

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name King Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Dalton Road, Main Street, School Street, and Railroad not for publication
Right of Way

city or town King vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Stokes code 169 zip code 27021

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Jerry Crow SAPO 2/1/02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
72	27	buildings
		sites
1		structures
		objects
73	27	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- COMMERCE/general store
- COMMERCE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/financial institution
- COMMERCE/restaurant
- COMMERCE/warehouse
- RELIGION/religious facility
- RECREATION AND CULTURE/theater

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- COMMERCE/specialty store
- COMMERCE/business
- COMMERCE/warehouse
- RELIGION/religious facility
- AGRICULTURE/processing

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Colonial Revival
- Period (English) Cottage
- Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation BRICK
- walls WOOD/weatherboard
- WOOD/OTHER/German siding
- roof METAL/tin
- other STONE

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce

Period of Significance

c. 1890-c. 1952

Significant Dates

c. 1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

King Historic District

Stokes, North Carolina

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1,7] [5,5,7,1,6,0] [4,0,1,5,3,2,0]
Zone Easting Northing

3 [1,7] [5,5,7,7,7,0] [4,0,1,4,8,4,0]
Zone Easting Northing

2 [1,7] [5,5,8,0,0,0] [4,0,1,5,0,0,0]

4 [1,7] [5,5,7,1,7,0] [4,0,1,5,1,3,0]

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sherry Joines Wyatt and Sarah A. Woodard Historic Preservation Specialists

organization David E. Gall, AIA, Architect date November 26, 2001

street & number 938 West Fifth Street telephone 336-773-1213

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27101

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

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

Property Owner

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

name More than 50 owners

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

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

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

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King Historic District, Stokes County, North Carolina

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

AGRICULTURE/processing

7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER/Commercial Style

OTHER/ I-house

Materials

foundation

OTHER/concrete block

walls

SYNTHETICS/vinyl

SYNTHETICS/aluminum

BRICK

OTHER/ rolled asphalt siding

roof

ASPHALT

7. Narrative Physical Description

King, North Carolina, is located in the southwest corner of Stokes County near the base of the Sauratown Mountains. The center of the town is situated along a slight ridge with Dalton Road (SR 1127), the main thoroughfare, and the railroad. The community lies along the ridge line from northwest to southeast, creating a narrow, linear community. King Street (SR 1236 / Old U.S. 52), which is parallel to Dalton Road and the rail line, lies north and downhill from the tracks, which are immediately north of Dalton Road. Main Street (SR 1112/1128) runs on a north-south axis, intersecting Dalton Road south of the railroad tracks, and King Street north of the rail line. The historic district comprises the central business district clustered around the intersection of Dalton Road and Main Street with residential development to the east and west from the center of town, primarily along Dalton Road. As Dalton Road continues east, it crosses the rail line, which curves southward after this intersection. Immediately east of this crossing, the grade drops severely on the north side of the street so that several houses are situated below the grade of the street.

The historic district is bordered by suburban strip development to the south, between the downtown and U.S. Highway 52, a four-lane, controlled-access highway. This modern suburban development is interspersed with older residential development close to downtown. To the west, residential development continues beyond the district's boundary with post-1950 ranch houses. These ranch houses give way to scattered, older farm houses with some newer construction between the farms. North of the historic district, residential development continues in modern suburban subdivisions. To the east of the historic district, the town's residential structures become mixed with small scale, suburban commercial development before giving way to more scattered home sites.

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Section number 7 Page 2 King Historic District, Stokes County, North Carolina

From the central intersection of Main and Dalton, place-defining vistas are created by the buildings and topography. East of the intersection, Dalton Road curves to the north, creating an unusual, slightly serpentine, downtown corridor lined with one and two-story commercial buildings. To the west, Dalton Road maintains a straighter line to the northwest. Here, the downtown buildings quickly merge into the western, tree-lined residential area. South Main Street approaches downtown via several gentle curves, which can be seen from the Main and Dalton intersection. To the north, North Main Street crosses the railroad tracks and continues downhill to King Street. Looking north along Main Street, beyond the commercial buildings, one is greeted with an expansive view of the Sauratown Mountains, which transect central Stokes County. This view creates a unique and effective terminus for Main Street and provides a visual connection between the town and its rural surroundings.

Historic buildings in King's central business district are one and two-story masonry structures dating from ca. 1914 to the 1950s. Later masonry buildings from the 1960s through ca. 1980 are scattered along the main street. The buildings have little or no setback from the street and often share party walls. The commercial buildings are typical of early twentieth century commercial buildings in many of North Carolina's small towns. While a few display decorative brickwork, they typically are quite simple in design, featuring recessed entries and recessed brick panels near the parapet for the sign board. Two of the most prominent buildings in the district are the former Bank of King (#70) and the King Drug Company (#66). Both are brick, two-story, and have corner entrances. The buildings are located diagonally across from each other at the Main and Dalton intersection.

Another commercial building of particular note is located at 110 East Dalton Street (#35). This one-story building has an original storefront with access to two stores off a deeply recessed entry. Also of special note is a Quonset building (built as a movie theater). The brick façade has a scalloped parapet and faces South Main Street.

To both the east and west of downtown are residential sections. The eastern section is mixed with a few commercial buildings, which have been drawn out of the district boundary. Overall, the residential architecture in the King historic district is represented by vernacular house forms, such as frame I-houses, and gabled-ell houses with late nineteenth and early twentieth century details, such as decorative sawnwork and Colonial Revival features. Also present are post-1915, nationally popular house styles, such as bungalow, Period Cottage, and Colonial Revival, executed in frame or masonry. Houses generally have small front and side yards and maintain a relatively uniform setback from the street, although there is some variety in the spacing between houses. Many of King's homes within the district retain contributing outbuildings, the majority of which are frame, gable-front garages dating from the 1920s and 1930s.

The Simeon Wesley Pulliam House (#14) and the James Robert Hutchins House (#41) typify the earliest houses in the district. The Pulliam House (c. 1907) is a two-story, side passage, frame residence with a hip roof and central gable with a peaked attic vent. The house also has one-over-one sash windows and a wrap-around porch. The Hutchins House is similar to several houses on East Dalton Road. It is a two-story, frame structure with a hip roof and double-tier porch with turned posts and sawnwork. This house has a double-pile, center-hall plan and dates from about 1905.

The houses dating from the first quarter of the twentieth century are typical of that era. Bungalows with Craftsman influences are particularly numerous throughout the town. One example is the 1925 house at 202 East Dalton Road (#45). This home is a one-story, side-gable bungalow with brick veneer and stuccoed gable ends. The house has an engaged, wrap-around porch, false beams, and four-over-one sash windows.

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Only five examples of houses from the 1940s through 1952 exist in the historic district. The house at 229 West Dalton Road (#12) is a typical two-story, brick, Colonial Revival with half lunette attic windows in the gable ends. This house has a full-width porch with paired posts and a deck on the porch roof which is surrounded by a metal balustrade. The house dates from about 1945 and represents the shift in building style during the post-war era. The Colonial Revival style was dominant at the time, though there are examples of Period Cottages and Minimal Traditional style houses within the district. One example from around 1940 is located at 234 West Dalton. (#5)

Two important contributing, non-residential structures are located in the residential areas. At the eastern end of the district is the circa 1920 King Milling Company (#57). This roller mill, housed in a large, gambrel-roof structure, is still in operation, producing flour, corn meal, and animal feed. The location of this prominent building at the eastern boundary terminates this end of the district. Near the western edge of the district is the c. 1925 King Moravian Church (#6). This is a brick, gable-front church that incorporates typical Moravian design features such as round arch windows and an arched hood, or bonnet, sheltering the front entrance.

Eleven of the commercial buildings in the proposed district are post-1952. These buildings are very similar in architecture detail, height, and materials to the 1940s buildings contributing to the district, and will soon be reaching fifty year mark and may be considered for contributing status at that time. A good example of this is 101 East Dalton Road, Shores' Store. This building is a two-story, brick building with an angled corner. The corner storefront is flush, while the Dalton Road storefront is recessed. Both are made of aluminum and the upper story windows are aluminum jalousie. The storefronts are shielded by a flat-roof canopy supported by metal posts. The use of the angled corner is reminiscent of the Bank of King and King Drug. Furthermore, its two-story, brick construction reflects the design of these other corner buildings.

The proposed district contains ninety-six resources sixty-six of which are contributing. Of the contributing resources, one is a structure (the rail line) and ten are outbuildings; the remainder are buildings. The district incorporates a variety of uses from residential to industrial, institutional, and commercial, with most buildings dating from the first half of the twentieth century. Overall, the district retains a good level of integrity. Changes to the town's buildings have occurred, usually in the form of additions, storefront modifications, and/or the application of vinyl or aluminum siding, but as a whole, these modifications do not significantly detract from the district's character since the changes do not impair our understanding of the overall pattern of development in King.

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King Historic District, Stokes County, North Carolina

WEST DALTON ROAD, NORTH SIDE - 100 AND 200 BLOCKS (CONTINUED)

- | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| 2 a. | Outbuilding | | c.1925 | Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
Side-gable, frame outbuilding. | | | | |
| 3. | Woman's Club (former) | 244 West Dalton Road | c.1925 | Non-Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
Side-gable, one-story, frame building with bracketed entrance stoop at front door. The building has been heavily altered with replacement windows and vinyl siding. | | | | |
| 4. | House | 242 West Dalton Road | c.1935 | Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
Brick Colonial Revival house is two stories with side-gable roof. Gable roof of side porch is supported by Tuscan columns. The house entry has an open arched pediment supported by Tuscan columns. The door is flanked by sidelights. The house has six-over-six windows. | | | | |
| 4 a. | Garage | | c.1980 | Non-Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
One-bay, front gable, frame garage. | | | | |
| 5. | Moravian Church Parsonage | 234 West Dalton Road | c. 1936 | Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
One-story, brick house with side-jerkinhead roof. The house exhibits Period Cottage details such as the large chimney on the front facade engaged in the asymmetrical gable entry pavilion. The door is covered by a pedimented stoop with replacement metal posts (pipe columns). The windows are six-over-six. The engaged side porch has brick columns. | | | | |
| 6. | King Moravian Church | 224 West Dalton Road | 1925, 1953, and 1992 | Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
Brick front-gable church constructed in 1925 is typical of Moravian church design. It has arched windows and door with arched transoms. Over the door is an arched hood. A L-plan education and fellowship wing was constructed at the rear of the church (extending to the southeast) in 1953 and now serves as the connector to the new sanctuary constructed in 1992. Both the 1953 and 1992 additions respect the detail of the original church and separate themselves from the original church, via their location at the rear and to the side, in a manner that allows the older section to be distinct. The original belfry has been moved to the 1992 sanctuary. | | | | |

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King Historic District, Stokes County, North Carolina

WEST DALTON ROAD, NORTH SIDE - 100 AND 200 BLOCKS (CONTINUED)

7. Gaston Allen House 210 West Dalton Road c. 1915 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-and-a-half story house with side-gambrel with large front gambrel dormer. The first story has weatherboard while the roof gables have shingles. The house has a central entry and wrap-around porch with battered columns on brick piers.

Vacant Lot

8. House 200 West Dalton Road c. 1910 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, side gable, hall and parlor frame house with German siding. The engaged porch is supported by replacement metal posts. The windows are six-over-six, paired sash.

Vacant Lot

9. Community Bank Building 104 West Dalton Road c. 1975 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Housing the Community Bank, this one-story building is brick with central entrance, stepped roof, and wide oversized eaves and "dentils."

WEST DALTON ROAD, SOUTH SIDE - 100 AND 200 BLOCKS

10. House 241 West Dalton Road c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-and-a-half story, side-gable, bungalow has large gable front dormer. Details include exposed rafter tails, knee braces, and paired and single windows with decorative light configuration in upper sashes. The full-width porch is engaged and supported by columns.

10 a. Garage c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Front gable, one-bay frame garage with clipped-corner entrance is located at the rear of the property.

11. House 237 West Dalton Road c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-and-a-half story, side-gable, bungalow has front gable dormer with knee braces. The engaged porch is partially enclosed and is supported by square posts on brick piers. The gable ends of the house have shingles. The windows are paired and single one-over-one sash. The house is sheathed in vinyl.

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WEST DALTON ROAD, SOUTH SIDE - 100 AND 200 BLOCKS (CONTINUED)

12. House 229 West Dalton Road c.1945 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story, brick Colonial Revival house with full-width porch which has roof deck with metal balustrade. The porch is supported by paired wood posts. The central entrance is flanked by pilasters and has transom. The windows are six-over-six and the gable end of the house is ornamented with half-lunette attic windows.

13. House 225 West Dalton Road c.1945 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Brick, side-gable, one-and-a-half story Colonial Revival style house has two dormers sheathed in stucco. The house a nearly full width porch with has decorative metal porch posts and balustrade as well as balustrade around porch roof. The windows are six-over-one.

13 a. Garage c.1945 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Front gable, one-bay frame garage is located at the rear of the property.

14. Simeon Wesley Pulliam House 217 West Dalton Road c. 1907 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story, frame house has side passage entrance. The hip roof has central gable with peaked attic window on the front facade and a similar gable with peaked attic vent on the east side. The wraparound porch is supported by Tuscan columns. The one-over-one windows have prominent lintel moldings. The house has its original metal roof and vinyl siding.

14 a. Carport c. 1990 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Front gable, two-bay carport with rear storage area is located in rear of property.

15. House 205 West Dalton Road c. 1900 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

L-plan cottage has hip roof porch with ornate turned posts, two-over-two windows, and double leaf entrance which has paneled doors with arched lights. The house has aluminum siding.

16. House 203 West Dalton Road c. 1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Side-gable bungalow with engaged porch under cat-slide roof which is supported by square posts on brick piers. The house has knee braces. Modifications include aluminum siding and replacement windows.

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Section number 7 Page 8 King Historic District, Stokes County, North Carolina

WEST DALTON ROAD, SOUTH SIDE - 100 AND 200 BLOCKS (CONTINUED)

16 a. Outbuilding c. 1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, frame garage has German siding, one bay, and side entrance door.

17. House 201 West Dalton Road c. 1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Side-gable, one-and-a-half story bungalow with front gable dormer. The house has exposed false beams, porch with battered columns on brick piers, open brickwork balustrade, and paired/single six-over-one sash windows. The house has vinyl siding.

17a. Outbuilding c. 1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Side gable, one-story, frame building with four-over-four sash window, exposed rafter tails, and brick flue. The building has a standing seam metal roof.

18. Newsom House 103 West Dalton Road c.1905 Contributing

Triple-A form l-house with hip roof porch supported by replacement metal posts. The house has central hall plan and a one-story rear ell. The windows are replacements, but maintain original light configuration.

18 a. Outbuilding c.1905 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story frame outbuilding has German siding. The doors of the building's double-leaf entrance have arched lights; they may be older than building. The use of this outbuilding is not clear, but appears to have been a storage building.

EAST DALTON ROAD, NORTH SIDE - 100 BLOCK

19. Shores' Store 101 East Dalton Road c.1956 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Currently housing Terry's Furniture, two-story, brick building with angled corner. The corner storefront is flush while the Dalton Road storefront is recessed; both are aluminum. The upper story windows are aluminum jalousie. The storefronts are shielded by a flat-roof canopy supported by metal posts. A square clock is located at the top of the corner facade. This building replaced a circa 1910 wooden building the Shore family owned known as "The Big Store."

20. Commercial Building 103 East Dalton Road c.1960 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, brick building has large plate glass storefront and door framed with aluminum. It currently houses King Shoe Shop.

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EAST DALTON ROAD, NORTH SIDE - 100 BLOCK (CONTINUED)

- | | | | | |
|---|---------------------|--------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 21. | Commercial Building | 105 East Dalton Road | c.1925; c.1975 | Non-Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
One-story, brick building currently used as the office for Triad Accounting and Tax Service. The building has a c.1975 facade with mansard-type shingled canopy, contemporary brick veneer, and plate glass storefront over an earlier building. | | | | |
| 22. | Commercial Building | 107 East Dalton Road | c.1925, c.1980 | Non-Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
One-story, brick building has c.1980 facade similar to 105 over an earlier structure. Continuum Home Care is located in the building. | | | | |
| 23. | T.G. New Grocery | 109 East Dalton Road | c.1919, c.1980 | Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
Although the storefront of this two-story building has been altered in a manner similar to 105 and 107, the second-story retains its integrity. The brick building is typical of commercial buildings from the early twentieth century with corbelled cornice, recessed area for sign board, and segmental-arched windows. The store was operated by Tom New from 1918 until 1971. | | | | |
| 24. | Commercial Building | 111 East Dalton Road | c.1930, c.1980 | Non-Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
Original one-story commercial building is constructed of hollow-core tile block. The facade of this building is obscured by a c.1980 storefront, similar to 105 - 109. | | | | |
| 25. | Commercial Building | 113-117 East Dalton Road | c.1980 | Non-Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
One-story brick commercial building with mansard roof canopy with shingled roof. Storefronts are plate glass with aluminum frames. | | | | |
| 26. | Home Café | 119 East Dalton Road | c.1923 | Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
Two-story brick building is sheathed in stucco. The storefront has been somewhat altered to look similar to 113-117 with canopy and corner brick veneer. The original doors, display windows, and wood bulkheads are intact. The cornice is a dog-tooth brick course. A gable roof is behind the facade's parapet wall. | | | | |
| 27. | Commercial Building | 121 East Dalton Road | c.1920 | Contributing |
| <i>DESCRIPTION:</i>
Currently housing Miss Joyce's Dance Studio, this two-story building is constructed of concrete block stamped with a brick pattern; the facade has been stuccoed. The building parapet hides a gable roof with exposed rafter tails. The | | | | |

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EAST DALTON ROAD, NORTH SIDE - 100 BLOCK (CONTINUED)

building has its original storefront with recessed, double leaf entrance. There is a full-width metal canopy with exposed joists supported by posts. The upper level windows have six-over-six sash windows.

28. Commercial Building 123 East Dalton Road c.1940 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, brick building has tile coping at parapet and recessed panel for sign board. The glass storefront has a recessed entrance.

29. Commercial Building 125 East Dalton Road c.1955 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, brick building is similar to 123, but does not have traditional recessed storefront. The storefront, which has two large windows and central glass door, may have been altered.

30. Alexander Building 127 East Dalton Road c.1930 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

This side-gable frame structure has been altered with the addition of a brick veneer facade and replacement windows. The building has a metal roof and an early frame addition with shed roof at the side of the building.

31. House 131 East Dalton Road c.1940 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, side-gable house with pedimented central entrance porch. The house has vinyl siding and replacement windows and door. It is set back from commercial buildings with a small yard and picket fence.

EAST DALTON ROAD, SOUTH SIDE - 100 BLOCK

32. Commercial Building 104 East Dalton Road c.1940 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, brick building with stepped parapet features recessed sign board panel framed with headers. The metal canopy is modern. The building houses B.J.'s Shoes.

33. Commercial Building 106 East Dalton Road c.1920 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, brick building has recessed panel for sign board. The storefront is modern glass. The building was originally a meat market and now serves as the Stokes Republican Headquarters.

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EAST DALTON ROAD, SOUTH SIDE - 100 BLOCK (CONTINUED)

34. Gordon's Hardware 108 East Dalton Road c.1920 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, brick building has recessed panel for sign board. The storefront is modern materials, but retains its recessed entry configuration.

35. Commercial Building 110 East Dalton Road c.1920 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

This one-story, brick building has two separate businesses. The recessed entrance has two sets of double-leaf, paneled doors; one for each business. Other details include a recessed panel for the sign board and glass tile transom. The building currently serves as the Democratic Headquarters, but was originally a barber shop.

36. Commercial Building 112 East Dalton Road c.1920, c.1990 Non-contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Originally one-story, this building currently has two stories and has had many other alterations including modern storefront, replacement windows, and vinyl siding.

37. Chevrolet Dealership 118-120 East Dalton Road c.1940 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Large, one-story building has glass storefront and garage bay on the north facade in addition to side entrance flanked by pilasters. The east elevation angles creating the 120 storefront which is glass, similar to 118. The building's upper facade is ornamented by raised brick panels.

EAST DALTON ROAD, NORTH SIDE - 200 BLOCK

38. Commercial Building 203 East Dalton Road c.1955 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, concrete block building has aluminum framed glass storefront and truck bay with wood roof structure with exposed rafter tails at the side of the building.

39. Commercial Building 209 East Dalton Road c.1920 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

This frame building has an L-plan with cross gable roof. Currently utilized by King Fuel Oil Supply Company, the building has had several alterations over the years including aluminum siding and plate glass windows. Original detailing includes Craftsman style doors, and unusual shed-roof fueling canopy with wood post supports and exposed wood bracing.

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EAST DALTON ROAD, NORTH SIDE - 200 BLOCK (CONTINUED)

40. House 213 East Dalton Road c.1900 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story house with cross-gable metal roof with central entrance and large central pediment. The full-height front porch has square columns. The two interior chimneys have decorative brick work. The house has two-over-two windows and aluminum siding.

41. James Robert Hutchins House 221 East Dalton Road c.1905 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story dwelling has double-pile, central hall plan with hip roof. The double-tier front porch has turned posts, sawnwork brackets and balustrade, and an unusual front gable on hip roof. The original owner ran a sawmill near Sauratown Mountain.

42. House 229 East Dalton Road c.1965 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Brick ranch house with shed-roof porch that extends into carport.

43. House 233 East Dalton Road c.1900 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Similar to 213 East Dalton Road. Two-story, frame I-house has side gable roof and full-height porch with gable on hip roof similar to 213. The house has two-over-two sash windows, original door with panels and paired lights, and gable returns at each end. Modifications include vinyl siding and replacement porch columns.

43 a. Garage c.1920 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, frame garage.

44. House 235 East Dalton Road c.1910 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, side-gable, hall and parlor house with standing seam metal roof and central chimney. The shed roof front porch has turned posts. The house has two-over-two sash windows, exposed rafter tails, and vinyl siding.

EAST DALTON ROAD, SOUTH SIDE - 200 BLOCK

45. House 202 East Dalton Road c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Brick veneer bungalow has front gable roof with projecting front gable ell; both have stuccoed gable ends. Details include a wrap-around, porch with side gable roof, false beams, four-over-one sash windows, and battered posts on brick piers.

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EAST DALTON ROAD, SOUTH SIDE - 200 BLOCK (CONTINUED)

46. House 206 East Dalton Road c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Frame bungalow with cross gable roof has engaged porch. Details include knee braces and tripartite, paired, and single eight-over-one sash windows. Modifications include replacement porch columns, vinyl siding, and new shingles in gable ends.

46 a. Garage c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Hip roof, frame garage has exposed rafter tails and original doors on its two bays. A contemporary, free-standing, metal carport is located directly in front of the garage.

47. House 216 East Dalton Road c.1925 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Side-gable frame bungalow has front gable dormer and engaged porch under cat slide roof. The windows are paired and single six-over-one sash. The house has aluminum siding and replacement porch posts. The porch is partially enclosed.

48. House 226 East Dalton Road c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Frame bungalow has front gable roof and a wrap-around, side gable porch. Details include false beams. The porch columns have been replaced but the original brick piers exist. The windows are replacements and the house has vinyl siding.

48 a. Garage c.1970 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Three bay, concrete block garage.

EAST DALTON ROAD, NORTH SIDE - 300 BLOCK

49. House 300 East Dalton Road c.1915 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, frame, hall and parlor house with saltbox shape, side gable roof. The house has a small, pedimented entry porch which likely replaced the original porch. The house also has replacement picture windows and aluminum siding. There is a small addition at one end.

50. House 305 East Dalton Road c.1910 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Side gable, one-story, frame house with central chimney and off-center entrance. The windows are four-over-four sash. The shed roof porch is supported by replacement posts. The house has vinyl siding.

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EAST DALTON ROAD, NORTH SIDE - 300 BLOCK (CONTINUED)

51. House 309 East Dalton Road c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story frame house with pyramidal roof, hip roof front porch and central entrance. The house has six-over-six sash windows. Alterations include metal porch supports and vinyl siding.

51 a. Garage c.1980 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Front gable, concrete block garage.

52. House 315 East Dalton Road c.1900 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Frame I-house with central entry. The hip roof front porch has c.1930 porch with brick piers; the posts are replacements. The house has two interior chimneys, one of which has decorative brick work. The windows have been replaced with one-over-one sash. The house has aluminum siding.

52 a. Outbuilding c.1900 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Unusual, one-story building has shed roof and is sheathed in plywood. The front facade has a short, pent-like canopy.

Vacant Lot

53. House 325 East Dalton Road c.1910 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story, frame house has pyramidal roof and small front gable, and hip roof, double-tier porch similar to 221. The chimneys have decorative brickwork and have been stuccoed. The one-over-one windows are replacements as is the front door. The house has vinyl siding. The porch has turned posts with sawnwork brackets. The posts have been modified to rest on brick piers.

EAST DALTON ROAD, SOUTH SIDE - 300 BLOCK

54. House 316 East Dalton Road c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Side-gable frame bungalow with shed dormer, knee braces, exposed rafter tails, four-over-one sash windows, and square porch posts with braces. The house is sheathed in asbestos siding.

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55. House 320 East Dalton Road c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Simple, front-gable frame bungalow with attached front gable porch. The porch is supported by replacement posts on brick piers. The windows are four vertical lights over one light sash. The house has vinyl siding.

EAST DALTON ROAD, SOUTH SIDE - 300 BLOCK (CONTINUED)

55 a. Garage c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Small, single bay, front gable, frame garage with clipped corner entrance.

56. House 322 East Dalton Road c.1945 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Small, one-story, side gable frame house with wide, gable front porch. The windows are two-over-two with horizontal lights. The house has vinyl siding.

57. King Milling Company 340 East Dalton Road c.1924 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Large, two-and-a-half story, frame, gambrel roof roller mill has a two-story shed addition at the east end. There is a modern metal shed addition at the west end that is connected at the corner of the building in such a manner that it does not obscure the historic building. A shed roof loading dock extends along the front facade. The building is sheathed in printed rolled asphalt siding. The King Milling Company is still in operation. Local tradition holds that the original owners were Wiley Johnson and Tom Rierson.

SCHOOL STREET - 100 BLOCK

58. House 100 School Street c.1930 Contributing

Side-gable brick bungalow with gable-and-shed, pediment-like dormer and small front bay. The porch is also pedimented; the roof supported by battered brick columns on brick piers. Brick piers also accent the porch steps. The three-over-one sash windows are paired. At the gable ends, there is a basketweave brick pattern. There is an addition at the east end of the house. A stone retaining wall borders the yard and is accented by large stone piers at the steps from the side walk.

59. House 102 School Street c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Side-gable frame bungalow with cat slide roof and front gable dormer. The house has eight-over-one windows, slender porch columns, and aluminum siding.

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59a. Carport c.1985 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Large, two-bay, open frame structure located at the front of the lot.

SCHOOL STREET - 100 BLOCK (CONTINUED)

60. House 106 School Street c.1930 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Brick, Period Cottage style house with side gable roof. The prominent chimney on the front facade is stepped and adjoins the asymmetrical front gable entrance pavilion. The house has six-over-six windows. There is a small, rectangular accent window at the side of the door.

60 a. Garage c.1930 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Front gable, single bay, frame garage with exposed rafter tails.

SOUTH MAIN STREET, WEST SIDE - 100 BLOCK

61. Commercial Building 110 South Main Street c.1950 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story, brick building has three metal casement windows at the second floor and plate glass storefront with recessed entry. There is a metal canopy over the storefront.

62. Commercial Building 114 South Main Street c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story, brick building has six-light sash on the upper level and recessed entry. Double leaf doors have three panels and upper lights. The transom above the storefront has been boarded over. A metal canopy extends the width of the storefront.

63. Commercial Building 116-118 South Main Street c.1925 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, brick building has corbelled cornice and two storefronts. The storefronts have modern materials but utilize the original recessed entrances each with double-leaf, paneled, and glazed doors.

64. Commercial Building 120-124 South Main Street c.1965 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story, brick building with plate glass storefront covered by flared hip canopy.

65. Commercial Building 128 South Main Street c.1955 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

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Two-story, brick building has three metal casement windows at the upper floor and matching picture window at lower level. The two entrances each have a Moravian style hood.

SOUTH MAIN STREET, WEST SIDE - 100 BLOCK (CONTINUED)

66. King Drug Company 132 South Main Street c.1926 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story, brick building has storefront and main entry at corner with a side door on West Dalton facade. The fixed window sash have eighteen lights. The cornice has soldier course frieze, corbelling and other decorative brickwork. The interior retains its original pressed tin ceiling. The building was constructed by Dr. Grady E. Stone, Dr. Rupert S. Helsabeck, and Joe and Clodie Stone as a joint drugstore and doctors' office. The facility also housed an emergency room staffed by Nurse Kate Stone. The second floor originally housed a tonsil clinic.

SOUTH MAIN STREET, EAST SIDE - 100 BLOCK

67. Commercial Building 109-113 South Main Street c.1940 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story, brick building has small six-over-six sash windows in second story. Storefront has two entrances with transoms with flanking plate glass display windows. The northern end of the facade has a loading/garage bay with sliding wood door. The storefronts share metal canopy with 117-121.

68. Western Auto 117-121 South Main Street c.1950 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story, brick building has metal casement windows on the second floor. The storefront is plate glass. The double leaf entry has a transom and is flanked by Art Moderne style, curved, frosted glass blocks at the corners of the entrance. A door at the southern end of the facade has a transom and leads to the stairs to the second floor.

SOUTH MAIN STREET, WEST SIDE - 200 BLOCK

69. Gas Station 204 South Main Street c.1960 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

One-story building was originally clad in enamel panels but currently has brick veneer. The building has a plate glass storefront and two garage bays. A flat canopy extends over the fueling area.

SOUTH MAIN STREET, EAST SIDE - 200 BLOCK

70. Bank of King 102 South Main Street c.1914 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Impressive, two-story brick building has been recently rehabilitated. The paint was removed to reveal the brickwork. A large window with elliptical arch fanlight dominates the East Dalton facade while the South Main facade originally had three arched openings (two doors and a window) that now are windows. The second story has replacement one-over-one sash set in segmental arch openings. The cornice displays the most elaborate corbelling in King. The corbelling forms

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several, stepped rows at the cornice with console-like vertical features beneath. The vertical features are wide and create recessed panels on the side elevation. The recessed corner entrance is flanked by corbelled jambs and has a pressed tin ceiling and metal column. A rear addition has been removed, but the original vault remains at the rear. The interior has been remodeled.

SOUTH MAIN STREET, EAST SIDE - 200 BLOCK.

71. Commercial Building 205 South Main Street c.1965 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Large, front gable, concrete block building with garage bay.

72. Commercial Building 209 South Main Street c.1955 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Small, one-story concrete block building has been partially stuccoed. The building has two display windows, central entrance, and tile coping.

73. Theater 213 South Main Street c.1950 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Corrugated metal Quonset building has brick facade with scalloped parapet. Building was originally a theater.

WEST KING STREET, SOUTH SIDE - 100 BLOCK.

74-78. Fertilizer Warehouses 107-115 West King Street c.1920 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Group of five, small, frame, one-story, gable front warehouses. Locally referred to as "fertilizer houses." Some retain original corrugated metal sheathing while others have been sheathed in vinyl. One retains original ghost sign. The buildings have open brick piers foundations and small loading docks. The buildings have entrances on each gable end.

EAST KING STREET, SOUTH SIDE - 100 BLOCK.

79. Isaac Spainhour House 104 East King Street c.1890 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

According to local tradition this is the oldest house remaining in King. It is a small, side-gable, single pile, frame house with engaged porch supported by turned posts (not original) and double entrances. The house has vinyl siding and replacement windows. There is a small stoop at the side door. The house was moved across the street in the early twentieth century. The date of the house has never been accurately determined but, the doors and windows shown in the 1980s survey file could suggest a date in the late nineteenth century.

79 a. Garage c.1950 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Large, front gable garage clad in corrugated metal. The large entry is double leaf.

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80. House 106 East King Street c.1960 Non-Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Side-gable Minimal Traditional frame house with front gable projection, recessed porch with arcade connecting to front gable garage.

EAST KING STREET, SOUTH SIDE - 100 BLOCK.

81. Caudle-Rains House 108 East King Street c.1905 Contributing

DESCRIPTION:

Frame I-house has full-width hip roof porch supported by Tuscan columns. The central entrance has double-leaf paneled and glazed doors. Other details include gable returns and two-over-two sash windows. A side-gable addition on the north side of the house attaches to the original rear ell. This addition serves as the current entrance as indicated by the current street address.

82. Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad (former) 1888 Contributing Structure

DESCRIPTION:

Completed in 1888-1889, this railroad was later known as the Atlantic and Yadkin Valley and finally as part of Norfolk and Southern Railroad. It was an important factor in the development of King. A single-track line, the railroad corridor maintains its original location parallel to Dalton Street, then turning south and crossing Dalton Street near the eastern end of the district.

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8 Statement of Significance Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The small town of King, located in the southwest corner of Stokes County, developed along the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. King began as a group of four, separate rural crossroads communities that gradually coalesced over time. Although the railroad arrived in 1888, growth was slow until the tobacco boom, spawned by the rise of the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company of Winston-Salem, during the late 1890s and early 1900s. The district contains residences and commercial buildings constructed during the period of tobacco-related growth in King from about 1915 through about 1950. Although some of the buildings within the district have been altered, the addition of vinyl siding being especially common, King retains a good level of integrity and a high concentration of historic buildings. The town of King is significant because it is an intact, small, railroad town that served the area's tobacco farmers. The buildings within the district are indicative of the town's strong rural roots. The King Milling Company ground grain for area farmers, the fertilizer warehouses stored the vast quantities of fertilizer necessary for wheat and tobacco production, the Bank of King served the rising economic capacity of the local tobacco farmers, and T.G. New's store was both a social and trading center. The residential resources in the district were built as a result of the commercial development of the community. The district meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of commerce. The period of significance for the King Historic District begins in c.1890, the date of the earliest resource, the Isaac Spainhour House, and ends in 1952. Although the district includes buildings dating after 1952, the district does not have exceptional significance and therefore the fifty year cut-off date for Criterion A is the end of the period of significance.

Historical Background

Stokes County

Stokes County was formed in 1789 from Surry County and was divided in 1849 to create Forsyth County. The county's early history centered around Germanton the original county seat, and after 1849 was concentrated in Danbury, the new county seat. Primarily agricultural, the county experienced increased land values and great agricultural prosperity during the two decades prior to the Civil War.¹

During the postbellum era, Stokes County farmers fell into a pattern similar to many Piedmont areas cultivating corn, wheat, oats, fruits, and garden vegetables and raising swine, cattle, and sheep. Tobacco became the key product for the agricultural community by the late nineteenth century, however. In 1880, Stokes County was the fifth largest producer of tobacco in the state and just twenty years later production of this crop had more than doubled. The peak of agricultural production in Stokes County came around 1920 when the county's 3,372 farms produced over 340,000 bushels of corn,

¹Phillips, Laura A.W. "Stokes County, Historic Inventory, Final Report, 1989" Raleigh, North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, 4-5.

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nearly 119,000 bushels of wheat, and well over 6 million pounds of tobacco.²

Another important feature of Stokes County agriculture after the Civil War, was the break-up of large land holdings. Smaller farms were created with more cultivated acreage. In 1890, the county had 2,418 farms, but by 1940, there were 4,071 farms. Throughout the twentieth century, Stokes County was comprised of many small farms that were relatively self-sufficient and sometimes located in relatively isolated places. These farms often coalesced into crossroad communities, which were formed around a store, a post office, a mill, a school, a church, or some combination of the above. Here goods could be purchased and information exchanged.³

In addition to its agriculture activity, Stokes County was also home to small-scale industry. Mining, tobacco manufacturing, grist and roller mills, lumber, woodworking and brick manufacturing were the biggest industrial endeavors, while resorts and recreation played an important role in some areas of the county from the 1850s through the 1920s.⁴ Adding to the growth of industry, rail service was introduced to Stokes County during the 1880s. With this service, came the development of small communities, such and King and Walnut Cove, into full-fledged towns.

Development of King

The town of King was created from the gradual merger of four rural communities. Settlement in the King area began around 1800 and was very scattered. Eventually, this settlement took the form of four communities, all of which were located within the present-day King city limits. Over time, especially after the arrival of the railroad in 1888, these villages unified into a single town.⁵

One of the settlements, King's Cabin, was located near the present center of town. Another was the Bost Precinct (later known as Spainhour), which was a voting place from 1810 to 1915, and home to a school from c. 1840 to 1868. Five Forks, a stagecoach stop, was the third village. A post office was established there in 1871 and the community was home to various businesses. The fourth settlement was a community centered around Trinity Methodist Church, which was organized in 1873.⁶

Harmon and Sallie Kiser were among the largest landowners in Stokes County. They had eleven children, most of whom married and stayed in the area. Charles King married Francis Kiser, daughter of Harmon and Sallie Kiser, on July 17, 1826. Between 1826 and 1833, Charles and Francis King lived in a log cabin, possibly near the corner of King Street (Old US Highway 52) and Rains Street. The house was probably the only one in the area and the vicinity came to be known as King's Cabin.⁷

In 1884, Branson's *North Carolina Business Directory* did not mention King's Cabin, nor did the 1890 census, which listed every town with a population of fifteen or more. Four families are known to have resided in King's Cabin at this time, however, including: W. M. Lloyd, S. R. Slate, J. W. Spainhour, and Mrs. Martha E. Pulliam. By 1896, the

² Agricultural Census, 1890 - 1945.

³ Phillips, 7 and 12.

⁴ Ibid, 22-28.

⁵ Robert Carroll, *One Hundred Years of King History*, 4

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid, 1-3.

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business directory listed the town of "King's" with a population of 50. The fledgling town had two stores, L. E. Grabs and Son and J. W. Spainhour, and one factory, D. W. Dodd's Tobacco Co.⁸

Commerce Context

Early Development

J. W. Spainhour, a shrewd business man and member of the John Jacob Spainhour family, was an early settler whose descendants became large landowners in the King area. J. W. Spainhour bought land in the King's Cabin area in 1880 because he believed that the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad would extend through the property and bring new business opportunity. L. E. Grabs made a similar prediction and together they determined the location of King's business district.

On June 20, 1888, the first locomotive steamed along the new tracks of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad Company (CF-YV), passing through King's Cabin. Earlier, the railroad company had struck a deal with D. N. Dalton, founder of the nearby community of Dalton. The railroad was offered free right-of-way through Dalton's property if all of the railroad's fuel was purchased from him and if the railroad would not build a depot in King's Cabin. Thus, King's Cabin became a flag stop on the line, without the capacity to load or unload freight.⁹

Anticipating that a depot could bring the community unprecedented prosperity, the citizens of King's Cabin approached the railroad about the possibility of a depot stop. The railroad had only agreed not to construct a depot in King's Cabin, and therefore, the company saw no reason why it could not stop at a depot constructed by the town. On two acres of land donated by J. W. Spainhour, and with the free use of V. T. Grabs' sawmill and his experience as a local builder, residents banded together to construct their own depot. By 1889 the depot was complete. In 1891, J. W. Spainhour sold the depot property to the railroad company for \$1.00. After this transaction, the name "King" was posted on the depot and officially taken by the post office in 1894.¹⁰

The early commercial development that followed the advent of the railroad included the construction in 1890 of King's Cabin Alliance Store-General Merchandise by L. E. Grabs. The word "alliance" was chosen since there would be many different types of businesses conducted in the building. When the name of the town officially changed to King in 1894, the family changed the name of the store to L.E. Grabs and Sons, Coffin Manufacturers, also dealers in General Merchandise-Contractors and Builders. Also in the 1890s, J. W. Spainhour built a general store where the King Drug Company is currently located and D. W. Dodd began his tobacco factory near the rail line. After the turn of the twentieth century, commercial growth continued in King with the 1903 construction of W. J. Overby's store next to the railroad on the other end of the block from Spainhour's store (site of 110 South Main Street). This property later became the Stokes Supply Company.¹¹ None of these three early commercial buildings survive. By the mid-1910s, the town of King had developed a substantial commercial district that served farmers in the area. With the success of agriculture during this

⁸In Phillips, 19 and Ibid.

⁹Carrol, 7-9.

¹⁰Ibid, 7-9 and 11.

¹¹Ibid, 15-16 and 20-21.

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period, the area had the financial wherewithal to support a local bank. The Bank of King (102 South Main Street) was constructed in 1914. V. T. Grabs oversaw the construction of the new bank and was its first president. During the early 1920s, the Bank of King became the King Branch of the Bank of Stokes County. The bank closed during the early years of the Great Depression.¹²

Together with businesses, the railroad, and the bank, local industry aided in the continuing development of King. In addition to the tobacco factory, which opened during the late nineteenth century near the railroad and closed by the 1920s, there was one other important industrial concern in King during the early twentieth century, V. T. Grabs' sawmill. On January 29, 1903, the Grabs Manufacturing Company, makers of coffins, furniture, and other wooden items was incorporated and built a factory south of the downtown area. On December 30, 1910, the V. T. Grabs Furniture Company broke from its parent company and was incorporated. This company created knock-down furniture that could be assembled at home. The Grabs Manufacturing Company went through many name changes, the King Furniture Manufacturing, the King Manufacturing Company, and finally the Blue Ridge Manufacturing Company on June 10, 1925. The large factory closed after V. T. Grabs death in 1935 and its building has been destroyed.¹³

The growth of industry and commercial enterprises in King is reflected in the town's population, which was 307 in 1915, a fivefold increase since 1906. In 1916, the *North Carolina Yearbook and Business Directory* listed King with a population of 506. A summary of the town in 1916 reveals a thriving commercial district with five general merchants (Shore Mercantile Company; Stokes Supply Company; E. P. Newsom, jeweler; Newsom Novelty Company, books and novelties; and S. W. Pulliam, fertilizer), one bank (Bank of King), and three blacksmiths and repair shops (P. L. Priddy, R. L. King, and W. S. Holder). Industries in King were the Grabs Manufacturing Furniture Company, Reece-Jones Lumber Company / Contractor, and B. F. Pulliam, Tobacco Company. Additionally, the town boasted G. M. Allen's livery stable, the *Messenger* newspaper, two hotels and boarding houses, a barber, W. S. Holder's garage, two physicians (O. R. Keiger, G. E. Stone), three churches (Christian, Missionary Baptist, and Methodist Episcopal), King High School, and the Grabs Company served as undertakers.¹⁴

Post-World War I Development

It was not until after the end of World War I that most of the extant commercial structures in King were constructed. In fact, of the twenty-five commercial buildings lining East Dalton Street and Main Street, fourteen were built between about 1920 and 1930. One of the most notable examples is the King Drug Company located at 142 South Main Street. Built by Drs. Rupert S. Helsabeck & Grady E. Stone in 1926 the building housed a pharmacy and the doctors had their offices in the back. The operation was family-run with Dr. Stone's sister Kate as the nurse and his brother Joe keeping the books and performing a variety of other odd jobs.¹⁵ Another prominent building is the T. G. New Grocery built at 109 East Dalton Road by Calvin Ollie Boyles, R. O. Bennett & T. G. New in 1919 (originally known as Boyles, Bennett & New

¹²Stokes County Historical Society, *The Heritage of Stokes County Vol. I* (Winston-Salem: Hunter Publishing Co., 1981), 126.

¹³Ibid, 9-10.

¹⁴*The North Carolina Year Book and Business Directory*. Raleigh: The News and Observer, 1916, p.501.

¹⁵Carroll, 22.

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and later as the Boyles Company).¹⁶ Across from the grocery is a row of one-story brick buildings built around 1925. One of these housed W. E. Hendrix' meat market and another Gordon's Hardware. A third was the shop of John William Tuttle, a barber. Across the street, Thomas E. Smith built the Home Café (119 E Dalton Road) about 1923.¹⁷ Frank Rains and his sister Rebecca Rains Moser grew up in King during the 1920s and recall earning spending money by selling produce from their own garden plots to the Home Café.¹⁸

The memories of the Rains siblings, indicate that, like their rural neighbors, the citizens of King often grew vegetable gardens and kept cows or hogs for family use. This feature reminds us of the close ties between the town and the agricultural community that surrounded it historically. One building that aptly represents the town's agricultural history is the King Milling Company (340 East Dalton Road). Built about 1924 by Wiley Johnson and Tom Rierison, the company was later operated by S. B. Burge and Sons. The mill was constructed on land bought from C. F. White and the machinery used at the mill was purchased from T. F. Newsom.¹⁹ The mill is still in operation and produces flour for retail. It historically served local farmers who brought in their grain (both wheat and corn) to be milled. While some of the flour or cornmeal may have been sold locally, most of the mill's business was flour and meal for home use. The construction of this building in 1924 indicates that even after the peak of wheat production in 1910, the production of family foodstuffs was still an important part of the local economy.

The mainstay of King's economy was tobacco, however, even though very little of the leaf was ever shipped out on its rail line and the only tobacco manufacturing venture had closed before the town's heyday in the 1920s. King was a tobacco town because its merchants and depot served the Bright Leaf-growing farmers in the outlying rural areas. One of the most significant enterprises in King was the sale of fertilizer. Brought in on the railroad, the two hundred pound bags of fertilizer were stored in the fertilizer houses (five of which still exist) that backed up to the rail line near the depot. Local entrepreneur, S. W. Pulliam, owned many of these warehouses. The predominant local crops of wheat and tobacco required large amounts of fertilizer, making this the largest yearly expense faced by farmers.²⁰

To serve local farmers with fertilizer and other goods, King relied on its rail line. The CF-YV railroad became the Atlantic-Yadkin Valley by World War I and O. L. Rains came to King as depot agent. Rains held this position for more than forty years, managing the six trains that pulled into the depot each day. The three-car passenger trains arrived at 9:30 in the morning and 6:30 in the evening. There were four freight trains, two from Greensboro to Mount Airy and two back, each having fifteen to twenty cars. The local freight train stopped at each point along the line, but the through freight train stopped only in King along its route. This was warranted by the high volume of business in the little town.²¹

¹⁶Ibid, 20.

¹⁷Ibid, 22.

¹⁸Rebecca Rains Moser and Frank Rains, Interview by Sherry Joines Wyatt, February 15, 2001.

¹⁹Phillips, Laura "Architectural Survey File for King Milling Company, c.1984," North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, and Carroll, 20.

²⁰Carroll, Interview by Sherry Joines Wyatt and Sarah A. Woodard, February 5, 2001 and Moser and Rains, Interview.

²¹Moser and Rains, Interview.

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A tremendous amount of goods arrived at the depot. Twenty-one car loads of coal were shipped in each year along with automobiles, hay, animal feed, fertilizer, clothing, food and household items. The modest exports from King included butter, chickens, and rabbits that were shipped north by O. L. Rains infrequently. At various times the railroad was also used to export apples grown by Frank Grabs and furniture and lumber from the V. T. Grabs factory.²²

Although King was a tobacco town, the railroad in King was not used as a point of tobacco shipment because the CF-YV line ran to Greensboro, not to the booming tobacco market of Winston-Salem. Thus, the local tobacco crop made the fifteen mile trip to Winston-Salem via wagon or truck.²³ Rather than a major export center, King was a distribution point for goods for a wide region. The owners of rural general stores made trips to the depot once or twice a week to collect supplies shipped into King.²⁴ King served "everybody back to the mountain" including approximately an eight mile region that encompassed the communities of Five Forks, Mount Olive, Mountain View, Poplar Springs, and Helsabeck.²⁵

Town Life During the 1920s

While the railroad never became a major source of economic gain through exports, the train was a vital part of community life. Even thirty years after the first train arrived, it was still considered a novelty - a source of entertainment and excitement. Farm families like Robert Carroll's timed their excursions to King around the train's schedule. He remembers, "There was might near always a crowd would come to King just to see the train come."²⁶ Sometimes this crowd came in handy. When the first automobile arrived on a flat car in 1911, the crowd of men waiting to witness the spectacle unloaded the vehicle by lifting it to a second group waiting on the ground beside the tracks.²⁷

Another important facet of King was the churches. Spread over a wide area, several churches served the people of King, but the Moravian Church was located closest to downtown (and is the only church included in the district). The first service of the King Moravian Church was held in the King School on July 6, 1924. The congregation then organized at S. W. Pulliam's home on October 5, 1924 with fifteen charter members. The first pastor for the church was Rev. Edgar Holton and on April 29, 1925, the first brick was laid for the new Moravian Church on land donated by S. W. Pulliam. The cornerstone was laid on June 7, 1925 and the bell was hung in September. The first service was held in the church on October 4, 1925, the anniversary of when the congregation formed. Until 1936, the pastor lived outside of town and served other congregations, but beginning in 1936 with Rev. Ed Helmich the minister resided in a parsonage on the church grounds.²⁸

King in the 1920s through the 1940s is remembered as a lively place by long-time residents. Its importance as a social center for the surrounding communities reflects its prominence as a commercial resource for farm families. All those

²²Stokes County Historical Society, Inc., *The Heritage of Stokes County, North Carolina*, Vol. II (Charlotte: Delamar Printing and Publishing, 1990), 5.

²³Carroll, Interview and Moser and Rains, Interview.

²⁴Moser and Rains, Interview.

²⁵Carroll, Interview.

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Ibid.

²⁸Stokes County Historical Society, 70.

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interviewed claimed that “you couldn’t hardly get through King” on a Saturday night. These Saturday nights were about people, coming to socialize with neighbors and enjoy the entertainments King offered. Every Saturday night people flocked into town to walk, shop, visit in the stores and outside on the benches that lined the wide sidewalks. One of the most popular sources for entertainment was the Scout Theater. A boy scout troop was organized in King during 1928 and to raise money for this troop a theater was erected. The theater was managed by Debs and Meyer Holder and was originally located next to the King Furniture Company on East Dalton Road. The theater moved to South Main Street after World War II.²⁹

King hosted Saturday afternoon baseball games that were always well attended. Tennis tournaments were played on two privately-owned courts; horseshoes and checkers were usually won by the owner of Shore’s Mercantile, Tink Shore, but were nonetheless the source of many good times. Tom New, owner of New’s Grocery, acquired a radio about 1925 and Robert Carroll recalls that there was a man who would walk three miles every night to be able to listen to “Amos and Andy.”³⁰ The radio heightened the sense of the store as a social center for news and gossip alike.

Mid-Twentieth Century Changes

By the late 1920s, King was changing rapidly. Electricity became available in 1927 and a telephone company was begun the same year. As some enterprises went out of business, others took their place; like the Helsabeck and Bleckburn Clothing Store that opened in the bank building in 1930.³¹

The lively Saturdays changed as well once World War II began since many young men were away and the women were left with additional duties at home. After the war, two important changes occurred. Farming was no longer the major occupation in the area due to new, better-paying jobs available to newly skilled veterans as well as the decline in need for the family farm with the advent of more efficient farming techniques. In fact, between 1940 and 1945 the number of Stokes County farms fell from over 4,000 to only 3,500. Furthermore, as more women had jobs outside the home, better incomes allowed families in the King area to purchase entertainment rather than rely upon that created by their community. With television and easy automobile access to the larger city of Winston-Salem by the 1960s, King’s role as Saturday night entertainment ended.

A harbinger of these changes came in 1939 when passenger train service in King ceased. The depot finally closed in 1963 when freight service ended.³² Ironically, during the last year of freight service 2,600 carloads passed through the depot. Although this was extremely high traffic, these cars were hauling sand and gravel to be used in the construction of U.S. 52.³³ The highway was completed in 1965, giving King an expedient link to Winston-Salem.

The new highway ushered an era of extraordinary growth, which exploded in the 1970s and continues today. Consequently, just as King’s early twentieth century development occurred near the railroad, King’s late twentieth century growth has happened near the highway.

²⁹ Carroll, Interview and Carroll, 27.

³⁰ Carroll, Interview.

³¹ Carroll, 22-27.

³² Ibid. and Moser and Rains, Interview.

³³ Moser and Rains, Interview.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The irregular boundaries of the King Historic District are delineated by the solid line on the historic district map which is adapted from the Stokes County tax map at a 1" = 200' scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the King Historic District encompass the greatest concentration of pre-1952 contributing resources associated with the commercial and adjacent residential development area along with historic settings for each property.