store. In 1952 Rose's Stores purchased the buildings, combined them, and removed the original cast iron storefronts. The original bracketed and embossed tin cornice

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 16

topped by round finials survives intact. Other surviving original elements include recessed window walls marked by tiered corbeling and an arched corbel course above the arched second story windows (replacement sash). The building remained in continuous use as a retail establishment until 1975. In 1975 a Lumberton architect, Elizabeth Lee, purchased the building and was responsible for an elegant, sympathetic remodeling. Ms. Lee created a new recessed main entrance marked by four arched, corbeled openings which echo the form of the second story windows. A tiered row of corbeling extends the width of the building above the new openings. Corbeling between the arched "doorways" suggests brick pilasters. At present the building houses Ms. Lee's office and the Wachovia Bank. (SM, O, RC, AH)

14. (former) Bank of Lumberton
401 N. Elm Street
c. 1900
C

The Bank of Lumberton, organized in 1897 and thus the earliest financial institution in Robeson County, moved into this newly completed building in 1904. An advertisement for the bank in the July 28, 1905 edition of the Lumberton Argus states: "The building that it occupies is an imposing structure of white porcelain brick, and the interior is handsomely, yes, elegantly fitted up. . . All of the furniture is of highly polished mahogany, of the colonial style. The floors are tiled and a brass screen system of wicker work has been installed." The building is two full stories with a shorter attic story. A corbeled string course separates the first and second stories. The second story is marked by a recessed window wall set between flat corbeled cap piers. The side (south) street windows are plain one-over-one sash and those on the main, Elm Street, elevation are paired one-over-one, arched (formed by a single row of corbeled brick), and centered with a keystone. A pronounced molded tin cornice divides the second and attic stories. The attic course is distinguished by small, square vents with sheaf-of-wheat screens. A less pronounced corbeled cornice is located at the flat roofline. The first story has been altered, especially on the Elm Street elevation, by the removal of a cutaway corner main entrance, a large arched window, and another arched entrance which provided access to the upper floors, all replaced with red brick walls and plate glass display

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 17

windows. In addition, all other first story windows along the side (Fourth Street) elevation (originally tripartite and arched) have been filled in with brick. After the bank moved to its new building at Third and Elm streets (#20), this building housed a variety of businesses and offices. Hedgpeth Pharmacy has been located here for a number of years. (SM, O, AH, RC, N, AS)

15. Commercial Building
321 N. Elm Street
c. 1900; remodeled c. 1920
C

Austere two-story, ochre-colored brick commercial building constructed c. 1900 according to the Sanborn Maps; portions of the present exterior appear to date from a c. 1920 remodeling. At the second story are paired one-over-one wood-trimmed sash windows set in slightly recessed panels of headers; the first story main elevation and a portion of the (north) side elevation are sheathed with smooth-cut ashlar edged with a row of projecting blocks sitting atop stone egg-and-dart molding. At present the plate glass storefront is enframed with blue plastic panels. The building has housed a variety of retail establishments including a general store from 1904-1924; currently a clothing store is located here. (SM, AH)

16. Commercial Building
315-317 N. Elm Street
c. 1900
NC

Two-story double-storefront brick commercial building completely obscured by yellow and white aluminum panels. The appearance and condition of the brick elevation beneath is unknown. Attractive black tile dados, probably installed during a c. 1940 remodeling, survive below the plate glass display windows. At present the building houses a photography studio (315 N. Elm) and a finance company (317 N. Elm).

17. (former) McMillan Drug Store
313 N. Elm Street
c. 1879
NC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 18

One of the oldest commercial buildings in the district, this two-story brick commercial building, erected c. 1879, is at present completely obscured by ribbed aluminum panels. This building forms a "unit" with the two neighboring aluminum covered buildings (see #s 16 and 18). The McMillan Drug Store operated here from 1880-1959. The company was founded by Dr. J.D. McMillan, Physician and Druggist, and succeeding generations of the family continued to operate the pharmacy (last proprietor was McMillan's grandson, John Rancke). Since the late 1970s a women's shoe and clothing store has occupied the building.
(AH, O)

18. (former) Caldwell-Belk Building
307-309 N. Elm Street
c. 1880
NC

Originally accommodating three storefronts, this two-story brick commercial building has undergone several major renovations since its construction c. 1880. L.H. Caldwell, a prominent Lumberton retailer and philanthropist, established his first general store before 1887 in the adjacent building at the south (see #19). Sanborn Maps reveal that Caldwell gradually expanded his operation with the addition of departments into the three neighboring stores at the north, all constructed by 1893, so that by 1905 he occupied all four buildings. Belk-Hensdale Department Store opened here in 1934 after Caldwell remodeled the storefronts utilizing a more streamlined, unifying buff-colored brick veneer. The present main elevation is of enamelled grey metal panels, indicating another remodeling date in the 1950s. The building presently houses a furniture store (307 N. Elm) and a men's clothing store (309 N. Elm). The original coffered pressed tin ceiling survives in the furniture store. (SM, AH, NR nomination for Luther Henry Caldwell House, 1978)

19. (former) Caldwell-Woods Store
301 N. Elm Street
c. 1880
NC

This two-story brick commercial building forms a unit with the stores adjacent at the north (see #18). They are all now

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 19

completely obscured by applied grey metal square panels; this building also has a curved, streamlined metal canopy installed in the 1950s. This is the site of L.H. Caldwell's original general merchandise store. The success of Caldwell's enterprise is apparent: the store began in this corner location in the late 1880s and grew to occupy half the block by 1914. Currently the building houses a general merchandise store. (AH)

20. (former) National Bank of Lumberton
221 N. Elm Street
1914
C

Grand two-story (with windowless attic) Neo-Classical Revival bank building erected in 1914 by Angus W. McLean as the new location of the Bank of Lumberton, which later became the National Bank of Lumberton and, still later, the Southern National Bank. The Neo-Classical style was popular for early twentieth century bank buildings because of the sense of security conveyed by the compact yet monumental blocky form. The main elevation of this building is sheathed in white glazed terra cotta tile and displays a wealth of classical details. Monumental Corinthian pilasters and columns in antis elevated on plinths support a heavy carved entablature with a richly carved modillion cornice parapet crowning the flat roofed building. The recessed wall behind the columns is marked by an ornate doorway (original doors replaced by metal trimmed glass doors at an undetermined recent date) topped by a cornice supported by carved consoles, as well as a decorative frieze, and a bank of single-pane windows separated by small Corinthian half-columns. The attic story displays an elaborate cornice with rope molding. The Third Street (side) elevation is somewhat simpler, but still highly ornamented with slightly projecting corbeled brick string courses and panels and, between the windows, molded wooden spandrels decorated with floral medallions and geometric designs (first story windows filled in with glass blocks); carved stone moldings mark the attic story. The bank was built on the site of the old Waverly Hotel. According to the 1914 Sanborn Map, a printing shop was then located in a subdivided space at the rear of the bank (with an entrance on Third Street); by 1924 the print shop had been replaced by an

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 20

office and store, both with entrances on Third Street. At present the former bank building houses an electronics store. (RC, AH, AS, SM)

21. (former) K.M. Biggs Store
217 N. Elm Street
1924
NC

Two-story double-storefront brick commercial building erected in 1924 as a general store by K.M. Biggs, prominent Lumberton businessman, who had established the Lumberton Tobacco Market in 1898. The two recessed storefronts remain but the rest of the main elevation is obscured by striated aluminum panels. Currently houses a pawn shop and a clothing store. (AH, SM, RC)

22. J.P. Andrews Building
215 N. Elm Street
c. 1910
C

Attractive, nearly intact two-story red brick commercial building with original first story storefront (recessed entry with double-leaf doors topped by transom) and intact second story ornamented with decorative corbeled drop pendants at the eave and a recessed window wall with corbeling and mousetoothing; four one-over-one sash windows each topped with a row of corbeled pendants. The interior retains the original tin ceiling, floor plan and stairs. The building was constructed about 1910 as a general merchandise store. The first known tenant was Cartee's 5¢ & 10¢ Store, Lumberton's first franchised retail store. The building was later sold to the J.P. Newman Company, also operators of a chain of retail "dime" stores. During the Depression the building housed the J.C. Penney Department Store. An antiques and gift store has been located here from the late 1970s to the present. (SM, O, AH, RC)

23. J.P. McNeill Building
213 N. Elm Street
1908
C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 21

Impressive three-story red brick commercial building constructed in 1908 by retailer John P. McNeill who operated a general merchandise store here until his death in 1915. McNeill began his business in Lumberton in January 1899 when he opened a general merchandise store in a building owned by L.H. Caldwell (#19). [In 1908 both the McNeill Building and the nearby (former) Cotton Mill Office Building (#25) were constructed. According to R.G. Cashwell, prior to the erection of these two buildings only two other buildings stood on the west side of Elm in this block, those being the old Waverly Hotel (where #20 is presently located) and a small frame structure near the hotel used by traveling salesmen as a sample room where they displayed their wares for the local merchants.] After McNeill's death, Miss Amelia Linkshaw operated a millinery store in the building for many years. Dr. J.D. Regan, D.D.S. had offices on the second story, as did a photographer. For several years the third floor was used by the order of Odd Fellows as a meeting place. The building is beautifully detailed with the original projecting tin cornice underscored by a row of embossed rosettes and paired and triple arched windows with a continuous arched row of contrasting white stone blocks outlining the windows. The attic level is marked with three small decorative screened vents. In recent years the first story storefronts have been altered with new brick veneer and replacement display windows. At present the building houses offices on the first story, with the upper stories vacant.
(RC, O, SM, AH)

24. Commercial Building
209 N. Elm Street
c. 1920
C

Striking three-story double-storefront yellow/orange brick commercial building distinguished by large panels of three-part arched windows framed by decorative shallow segmental brick arches (upper two stories), a projecting modillioned tin cornice and rows of corbeling and mousetoothing at the roofline. The first story has been greatly altered with a new sheathing of rough, mottled brick and two massive arches framing recessed storefronts. The building has housed a variety of commercial tenants; in the mid-1920s the Post Office was located in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 22

northern storefront. At present a restaurant is located in the southern storefront and a clothing store is located in the northern half. (SM, AH)

25. (former) Lumberton and Dresden Cotton Mill Office Building
203 N. Elm Street
1908
C

Imposing three-story with attic red brick office building constructed in 1908 by the Lumberton and Dresden Cotton Mill for its offices and to house a sample room at the rear. The original character of the lower main elevation is evident along the side (Second Street) elevation which retains the original arched windows; at present the main (Elm Street) elevation has been altered by the application of a mottled brick veneer and a "colonial" multi-light bay window. On the upper stories of the main elevation, tall windows (replacement tinted glass) with contrasting white brick splayed arches and sills flank a recessed panel containing paired windows with stone sills and a shallow stone segmental arch. A recessed panel between the center second and third story windows is ornamented by an elaborate stone cartouche. The windows along the south side are intact, paired one-over-one sash with light brick splayed arches and sills; rising between the windows are pairs of red brick projecting piers capped by stone block ornaments. These piers "support" a contrasting brick string course which extends unbroken around the main and side elevations. The plain attic story is marked by small rectangular vents. At present the building houses a finance company. (SM, RC, AH, AS)

26. Office Building
103 N. Elm Street
c. 1930
NC

One-story brick office building severely altered by the application of a new brick veneer facade, a gigantic asphalt shingle-clad pent roof which extends the width of the building and nearly to the roof where a simple central stepped parapet is partly visible, and large plate glass window.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 23

27. Southern Express Building
101-105 S. Elm Street
c. 1908-c. 1914
C

Beautifully restored one-story triple-storefront (recessed entrances) brick building constructed by Angus W. McLean between 1908 and 1914 according to the Sanborn maps. The building exhibits the only extant row of cast iron storefronts in Lumberton. The cast iron door and window surrounds are accented with rosettes and vines, while the tin cornice is accented with molded fleur-de-lis. Foundry marks at the base of the pilasters indicate that the forms were cast by C.L. Mesker and Co. of Evansville, Indiana. Originally the Southern Express Building housed a restaurant in the southern storefront, the Express Office in the center store, and a general store at the north end. Later, the French-Allen Oil & Coal Company and the New York Cafe were long-time tenants. The building stood vacant for a number of years until local residents, Mr. and Mrs. John Sharpe, purchased and restored the building in the early 1980s. At present a small history museum is located here. (N, RC, SM, AS, O)

28. (former) Johnson's Drug Store
318 N. Elm Street
c. 1914; remodeled c. 1940
C

From c. 1890-1914 a hotel (first known as the National, and then the Columbia) stood on this site and various retail businesses including hardware, jewelry store and barber shop were located on the first floor corner of the hotel. By 1914 James E. Johnson had constructed a separate two-story masonry building where he operated Johnson's Drug Store. After a fire damaged the building about 1940, it was partially reconstructed and remodeled to its present form. For a decade a children's clothing store has been here. The rather severe brick building has a recessed corner entrance flanked by plate glass display windows with one-over-one metal trimmed windows on the second story. (O, SM)

29. (former) National Hotel
314-316 N. Elm Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 24

c. 1890
NC

Two-story double-storefront brick commercial building which originally housed the National Hotel, operated by Anna Thompson (also see #28). The 1893 Sanborn Map indicates the first floor contained the hotel office, dining room, kitchen and a vacant storefront, with hotel rooms on the second story. By 1898 the Post Office was located in the southern (right) store; by 1904 the hotel was known as the Columbia Hotel and a wholesale grocery store was located in the southern storefront. By 1914 the hotel was gone and several businesses were located in the building including a restaurant, barbershop and dry cleaners which occupied the former hotel kitchen. According to R.G. Cashwell, about 1915 J.W. Sellers opened the Lumberton Cycle Company in 314 N. Elm (southern portion). His store sold and repaired bicycles. Sellers shared the building with jeweler, G.L. Canady. Sellers eventually added a newsstand, tobacco and soda sales to his business. The 1924 map indicates that unspecified "stores" occupied the building. A jewelry store has been located in the northern unit (316 N. Elm Street) since 1954. Also, at present, a children's and women's clothing store is located in the southern storefront. About 1969 aluminum panels were installed at the second story level and the storefronts were remodeled with metal trimmed plate glass display windows. An earlier c. 1940 storefront remodeling is evident in the maroon glass panels which appear above the display windows of the jewelry shop. In recent years the obscuring panels have been removed and the brick elevation painted a dark blue. The original six windows at the second story, filled in (probably in 1969) with cinder blocks, have flat brick arches. The second story facade is plain and rather severe; it is probable that a decorative brick cornice was destroyed when the aluminum panels were installed. (RC, SM, AH)

30. Commercial Building
312 N. Elm Street
c. 1890
NC

Two-story brick commercial building. No trace of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 25

original main elevation remains visible; the second story is obscured by applied molded aluminum panels and the storefront has been altered with large metal trimmed display windows. Sanborn Maps indicate that the building was constructed before 1898 and that at the turn of this century a millinery shop was located on the first floor and the second floor was a part of the former Columbia Hotel (see #s 28 and 29). At present the building houses a clothing store. (SM)

31. Commercial Building
310 N. Elm Street
c. 1935
C

This diminutive, intact one-story commercial building is a good example of Art Moderne styling and the only fully developed instance of the mode in the commercial district. The building features a curved plate glass display window outlined by maroon and peach mirror glass panels and a deeply recessed entryway with a geometrically patterned tile floor, also in maroon and peach. The 1904 Sanborn Map shows a small one-story grocery store on this site; in 1914, a barber shop; and in 1924, a general merchandise store. According to some local historians, this building occupied what was an alleyway where a fruit and vegetable stand was located. It is not clear whether the present building resulted from a remodeling or was a newly constructed infill building rendered in the Moderne style. For at least the past decade a shoe store has been located here. (SM, AH, AS)

32. (former) Efird's Department Store
306 N. Elm Street
c. 1900
C

Elaborate two-story double-storefront brick building with altered first story (steel framed single plate glass display window) and nearly intact second story which displays mousetoothing, ornate cornice of corbeled inverted triangles, and corbeled hoods above the second story sash windows. From c. 1955 until August 1989, the upper story was covered by sheets of less than full height corrugated aluminum panels. When they were removed, the brickwork required only minor repairs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 26

The building now showcases the aim of Lumberton's Main Street program. Constructed c. 1900, this building originally housed a general hardware store in one unit and a dry goods/clothing store in the other. Other former businesses which have been located here have included general and furniture stores (1914) and a grocer's warehouse (1924). For many years the building housed Efird's Department Store. At present a bookshop is located here. (SM, AH)

33. Carlyle Building
304 N. Elm Street
c. 1900; remodeled c. 1914
C

Modestly detailed, two-story buff-colored brick commercial building originally constructed with two storefronts and remodeled c. 1914 to house a single store. Decoration is confined to simple flush brick patterning composed of single rows of soldier courses at the eave and above and below the three, eight-over-eight windows on the second story, and a concrete name panel incised with "Carlyle" centered in a shallow recessed panel above the windows. The building housed a furniture store during the first two decades of this century; various other retail businesses have been located here including a clothing store. At present the building is vacant and used to store furniture for the furniture store across the street (#18). (SM, AH)

34. Commercial Building
302 N. Elm Street
c. 1895; remodeled c. 1920
C

Two-story brick commercial building whose main (Elm St.) and side (Third St.) elevations reflect two distinct periods in the building's architectural evolution. The side elevation displays unusual and elaborate corbeled brickwork popular when the building was constructed c. 1895. The corbeled string courses and vertical false "quoining" reflect its hidden structural system while the elaborate corbeled hood moldings around the second story two-over-two windows and the multiple rows of corbeling and projecting corbeled panels at the eave are purely ornamental. By contrast the rather severe brick veneer on the main elevation and the filling in of the second

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 27

story windows with glass blocks reflect a c. 1920 remodeling probably executed when the building was extended by a rear addition. Sanborn Maps indicate a millinery shop and a general merchandise store were located here in the late 1890s, followed by a dry goods store and a railroad express office at the rear. By 1924 the new rear addition had separate entrances along the Third Street side; on the second story Josephine Breese operated a millinery shop and on the first story was a grocery store operated by a Mr. Bullock. The A. Weinstein family owned the building for several decades after 1930. Presently a men's clothing store is located here. (AS, SM, AH, O)

35. (former) Lumberton Municipal Building
112 N. Elm Street
1917
C

Dignified, carefully detailed Colonial Revival style brick veneer municipal building erected in 1917 to serve as city offices and the fire station. The building features a high slate-covered hip roof crowned by a wooden balustrade around a classical cupola; a modillion cornice; stuccoed string courses and base; four interior brick chimneys; single, double, and tripartite windows, some with transoms set in arched openings with keystones (nine-over-two sash windows on the first story and nine-over-nine on the second story); an elaborate main entrance fashioned after a Palladian window with double-leaf door set in an arched surround surmounted by an open pediment flanked by single light windows and Corinthian pilasters. The main entrance is offset at the north end of the main elevation; paired garage door entrances (originally serving fire trucks) are located next to the main entrance. This carefully preserved building is presently in use for offices and meeting spaces. (AS, AH)

36. Carolina Theatre (NR)
319 N. Chestnut Street
1928
C

Elegant, newly restored Neo-Classical theatre built by

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 28

U. A. Underwood Construction Company of Wilmington in 1928 after a design by Fayetteville architect, S. S. Dixon. The Carolina Theatre, Lumberton's cultural center for almost half a century until it closed in 1975, presented films, vaudeville shows and chautauquas. The theatre stood vacant for almost a decade until it was restored by a local preservation organization, the Carolina Civic Center Foundation Inc., and reopened as a performing arts center in 1985. The grand three-story brick and molded stone structure is distinguished by stone quoining and stone pilasters which rise to support an elaborate entablature with a vine frieze, dentils and a molded cornice which carries a robust stone balustrade with garlanded urns set atop plinths. Five small four-over-one windows with stone surrounds and projecting corner blocks light the third story; second story windows have stone surrounds and broken and curved pediments with urns supported by molded stone consoles. A stone string course divides the first and second stories. A trio of double-leaf wood and glass doors form the main entrances. A small jewelry store with curved glass display window is located in the original north corner storefront. The flank (north and south) elevations are plain with single and tripartite one-over-one windows. The Art Deco style marquee and awning survive intact. The ground floor office portion of the theatre originally contained a store and two suites of offices on the second floor used by Dr. S. R. Beam and Dr. E. L. Bowans, incorporators of the theatre company. The theatre's small lobby was altered after 1940. The main portion of the theatre seated 403 people arranged along twin aisles dividing the space into three parts. Along the lower walls are Adamesque grilles covering the heating ducts and Art Deco style wall sconces. The upper walls are finished in blind arches and fluted Ionic pilasters support a classical entablature. An ornate chandelier is suspended from an elegant Adamesque medallion. The stage's gilded proscenium arch is decorated with an outer band of fagots and an inner panel of stylized acanthus leaves. (adapted from National Register nomination, 1985)

37. Kelly Seed Store
309-313 N. Chestnut Street
c. 1910
NC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 29

One-story horizontally oriented triple-storefront brick building dramatically altered by the application of a massive asphalt-shingled pent roof which extends above all three storefronts, with new brick veneer dados below the two southern storefronts, both occupied by the J.A. Kelly Seed Store which has operated here for over fifty years. The only trace of the original building (which featured simple corbeling and a double row of mousetoothing at the eave) remains in the recessed entrances with double-leaf doors topped with transoms. The main entrance of the third storefront (occupied by a surveying company) has been altered with an applied "colonial" door surround. (SM, AH, RC, DP)

38. Robeson County Public Library
101 N. Chestnut Street
1969
NC

Large, one-story warehouse-like contemporary public library building with flat roof and bands of windows which light a pleasant, well-planned interior. The building occupies the site of a late-eighteenth century school, the Lumberton Academy, and the former municipal park and cemetery (graves moved when library was built). (RC, AH)

39. McIntyre Building
424 N. Chestnut Street
c. 1920
C

Handsome, two-story red brick commercial building with a stepped and pointed parapet; pronounced denticulated tin cornice which extends along the main and side elevations; one-over-one sash windows at the second story; flat patterned brick ornamentation and inset stuccoed geometric blocks (marking the second story level, above the windows and centered in the parapet); and a remodeled first story, originally a single storefront, now double storefront. The building was built by S. M. McIntyre about 1920 and was first occupied by an A & P Grocery Store. The presently vacant building most recently housed two offices. (SM, RC)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 30

40. Commercial Building
418 N. Chestnut Street
c. 1910
C

Two-story pressed brick commercial building with altered first story storefront with large steel and plate glass display windows framed with green mirror glass blocks. The second story retains the original sash windows, set in a recessed window wall with a corbeled upper rim; windows are decorated with flush lintels (stretchers on end) with a contrasting center brick simulating a keystone and a contrasting flush brick strip which extends above the windows. Decorative contrasting flush brick patterning ornaments the cornice. For many years the building has housed the McDuffie Furniture Company. (SM, AH)

41. Barnes-Stephens Building
414-416 N. Chestnut Street
c. 1920
C

Remarkable two-story double-storefront brick (painted white) commercial building constructed c. 1920 to house the Barnes-Stephens Company which sold furniture and pianos on the first floor and operated a funeral parlor on the second story (Stephens Funeral Home later relocated to 605 N. Elm, #1). The storefronts have been altered, one with a steel and plate glass display window, and the other by the application of a false "colonial" front complete with beaded siding and broken pediment door surround. The second story remains intact and displays a wealth of decorative brickwork. The stepped parapet and eave are ornamented by corbeled pendants. Six one-over-one sash windows are topped by corbeled flat lintels and straight drop pendants, with a row of mousetothing between. The windows are set in a corbeled recessed window wall and underscored by a row of mousetothing and a continuous row of corbeled dentils which run above both storefronts. The storefronts are divided by a projecting pier with corbeled cap. The building is presently occupied by a photography studio and a stock brokerage. (SM, RC, AH)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 31

42. Commercial Building
412 N. Chestnut Street
1914
C

Two-story single-storefront commercial building with stepped pointed parapet, typical corbeled modillion cornice, a trio of round-arched second story windows with raised keystones, original storefront with double-leaf doors, and attractive cloth awning. The building was under construction in 1914 according to the Sanborn Map; the earliest known tenant was a clothing and dry goods store. Currently a finance company is located here. (SM)

43. (former) J.H. Wishart Store
406-410 N. Chestnut Street
1914; remodeled c. 1933
C

Distinctive, large two-story double-storefront red brick commercial building constructed in 1914 by J.H. Wishart to house his grocery store which he operated until his retirement in 1933. According to R.G. Cashwell, the building was remodeled then for the new owner, J.W. Sellers, Sr., who operated a news stand, bicycle repair shop and sporting goods store here for the next thirty-nine years. (The news stand and bicycle repair shop were later discontinued and the sporting goods line expanded.) The building presently houses an appliance store and finance company on the ground floor and law office on the upper story. The symmetrical building is divided by a projecting center bay containing an arched doorway and stairs to the second story and an arched window topped by an inverted triangle in lighter brick. The two windows on either side of the projecting bay have splayed arches with stuccoed keystones and recessed brick panels above and below. A brick modillion cornice extends across the building, broken by the projecting center bay. The windows and storefront on the south (right) half of the building have been altered, but the left half remains nearly intact with one-over-one sash windows and recessed double-leaf main entrance. (RC, SM)

44. (former) Farmers & Merchants Bank
402 N. Chestnut Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 32

c. 1910

C

This handsome two-story red brick building displays complex brickwork with striking white detailing. Constructed about 1910 to house the Farmers & Merchants Bank and a sewing machine store at the rear, this is the oldest extant building in this block of Chestnut Street. The pier-and-lintel construction is emphasized by recessed window walls set between corbeled piers topped by simple projecting white stuccoed caps. White plaster is also used to simulate keystones and drop stones at the second story one-over-one sash windows; the windows have corbeled panels beneath them. A heavy white projecting modillion tin cornice extends along the main and south (right) elevation. A rear annex is somewhat simpler, with a molded tin cornice and blind pointed arches in raised brick above the entrances. The lower main elevation has been altered with plate glass display window. Presently the building houses a natural foods store and law offices on the second story. (SM, AS, AH)

45. Planters Building (NR)

312 N. Chestnut Street

1924

C

This elegant, intact five-story Neo-Classical Revival style bank building was designed by North Carolina architect C.C. Wilson and constructed in 1924 by the J.E. Beaman Construction Company to house the Planters Bank. During the Depression, Planter's Bank failed and in 1939 the Scottish Bank acquired the building. Scottish Bank later merged with First Union National Bank. First Union was located here for a number of years until the present occupant, Progressive Savings and Loan, acquired the building. Progressive has recently restored this building. The first two stories are sheathed with molded concrete scored to look like stone blocks, with the top three stories of red brick with brick quoining. The main entrance is a tall, arched and recessed opening with a coffered ceiling; the tall arches enframing the windows on the north (side) elevation reflect the form of the two-story high central banking room. A denticulated cornice at the top of the stone block acts as a string course between the second and third floors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 33

A stone modillioned cornice crowns the building. The bank retains its original attached metal clock, hung at the Fourth Street corner of the building. On the interior, the main room is dominated by a massive round vault. (NR nomination, AH, SM)

46. (former) Lumberton Telephone Exchange
308 N. Chestnut Street
c. 1912
C

Narrow, two-story stuccoed brick building constructed by J.A. Branch and used, according to the 1914 Sanborn Map, as a blacksmith shop. In April, 1920 the Southern Bell Telephone Company purchased the building and remodeled it for use as an office and operator's room. The Lumberton Telephone Exchange was located here until 1950 when the company built a new headquarters. At present the Consumer Loan Department of Progressive Savings & Loan (#45) is located here. The main elevation of the simple building is dominated by a large, centered second story tripartite window topped by an arched fanlight with a slightly projecting arched lintel. The window is set within a recessed corbeled window wall. The first story main elevation has been altered with steel framed plate glass windows and main entrance. (N, RC, SM, AH)

47. Office Building
110 N. Chestnut Street
c. 1970
NC

Small, one-story hip-roofed cinder block building housing two offices. A six-light wooden entrance door is flanked by plate glass windows.

48. Warehouse
102 N. Chestnut Street
c. 1920
C

This brick warehouse complex is part of a three warehouse complex (see #s 83 and 85) which occupies most of the block

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 34

bounded by Chestnut, Second, Walnut and First streets. This complex was one of the first in the tobacco warehouse district, locally known as "Tobacco Row." This one-story building, located at the northeast corner of Chestnut and First streets, features twin storefronts, each marked by a stepped parapet on the main (Chestnut Street) elevation and a cut out recessed corner entrance at the south; both storefront entrances retain the original multi-light transoms. The building is currently used for storage. (AS, AH)

49. Railroad Freight Office
north side railroad tracks between Chestnut and Walnut streets
c. 1950
NC

One-story rectangular flat roof concrete block railroad freight warehouse and office. Main entrance to the office (east end of building) fronts on Walnut Street; aluminum panel clad warehouse and main loading dock adjoin at the west.

50. Lumberton Depot
east side Chestnut Street at the railroad tracks
c. 1875; first quarter 20th century; c. 1950
C

The long rectangular form of the Lumberton Depot represents several stages of construction. The oldest, center section is distinguished by a gable roof three large vertical plank freight doors set in arched corbeled brick frames and separated by double rows of corbeled bricks. Graceful, paired, curved and chamfered brackets rest on corbels and support the roof's wide overhang which shelters the loading dock. Another bank of decorative projecting bricks is located along the top of the walls. At the east, the gable roof of the large, early twentieth century open loading dock is carried by plain posts and brackets which form a rhythmic line of inverted triangles. At the east a flat roofed addition housing a freight office was constructed in the mid-twentieth century. It displays 5:1 bond, a projecting bay on the south side ornamented by corbeled brick quoins, and six-over-six windows. Alternating projecting and recessed brick bands create a striped effect. Distinctive round windows with pivoting sash are found on the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 35

west, north and south elevations. The railroad came to Lumberton in 1860 when a spur of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherfordton Railroad Company was completed late that year. Like many other North Carolina railroads, this one was undertaken in part by a private subscription corporation. The tracks ran in a straight line seventy-nine miles between Lumberton and Wilmington through scrub oaks, pine barrens, forest and swamps, a notable engineering achievement for that day. During the Civil War Robeson and adjoining counties were major suppliers of grain and other supplies for the Confederate troops. However, in March 1865 Union troops destroyed the railroad bridges over the Lumber River, Lumberton's depot, and about one mile of track. The depot was rebuilt sometime during the Reconstruction years (date unknown) and served both freight and passenger traffic. At one time seven passenger trains served Lumberton daily. Passenger service ceased in 1958 and the building continues in use as a freight depot. (RC)

51. Freeman Building
114 W. Fifth Street
1921
C

Unpretentious two-story with attic brick commercial building constructed by E.G. Freeman in 1921 to house his printing business. Freeman's print shop was one of Lumberton's oldest businesses, established in 1896 and first operated next door (#52). After Freeman's death in 1934 his son-in-law, David T. Lambeth, operated the business until 1980. At present the building is occupied by attorneys on the first story and a surveying firm on the second. In recent years the first story main elevation has been altered by the application of a "colonial" storefront and door surround. The upper story remains intact and features paired one-over-one sash windows topped with blind lunettes; a large louvered lunette vent is centered above. Decorative brickwork includes single rows of vertical bricks used as string courses, corbeling at the granite-coped eave, and projecting demi-piers at the attic level. This simple, almost flat detailing is characteristic of simple 1920s commercial structures. (AS, AH, SM)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 36

52. (former) Carlyle Law Office
110 W. Fifth Street
1904
C

Intact, two-story brick commercial building constructed in 1904 by the Carlyle family for law offices and, on the second story, a photography studio operated by a Miss Ferguson from c. 1908 until 1920. The second floor was specially designed for this use with a large skylight providing ample natural light. According to the 1904, 1908 and 1914 Sanborn maps, a "hand printing" business (#51) was also located here in a first story back room. F. Ertle Carlyle's law office was located here during the 1930s. At present the first story is used for storage and a photography studio is located on the second story. The main elevation displays fine decorative brickwork including an elaborate brick cornice with a five-tier corbeled continuous brick band breaking into an arch at the center; a soldier course of projecting bricks; one-over-one second story windows set in shallow blind arches and topped with corbeled arched hoods; brick string course directly below the second story windows; and asymmetrical drop pendants at each end. Stairs to the second story are set in a corbeled blind arch. The first story storefront survives intact and is composed of a recessed entry with double-leaf glass and wood doors, large chamfered wooden posts, and transoms above the doors and display windows. (O, AH, SM)

53. Lumber River greenway
east river bank, between Fourth Street and Fifth Street bridge
C

This undisturbed stretch of grassy riverbank, shaded by large deciduous trees, lies at the foot of Fourth Street and is representative of the historic significance of the Lumber River to the commercial district. The Lumber River (known variously as the Lumbee River and Drowning Creek) was a busy and vital commercial transportation route in the city's early days. The downtown merchants received many of their wares and supplies via barges poled up river from Georgetown, South Carolina. It was also utilized by the county's lumber industry which floated logs down river to the sawmills in Georgetown.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 37

Around the turn of this century, a single lane suspension bridge crossed the river at Fifth Street and a single lane wood bridge crossed at Third Street. Most of the few automobiles in Lumberton then crossed the Fifth Street bridge and pedestrian and wagon traffic used the Third Street bridge. In the early 1900s, a frame building stood on the riverbank at the dead end of Fourth Street; the building housed the City Clerk's office, a guard house, the Police Office and the Fire Department with its horse-drawn fire wagon (building destroyed, date unknown). Nearly all commercial activity in town was concentrated in the three blocks between Second and Fifth streets on Elm, and in the block of West Fourth Street between Elm and Water streets. According to R.G. Cashwell, "On Saturdays the west block of Fourth Street was probably the most congested block in town. Probably more individual sales were made there than in any of the blocks of Elm, although possibly not as large in dollar volume, as the Elm Street stores dealt in more expensive and diversified items." Across the river between Third and Fifth was a community baseball field which flooded in times of high water. Today the river bank, a scenic border to the west side of the commercial district, is being developed as a city-owned linear greenway/park. The area north of this portion of the riverbank was developed in 1976 as a Bicentennial Park and contains new monuments and landscaping; the area south of this portion of the riverbank contains late twentieth century commercial development. Although the nominated area has been cleared of its historic building, this greenway was chosen for inclusion as a recognition of the river's importance to Lumberton as a transportation route and as a representative section of the river and its banks in their natural, undeveloped states.
(RC)

54. (former) Riverside Theatre
138 W. Fourth Street
c. 1940
NC

Brick theatre building with a tiered gable roof; front portion is a full two stories and the high one-story rear portion housed the auditorium. The main facade is stuccoed and rises to a stepped gable parapet. Originally the building had a large

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 38

awning/marquee extending across the front, but a 1979 adaptive reuse project entailed the removal the marquee and an extensive reworking of the lower elevation and the interior for office space. (AH, AS)

55. (former) Deese's Sales Stables
118-120 W. Fourth Street
c. 1910; c. 1925
C

Built around 1910 to replace a wooden livery located on the same site since the late 1800s, this one-story complex contains the oldest extant stable building in Lumberton. The original masonry stable, with a stepped parapet ornamented with decorative corbeling and mousetoothing, was symmetrical, with the central open arched passage for carriages. This passageway was later filled in as a storefront. Another storefront, also with stepped parapet, was added at the west end of the building about 1925; that storefront has been covered with aluminum siding. At present the building houses a gun store and a storefront church. (AS, AH, SM)

56. Commercial Building
112-116 W. Fourth Steet
c. 1910
C

One-story, triple-storefront brick commercial building with a simply corbeled eave with a row of small recessed panels and a soldier course below. The westernmost (left) storefront is the least altered, retaining the recessed entry, multi-light transom which extends above the entry and display window bay. The other two storefronts retain recessed entries, but with replacement plate glass display windows. The main elevation of the eastern (right) store has been stuccoed. At present one of the storefronts is vacant, one houses a fabric store, and the other, a paint store.

57. and 58. (former) Townsend Motor Company
139 W. Fourth Street
c. 1920
C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetLumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson CountySection number 7 Page 39

Two-story brick commercial building constructed about 1920 to house an automobile dealership, Townsend Motor Company. Later the FCX store (farm equipment) was located here, and in the early 1950s, an independent automobile repair business operated here. In the mid-1950s an ice cream manufacturer acquired the building and the adjoining, plain one-story brick building and combined the buildings to form the present sizeable complex. The structures are unified by their stuccoed elevations and the use of glass blocks to fill in the original auto showroom windows and to create a ribbon window on the Fourth Street elevation. The two-story block features segmental arched windows at the second story main elevation and at both stories on the Water Street elevation (replacement, single-pane sash installed at unknown date). The first story main elevation was altered in the mid-1950s by the application of vertical rows of sandstone colored stretcher bricks. (SM, AH, O)

59. Commercial Building
127 W. Fourth Street
c. 1940
C

Austere, one-story brick commercial building with tile coping at the flat roof and a stepped roofline on the side (west) elevation. The building has a band of narrow, rectangular transom-like windows extending above the plate glass display windows and metal and glass main entrance (currently boarded over). During the late 1950s the building was used as an office for the ice cream manufacturing plant next door (#s 57, 58)); at the rear of the building was a service area for repairing the plant's equipment. (AH, O)

60. Commercial Building
125 W. Fourth Street
c. 1915
C

One-story brick commercial building distinguished by a triple-tier corbeled cornice, a narrow strip of mousetoothing below and round arches over the main entrance (original double door replaced c. 1980 by single metal framed glass door), and flanking plate glass display windows; the entrance and windows retain original two-light transom above each. A laundry was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 40

located here from the 1910s-c. 1955. At present the building is vacant. (AH)

61. Commercial Building
121 W. Fourth Street
c. 1910
C

One-story double-storefront brick (painted white) commercial building with a crenelated parapet. In 1988 the building was imaginatively remodeled to house an upscale restaurant. This adaptive reuse project involved combining the original two stores to create an open, airy main room with kitchen located at the rear of the right (west) store; the original pressed tin ceilings survive throughout. The left (east) recessed storefront survives and is the main entrance to the restaurant; at the right, the storefront was replaced by a brick wall pierced by two rectangular windows. Maroon cloth awnings shade the windows and main entrance. The buildings housed a dry goods store and restaurant in the 1950s. (AH, SM)

62. Commercial Building
119 W. Fourth Street
c. 1910
C

Largely intact two-story red brick commercial building with simple corbeling at the roofline, a row of mousetoothing below, replacement one-over-one second story windows (originally six-over-six-double hung windows, replaced c. 1980) and original recessed double-leaf main entrance flanked by wood trimmed display windows, all topped by five-light transoms. The interior retains the original beaded board ceiling, paneled and chamfered newel post (stairs to upper floor located in the left rear corner of the single open room), and pine flooring. The building most recently housed a pool hall and is currently vacant. (SM, DP)

63. Commercial Building
117 W. Fourth Street
c. 1920
C

Intact, one-story orange/red brick commercial building decorated with simple corbeling at the cornice line and above the storefront, with a row of mousetoothing in between. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet Lumberton Commercial Historic District
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 41

building retains the original display windows and recessed double-leaf main entrance doors and screen doors and wide glass transom above. The interior remains intact with beaded ceiling and ranks of open shelves. Early businesses located here included a dry goods store, and for many years grocery stores operated by a Mr. Ford and R.T. Sanderson, his son-in-law.

(AH, SM)

64. Commercial Building
115 W. Fourth Street
c. 1920
C

Largely intact one-story red brick commercial building ornamented by inverted triangles of corbeling at the roofline and a five-tier row of headers above the storefront with row of mousetoothing in between. The building retains the original wood-framed plate glass display windows, recessed entrance (the original double-leaf main entrance doors were recently replaced with a single steel-framed glass door), and transom. Classical detailing is seen in the molded and paneled wood pilasters which frame the windows. Theodore's Grocery operated here for many years, followed by a fish market. A traditional revolving, spiral striped pole announces the present tenant, a barber shop (SM, AH, O, DP)

65. Huggins Star Shoe Shop
111 W. Fourth Street
c. 1895
C

Striking one-story brick commercial building with elaborate decorative brickwork concentrated at the eaves, consisting of robust corbeled pendants of alternating lengths with corbeled dentils between the pendants and another row of dentils below. The building was constructed to house two stores, but since October 1924 has housed one store, Huggins Star Shoe Shop, the oldest Robeson County business in the same location. According to documentary photos, the east (left) storefront was larger with a double display window at the right of its six-light main entrance; the smaller store at the right (west) had an identical entrance and a single display window. The

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 42

storefronts have been altered in recent years; the left doorway was eliminated, and replaced with a large display window composed of four vertical lights topped by a row of smaller rectangular, transomlike lights. The right storefront retains its original form and entrance door. According to the Sanborn maps, in 1898 the building housed the Robesonian newspaper office and a drugstore. Between 1904 and 1908 a general store and Western Union office were located here and around 1914 a combination grocery/fish market, and a telegraph office were here. In October 1924 John B. Huggins established his shoe repair business here (repair service in the left store and shoe shines at the right). The interior remains remarkably unaltered from that time; of note are the original oak, marble and brass shoe shine stand and original glass display cabinets and counters. Both the shoe shine stand and cabinets are trimmed with oak egg-and-dart molding. (SM, AH, O, DP)

66. Commercial Building
109 W. Fourth Street
c. 1900
C

One-story brick commercial building with corbeled eave and recessed panels below and brick pilasters which emphasize the building's tripartite division into entrance bay and flanking display windows. A popular local restaurant, Tommy's, and a barber shop were located here for many years. After standing vacant for several years, the building is currently being restored (exterior restoration; interior will be adapted for new tenant). (SM, AH)

67. Commercial Building
105 W. Fourth Street
c. 1910
NC

Austere, remodeled two-story brick commercial building with new brick veneer main elevation and altered storefront, with metal trimmed display windows and center main entrance; pair of windows with single pane replacement sash at the second story. According to the Sanborn maps the building housed a bicycle shop about 1914 and a drugstore in 1924. Since then a variety of commercial enterprises, including a cafe in the 1940s and a pool room in the 1970s, have been located here. The building is currently vacant. (SM, AH)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 43

68. Commercial Building
111 E. Third Street
c. 1930
C

Two-story plain commercial building veneered in rusticated concrete block in imitation of granite, with four six-over-six sash windows at the second story; storefront altered with brick veneer facade, brick paved entryway and angled wrought iron "fencing" which suggest the shape of the original angled display windows. It is thought a dry goods store or wholesale grocery operated here soon after the building was constructed. The current business, Taylor Insurance Company, has been located here for many years. (RC, AS)

69. Commercial Building
111 W. Third Street
c. 1920
C

Plain, one-story brick commercial building, linked by a rear party wall with the building in the 100 block of West Second Street to form one long irregularly shaped structure extending through the block with fronts on both Third and Second streets. Both portions of the large building were constructed about 1920 as an automobile garage and repair shop and small stock room. According to the Sanborn maps, the garage and stock room were located in the Third Street portion, with the repair shop fronting on Second Street. The Third Street elevation displays a modest corbel course at the roofline and a single row of mousetoothing below the painted sign panel which extends the width of the building. Round arch windows (filled in) are found on the side elevations. Large plate glass display windows topped with transoms flank the original, slightly recessed double-leaf main entrance. The Second Street elevation features an offset stepped parapet, modest corbeling at the eave, a row of mousetoothing and original double-leaf main entrance. A discount general retail store, The Bargain Barn, has occupied the building for many years. (SM)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 44

70 and 71. (former) Pure Oil Station

118 W. Second St.

1930

C

This rambling complex, composed of a freestanding (former) gas station and adjacent garage/repair building, is a good, largely intact example of the Tudoresque style brick gas stations erected by the Pure Oil Company throughout North Carolina during the 1920s and 1930s. The gas stations are characterized by very steep multiple gable roofs, non-functional decorative chimneys (usually marked, as here, with a distinctive Gothic letter "P" at the top of the most prominent stack), minimal applied half-timbering and robust brackets, arched entrance, bay window with copper hoods, and deep porte-cochere with prominent intersecting gable. The adjacent service bay complex also features steep gable roofs of varying heights, intersecting gables and decorative chimney stacks. The walls of both buildings are of skintled brick, a departure from the smooth walls of the typical Pure Oil building. The station was constructed by Howard Nye, the local Pure Oil dealer in the early 1930s. The garage portion later became the site of Lumberton's earliest "full-fledged" car dealership, Howard Motors. At present, a car wash/wax service is located in the former gas station portion of the complex; the other building is vacant. (AH, O, AS)

[Note: Second Street elevation of the building located at 111 W. Third Street, #69, is located just east of the Pure Oil Complex, #70 - 71.]

72. (former) Floyd & Co. Hardware

102 W. Second Street

c. 1910

C

Simple one-story brick commercial building ornamented by a recessed panel across the top of the storefront, a band of corbeling atop the panel and a frame of dark mirror glass (installed 1940s?) around the unaltered storefront and recessed main entrance. The building is on the 1914 Sanborn Map, labeled "storage"; for many years it housed a hardware shop and currently a flea market is located here. (SM, AH)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 45

73. (former) Freeman and Clegg Pontiac Dealership
213 E. Second Street
c. 1935
C

One-story brick commercial building consisting of two equal units, each with rounded metal truss supported roof. The facades screening the roofs terminate in angled parapets divided and flanked by piers. Each unit has a large plate glass display window and an entrance. The left (west) portion has been altered by the application of shakes framing the main entrance. The west unit was constructed first and housed an automobile garage/repair shop; the east unit was constructed soon afterward and became the showroom for the Freeman and Clegg Pontiac dealership. The adjacent parking lot at the east was used for used car sales. At present the east unit is vacant and the west unit houses a janitorial supplies business. (O, AH)

74. Commercial Building
215 E. Second Street
c. 1935
C

One-story brick commercial building with rounded truss-supported roof screened on the main elevation by a deeply stepped multiple parapet roof, large plate glass display windows and a garage bay at the right (east). During the 1930s and 1940s an automobile dealership was located here, followed by a variety of other businesses including a feed store and marine/fishing supply store. A Napa Auto Parts store has been located here for more than a decade. The store is painted in that company's trademark blue and yellow color scheme. (AH)

75. Gas Station
221 E. Second Street
c. 1935
C

Small, one-story stucco gas station with two garage bays constructed in the 1930s in the Spanish Mission Revival style, a popular style for early gas stations. The style is characterized by a pent roof covered with red terra cotta tiles

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 46

and bulky clustered corner piers with stepped and rounded tops that rise above the roof. A fixed metal canopy/porte-cochere was added to the main elevation at an undetermined date. The station was originally operated by the Humble Oil Corporation, followed by the Exxon Oil Company, the present tenant. (O, AH)

76. Commercial Building
125 W. Second Street
c. 1940
C

Austere one-story four-bay brick commercial building with three large transomed plate glass display windows, two entrances and an auto repair garage bay at the east end. Each of the four bays is delineated by a one-brick-wide stretcher brick frame with white concrete "corner blocks," and a multi-light transom which extends across the display windows and the original glass and wood entrances. The building housed an auto parts store for many years; it is currently used for furniture storage. (AH)

77. Commercial Building
119 W. Second Street
c. 1930
C

Severe, unaltered one-story brick commercial building with three separate storefronts with recessed angled entrances, each with original double-leaf doors and hardware. On the interior, the pressed tin ceiling survives. The building was built by Dr. H.M. Baker for use as a furniture store; it subsequently housed a dry cleaners and a restaurant and is presently used for furniture storage. (AH, O).

78. Commercial Building
117 W. Second Street
c. 1935
C

Plain, two-story brick commercial building with original double-leaf recessed entrance doors topped by a transom; angled plate glass display windows set in molded surrounds. Two eight-over-eight sash windows light the second story. At present a furniture store is located here.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 47

79. (former) Beasley's Grocery
111-115 W. Second Street
c. 1930
C

One-story brick commercial building with three angled and recessed storefronts, one with the original double-leaf glass and wood paneled doors; each storefront is topped by a full-width multi-light transom. A simple row of corbeling marks the eave. For many years Beasley's Grocery Store was located here and horses and livestock were reportedly kept behind the store. (AH)

80 and 81. Used Car Lot
101 W. Second Street
c. 1970
both NC

Gravel parking lot, two-bay cinder block garage and small shed roof cinder block office building for used car sales and service.

82. Sunoco Gas Station
204 E. Second Street
1970s
NC

Contemporary masonry gas station/convenience store.

83. Used Car Lot
206 E. Second Street
1970s
NC

Gravel parking lot and small cinder block office building for used car sales.

84. Warehouse
south side of E. Second Street at southwest corner of Second
and Walnut streets
c. 1946
NC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 48

The easternmost portion of warehouse complex (see entry #48). This one-story brick warehouse was constructed c. 1946 as the site of a local tobacco trading market; its severity is alleviated on the main Second Street elevation by stepped parapets and simple, Art Moderne influenced corbeling used to create a striated base and vertical lines which suggest pilasters. The vaulted truss supporting the skylighted roof allows for an uninterrupted expansive interior space. Today the warehouse complex contains furniture, hardware and farm supply businesses. (AS, AH)

85. Building
106 W. First Street
c. 1940
C

Small, one-story brick factory building with residential style broad gable roof with returns and garage door bays on three of its elevations; large multi-light windows. It is believed that a machine shop was an early tenant. (AH)

86. Warehouse
North side First Street, mid-block between Chestnut and Walnut streets
c. 1920
C

Center section of brick warehouse complex (see #s 48 and 84). This two-story brick warehouse is a plain utilitarian structure with large street level freight entrances opening on the First Street elevation; metal casement windows mark the second story. (AS, AH)

87, 88 and 89. Warehouses
south side First Street between Chestnut and Walnut streets
c. 1910-1930
all C

Massive complex of three adjoining one and two-story brick warehouses. The one-story unit at the east end (c. 1930) displays a bold stepped parapet on the Walnut Street elevation, a shallow pitch gable roof pierced by many fixed skylights,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 7 Page 49

and a raised loading dock fronting on Walnut Street; a wholesale hardware distributor is presently located here. The center building, probably the oldest of the three buildings (c.1910), displays decorative brickwork with a tiered corbeled cornice and multiple rows of mousetoothing. The original arched windows on the First Street elevation of this center unit were replaced (date unknown) with fixed fifteen-light metal-trimmed windows; a large faded painted sign identifies this section as a former wholesale grocery and feed store. The west (end) two-story building (c. 1930) features a corbeled eave and a row of mousetoothing above and bisecting the second story boarded-over windows. The main entrance to this unit is located in a cutaway corner fronting on Chestnut Street. The center and west unit presently house a clothing manufacturing company. (0)

90. Warehouse

North side First Street, between Water and Elm streets

c. 1935

C

Utilitarian, one-story brick building with steel-framed windows and stepped roofline on the side elevations; constructed by the Biggs family c. 1935 and used commercially as a mule stable until the early 1940s. The building is currently used for storage. (0)

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Transportation
Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1840-1941

Significant Dates

c. 1870-c. 1920

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

various and unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Lumberton Commercial Historic District encompasses one site and eighty-nine commercial buildings located within a compact, architecturally and historically significant approximately ten block area of downtown Lumberton, Robeson County's largest community and primary commercial center. The district includes portions of Elm and Chestnut streets and First through Fifth streets. The area comprising the district is associated with Lumberton's growth as a trading center for the county's rural population. The Lumber River, which forms the district's western border, was an important commercial transportation route from the town's founding in 1787 until the coming of the railroad in 1860. The original focus of the central business district was along the river, at Water Street between Fourth and Fifth streets (contributing site). The business district expanded eastward along Elm and Chestnut streets, and south toward the rail depot near First Street. The commercial district experienced a major period of growth and building activity beginning in the late 1870s, following the economic disruptions of the Civil War, Reconstruction era, and a fire which largely destroyed the frame commercial buildings at the town center. Continued growth through the turn of the century and into the mid-1930s reflected the success and expansion of the area's economic mainstays, agriculture and the related textile and tobacco industries. The historic district includes a good representative collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century vernacular buildings, many displaying exuberant decorative corbeled brickwork. Other buildings in the district reflect a wide variety of locally popular architectural styles including Neo-Classical Revival, Colonial Revival, Renaissance Revival, Spanish Colonial Revival Tudor Revival and Art Moderne. Today, the Lumberton Commercial Historic District is a lively commercial center rich in the types and styles of buildings which characterized typical late nineteenth and early twentieth century North Carolina business districts.

See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 8 Page 1

Note: The information contained in Item 8 of this nomination was excerpted and adapted from an inventory report prepared in 1979 for Robert M. Leary & Associates by Diane E. Lea and Claudia P. Roberts. The initial survey and inventory of Lumberton, North Carolina's commercial district was conducted by Leary & Associates under a Survey and Planning Grant from the North Carolina Division of Archives and History and the City of Lumberton. The fieldwork was conducted by Janet Silber and the research and writing was done by Diane E. Lea and Claudia P. Roberts. Lea and Roberts' work utilized both written sources and knowledge provided by many local historians. The illustrated inventory report was published in 1980 by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh, N.C. as An Architectural and Historical Survey: Central Lumberton, North Carolina. The initial fieldwork was updated and augmented by Patricia S. Dickinson in preparation for this nomination. All of the working survey files are on deposit at the Division of Archives and History in Raleigh.

Historical Background, Transportation and Commerce Contexts:

In 1787 surveyor Jacob Rhodes platted the town of Lumberton along a grid of streets into 130 half-acre lots, a commons along the Lumber River, a courthouse square, and lots for an academy and a cemetery. The new town was the seat of Robeson County, which had been created the year before from neighboring Bladen County at the instigation of two area residents and Revolutionary War heroes, General John Willis, who donated the land for the town (taken from his plantation, Red Bluff) and Colonel Thomas Robeson for whom the county was named.

The territory which became Robeson then held about 900 families, many of them Scottish immigrants. When the Scots first settled the region about 1730, they joined a group of historically mysterious English-speaking people already established near the Lumber River (known variously as Drowning Creek and the Lumbee River). These earlier settlers considered themselves Indians although they had no identifiable Indian

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 8 Page 2

customs and farmed their land in the European manner. They have been linked, by tradition and folklore, with the "lost colony," legendary survivors of Sir Walter Raleigh's ill-fated Roanoke Island Colony, established in 1585-1586 near Manteo on the central North Carolina coast. Other theories hold that they were Sioux, Cherokee or Tuscarora Indians, all of whom lived in the area during its early history. Whatever their origins, the people (whose descendants were designated by the 1953 North Carolina General Assembly as "Lumbee" Indians) were industrious farmers who prized the fertile land as much as their new Scottish neighbors. The chief assets of the new county and its seat were the Indians, the white settlers, and the Lumber River which carried piney wood products, chiefly lumber and naval stores, to the South Carolina coastal markets.

The site of the new town (formally established in November, 1788) was on the east bluff of the Lumber River at an established ford and the junction of two major county roads to South Carolina. By 1796 the town had a post office and a small number of commercial structures and residences clustered around the courthouse square. The courthouse was a frame house moved to the square for that purpose. Within ten years of its founding, Lumberton had emerged as an important trading center for southeastern North Carolina, dealing in lumber products and diversified agricultural crops including corn, wheat, oats, potatoes, peas, rice, sugar cane, cotton, grapes and a variety of fruits. Mills for grinding corn and wheat operated throughout the county, as did saw mills, fruit presses and stills for whiskey making. Cotton was often ginned and baled on the outlying plantations before being brought into town for transport down river to the major South Carolina ports, Georgetown and Charleston.

The years between 1790 and the Civil War saw little increase in Robeson County's population and, apart from Lumberton, no other major towns developed. General John Willis established Lumberton Academy in 1791, the first of a number of private schools which operated in Lumberton throughout its history, and a public school opened in 1840. The earliest extant structure in Lumberton, a small gable-roofed brick building (#3), dates from about 1840. Known as the Proctor Law Office after lawyer Edward Knox Proctor who bought the building

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 8 Page 3

in 1869, the building housed law offices for the next one hundred years. (In 1975 the building was restored by a local preservation organization, Historic Robeson, for use as a community meeting space and museum.) Plank roads, a slight improvement over the usual muddy roads, appeared in the county about 1849, stimulating new community activity as the surrounding rural population found it easier to get to town. This improved access may account for the construction of both Baptist and Presbyterian churches in the mid-1850s which joined the already established Methodist Church. In 1852, the town had three general stores, warehouses to store the finished goods brought up river from South Carolina, a two-story hotel and a new (1848) brick courthouse on the square. Most of the town's businesses were located along Water Street, then known as the "Wharf" (see #53). A new bridge crossed the river at Third Street in addition to the Sixth Street toll bridge which appeared on Jacob Rhodes' original plat (neither bridge survives today; instead bridges are found at Second and Fifth streets.)

Prior to 1860, Lumberton's settlers met their needs with goods brought up the river from Charleston and with a trip to the market in Fayetteville once a year. Lumberton grew at the same leisurely pace as the rest of the county and, for that matter, as the rest of the state. Between 1815 and 1835 North Carolina was popularly termed the "Rip Van Winkle State." However, by 1840 railroads, beginning with the Wilmington and Weldon line, were beginning to connect a few major cities, all of which were between Raleigh and the coast. During the 1850s the State legislature extended millions of dollars of state aid to railroads, navigation companies and plank roads in an effort to provide a unified system of improved transportation. The state's chief investment was in the purchase of stock in railroad companies. The North Carolina Railroad, completed in 1856, was the first link in the proposed state system. By 1860 North Carolina's railroad system comprised 891 miles, connecting with interstate lines leading north, south, and west and serving every major section of the state except the mountain region. Of the total number of miles, over 640 miles were constructed during the 1850s alone.

In late 1860 the railroad came to Lumberton. The line, a spur of the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherfordton Railroad

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 8 Page 4

Company was completed late that year. Like other early railroads, this one was undertaken in part by a private corporation that secured its funds from subscription. Seventy-nine miles of track were laid between Wilmington and Lumberton in a straight line through scrub oak, pine barrens, forest and swamps, a notable engineering feat for the day. The increased prosperity promised by the railroad was short-lived since the outbreak of the Civil War was imminent. Robeson County sent a heavy complement of soldiers into the war and, with several adjoining counties, was a major supplier of grain for the Confederate troops. In retaliation, Federal troops in March, 1865 destroyed the railroad bridges over the Lumber River, the Lumberton depot and a about a mile of track.

The Reconstruction years were turbulent ones in Robeson County and not until the mid-1870s did Lumberton see a gradual restoration of commercial stability. The slow climb back to the prosperity, which had seemed at hand before the Civil War, was facilitated for Lumberton by the expansion of the railroads and their increased service to the town. The Hamlet-Wilmington branch of the Seaboard Railway Company created a major artery from Lumberton to the new markets of the mountains where the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherfordton line now extended. Fortunately the major business of the county was agriculture and the goods still found ready markets down the river or over the rails. The main crop continued to be cotton, now grown by share croppers and tenants, many of whom had to learn to improve the land and to compensate for the heavy toll cotton extracted from the soil. A new crop, tobacco, introduced in the 1880s, placed an additional burden on the soil.

During the 1870s the depot was rebuilt (#50), new businesses and industries were established, and Lumberton enjoyed its first major building campaign since the 1850s. This spate of new building was due in part to a major fire in 1876 which largely destroyed the frame business district. With the restoration of rail service, the focus of the business district shifted from the riverfront to Elm Street south of Sixth Street. A few brick buildings were constructed along Elm Street near the courthouse, including the McLeod Building (#8), the town's first major commercial structure to be made of brick. This three-story "skyscraper" (remodeled in 1905 in an elegant classical revival

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet Lumberton Commercial Historic District, Robeson County

Section number 8 Page 5

style) dominated the southwest corner of Elm and Fifth streets and spoke eloquently not only of the ambitious plans of the builders and their mercantile firm, Pope and McLeod, but also of the dramatic post-Reconstruction revival of commercial Lumberton. Three other Lumberton buildings dating from 1879-1880 survive in the 300 block of N. Elm Street (#s 17-19), all drastically altered by mid-twentieth century replacement facades.

Beginning in the late 1870s and for the next fifty years, Lumberton would experience relatively steady economic growth in its commercial sector. Lumberton's late nineteenth century revival paralleled a state-wide commercial and industrial rebirth, fueled by the state's burgeoning cotton and tobacco industries. Two local newspapers were established to report on Lumberton's new growth, the Robesonian c. 1870 (and still being published today) and the Lumberton Times, 1880. Male and Female Academies were reactivated in the 1870s and several professional and civic organizations were established then, including two temperance organizations formed to fight Lumberton's image as a "liquor town." Fourth Street was then lined with saloons; even the mayor and police chief were saloon keepers and a whiskey distillery was located directly in front of the Baptist Church (outside the district). A prohibition movement began in the 1880s, spearheaded by attorney, developer and civic booster, E. K. Proctor (# 3). By 1890 Robeson had become the first prohibition county in the state, although some licensing exceptions were made for "men of good character". Total prohibition was instituted in 1899 and the county has remained at least partly dry to this date (beer and wine sales allowed, but not liquor).

In 1887 another major fire ravaged the commercial district, but commerce was thriving again by 1889, evidence of a remarkable recovery from both the Reconstruction years and earlier major fires. The town's population had doubled since the Civil War and the town boasted twenty stores, five churches and four hotels. In 1897 the Bank of Lumberton was established, a project long delayed by the outbreak of the Civil War. The bank was successful and by 1904 had moved to a handsome new building constructed at the corner of Elm and Fourth streets (#14). Also in 1897, another important industry, the Lumberton Cotton

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 8 Page 6

Mills was established (outside the district). The mill's establishment marked a significant turning point in the town's commercial growth: Lumberton was becoming a manufacturing town, rather than remaining a depot through which unprocessed goods were shipped. A year later, in 1898, Lumberton retailer K.M. Biggs opened the town's first tobacco auction house. Within the year, 50,000 pounds of tobacco were sold in two Lumberton warehouses, establishing the town as a flue-cured tobacco sales market, although the uncured leaf was still shipped to other locations for storing and processing.

The original railroad into town, the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherfordton, underwent various changes in ownership to merge with the Seaboard Air Railroad in 1901. In that same year, a second rail line, the Raleigh and Charleston, was completed between Lumberton and Lake View. Lumberton's third railroad was built under the aegis of local attorney Angus W. McLean, who had been instrumental in founding both the Bank of Lumberton and the Lumberton Cotton Mills. McLean, governor of North Carolina from 1925 to 1929, built the Virginia and Carolina Southern Railroad in 1903 to connect Lumberton and Hope Mills. By 1915 Robeson had more railroad mileage than any county in the state.

During the first years of the twentieth century many new community services were established. A hospital was chartered in 1906 (destroyed by fire in 1924) and a second hospital was built in 1921. (Located west of the historic district at Fifth and Cedar streets, this building presently serves as municipal offices.) The Bell System purchased the local Lumberton Telephone Company in 1909 (#46), resulting in better long distance service. Between 1900 and 1915, Lumberton obtained a water and sewer system, electric lights, macadam streets, paved sidewalks, an up-to-date fire department and vapor street lights along Elm Street and the courthouse square. Two new cotton mills were constructed at the town's periphery in 1906 and 1909. In 1908 a handsome new Neo-Classical Revival courthouse, designed by noted architect Frank Pierce Milburn, was constructed. (This courthouse, a superb example of its style, was razed in 1974 and replaced by the present, contemporary courthouse.) By 1911 four cotton and hosiery mills were operating in Lumberton as were a fertilizer plant, cotton

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 8 Page 7

gin, brick plant, lumber company, bottling plant, two novelty works, two newspapers and a printing company (#51). A Retail Merchants Association was formed in 1911 and by 1914 a Chamber of Commerce was established.

The wide variety of businesses and services located at various times during the first decades of the twentieth century in the Lumberton Commercial Historic District reflect the vibrancy of the business community. There were general merchandise/dry goods stores (#s 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 32, 34, 42, 63), jewelry stores (#s 11, 13, 29), a five-and-dime store (#22), millinery shops (#s 8, 9, 23, 30, 34), sewing machine sales (#44), furniture stores (#33, 41), and hardware stores (12, 32, 72).

Other early twentieth century businesses and services located in the district included drug stores (#s 9, 17, 28, 65, 67), grocery stores (#s 6, 9, 29, 34, 39, 43, 63, 64, 79), theatres (#s 9, 36, 54), restaurants (#s 27, 29, 66), hotels (#s 29, 30), seed/feed stores (#s 37, 88), a shoe shop (#65), dry cleaners/ laundry (#s 29, 60), barber shops (#s 8, 29), a photography studio (#52), soda fountains (#s 9, 29), a blacksmith shop (#46), livery stable (#55), bicycle shop (#67), automobile-related sales and service businesses (#s 57, 58, 69, 70, 71, 73, 74, 75), doctors'/dentists' offices (#s 23, 36), law offices (#s 3, 52), funeral parlors (#s 1, 41), banks (#s 7, 8, 14, 20, 44, 45), telephone office (#46), Post Office (#s 8, 24, 29), fraternal lodges (#s 23, 8), newspaper office (#65), railroad depot (#50), railroad express office (#s 27, 34), oil and coal sales (#27), tobacco warehouses (#s 48, 84, 86) and a cotton mill office (#25).

Lumberton's commercial vitality continued throughout the years of the first World War and into the 1920s. The cotton industry, in particular, experienced a surge of new growth in the 1920s with the consolidation and expansion of several local mills. Recreational opportunities also expanded during the decade. The elegant new Carolina Theatre (#36, NR), Lumberton's cultural center for the next half century, opened in 1928; the "talkies" came to the theatre the next year. (The first silent movie theatre had opened in 1914 in the building at 413 N. Elm

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 8 Page 8

Street (#9); silent movies had also been shown at the Opera House (destroyed, see #2) in the 1910s.) In addition to the Carolina Theatre, significant new buildings constructed in the district during the 1920s include the largely unaltered Neo-Classical Revival style First National Bank Building (#7), the striking three-story building at 209 E. Elm Street (#24), part of the tobacco warehouse complex (#86) which occupies the blocks bounded by Chestnut, Second, Walnut and First streets, some of the warehouses located on First Street between Chestnut and Walnut streets (#s 87-89), and the municipal building (#34).

Sixty years of prosperity had laid a sound economic base for Lumberton and Robeson County by the advent of the Great Depression. Although these years were lean compared to the affluence of the past decades, and some banks failed (#s 7, 45), Lumberton was strong enough to sustain a steady, if reduced, amount of commercial activity. A redrying plant was built in the 1930s to process tobacco after it was sold in the city's auction houses and Lumberton's first permanent Post Office building was constructed in 1931, just north of the commercial district. Several rather austere brick commercial buildings in the 100 and 200 blocks of W. Second Street (#s 73, 74, 77, 78, 79) were constructed in the early 1930s. Certainly the most architecturally interesting buildings dating from the 1930s are the (former) Stephens' Funeral Home (#1) designed in a fanciful Spanish Colonial Revival style; the diminutive Art Moderne style commercial building at 310 N. Elm (#31); the Tudoresque Pure Oil complex (#s 70, 71); and the Spanish Mission style gas station on Second Street (#75).

A handful of buildings were constructed in 1939 and 1940, just prior to the advent of the second World War which effectively halted new construction in Lumberton's historic district as well as across the United States. These pre-War Lumberton buildings include #s 4, 59, and 76.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT:

The buildings in the Lumberton Commercial Historic District are typical of those found in many North Carolina small towns and commercial centers. The buildings represent a broad variety of nationally popular architectural styles ranging from various classical and period revival styles to Art Moderne. Styles represented include Renaissance Revival (#s 8, 14); Classical

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 8 Page 9

Revival (#25); Neo-Classical Revival (#s 7, 20, 36, 45); Colonial Revival (#35); Tudor Revival (#70); Spanish Colonial Revival (#1); Spanish Mission (#75); Art Deco/Moderne (#s 12, 31).

Also typically, few pre-1900 buildings survive in the district. Notable survivors of the fires and new construction which altered the downtown streetscape include the oldest extant structure in town, the c. 1840 Proctor Law Office (#3), as well as the c. 1879 McLeod Building (#8), portions of the Depot (#50) and neighboring buildings in 100 block of Fourth Street (#s 65 and 66). The vast majority of the district's buildings, date from the first two decades of the twentieth century and are important vernacular brick commercial buildings. They constitute Lumberton's most significant architectural resources.

The last decade of the nineteenth and first two decades of the twentieth centuries were a "boom" time for Lumberton, as was the case with many other towns in North Carolina. In Lumberton, as elsewhere, the economic vitality which characterized this era is vividly represented today in its vernacular commercial architecture. The builders of Lumberton's new commercial buildings followed the general trend for urban construction at that time and produced a collection of handsome, durable brick buildings ornamented with decorative corbeled brickwork. (The names of these talented masons do not survive.) The stylish late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings served as physical advertisements for the successful merchants who occupied them. Although many of these buildings have been altered, downtown Lumberton retains several of its most elaborate structures intact above the ground level storefronts (#s 6, 23, 24, 34, 40, 41, 44, 52, 64, 65). These buildings display such features as denticulated lintels, corbeled eaves and pendants, applied pilasters or quoins, patterned brick (sometimes combined with contrasting lighter bricks), and mousetoothing. Some buildings from this era also display decorative tin cornices (#s 12, 23, 39, 44) and the Southern Express Building (#27) is the only structure to retain its original cast iron storefronts.

The Lumberton Commercial Historic District retains a good representative group of late nineteenth and early twentieth century brick commercial buildings. Despite the construction of outlying shopping malls during the 1960s and 1970s, the district remains a lively town center with some businesses

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 8 Page 10

operating at the same locations for decades.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN LUMBERTON:

The Historic Robeson Foundation, an historic preservation organization, was formed in the early 1970s to acquire and restore the then endangered Proctor Law Office (#3). Historic Robeson continues to play an active role in preservation education and has been directly involved in, or has lent support to, two subsequent adaptive reuse projects, the Carolina Theatre (#36, NR) and the (former) Lumberton Municipal Building (#34). Other notable private restoration/adaptive reuse projects in the commercial district include the Planter's Building (#45, NR), the commercial building at 407 N. Elm Street (#13), and the Southern Express Building (#27). In May, 1988 Lumberton was designated a "Main Street" community. Plans are currently being formulated for facade restorations, initially concentrating on the 100 block of Fourth Street, and on persuading property owners to remove the mid-twentieth aluminum replacement facades, particularly in the 300 block of N. Elm Street where the metal hides some of the city's oldest and most ornate brick commercial buildings. The Main Street committee and the Lumberton Economic Development Office initiated the preparation of this National Register nomination which was funded by the City of Lumberton.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 21.5 acres

UTM References

A 17 682380 3832910
 Zone Easting Northing

C 17 6821780 38321040

B 17 6821780 38323000
 Zone Easting Northing

D 17 682380 38322200

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S. Dickinson, Consultant
 organization _____
 street & number 4606 Hunt Road
 city or town Hillsborough

date September 1, 1989
 telephone (919) 732-5439
 state N.C. zip code 27278

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 9 & 10 Page 1

9. Major Bibliographical References

The following bibliography is taken from Diane E. Lea and Claudia P. Roberts', An Architectural and Historical Survey of Central Lumberton, (Raleigh: N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, 1980), a publication forms the basis for the Statement of Significance:

Cashwell, R. G. "Now and Then News." The Robesonian, 1968-1975. (A typed collection of these newspaper columns is on file at the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Survey and Planning Branch, Raleigh, N.C.)

Lawrence, Robert C. The State of Robeson. New York: J.T. Little and Ives Co., 1939.

The Robesonian, Historical Edition, February 1951.

The Robesonian, 100th Anniversary Edition, 23 May 1971.

10. Geographical Data Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Lumberton Commercial Historic District is shown on the accompanying map, "Lumberton Commercial Historic District," which is drawn to a scale of 3/4"=100'. The accompanying map is an enlarged copy of a portion of the planimetric map prepared by Robert M. Leary & Associates, Ltd., 1980, published in An Architectural and Historical Survey of Central Lumberton, North Carolina (see Bibliography).

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Lumberton Commercial Historic District have been drawn to include one site and all those properties which contribute to the historic character of Lumberton's commercial district and to exclude residential development at the north and later commercial development to the east and south. The Lumber River forms the western boundary of the district; a currently undeveloped portion of the eastern riverbank was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Section number 10 Page 2

10. Geographical Data

(Boundary Justification, continued)

chosen for inclusion within the boundary as a symbolic, representative section of the river important in the settlement of Lumberton, and to the town's subsequent growth as a transportation and commercial center. A non-contributing warehouse (constructed 1946) is located at the easternmost boundary point; this warehouse is included within the boundary because it anchors a major corner and also visually reinforces the established character of this area's warehouse-lined streetscape.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Photographs 1
Section number _____ Page _____

PHOTOGRAPHS

Lumberton Commercial Historic District

The following lettered list of photographs is keyed to the map of the Lumberton Commercial Historic District. The lettering generally follows the same system used for the numbered Inventory List, i.e. from North to South on the principal streets, Elm and Chestnut, and then West to East along the cross streets. Where appropriate the corresponding Inventory List number has been indicated in parentheses in the photograph description. The following information applies to all of the photographs:

1. Name of district: Lumberton Commercial Historic District
2. City and State: Lumberton, North Carolina
3. Photographer: Marian O'Keefe
4. Date of photograph: March 3-4, 1989
5. Location of original negative: Division of Archives and History,
109 E. Jones Street
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611

-
- A. (former) Stephens' Funeral Home (#1)
605 N. Elm Street
camera pointing northwest
 - B. Streetscape
West side 500 block N. Elm Street
looking south from corner of Elm and Sixth streets
Proctor Law Office (#3), 517 N. Elm St. in foreground
 - C. (former) First National Bank Building (#7)
501 N. Elm Street (in foreground)
and
Commercial Building (#6)
503 N. Elm Street (at right)
camera pointing northwest
also visible at far left, Freeman Building (#51) and
Carlyle Law Office (#52), 114 and 110 W. Fifth Street

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Photographs 2

Section number _____ Page _____

- D. Streetscape
West side 400 block N. Elm Street, looking south from
corner of N. Elm and 5th streets
McLeod Bldg. (#8), 433 N. Elm St. in foreground
- E. Commercial Buildings
401 and 407 N. Elm Street
(former) Bank of Lumberton (#14), 401 N. Elm Street at
left
Commercial Building (#13), 407 N. Elm St. at center
portion of Commercial Building, 411 N. Elm St. (#12) at
right
- F. Streetscape
West side 300 block N. Elm Street looking south from
corner of N. Elm and Fourth streets
- G. Streetscape
West side 200 block N. Elm Street looking south from
corner of N. Elm and Third streets
(former) National Bank of Lumberton, 221 N. Elm St. (#20)
at right
- H. Streetscape
East side 300 block of N. Elm Street looking north from
corner of N. Elm and Third streets
[Note: The less-than-full-height aluminum panels on the
third building from the right, (former) Efird's Department
Store (#32), 306 N. Elm St., were removed in August 1989]
- I. (former) Municipal Building (#35)
112 N. Elm Street
camera pointing southeast
- J. Southern Express Building (#27)
101-105 S. Elm Street
- K. Streetscape
East side 400 block N. Chestnut Street
- L. Lumber River Greenspace (#53)
East riverbank, looking south from Fourth and Water streets
toward Second St. bridge

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Lumberton Commercial Historic District,
Robeson County

Photographs
Section number _____ Page 3

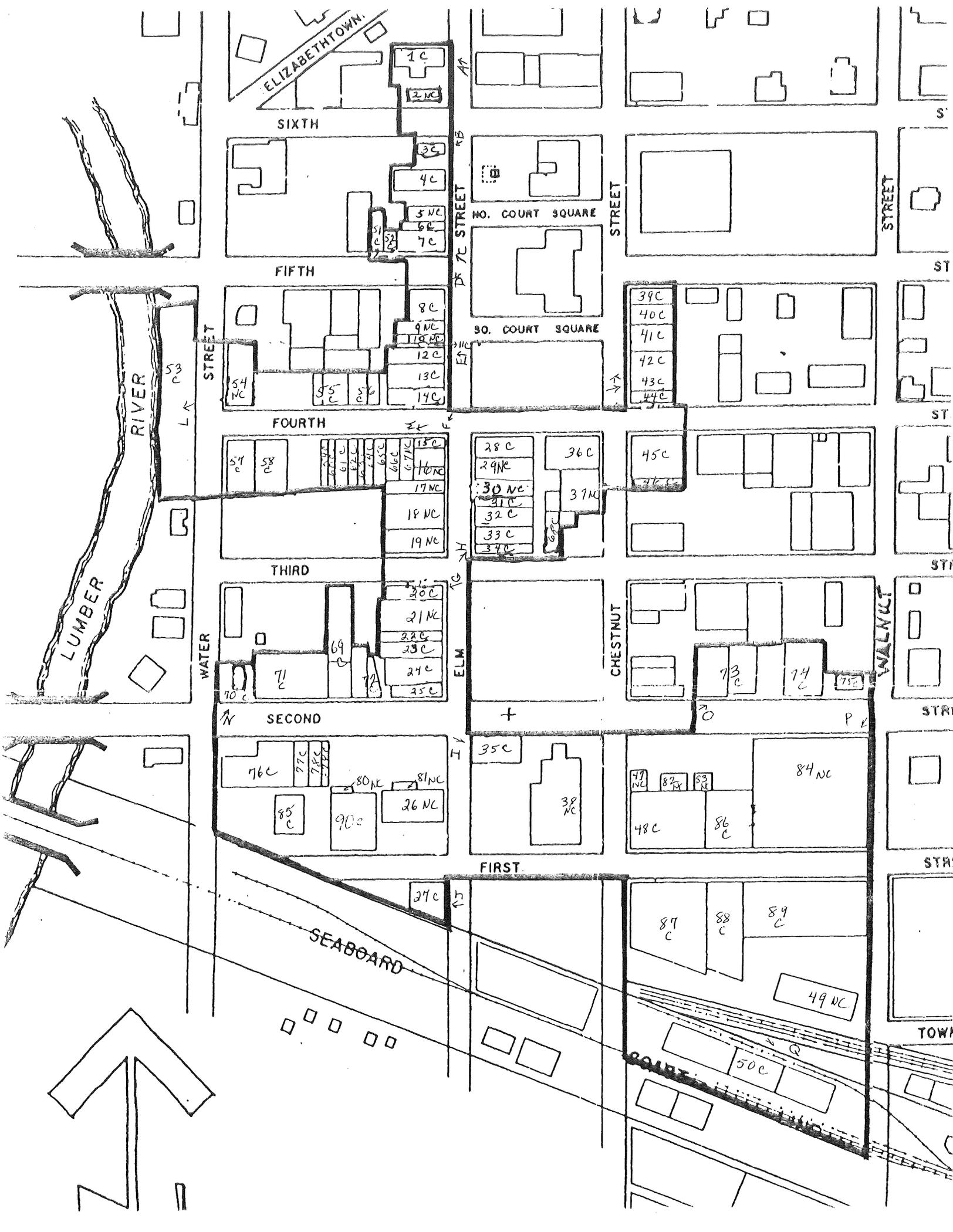
- M. Streetscape
South side 100 block Fourth Street
camera pointing west, toward river

- N. Streetscape
North side 100 block of Second Street
looking east from corner of Second and Water streets
(former) Pure Oil Station (#s 70, 71), 118 W. Second St.,
in foreground

- O. Streetscape
North side 200 block of Second Street
camera pointing east
(former) Freeman and Clegg Pontiac Dealership (#73),
213 E. Second Street, in foreground
Commercial Building (#74), 215 E. Second St. at right

- P. Warehouse (#84)
Southwest corner of Walnut and Second street
camera pointing southwest

- Q. Lumberton Depot (#50)
East side Chestnut Street at railroad tracks
camera pointing northwest



ELIZABETH TOWN

SIXTH

FIFTH

FOURTH

THIRD

SECOND

NO. COURT SQUARE

SO. COURT SQUARE

FIRST

SEABOARD

LUMBER RIVER

WATER STREET

ELM STREET

CHESTNUT STREET

WALNUT STREET

STREET

ST

ST

ST

ST

ST

TOW

