

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina
COUNTY: Cumberland
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Liberty Row

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
North side of the first block of Person Street bounded by Market Square and Liberty Point

CITY OR TOWN:
Fayetteville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Seventh

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

COUNTY:
Cumberland

CODE:
051

The Hon. Charles Rose

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Various owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Cumberland County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Fayetteville

STATE:
North Carolina

CODE:
37

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

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COUNTY: Cumberland

ENTRY NUMBER

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FOR NPS USE ONLY

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Liberty Row is a block of fourteen brick row buildings located on the north side of Person Street in Fayetteville, bounded on the west by Market Square and on the east by Liberty Point, the triangular eastern termination of the block. The oldest structure in the row is the Liberty Point Store, a Federal period building which abuts the point; the remaining small Victorian stores were built between 1846 and 1916.

The Liberty Point Store was obviously a pretentious structure, as evidenced by its prominent site, its imposing size (five bays wide and three deep), and by the fact that all three of the visible brick elevations were originally laid in Flemish bond. The bond of the north and south elevations has been partially altered, leaving only that of the east end intact. The two-story building is wedge-shaped to conform to the trapezoidal site formed by the intersection of Person Street with Bow Street. The west elevation forms a party wall with the adjoining building. The south slope of the oddly constructed roof has two planes, while the north slope has a single plane. The south slope of the east half of the roof is covered with standing-seam tin, and the north slope of the east half and the entire west half are covered with composition shingles. The brick ends are parapeted, with two chimneys with molded caps rising from the apex of each parapet. The east side parapet retains the original brick coping. The building has been divided into two shops, and the main (south) facade on Person Street contains two simple twentieth century wood and glass store fronts. The east store front is flanked by pressed tin pilasters bearing the seal of a Chattanooga foundry company. Six-over-six sash windows illuminate the structure. The main facade windows have sandstone sills and sandstone flat arches with keystones. The north elevation originally contained a door in each outside bay of the first story and windows in the remaining first-story bays; each second-story opening is surmounted by a flat brick arch. Several of these openings have been bricked up and new ones added. The door openings originally located in all the first-story bays of the east side elevation have been closed up. The second-story windows of this elevation are finished like those of the main facade. The north and south elevations contain a three-course brick corbel cornice, terminated at the east end by sandstone corner blocks.

The first floor has been repeatedly altered to accommodate various commercial functions. The second floor was remodeled in the early twentieth century, probably when the structure was divided. The only element of the architectural finish of this level that appears to be original is the small mantel in the center room of the east half of the building. The slender Doric pilasters, wide frieze board, and simply molded cornice and shelf of the mantel possibly date from the late Federal period. The attic is unfinished. In the base of the section of each chimney which passes through the attic is a small rectangular opening.

The remainder of the buildings in the row share party walls, and, with the exception of one three-story building, are two stories tall. Five of these buildings (number 101-103, 109, 111, 113-115, and 129 Person Street) appear to have been built in the mid-nineteenth century, and are similar in form to the Liberty Point Store with parapeted gable roofs and six-over-six sash windows. (101-103 and 111 are concealed behind new facades.) Some

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7.

of the original facades are laid in Flemish bond and some in one-to-three common bond, and several have sandstone window sills and lintels and brick corbel cornices. A number of the store fronts are framed by pilasters bearing the manufacturing seal of "George L. Mesker Company, Iron Works, Evansville, Indiana." The remaining eight buildings in the row, slightly taller than the gable-roof stores, have flat roofs, and were built between 1896 and 1916. Six of these (numbers 107, 127, 131, 133, 135, 137-139) retain their Italianate Revival and Romanesque Revival commercial facades. The dominant architectural features of this group are the prominent window trim of the upper level and the ornamental brickwork cornices. Numbers 133 and 135 Person Street are Romanesque Revival in style, with segmental-arched windows at the upper levels and arcaded brick corbel cornices. Number 107 Person Street, the Cumberland Furniture Company, is the most pretentious of this group. The upper level of the store is covered with a pressed-tin facade featuring pairs of engaged Doric colonnettes which flank the second-story windows and a decorative main cornice terminated on each end by a corbel post. The simple wooden street level store front is flanked by cast-iron pilasters. Since the photograph was made, the two-story brick structure with tall bracketed cornice (between McNeill Tailor Shop and Liberty Lunch) has been taken down.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Liberty Row, a reminder of Fayetteville's importance as an early trade center, is one of the most cohesive nineteenth century commercial rows in North Carolina, with examples of vernacular Federal, Italianate and Romanesque Revival styles. The earliest is Liberty Point Store, a handsome Federal period structure and a Fayetteville landmark. Of considerable historical interest is the point itself, a vestige of early street patterns and the site of the Liberty Point Resolves of June 20, 1775.

The north side of the first block of Person Street comprises the oldest commercial district in Fayetteville and is a historically and architecturally unique area of the city. The row reflects the reorientation of the city following the Revolution, when the two towns of Campbelltown, the Highland Scot settlement at the head of the Cape Fear River, and Cross Creek, a Scottish village on the Cross Creek, in the present Market Square vicinity, merged in 1783 to form Fayetteville. A grid street pattern was superimposed on the picturesque topographic street pattern which had evolved during the eighteenth century. This city plan laid out Person Street (the east arm of Market Square), which extends directly from the Market House at the center of Market Square to the Cape Fear River. Business activity shifted from Bow Street, the narrow curved street behind Person Street which had been the main street of the Cross Creek settlement, to Person Street.

Liberty Point, the triangular plot formed by the acute intersection of Person and Bow streets, is cherished locally because of its historical association. On June 20, 1775, the Liberty Point Resolves, which declared the support of Cumberland County citizens to the continental cause, were adopted on this site, then a much wider point. The Liberty Point Store, the Federal style commercial building which borders the site on the west, abuts both streets and is actually a transitional building in the reorientation. Fayetteville citizens have long assumed the store to be the building in which the meeting occurred, but this structure and the rest of the Liberty Row buildings postdate 1783. The Liberty Point Store, however, is the oldest building in Liberty Row and the oldest known commercial building in the city, and is a symbol of the historic event to Fayetteville citizens. Its survival is explained partially by their attention and partially by neglect, for this area has been a depressed commercial district during most of the twentieth century.

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The date of the store is uncertain. In 1817 Ann R. Quince sold the point lot to Elisha Stedman, a prominent Fayetteville businessman, for \$4,000 (a price probably indicating a building on the premises). An 1831 fire leveled much of the commercial district, but the merchants of this block announced their return to their former stands in local newspapers immediately following the fire. On January 11, 1833, six months following the fire, Elisha Stedman's executor sold "a brick tenement [sic] occupied by C. J. Haigh with land to the point" for \$2,425 to John Kelly. This is the earliest known deed reference to the Liberty Point Store. This brick tenement could have been a new structure built after the fire, the rebuilt structure, or the partially burned structure. In 1842, the year in which John Kelly conveyed the Liberty Point lot containing a "brick House" to his niece Catherine Daily, he was taxed for this lot and building, referred to in the tax lists as the "Liberty Point brick store," for \$2,000. Thus by 1842 the building was already known as the Liberty Point Store. Its original function is unknown. The two known early owners, Stedman and Kelly, were both prominent businessmen with widespread investments in the booming new town. Kelly, a wealthy Irish Catholic immigrant, was a leading Fayetteville importer, and it is possible that the Liberty Point Store was his retail establishment.

This area was a vital commercial district during the nineteenth century. Fayetteville, situated at the head of one of the few navigable rivers in the state, was one of the chief centers for the distribution of goods in and out of western North Carolina. Liberty Row, nicknamed "Robber's Row" in the early nineteenth century because of the abundance of shops, was also a craft center. The workshops of the silversmiths and pewterers who practiced in Fayetteville in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries were clustered here. Excavation in the basements of several of the Liberty Row stores has revealed traces of their presence. Dr. George Barton Cutten's study of The Silversmiths of North Carolina, shows that these craftsmen migrated into the South from the New England and Middle Atlantic states when their profession became overpopulated. As a result of this research and subsequent study, Fayetteville is now becoming recognized as a major southern center of their activity.

In addition to the devastating 1831 fire, fires in 1845 and 1846 destroyed much of the rebuilt row, although these fires started from Market Square and apparently spared the Liberty Point Store. The solid row of gabled brick stores were built after the last major fire in 1846. Deed research on Number 129 Person Street, one of this group, indicated that the store was "in progress" on August 20, 1846; thus the owner must have begun reconstruction immediately following the July 22, 1846, fire. The others were probably constructed during the same period. Their brick construction and brick parapet walls reflect the attempt at fireproof construction. This gable row survived intact until the late nineteenth century, when the Italianate commercial structures broke into the streetscape. Progress was arrested by the early twentieth century shift of the main commercial district to Hay Street, the continuation of Person Street west of Market Square, and the buildings of Liberty Row have changed little since the shift.

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8. B

A significant physical feature in the Liberty Row streetscape which has now disappeared is the alley, indicated on an 1825 map, which cut diagonally through the middle of the triangular block linking Person and Bow streets. A building, number 113-115 Person Street, was constructed in the neck of the alley in the mid-nineteenth century. An open passageway was left, however, through the first-story east half of the building. The remainder of the brick arch which spanned the rear half of the building, forming the rear entrance, is visible within the northeast rear bay. This passageway is now blocked off and used as commercial space. It appears that the passageway preserved the practical mid-row access from Person Street to Bow Street (for pedestrian traffic, although not for street traffic as was originally possible).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Research and architectural description by Ruth Little Stokes, survey specialist.
 Cumberland County Records, Cumberland County Courthouse, Fayetteville, North Carolina, Office of the Register of Deeds (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Cumberland County Records, Office of Archives and History, Raleigh, North Carolina (Subgroups: Deeds, Wills).
 Cutten, George Barton. The Silversmiths of North Carolina. Raleigh, North Carolina: State Department of Archives and History, 1948.
 Maps of Fayetteville: Sauthier Map of Cross Creek, 1770, McRae Map of Fayetteville, 1885, North Carolina Division of Archives and Records.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	35 ° 03' 11"	78 ° 52' 43"		0	0	
NE	35 ° 03' 11"	78 ° 52' 34"				
SE	35 ° 03' 07"	78 ° 52' 34"				
SW	35 ° 03' 07"	78 ° 52' 43"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than 1 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Survey and Planning Unit

ORGANIZATION: Office of Archives and History DATE: 21 June 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
 109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 37

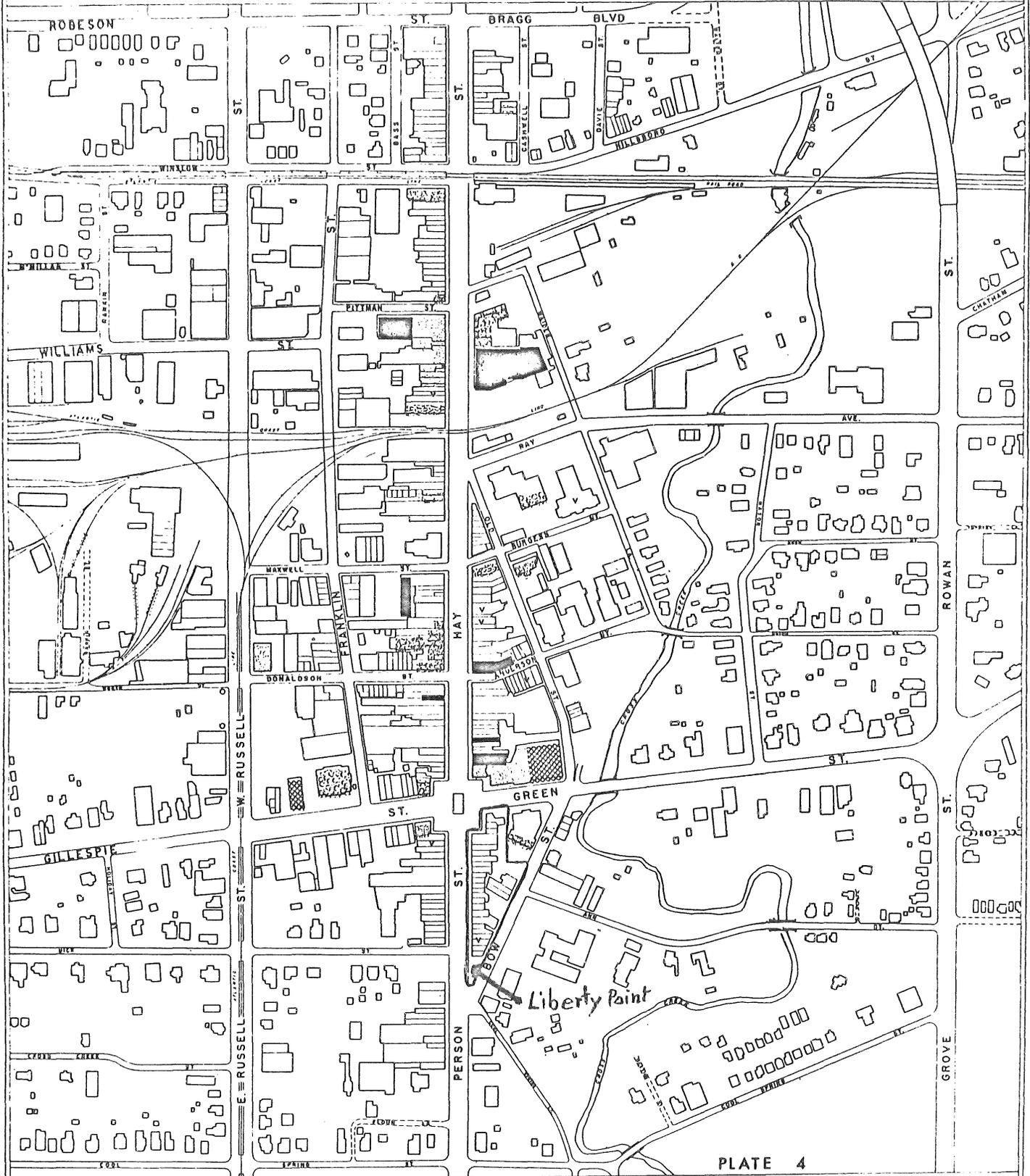
12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>H. G. Jones</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date <u>21 June 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

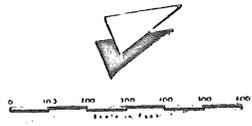
FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| | DEPENDENT RETAIL TRADE | | PUBLIC AND INSTITUTIONAL WHOLESALE AND INDUSTRY |
| | ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND ADVISORY SERVICES | | RESIDENTIAL |
| | CONVENIENCE TRADE AND CONSUMER SERVICES | | VACANT |
| | INDEPENDENT RETAIL TRADE AND REPAIR SERVICES | | |

ABOVE SECOND FLOOR USES



DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, NC
JUNE, 1963

The preparation of this map was financially aided through a Federal grant from the Urban Research Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency under the Urban Planning Assistance Program authorized by Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954 as amended.



Illus. 5 Streetscape...north side looking west