

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Cherryville Downtown Historic District

Cherryville, Gaston County, GS1629, Listed 8/17/2016

Nomination by Heather Fearnbach

Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, November 2015



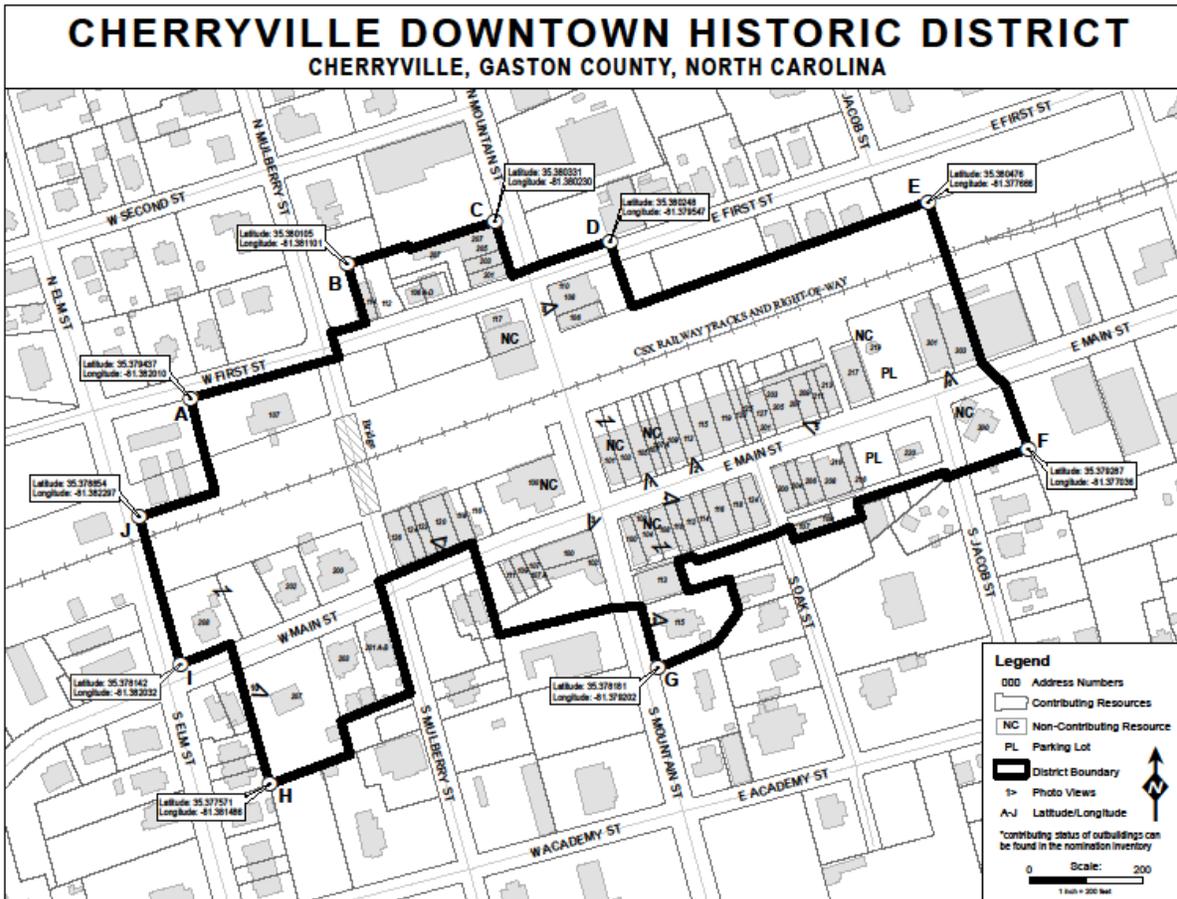
200 East Main Street, looking southwest



100 West Main Street, looking northwest



McDowell-Gurley House, 200 West Main Street



Historic District Map

**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 Cherryville Downtown Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Main, Mountain, First, S. Jacob, S. Oak, and N. Mulberry Streets **N/A** not for publication
city or town Cherryville **N/A** vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Gaston code 071 zip code 28021

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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
I hereby certify that the property is:		
<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 count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
53	5	buildings
0	0	sites
1	2	structures
2	0	objects
56	7	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

3

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional

COMMERCE/TRADE: Financial Institution

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Department Store

COMMERCE/TRADE: Restaurant

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Commercial Style

Classical Revival

Spanish Revival

Colonial Revival

Modern Movement

Queen Anne

Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

CONCRETE

STONE

roof ASPHALT

RUBBER

other METAL: Cast iron

SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1901-1966

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Rogers, Willard G., architect

Beam, James L., Jr., architect

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:
Cherryville Historical Museum
- Gaston County Public Library, Gastonia

Cherryville Downtown Historic District
Name of Property

Gaston County, NC
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 18.95 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

See Latitude/Longitude coordinates continuation sheet

1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	_____
		Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Heather Fearnbach
organization Fearnbach History Services, Inc. date 4/25/2016
street & number 3334 Nottingham Road telephone 336-765-2661
city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27104

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 Multiple owners (more than fifty)
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 listing. 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 20303.

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6. Function or Use (continued)

Historic Function

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
HEALTH CARE: Medical Office
GOVERNMENT: City Hall
GOVERNMENT: Post Office
RECREATION/CULTURE: Theater
SOCIAL: Meeting Hall
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related
TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Current Function

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure
GOVERNMENT: Post Office
HEALTH CARE: Medical Office
LANDSCAPE: Parking Lot
RECREATION/CULTURE: Museum
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related
TRANSPORTATION: road-related
VACANT/NOT IN USE

Section 7. Description (continued)

Architectural Classification

Moderne

Materials

Walls SYNTHETICS: Vinyl
WOOD: Plywood
WOOD: Weatherboard
METAL: Tin

Roof METAL: Tin

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Section 7. Narrative Description

Cherryville, population 5,906, is situated in the southwest Piedmont's Catawba River basin sixteen miles northwest of Gastonia, Gaston County's seat. The rural community experienced significant growth following the Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad's November 1862 extension to White Pine, which became Cherryville. The railroad corridor's location north of and parallel to Main Street influenced road and building arrangement as the town's commercial center developed. The municipality's grid plan and the railroad track are rotated approximately fifteen degrees from true cardinal direction alignment. However, for the purposes of this document the narrative is written as though buildings have true north-south orientation.

The Cherryville Downtown Historic District encompasses fifty-nine primary resources. Most flank Main Street, which runs east-west at a higher elevation than the railroad line. This allows buildings on Main Street's north side to have full basements with rear entrances. Mountain Street, a north-south corridor, also serves as one of Cherryville's primary business thoroughfares. A few properties front First Street as it runs east-west north of the rail line, and Jacob, Oak, and Mulberry Streets, which have north-south alignments and intersect Main Street. Early to mid-twentieth-century residential neighborhoods surround downtown. Late-twentieth-century commercial development borders Main Street at the district's east end and North Mountain Street north of the boundary.

The district contains an intact and cohesive group of early- to mid-twentieth-century commercial buildings in the central business area as well as several adjacent architecturally significant residences. Most of the commercial buildings are brick and one or two stories tall, although a few three-story structures occupy key locations. The majority abut each other on small lots bordered by concrete sidewalks and parking areas. In a few instances, free-standing buildings replaced earlier commercial concerns. Three of the district's four service stations are situated on corner lots in order to increase visibility and facilitate access to gas pumps. The city's turn-of-the-twenty-first-century Main Street beautification program included the installation of grade-level planting beds and tall metal reproduction lampposts throughout downtown, as well as the construction of a hip-roofed gazebo in the small park east of 217 East Main Street. Outlying one- and two-story brick and frame residences included in the district have deeper setbacks on larger parcels. These resources represent the predominant architectural types and styles executed in North Carolina communities as the twentieth century progressed.

None of Cherryville's mid- to late-nineteenth-century commercial buildings, which were typically one- or two-story weatherboarded structures, often with full-width shed-roofed front porches, remain. As merchants prospered, they replaced these utilitarian frame buildings with stylish and fire-resistant brick edifices intended to advertise their success and attract customers. Cherryville's earliest extant commercial buildings feature brick façades with Italianate and Classical Revival-style corbelling,

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pilasters, and decorative parapets. A few structures also exhibit the use of cast-iron and pressed-metal storefront, window, and cornice ornamentation. Dr. A. W. Howell's ca. 1901 store at 105 East Main Street epitomizes this trend in its corbelled cornice, window hoods, and cast-iron pilasters. Kendrick Mercantile Company at 101-103 Main Street, erected in 1903, is not as elaborate, but its tall stepped parapet designed to attract customers distinguishes the structure from its neighbors.

Community investment in the built environment during the 1910s is manifested in fourteen edifices within the downtown historic district. The 1911 construction of the two-story Classical Revival-style Cherryville City Hall at 109 East Main Street set the tone for subsequent development. The eclectic blonde-brick façade features cast-stone cartouches, garlands, and egg-and-dart and foliated moldings. The adjacent two-story blonde-brick 1913 Self-Hoffman Building at 113 East Main Street has classical cast-stone keystones and impost blocks. The 1916 First National Bank of Cherryville at 100 South Mountain Street, designed by architect Willard G. Rogers, a principal in the Charlotte firm Hook and Rogers, displays classical cornices, pedimented and arched windows, and a cast-stone foundation scored to emulate stone. The 1910s commercial buildings at 110 North Mountain Street, 107-111 West Main Street, and 110, 118, 200, and 204 East Main Street are more simply executed, but masons employed corbelled and patterned brickwork to embellish the facades.

The trend toward minimally-adorned facades continued with the twenty-two commercial buildings erected within the district during the 1920s and 1930s. Variations in brick texture, pattern, and color add interest to the streetscape. A stepped parapet and a header-course-bordered rectangular parapet panel distinguish the two-story brick storefronts of 118 East Main Street (1918) and 124 East Main Street (1920). The two-story 1920 commercial building at 113 South Mountain Street is characterized by a textured-red-brick façade, stepped parapet, slightly projecting brick pilasters, and decorative header and soldier courses. The one- and two-story building at 106-108 North Mountain Street, constructed in 1930, features a wire-cut red-brick running-bond brick façade, a stepped parapet, and a header course spanning both storefronts above the first story. Blonde brick was particularly popular in Commercial Style edifices, as seen in the commanding three-story 1924 Masonic Building at 126 West Main Street, the two-story 1928 commercial building at 203-205 East Main Street, the one-story 1928 commercial building at 209 East Main Street, and the one-story 1930 Pliskin and Londner Building at 115-119 East Main Street.

A few Cherryville buildings illustrate the manner in which business owners employed Spanish Revival and Art Moderne stylistic elements to attract customers during the 1930s and 1940s. The ca. 1930 National Register-listed Beam's Shell Service Station and Office at 117 North Mountain Street, the 1932 Homesley Chevrolet - Homesley Super Service Station 208-210 East Main Street, and the 1920 commercial building at 206 East Main Street (updated in conjunction with Homesley Super Service Station's construction) are executed in the Spanish Revival-style with stuccoed walls and metal-barrel-tile roofs. The 1940 service station at 220 East Main Street displays the same features, but tall pilasters

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flank the façade bays. An Art Moderne influence is manifested in the 1942 Lester Theater at 301 East Main Street, where fluted vertical panels and scored horizontal lines enrich the second story.

However, most 1940s commercial buildings, like many of the district's earlier structures, exhibit functional design with minimal ornamentation. The ongoing utilization of textured brick as a means to embellish simple facades is reflected in the one-story 1940 commercial building at 216 East Main Street and the mid-1940s commercial building at 107-109 South Oak Street.

From the 1950s through the 1970s, Cherryville's commercial buildings tended to incorporate elements of the Modernist style, reflecting the era's progressive thinking and optimism in the use of new materials, construction techniques, and spatial arrangements. Examples include the buildings at 120, 122, and 124 West Main Street erected from 1952 to 1961, which are unified by a pressed-red-brick, running-bond, 1961 façade with a flat parapet. Concrete was commonly employed to provide contrasting color and texture. Stuccoed and scored cast-stone surrounds flank 120 and 124 West Main Street's storefronts. Smooth concrete panels sheathe the projecting entrance bay of the one-story, flat-roofed, red-brick, 1958 United States Post Office at 107 North Mulberry Street. Light-brown brick and white cast-stone accents distinguish the two-story, flat-roofed, square, 1972 Cherryville Savings and Loan at 100 West Main Street.

The Cherryville Downtown Historic District also encompasses seven residences that manifest popular early-twentieth-century architectural styles. The five oldest dwellings—the 1901 residence at 203 West Main Street, the 1905 Rudisill-Hall House at 115 South Mountain Street, the 1907 dwelling at 202 West Main Street, the 1908 John Pinkney and Margaret Dellinger House at 208 West Main Street, and the 1917 E. L. and Ula J. Webb House at 201 West Main Street—exhibit a combination of Queen Anne-style and classical features. The L. C. and Hattie Bess McDowell House at 200 West Main Street in 1920 displays Craftsman-style elements. The influence of the Colonial Revival is evident in the finely detailed 1924 Carl A. and Verner Dellinger Rudisill House at 207 West Main Street.

Integrity Statement

The Cherryville Downtown Historic District contains fifty-nine primary resources, approximately ninety-two percent of which retain the requisite age and architectural and historical integrity to contribute to its significance. Although the appearance of some buildings has evolved, the relationships among the district's extant resources have not changed for the past fifty years. In order for commercial buildings erected before 1966, which is the end of the period of significance, to be deemed noncontributing, entire façades have been significantly altered by a combination of storefront updates, replacement window installation, and the application of brick, stone, or cast-stone veneer after 1966. Multi-story buildings with modified storefronts but intact upper floors remain contributing. The district's residences possess good integrity.

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Only one primary resource post-dates 1966. Vacant lots and buildings that do not contribute to the district's historic character due to age or loss of integrity were excluded from the district whenever possible, resulting in an irregular boundary that conforms to the property lines of contributing buildings and streetscapes. The Cherryville Downtown Historic District retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to qualify for National Register listing.

Inventory List

The inventory list is arranged alphabetically by street name with properties enumerated by street address in ascending order. Parking lots are noted and illustrated on the district map. Each historic property is assigned a name, where possible, based on the first-known and/or a long-term occupant. Most information about these early tenants comes from historic photographs, newspapers, and plaques installed in building façades at the time of their construction. Actual or approximate completion dates and the dates of any major alterations or additions follow the property name. Construction and alteration dates are based on historic documents, photographs, newspaper articles, Sanborn Company maps (issued in September 1914, February 1925, and February 1943), Gaston County property record cards, interviews with local informants, and architectural style. Cherryville city directories were first published in 1966.

Each resource is designated as contributing or noncontributing to the district's historic significance and integrity. The evaluations are based on age and degree of alteration. Buildings constructed in or before 1966 are considered to be contributing if they retain architectural and historic integrity from the period of significance. Contributing resources must possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Noncontributing buildings post-date 1966 or were built before 1966 and have been heavily altered, therefore losing their integrity.

Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad / CSX Tracks and Right-of-Way, Contributing Structure, 1862

The railroad corridor through the downtown historic district includes railroad tracks flanked by two long, narrow, undeveloped right-of-way parcels north of parking lots behind buildings on Main Street's north side.

The Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad reached the community of White Pine, which became Cherryville, in November 1862. The company reorganized as Carolina Central Railway Company in April 1873 and extended the line to Shelby, Monroe, and Charlotte in 1874. The corporation went into receivership in 1876 and, after a May 1880 foreclosure auction, became the Carolina Central Railroad. Seaboard Air Line Railway acquired Carolina Central Railroad in 1892.

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The company's 1946 reorganization resulted in a name change to Seaboard Air Line Railroad. That entity and the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad merged in 1967 to create Seaboard Coast Line Railroad, which, in conjunction with the Louisville and Nashville Railroad became Seaboard Systems Railroad in 1982. CSX Transportation, Inc., acquired the company in 1986 and still operates the line that passes through Cherryville.¹

West First Street, North Side

Commercial Building, 1948, Contributing Building 106 West First Street

A red brick running-bond façade unifies this one-story commercial building's four plain storefronts. Metal coping caps the flat parapet. Each storefront comprises a single-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed door and an aluminum-frame plate-glass window above a brick kneewall. A full-width flat-sloped aluminum awning with scalloped lower edges shelters the storefronts. The secondary elevations are painted concrete block. The deeper east two storefronts each have a rear single-leaf door and a flanking window opening. One single-leaf door and two aluminum-frame four-horizontal-pane windows pierce the west two storefronts' rear elevation. Two red brick stovepipe chimneys serve the building.

Gaston County property records provided this building's 1948 construction date. City directories indicate that the storefronts were initially addressed 100, 100 ½, 102, 104, and 106 West First Street. In 1966, appliance purveyor Cherryville Electric, Inc., Elite Beauty Salon, dentist Ray H. Smith, Black's T. V. Service, and accountant William D. Browne Jr. leased the storefronts. E. M. Foster Tax Service replaced Cherryville Electric in 1970, but the tenants otherwise remained the same that year and through 1976.²

Commercial Building, late 1940s, Contributing Building 114-116 West First Street

This one-story flat-roofed commercial building was erected in two phases beginning in the late 1940s. The wider and deeper east section features a textured-red-brick façade with a stepped parapet capped with cast-stone coping. Above the storefront, two slightly recessed rectangular panels bordered with headers flank the matching square panel at the façade's center. Two steel-frame twelve-pane windows with cast-stone sills illuminate the interior. The single-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed front door has been covered with particle board. A rectangular aluminum-frame transom surmounts the doors. A mid-

¹ J. D. Lewis, "North Carolina Railroads,"

http://www.carolana.com/NC/Transportation/railroads/nc_rrs_carolina_central_railway.html (accessed in December 2015).

² *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1976.

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twentieth-century flat-sloped aluminum canopy shelters the storefront.

The secondary elevations are concrete block. Four concrete-block pilasters punctuate the building's east elevation. A concrete-block wall with a stepped north edge extends past the building footprint to screen the rear service area. A frame, asphalt-shingled canopy supported by triangular brackets covers the double-leaf door at the north elevation's center as well as the horizontal-board-sheathed storage room on the door's east side. Metal security bars secure the window west of the door. The west elevation has been stuccoed and two high horizontal window openings and one rectangular window opening enclosed with plywood. A red brick stovepipe chimney rises on the west elevation.

The west addition has a running bond red brick façade and concrete block secondary elevations. A five-pane, aluminum-frame transom tops the single-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed front door located west of a plate-glass replacement window with a cast-stone sill. Terra-cotta coping caps the flat façade parapet as well as the stepped west parapet. Masons integrated the stovepipe chimney into the west wall, which contains two small square openings. On the north (rear) elevation, a single-leaf door is flanked by a three-pane steel-frame window to the west and the remnants of a larger multi-pane steel-frame window to the east.

The February 1943 Sanborn map illustrates a one-story dwelling at this location. Architectural style and building materials indicate a late 1940s construction date for the commercial building, which city directories denote initially had an address of 108 West First Street. The E. M. Foster Tax Service and justice of the peace Steve Stroup occupied the building in 1966. The Fish Box, a carry-out seafood restaurant, leased the storefront through the 1970s.³

East Main Street, North Side

Kendrick Mercantile Company, 1903, Noncontributing Building 101-103 East Main Street

The expansive two-story painted-brick commercial building that occupies the northeast corner of East Main and North Mountain Streets features a stepped parapet embellished with a corbelled cornice. A projecting stretcher course frames the rectangular panel that spans the parapet's wide central section. Brick-quoin pilasters frame the two wide storefront bays. The west bay contains a mid-twentieth-century, four-part, aluminum-frame, plate-glass display window. An identical three-part window fills the east bay west of the matching recessed double-leaf door and transom. Although the corbelled cornice that tops the second story is exposed, metal panels completely cover the remainder of the second-story façade, thus diminishing this resource's integrity and making it noncontributing.

³ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1976.

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The west elevation includes one storefront bay at its south end and three second-story windows with segmental-arched two-header-course lintels. The original sash have been replaced with central square panes of glass framed by solid upper and lower panels. Five ground-level window openings with segmental-arched two-header-course lintels become progressively taller as the site's grade slopes down to the north. Those openings and the wide window opening with a soldier-course lintel near the wall's north end have been infilled with brick.

A corbelled cornice and door and window openings ornamented with segmental-arched two-header-course lintels characterize the rear elevation. The six second-story windows have been replaced with central square panes of glass framed by solid upper and lower panels. The four first-story window openings are filled with brick. The east door is covered with plywood but the opening retains its original shape. The installation of the shorter single-leaf aluminum-frame glazed west door required brick infill above it. Steel stairs with a metal-pipe railing rise to the steel landing that provides access to the rear entrance. Brick encloses four of the six basement windows. A metal grill fills the third window from the west end, while the easternmost opening has been enlarged to accommodate a steel door.

Spartanburg, S. C. native L. C. McDowell, Cherryville entrepreneurs J. W. and N. B. Kendrick, and Shelby pastor C. J. Woodson partnered in 1903 to establish Kendrick Mercantile Company. L. C. McDowell served as a manager and buyer. Robert Young painted the concern's name, the building construction date, and a millinery goods advertisement on the west wall. The concern's inventory included clothing, dry goods, furniture, hats, shoes, and undertaking supplies. In May 1919, L. C. McDowell and his brother Elliot Eugene McDowell purchased the Kendrick brothers' interest in the dry goods sales component of Kendrick Mercantile Company. At the same time, a Shelby merchant with the surname Johnson acquired the firm's furniture inventory and undertaking business. The McDowells initially kept the original company name, but later reorganized as McDowell Brothers, which operated through the 1940s. The storefronts housed Clark's Television and Appliance Company and Ferguson Hardware Company in the 1960s and 1970s.⁴

Dr. A. W. Howell Store, ca. 1901, Contributing Building 105 East Main Street

This distinctive Italianate-style, two-story, brick commercial building is one of the earliest remaining in Cherryville. Brick pilasters frame three second-story bays containing double-hung, wood-frame,

⁴ "Kendrick Mercantile Company Store," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p. 7; D. P. Waters, "Cherryville, N. C.," *Charlotte News*, August 31, 1916, p. 10; "Cherryville Chat," *GG*, May 30, 1919, p. 6; David P. Dellinger, "First Brick Buildings," *Eagle*, July 20, 1955; *Hill's Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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round-arched, two-over-two sash that are paired in the wider center bay. Corbelled arched hoods ornament the second-story windows. Two corbelled courses top each window, above which the parapet features an elaborately corbelled cornice. The storefront retains fluted cast-iron pilasters manufactured by George L. Mesker and Company of Evansville, Indiana, bordering the wood-frame storefront sections. Canted plate-glass display windows flank the recessed double-leaf glazed door. A mid-twentieth-century flat-roofed metal canopy surmounts the storefront beneath large, rectangular, plate-glass transoms. Rectangular metal grates pierce the projecting concrete kneewalls.

On the stuccoed rear elevation, three double-hung, wood-frame, round-arched, two-over-two sash pierce the second story. The two first-story windows have the same sash configuration but are rectangular and topped with a wood panel that fills the arched window opening. A similar wood panel surmounts the central, single-leaf, six-panel door and wood-frame screen door. Steel stairs with a metal-pipe railing rise to the steel landing that provides access to the rear entrance. The stairs cover the corner of the small round-arched basement window opening. East of the stairs, a late-twentieth-century asphalt-shingle shed canopy shelters the basement entrance.

Ball Ground, Georgia, native Alfred Webb Howell attended Jasper Institute and University of Georgia at Augusta prior to establishing a Cherryville medical practice in March 1883. Howell operated a livery stable, a store in his home, and Howell Manufacturing Company in addition to treating patients in Cherryville and the surrounding areas. He commissioned the construction of the building at 105 East Main Street soon after purchasing the lot from N. B. and J. W. Kendrick in April 1901. Women's clothing purveyor Ruby's, Inc. occupied the storefront in the 1960s and 1970s.⁵

Commercial Building, 1947, Noncontributing Building 107 East Main Street

Flat-roofed metal canopies shelter this one-story commercial building's two storefronts. The east canopy is higher, allowing for a tall aluminum-frame plate-glass storefront with a recessed single-leaf door at its west end. The shorter west storefront, sheathed with blue porcelain-enameled steel panels, comprises a deeply recessed central single-leaf steel door flanked by two large, elevated, aluminum-frame, plate-glass display cases. The corrugated metal panels that cover the façade's upper section compromise this resource's integrity and make it noncontributing.

The north (rear) elevation, executed in six-to-one common bond, contains two single-leaf door openings flanked by three steel-frame twenty-four-pane windows with twelve-pane hoppers. Plywood

⁵ "Old Furnace Ripples," *Gastonia Gazette* (hereafter abbreviated *GG*), June 18, 1886, p. 3; "Dr. A. W. Howell," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p.2; Gaston County Deed Book 45, p. 512; David P. Dellinger, "Doctors," *Eagle*, June 30, 1954; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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covers the east window and fills the west door opening. The east door has two raised base panels and a glazed upper section with three tall vertical panes. Steel stairs with a metal-pipe railing rise to the steel landing that leads to the east entrance. Beneath the landing, a double-leaf door with two tall-raised-base panels and a glazed four-pane upper section in each leaf allows basement access. Brick encloses the short, round-arched window opening at the basement's center. To the west, an asphalt-shingled pent canopy shelters the single-leaf vertical-board basement door. Metal grates fill four small rectangular attic vent openings.

This building occupies the site of Rudisill and Aderholdt's two-story brick general store, erected around 1899 to replace the concern's frame building across the street. The two-story store was still standing in February 1943. Gaston County property records state that the replacement one-story building was erected in 1947. Dellinger's Jewel Shop, Inc., and Ann's Shop leased the two storefronts by 1955.⁶

William C. Dellinger opened a clock and watch repair in a portion of E. M. Berry's frame store in the 1890s, beginning a long-tenured family business. William and Addie Black Dellinger's son William Kenneth Dellinger and daughter-in-law Martha Louise Wilkinson Dellinger, known as Louise, operated Dellinger's Jewel Shop's Cherryville location, while their son Baine Dellinger oversaw the Kings Mountain store. Kenneth and Louise also later sold appliances from 105 East Main Street in Cherryville. The couple operated the jewelry store until Kenneth's death in August 1979 and Louise's 1981 retirement. Kenneth and Louise's son Kenneth Lewis Dellinger owned Dellinger's Jewel Shop's Kings Mountain business for many years. The store remains open under the oversight of their grandson Kenneth Lewis Dellinger Jr.⁷

Cherryville City Hall, 1911, Contributing Building 109 East Main Street

This eclectic Classical Revival-style building originally served as Cherryville's city hall. Tall pilasters ornamented with cast-stone cartouches, garlands, egg-and-dart and foliated moldings, and corbelled caps frame the two-story, blonde-brick façade's flat parapet. Beneath the panel, tall wood brackets support the projecting frame pent roof that surmounts three tall, round-arched, second-story window openings. Pilasters with stepped cast-stone bases and capitals, alternating stretcher-and-header lintels, and cast-stone key consoles flank the multipane wood-frame windows. Each window opening contains a five-pane arched transom and three extremely narrow double-hung, wood-frame, one-over-one sash.

⁶ David P. Dellinger, "First Brick Buildings," *Eagle*, July 20, 1955; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

⁷ "William C. Dellinger – A Pioneer," undated newspaper article from Dellinger's Jewel Shop, Inc., Kings Mountain; death certificates; "Kenneth Lewis Dellinger," *GG*, September 29, 2013; Lewis Dellinger Jr., telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 15, 2016.

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Fluted cast-stone blocks ornament the projecting cast-stone window sills.

Beneath the projecting cast-stone first-story cornice, arched, corbelled, cast-stone hoods with oversized faceted keystones embellish the storefront. The west bay contains a mid-1980s double-leaf, wood-frame, glazed door and a segmental-arched wood-frame transom. In the east two bays, square brick pilasters with cast-stone bases border the replacement central double-leaf, wood-frame, glazed door and two tall, narrow, wood-frame windows. Vertical boards cover the storefront transom.

On the rear elevation, brick pilasters with tall corbelled brick caps flank the corbelled parapet. Segmental-arched three-header-course lintels and corbelled sills frame three tall second-story replacement windows and three original sets of paired, narrow, double-hung, wood-frame, one-over-one, first-story sash. The single-leaf iron door at basement wall's center and the iron bars that secure the two adjacent windows supported the northwest basement room's function as a jail. The window to the east has been enclosed with brick.

At the building's southwest corner, a portion of the Blackwell's Durham Tobacco Company advertisement painted on the east exterior wall of the two-story brick building that stood at 107 East Main Street was uncovered in 1991 when Boy Scout Troop 323 removed plaster from the surface. The execution of the bull's head, front two legs, and the background sky and grass indicate that one of Kernersville artist Jule Gilmer Korner's crews may have painted the scene.⁸

After the 1955 completion of the municipal building at 116 South Mountain Street, 109 East Main Street housed concerns including Carpenter's Children's Shop and Craft Chest Studio (a variety store) in the 1970s. The Knights of Pythias met at 109 ½ East Main Street and Charlie's Sav-A-Center occupied 111 East Main Street.⁹

The Cherryville Historical Museum began utilizing the building in the mid-1980s and has installed exhibits on all three levels. Intact original features include plaster walls, narrow horizontal board partition walls, hardwood floors, and raised-panel wood doors. At straight of wood steps with paneled newel posts, square balusters, and molded handrails rises to the second story at the west wall's north end. The upper floor, which originally functioned as a courtroom, retains an elevated judge's dais that projects from a plastered alcove at the room's north end. A door at the alcove's center provides access to the judge's chambers. The low railing with robust turned balusters, molded handrails, and paneled newel posts south of the dais separated the courtroom proceeding area from gallery seating. The beadboard ceiling is ornamented with a large, square, intricate cast-iron medallion from which a

⁸ B. W. C. Roberts and Snow L. Roberts, *Bull Durham Business Bonanza, 1866-1940* (Durham: Genuine Durham Press, 2002), 56.

⁹ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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lighting fixture hung.

Self-Hoffman Building, 1913, mid-twentieth century, Contributing Building 113 East Main Street

A shaped parapet with a projecting soldier-course cap tops this two-story, blonde-brick, eclectic Classical Revival-style commercial building's four-bay-wide façade. A header course borders the cast-stone panel at the parapet's center that advertises the name of the original owners, physician Lemuel Lester Self and dentist Maxwell E. Hoffman, as well as the building's 1913 completion date. Beneath the panel, paired brackets support a metal cornice. Diamond-shaped basket-weave brick panels fill the spaces between the brackets. Cast-stone keystones, impost blocks, and projecting sills ornament the round-arched window openings, which are filled with double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows and four-pane arched transoms.

A stepped metal cornice, a soldier-course lintel, and a cast-stone band cap the first story. The single-leaf door opening in the wall's west section is executed in the same manner as the second-story windows. The recessed cast-stone panel above the door features a header-course border and three bricks set at an angle at the panel's center. The recessed mid-twentieth-century storefront to the east comprises a central aluminum-frame plate-glass door surrounded by a matching transom and display windows above low paneled kneewalls. Corrugated aluminum sheathes the recessed area's side walls.

All of the original window and door openings on the rear elevation have been infilled with brick. Segmental-arched three-header-course lintels surmount three tall second-story window openings and a wide central first-story door opening. The two flanking first-story window opening lost their lintels with the addition of two high square windows above them. A segmental-arched window opening with a two-header-course lintel pierces the east section of the basement wall. A single-leaf plywood door and a plywood panel fill the wide door opening to the west.

Dr. Self moved to Cherryville in 1910 and soon established a successful medical practice. He also invested in the construction of several commercial buildings, including 113 East Main Street, erected in partnership with Dr. Hoffman. Site work began in June 1913 and the building was finished by December 15, when Hoffman, who had previously rented office space in the Houser Building, occupied his new office. Dr. Hoffman moved his practice to Asheville by 1916, but Dr. Self maintained an office in the building until his retirement. In 1956, Western Auto occupied the storefront and dentist W. L. Armstrong a second-floor office. Western Auto remained through the early 1970s. Charlie's Sav-A-Center leased the storefront by 1975.¹⁰

¹⁰ Lemuel Lester Self, born on April 21, 1878, died on December 4, 1940. "Cherryville Bonds Sold," *Gastonia Gazette*, June 13, 1913, p. 1; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, July 18, 1913, p. 1, December 16, 1913, p. 1, and December 4, 1914,

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Pliskin and Londner Building, 1930, Contributing Building 115-119 East Main Street

This one-story Commercial Style building's blonde-brick façade is topped with a slightly projecting header course, above which a band of stretchers laid in an alternating pattern of three horizontal and three vertical bricks lines the stepped parapet capped with cast-stone coping. At the parapet's center, a header course borders a cast-stone panel bearing the original tenant's name, "Pliskin & Londner," and the building's 1930 construction date. Above the sign band, a cast-stone panel features a bas-relief eagle, horn-of-plenty garlands, and scrolled outer edges.

Four slightly recessed panels, each bordered with a header course, surmount the three-part storefront, which comprises a wide west section and two east sections. Soldier-course lintels and a header course top the storefronts. The west storefront comprises a central aluminum-frame plate-glass door surrounded by a matching transom and display windows above red brick kneewalls. Opaque glass fills the transom opening. In the two east storefronts, aluminum-frame plate-glass display windows with plywood kneewalls flank replacement double-leaf glazed central doors. The two transom openings have been infilled with stucco. Two flat-roofed metal canopies shelter the storefronts.

The north (rear) elevation, executed in six-to-one common bond, originally had eight tall first-story windows and eight shorter basement windows, all of which have been enclosed with brick. Each level contains three door openings. Aluminum-frame plate-glass doors have been installed in the two outer first-story entrances, which are accessed by steel stairs with metal-pipe railings that rise to steel landings. The central first-story door opening has been filled with brick, as has the original easternmost basement door opening. Immediately west of the original door, a wider opening was created to accommodate a double-leaf steel door. Two single-leaf doors to the west also allow basement entry.

Gaston County property records indicate that this building was constructed in 1930. Guy's Men and Boys Shop occupied 115 East Main Street in the 1960s and 1970s. During much of that period, Belk's Annex operated from 117 East Main Street, followed by Western Auto around 1975.¹¹

Commercial Building, 1928, Contributing Building 123-125 East Main Street

A pressed-red-brick running-bond façade and a stepped parapet topped with cast-stone coping characterize this one-story, two-storefront commercial building. Projecting header courses border the

p. 1; death certificate; David P. Dellinger, "Dr. Lester L. Self," *Eagle*, January 11, 1956; David P. Dellinger, "Dr. M. E. Hoffman," *Eagle*, February 15, 1956; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

¹¹ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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parapet's central square panel and flanking rectangular panels. A continuous soldier-course lintel surmounts the storefronts, which are sheltered by a mid-twentieth-century flat-roofed metal canopy. The east storefront comprises an aluminum-frame plate-glass display window, a corrugated-metal-sheathed kneewall, and a recessed single-leaf wood-frame glazed door and transom at its west end. The west aluminum-frame storefront has a mirrored orientation, with a glazed door east of the plate-glass display window. Between the storefronts, a segmental-arched door opening frames a recessed single-leaf wood door with a two-raised-panel base and a six-pane upper section. A six-pane transom surmounts the door.

Terra cotta coping caps the blind east wall's stepped parapet. Each level of the north (rear) elevation initially contained two single-leaf door openings flanked by four steel-frame ten-pane windows with four-paneoppers. However, plywood covers the four west windows and the first-story door opening. At the east first-story entrance, steel stairs with a metal-pipe railing rise to a steel landing adjacent to a single-leaf steel replacement door. Beneath the landing, a wood horizontal-panel door allows basement access. To the west, a straight-sloped canvas awning shelters a single-leaf replacement door. Metal grates fill six small rectangular attic vent openings.

Gaston County property records provided this building's 1928 construction date. In the 1960s and 1970s, Doty's Men and Boys Shop and People's Barber Shop occupied 123 East Main Street and Jack and Mary's Beauty Salon leased 125 ½ East Main Street. The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers utilized a portion of the storefront around 1970. By 1975, Jack's Beauty Salon was the sole occupant.¹²

Commercial Building, early 1920s, Contributing Building 127-201 East Main Street

A long, thin, red-brick running-bond façade and a flat parapet topped with a slightly projecting header course distinguish this one-story, two-storefront commercial building. A late-twentieth-century metal-roofed pent canopy spans the façade's full width above the storefronts. In the east storefront, mid-twentieth-century aluminum-frame plate-glass display windows flank a central single-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed door and transom. In the late-twentieth-century, the west storefront's display window opening was filled with wood panels around three small square plate-glass windows and an aluminum-frame glazed door installed east of the windows. Red brick pilasters and kneewalls frame both storefronts.

On the rear elevation, concrete steps with a wood railing provide access to the single-leaf replacement door. To the west, a two-header-course segmental-arched lintel surmounts a door opening that has been

¹²*Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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enclosed with spray foam.

Architectural style and building materials suggest an early 1920s construction date for this commercial building. Sanborn maps illustrate that the storefront housed a tin shop in February 1925 and a dry cleaners in February 1943. During the 1960s and 1970s, Seaboard Finance Company, Avco Financial Service, and Cheri Nook Gift Shop sequentially leased the 127 East Main Street storefront. A & M Café occupied 201 East Main Street by 1966, followed by Koscot Kosmetics by 1970.¹³

Commercial Building, 1928, Contributing Building 203-205 East Main Street

Slight variations in height and decorative masonry execution differentiate the two halves of this two-story Classical Revival-style commercial building's blonde-brick façade. The east storefront (205 East Main Street) is a few feet shorter. Brick pilasters frame the storefronts and rise above the parapet. A projecting header course tops the pilasters and the soldier course at the flat parapet's upper edge. Projecting header courses also border the wide rectangular center panel and two narrower outer panels that ornament the parapet. The second-story fenestration comprises a double-width, segmental-arched, central opening flanked by two round-arched window openings, all embellished with cast-stone keystones and containing nine-over-nine sash. On the west façade (203 East Main Street) three rectangular panels identical to those in the parapet fill the space between the second-story window sills and the storefront. The east facade has a projecting continuous window sill, a header course, and a soldier course in that area.

The mid-twentieth-century aluminum-frame plate-glass storefronts comprise display windows with canted corners and corrugated-metal kneewalls that frame recessed double-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed doors. Plywood covers the transoms and arched aluminum awnings shelter the entrances.

Masons executed the secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond. The stepped east and west elevations are blind. The six-bay-wide north (rear) elevation features two-header-course segmental-arched window and door openings. The east section's three second-story windows have been covered with plywood and the two first-story windows and central door filled with brick. The west section's upper two levels encompass six boarded-up windows. The east first-story window is also sheathed with plywood. A single-leaf replacement door and stucco fill the wide central door opening, which is accessed by wood stairs with a wood railing that rises to a wood landing. The west door and an opening below it have been enclosed with brick.

¹³ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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Gaston County property records delineate this building's 1928 construction date. The February 1943 Sanborn map indicates that what is now 203 East Main Street housed a store and 205 East Main Street a restaurant. Rose's Stores, Inc., opened at 203 East Main Street in 1928 and remained through fall 1985. City Barber Shop occupied 207 East Main Street by 1966, but Rose's leased the building by 1970 to serve as storage.¹⁴

Commercial Building, 1928, Contributing Building 209 East Main Street

Masons embellished this one-story commercial building's blonde-brick façade with brick pilasters, a corbelled cornice, and three rectangular parapet panels bordered with projecting header courses. The mid-twentieth-century aluminum-frame plate-glass storefront encompasses a four-section central display window with a brick kneewall. Brick pilasters separate the window from the recessed single-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed doors at the storefront's east and west ends. The transom has been sheathed with siding and is partially covered by the pent metal roof that surmounts the flat-roofed canopy above the storefront. Although the pent metal roof's large size compromises the storefront's integrity, the façade's upper section is intact enough for the building to retain contributing status. On the rear elevation, a metal-roofed shed canopy shelters the east single-leaf steel door. A metal-shed-roofed screened porch protects the west single-leaf entrance.

According to Gaston County property records, contractors erected this building in 1928. The February 1943 Sanborn map illustrates that a movie theater then occupied the structure. The Remnant Shop leased the storefront by 1966. Home Folks Café, established by Marvin Hager in 1957, moved to this location from 103 North Mountain Street in January 1971 and is still in operation.¹⁵

Commercial Building, 1928, Contributing Building 211-213 East Main Street

This one-story Commercial Style building's wire-cut red-brick running-bond façade features a simple corbelled cornice and parapet panels bordered with a band of stretchers laid in an alternating pattern of three horizontal and three vertical bricks. The narrow west storefront (211 East Main Street) comprises a metal-frame plate-glass display window with brick kneewalls; a single-leaf, wood-frame, glazed door at its west end; and a three-section prismatic-glass transom. The east storefront's (213 East Main Street) metal-frame plate-glass display windows with brick kneewalls flank a recessed, double-leaf, wood-frame, glazed, central door. Vinyl siding covers the transom.

¹⁴ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

¹⁵ "Cherryville—A Unique City," *Eagle*, January 20, 1971, p. 3; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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Terra-cotta coping caps the blind stepped east wall. 213 East Main Street's north elevation contains a single-leaf entrance sheltered by a deep shed-roofed canopy supported by a slender steel post. The canopy extends north along the east wall of the small square concrete-block addition that fills the space at 211 East Main Street's northeast corner. A double-leaf door on the addition's east elevation provides interior access. On 211 East Main Street's north elevation, which projects farther west than 213 East Main Street, a single-leaf replacement door and vinyl siding have been installed in the central door opening. A louvered vent fills the rectangular opening above the door. The east door opening has been filled with brick and the west window covered with plywood.

Gaston County property records denote that this building was placed into service in 1928. The February 1943 Sanborn map shows that what is now 211 East Main Street then housed a dry cleaners and 213 East Main Street a store. People's Dry Cleaners occupied 211 East Main Street during the 1960s and 1970s. City Loan and Finance Corporation leased 213 East Main Street by 1966, followed by The Music Center in the 1970s.¹⁶

Commercial Building, 1920, Contributing Building 217 East Main Street

An almost-full-width slightly recessed rectangular parapet panel bordered with a header course embellishes this one-story commercial building's blonde-brick façade. Both storefronts were updated in the mid-twentieth century. The wider west storefront comprises aluminum-frame plate-glass windows, low yellow-brick kneewalls, and a central single-leaf glazed door. An asphalt-shingled shed-roofed canopy spans the storefront. A full-height aluminum-frame plate-glass window and a single-leaf glazed door fill the east storefront's east section. A brick pilaster separates the door from a tall, narrow, aluminum-frame window above a low brick kneewall. A straight-sloped canvas awning with a scalloped lower edge shelters the storefront.

Metal coping caps the brick west wall and concrete-block east wall, both of which are blind and stepped. Near the north elevation's east end, a recessed double-leaf door fills a portion of the original tall, wide, rear door opening. A soldier-course lintel indicates the original opening's size. To the west, two large window openings with projecting brick sills have been infilled with brick.

Gaston County property records provide a 1920 construction date for this building, which, according to the February 1925 Sanborn map, initially served a retail function. By February 1943, it housed a furniture store. City Loan and Finance Corporation occupied the storefront in the 1970s.¹⁷

¹⁶ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

¹⁷ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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Gazebo, 1999, Noncontributing structure 219 East Main Street

Municipal improvements east of 217 East Main Street include a brick-paved sidewalk lined with tall metal reproduction lampposts and grass lawn. The walk extends north to a gazebo with stone-veneer square posts spanned by a wood railing, a concrete-slab foundation, and a tall, standing-seam-metal, hip roof.

Parking Lot

Lester Theater, 1942, Contributing Building 301 East Main Street

This two-story, stuccoed, Art Moderne-style theater features a recessed entrance bay that is slightly taller than the two flanking wings. A cast-stone cornice tops the flat parapets that screen the building's arched roof from the street. A scalloped bargeboard embellishes the wings' façade cornices and terra cotta coping tops the west wing's west wall. The Art Moderne influence is manifested in the fluted vertical panels above the central section's two tall, narrow, two-section second-story windows as well as the scored horizontal lines that extend from the four-section second-story windows at the center of each projecting wing. The late-twentieth-century aluminum-frame storefront comprises a central double-leaf glazed door flanked by full-height plate-glass windows. A straight-sloped canvas awning with a scalloped lower edge is mounted above the storefront.

Slightly projecting stuccoed pilasters divide the west elevation into six bays, each of which contains a late-twentieth-century, aluminum-frame, single-leaf plate-glass door and a narrow matching sidelight to the south. Dome-shaped canvas awnings shelter each entrance. The north elevation, the shed-roofed wing that extends from its center, and the east elevation are executed in six-to-one common bond. The brick has been painted. Steel stairs with a metal-pipe railing rise to the steel landing that provides access to the single-leaf steel door on rear shed wing's north elevation. The wing's west elevation is blind. The east elevation contains a corrugated-metal roll-up door that is elevated approximately five feet above ground level and basement room secured by a chain-link gate. East of the wing, a metal-shed-roofed canopy surmounts a tall corrugated-metal roll-up door. A matching canopy protects the single-leaf door near the east elevation's north end.

A. E. Miller, Lincolnton Amusement Company's owner and manager, announced Lester Theater's grand opening on July 16, 1942. The venue bore the name of Cherryville physician and entrepreneur Lemuel Lester Self, who died in 1940. His widow Hattie Peeler Self was involved in the theater's operation. The building served as a movie theater through the mid-1960s. A local theater group leased the property in 1969 and hosted community performances and traveling productions through the early

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1970s. Vacuum Cleaner Stores utilized the storefront by 1975.¹⁸

Cherryville Wholesale Grocery Company, 1921, 1960s, Contributing Building 303 East Main Street

A rough-textured red-brick running-bond façade and a stepped parapet capped with cast-stone coping distinguish this two-story commercial building. Slightly projecting header courses top the façade and border the rectangular panels that surmount four second-story replacement one-over-one sash windows. The mid-twentieth-century storefront's aluminum-frame plate-glass display windows and brick kneewalls angle toward the recessed double-leaf, wood-frame, glazed, central door and two-pane transom. A straight-sloped canvas awning with a scalloped lower edge surmounts the storefront.

The blind, two-foot-wide, red-brick east elevation, erected in the 1960s extends a few inches north of the north elevation, which is executed in variegated brick laid in six-to-one common bond. Plywood covers three large rectangular second-story windows, two first-story windows of the same size, and one small, high window at each level's west end. A central, double-leaf, horizontal-paneled, wood door provides interior access.

The adjacent one-story 1987 commercial building shares the same address, but is completely detached and is therefore not included in the district.

Gastonia residents John L. Page and Cary Boshamer opened Cherryville Wholesale Grocery Company at 303 East Main Street in November 1921. The February 1925 and February 1943 Sanborn maps illustrate that a wholesale grocery company continued to operate from the building during that period. Crest Carpet Company and Southeastern Farms, Inc. (poultry) occupied the storefronts in the 1960s and early 1970s. McGinnis of Cherryville leased the property by 1975.¹⁹

¹⁸ Lester Theater opening postcard from the collection of Pat Sherrill; Pat Borden, "Cherryville Has Had a Face Lifting," *GG*, October 8, 1969, p. B1; Lester Theater advertisement, *GG*, June 17, 1973, p. B6; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975; Lester S. Andrews (Lemuel Lester and Hattie Peeler Self's grandson), email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 25, 2016.

¹⁹ "Wholesale Grocery Store Opened at Cherryville," *CS*, November 18, 1921, p. 5; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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East Main Street, South Side

Farmer's Bank and Trust Company - Houser Building, 1914, 1950s, Contributing Building 100 East Main Street

This two-story commercial building occupies a prominent site at Main and Mountain Street's southeast corner. Brick pilasters with cast-stone caps frame the running-bond blonde-brick façade. A header course surrounds the round medallion at the parapet's center that bears the initials "F. B. & T. C." and the façade's 1914 construction date. Decorative soldier and header courses ornament the north and south elevations above the pilasters and at the parapet's upper edge. On the façade, stretcher courses flank the paired second-story replacement windows, which are surmounted by a soldier course and two header courses. Below the windows, a header course borders a wide rectangular panel. A wood pediment with a molded upper edge and a modillion cornice dominates the parapet. The mid-twentieth-century aluminum-frame storefront comprises a central double-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed door flanked by plate-glass windows and low brick kneewalls. A straight-sloped canvas awning extends across the façade and wraps around the building's northwest corner above the storefront.

Brick pilasters with cast-stone caps divide the blonde-brick west elevation into seven bays. The first, third, and seventh bays from the north end feature header-course-bordered rectangular parapet panels. The northernmost bay retains paired second-story windows and an aluminum-frame, single-leaf, glazed, first-story door and sidelight. The third bay's first-and-second stories have been covered with corrugated-metal siding, as has the seventh bay's second-story. The seventh bay, which is the widest on the west elevation, includes a storefront that has been enclosed with square panels with the exception of an aluminum-frame, single-leaf, glazed door and transom. A straight-sloped canvas awning with a scalloped lower edge is mounted above the storefront. The intervening bays were updated in the mid-twentieth century with aluminum-frame curtain walls comprising tall, rectangular, textured panels and plate-glass second-story windows. The south (rear) elevation, laid in six-to-one common bond, contains two wide, replacement, aluminum-frame, plate-glass second-story windows and a single-leaf first-story door.

According to local historian David P. Dellinger, Melvin L. Rudisill erected a two-story brick commercial building at Main and Mountain Streets' southeast corner in fall 1894 to house J. H. Rudisill and Company, a general store that Melvin operated in partnership with his son David A. Rudisill and son-in-law J. H. Rudisill, who managed the business. Farmers Bank and Trust Company, chartered in December 1913 by fourteen Cherryville businessmen, commenced operating in January 1914 from the Brittain Building adjacent to City Hall. The concern had acquired the Rudisill store property and commissioned the construction of a new building. Contractors completed the basement excavation in November 1913. The bank occupied the new structure in late 1914. Third National Bank of Gastonia, chartered in October 1919, incorporated as Commercial Bank and Trust Company in

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October 1926 and absorbed Farmers Bank and Trust Company, People's Loan and Trust Company of Kings Mountain, and Mount Holly Bank.²⁰

Houser Drug Company, established by Dr. William Henry Houser and his brother Emmett Holt Houser in 1935, operated from this building until moving to 302 East Main Street in February 2015. In addition to the pharmacy, the business included a lunch counter. Professionals leased second-floor offices. City Beauty Parlor leased an upstairs room and Princess Beauty Shop utilized a portion of the storefront. The Blue Stocking Book Club maintained a library in Princess Beauty Shop from 1946 until 1950. Western Union later leased the storefront at the west elevation's south end. By the 1970s the drugstore utilized the entire building. Beam, Beam, and Moss purchased the company in September 1992.²¹

Rudisill-Houser Building, 1913, ca. 1969, Noncontributing Building 102-108 East Main Street

This two-story red-brick commercial building's five-bay-wide façade was divided in half during a mid-twentieth-century update. The porcelain-enameled-steel screen that covered the east section's second-story has been removed, revealing the slightly pointed parapet capped with a course of alternating projecting and recessed headers. Voids in the masonry once held nailing blocks for the tall metal cornice that topped the second story. Beneath the former cornice location, soldier courses frame three attic vents filled with metal grates. The east section's exposed second-story fenestration comprises two double-width elliptical-arched window openings and a smaller round-arched central opening, all ornamented with cast-stone keystones and sills. Paired double-hung, six-over-one, wood sash and elliptical-arched seven-pane transoms are recessed in the larger openings. A diamond-shaped basket-weave brick panel embellishes the wall between the two windows and a soldier course spans the windows at the arch bases. A cast-stone panel with bas-relief letters "A. D." surmounts the central double-hung, one-over-one, wood sash.

Narrow vinyl German siding covers the transom above the mid-twentieth-century east storefront (106-108 East Main Street), which comprises a central aluminum-frame plate-glass display window with a

²⁰ "J. H. Rudisill and Co.'s Store," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p. 2; "Cherryville Chat," *GG*, October 17, 1913, p. 4; "The Banks of Gaston County," *Charlotte Observer* (hereafter abbreviated *CO*), November 15, 1913, p. 4; "New Bank Building for Cherryville," undated newspaper article; *Durham Morning Herald*, December 25, 1913, p. 1; "Bank of Gastonia to be the Third National Bank," *GG*, July 28, 1919, p. 1; "Short News Items," *LCN*, August 4, 1919, p. 1; *GG*, October 13, 1919, p. 7; *GG*, November 3, 1926; David P. Dellinger, "First Brick Buildings," *Eagle*, July 20, 1955.

²¹ "Cherryville Library Result of Years of Hard Work by Women," *GG*, February 20, 1959, p. 2; Houser Drug Company advertisement, *GG*, April 15, 1972, p. J2; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975; H. L. Beam III and Barbara Dellinger (Houser Drug Company employees since 1989 and 1973, respectively), telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 18, 2016.

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low brick kneewall and a recessed double-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed door, transom, and sidelight at its east end. The single-leaf, paneled-wood door west of the display window secures the stair hall leading to the second floor.

A flat-roofed metal canopy shelters the mid-twentieth-century, aluminum-frame, plate-glass, west storefront (102-104 East Main Street). Corrugated-aluminum panels sheathe the walls around the west display window, which is angled toward a recessed single-leaf glazed door. The remainder of the storefront, which contains a wide window and a single-leaf east door, is also recessed. A ramp with a metal railing provides access to the east entrance. Corrugated-aluminum panels cover the storefront recess's east wall. The light blue porcelain-enameled steel screen that covers the façade's west half was likely added in conjunction with other 1969 updates. The screen diminishes this resource's integrity to the point that the building is noncontributing.

Masons laid the secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond. The six-bay-wide south (rear) elevation features segmental-arched window and door lintels executed with three header courses on the first story and two header courses on the second story. Plywood covers the west section's three second-story windows and brick fills the two first-story windows. The single-leaf door opening cut into the east second-story window's east side is also enclosed with plywood. The wide original first-story door opening below contains a replacement single-leaf door and brick infill. The four windows in the east section's two outer bays have been bricked-up. The central second-story window opening holds a six-over-six-sash replacement sash surrounded with brick. A single-leaf replacement door and brick fill the first-story's central bay.

M. L. Rudisill and Dr. W. H. Houser engaged a Shelby contractor with the surname Branton to erect this building in August 1912. Upon the structure's January 1913 completion, storefront tenants included Climax Barber Shop, Eagle Printing Company, and furniture and hardware purveyors Dellinger Brothers. Dr. M. E. Hoffman, photographers D. S. and J. S. Abernethy, and Dr. Houser occupied second-floor offices. Postmaster D. S. Thornburg moved the post office from the Morrison Building to 102 East Main Street in June 1913. The September 1914 Sanborn map illustrates that 104 East Main Street then housed a barber shop. A printing concern utilized the rear section of both storefronts. A furniture store leased 108 East Main Street's storefront and a lodge hall occupied the second floor. In February 1925, the post office and print shop remained at 102 East Main Street, while 104 and 108 East Main Street served a retail function. By February 1943, 102 East Main Street was solely a print shop, 104 East Main Street a restaurant, and 108 East Main Street a store. During the 1960s and 1970s, Hub's Barber Shop occupied 102 East Main Street and Heman R. Hall Insurance Agency leased 104 East Main Street. A & B Department Store operated at 108 East Main Street by

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1966, followed by Cato's Store during the 1970s.²²

Cherryville Drug Company - Allen Drug Store, 1911, 1917, Contributing Building 110 East Main Street

Masons embellished this narrow, one-story, variegated-brick commercial building's slightly projecting pilasters with granite bases and corbelled brick caps that rise above the flat parapet. An original molded cornice surmounts the mid-twentieth-century aluminum-frame plate-glass storefront, which comprises display windows with low paneled kneewalls, a central single-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed door, and a four-part transom. An arched canvas awning shelters the storefront.

The three-bay-wide rear elevation contains three-header-course segmental-arched window and door lintels. The window openings and the upper portion of the central door opening, which encompasses a single-leaf replacement door, have been enclosed with brick. A square brick stovepipe chimney pierces the roof.

John Flay Weathers erected this building to house Cherryville Drug Company, organized around 1907. He sold the business to brothers Harry Hampton Allen and J. T. Allen in January 1916. Harry, a 1913 graduate of the School of Pharmacy in Atlanta, assumed the store's management. The building's north end was removed and a new façade erected in February 1917 that aligned with the north elevations of the neighboring buildings. This allowed the street to be widened approximately eight feet. In 1918, Harry's brother J. T. Allen joined him in operating the business, which offered a wide variety of merchandise including dry goods and appliances. The soda fountain catered to community members as well as travelers, particularly due to the fact that the store served as a Trailways bus stop. Harry married Modelle Alrich Davis on December 23, 1920, and the couple occupied a home at 209 North Jacob Street for many years. Their son Harry Jr. returned to Cherryville after his 1943 graduation from UNC-Chapel Hill's pharmacy school. Harry's brother William managed the Rexall Drug Store in Stanley for several years prior to 1955, when he became a partner at the family's Cherryville store. J. T. Allen remained active in the business until his death on January 7, 1957. William sold his interest in 1965, the year after Allen Drug Company incorporated. After H. H. Allen died on January 23, 1967, family members operated the drug store until its 1993 acquisition by Houser Drug Company.²³

²² "Cherryville Chat," *GG*, August 30, 1912, p. 1, January 10, 1913, p. 4; January 28, 1913, p. 1, and June 6, 1913, p. 1; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

²³ "Home of the Cherryville Drug Company," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p. 2; "Cherryville Chat," *GG*, January 21, 1916, p. 4, September 8, 1916, p. 3, and February 6, 1917, p. 6; A. C. Taylor, "Stanley," *GG*, February 19, 1955, p. 14 "Cherryville Druggist Dies," *GG*, January 7, 1957, p. 14; marriage records; death certificates; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975; "Allen Drug Store One of the Oldest Businesses in Town," undated newspaper article in the collection of the Cherryville Historical Museum; Rita Wehunt-Black, *Cherryville* (Charleston, S. C.: Arcadia Publishing, 2009), 4; "Allen Drug Company, Inc.," <http://www.secretary.state.nc.us> (accessed April 2016).

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Harrelson Company Building, 1922, Contributing Building 112 East Main Street

A stepped and pointed parapet distinguishes this two-story brick Commercial Style building's façade. Although the masonry has been painted, decorative elements including a soldier course and three rectangular basketweave panels are visible. A triple center window opening and two single flanking openings, all containing double-hung, one-over-one wood sash, illuminate the second story. The storefront's metal-frame plate-glass display windows with marble kneewalls flank a recessed, double-leaf, wood-frame, glazed, central door. A broken-tile floor has been installed in the storefront recess. The sign band above the tall prismatic-glass transom has been stuccoed.

The variegated-brick secondary elevations are laid in six-to-one common bond. The west elevation is blind. The three-bay-wide south (rear) elevation features segmental-arched window and door lintels executed with three header courses on the first story and two header courses on the mezzanine and second story. Plywood covers three tall second-story windows. Double-hung, two-over-two, wood sash fill two square mezzanine windows and two rectangular first-story windows. Small rectangular window openings holding single-pane wood sash pierce the upper-level walls near the east end. The double-leaf wood-frame rear door has a paneled base and a glazed upper section. The entrance is partially below grade.

Henry Craig Harrelson, C. B. Harrelson, and S. C. Hendricks gained experience working for the Stamey Company in Fallston before partnering to purchase S. B. Mauney's Cherryville department store in August 1910. Hendricks-Harrelson Company's inventory included books, clothing, dry goods, furniture, hats, notions, shoes, coffins, and undertaking supplies. S. C. Hendricks sold his interest in the company to H. C. and C. B. Harrelson on December 31, 1919. H. C. Harrelson and W. L. Fanning subsequently partnered to create Harrelson-Fanning Company and opened a Rutherfordton store in late 1921. The concern then commissioned the 1922 construction of a new building at 112 East Main Street in Cherryville. P. L. Helms managed that store upon its September 30th opening. The business later became Harrelson Company, Inc., owned and operated by H. C. Harrelson, his wife Lillie Mae Warlick Harrelson, and Mr. Harrelson's cousin Hillard Roscoe Harrelson. The concern continued to offer a wide variety of ready-to-wear clothing, shoes, and hats as well as piece goods. H. C. Harrelson retired shortly before his death on October 10, 1965. Lillie Mae Harrelson died on July 26, 1966. Harrelson Company, Inc., remained at this location through the 1970s.²⁴

²⁴ "Stamey Brothers," *Lincoln County News* (hereafter abbreviated *LCN*), October 19, 1909, p. 1; "Hendricks-Harrelson Co.'s Store," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p. 3; "A Bunch of Live Wires," *LCN*, August 4, 1911, p. 1; "Fanning to Open a Cherryville Store," *CS*, August 18, 1922, p. 1; D. P. Waters, "Cherryville, N. C.," *Charlotte News*, August 31, 1916, p. 10; *CS*, October 14, 1921, p. 3; "New Store Opens At Cherryville Saturday," *CS*, October 3, 1922, p. 2; "Harrelson-Fanning Open at Cherryville," *Forest City Courier*, October 5, 1922, p. 9; "Harrelson, Inc., opened in Cherryville," *GG*, November

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Commercial Building, 1906, Contributing Building 114 East Main Street

A flat parapet tops this plain, two-story, brick, three-bay-wide commercial building. Three rectangular attic vents with metal grates and projecting sills pierce the parapet wall. Three replacement windows illuminate the second story: a central one-over-one double-hung sash flanked by fixed, single-pane, plate-glass windows. The mid-twentieth-century aluminum-frame storefront comprises a two-section plate-glass display window canted toward a recessed single-leaf glazed door at its east end. The storefront's square, beige, glazed-tile kneewalls and pilasters have been painted peach. White-painted second stories, a transom covered with vertical-fluted panels trimmed with a stepped surround, and a flat-roofed metal canopy remain from the Belk-Matthews Company's attempt to create a uniform facade encompassing this building and the two-story brick commercial buildings to the east at 116 and 118 East Main Street.

The rear elevation, which is slightly taller than 116 East Main Street, is executed in five-to-one common bond. The second story contains two replacement double-hung one-over-one sash. A flat-sloped metal canopy surmounts the double-leaf horizontal-panel wood door. The two flanking high, square, first-story window openings have been filled with brick.

Gaston County property records suggest that this building was finished in 1906. The September 1914 Sanborn map indicates that tenants sold jewelry and soda water. Belk-Matthews Company operated a department store in the storefront from August 1936 until 2000.²⁵

Commercial Building, 1921, Contributing Building 116 East Main Street

Brick pilasters divide this seven-bay-wide commercial building into two three-bay storefronts and a stair hall bay at the west end. The high rectangular window opening in the second-story stair bay and the east storefront's three windows have been enclosed with brick. Replacement, fixed, single-pane, plate-glass windows have been installed in the west storefront's three second-story openings. A continuous soldier-course lintel spans the window openings. Six courses of alternating recessed and flush bricks ornament the facade's upper section beneath the two rectangular attic vents with metal grates and projecting sills that pierce the wall beneath the flat parapet. The mid-twentieth-century storefront encompasses square, beige, glazed-tile kneewalls and pilasters and aluminum-frame plate-

8, 1948, p. 10; "Mr. Hendricks Disposes of Interests in Cherryville," *GG*, January 1, 1920, p. 8; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

²⁵ LeGette Blythe, *William Henry Belk: Merchant of the South* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1958), 260.

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glass display windows angled toward recessed, central, double-leaf glazed doors. Square terra-cotta tiles cover the recessed area's floor. White-painted second stories, a transom covered with vertical-fluted panels trimmed with a stepped surround, and a flat-roofed metal canopy remain from the Belk-Matthews Company's attempt to create a uniform facade encompassing this building and the two flanking two-story brick commercial buildings at 114 and 118 East Main Street.

Masons laid the rear elevation in five-to-one common bond. Two-header-course lintels span four second-story window openings with projecting sills. Brick and high, square, louvered vents fill the openings. The three first-story window openings have also been enclosed with brick, but three-header-course lintels mark their location and that of the double-width west door opening filled with concrete block. A single-leaf replacement door has been installed in the east door opening.

Gaston County property records supplied this building's 1921 construction date. The February 1925 Sanborn map indicates that the structure then served as auto repair garage, but it had a retail function by February 1943. Belk-Matthews Company operated a department store at this location from August 1936 until 2000.²⁶

Commercial Building, 1918, Contributing Building 118 East Main Street

A stepped cast-stone-capped parapet and a header-course-bordered rectangular parapet panel distinguish this building's second story. A soldier course frames the sides and top of the two wide second-story window openings. Fixed, single-pane, plate-glass windows have been installed in place of the original paired sash. The mid-twentieth-century plate-glass storefront windows are canted toward a recessed, central, single-leaf glazed door. Square, beige, glazed-tile kneewalls and pilasters surround the storefront. White-painted second stories, a transom covered with vertical-fluted panels trimmed with a stepped surround, and a flat-roofed metal canopy remain from the Belk-Matthews Company's attempt to create a uniform facade encompassing this building and the two-story brick commercial buildings to the west at 114 and 116 East Main Street.

The rear elevation, executed in six-to-one common bond, contains two tall second-story window openings filled with replacement four-section sash. Plywood covers the lower shorter opening at the second-story's center. The central door opening has been enclosed with brick and a single-leaf replacement door has been installed in the east door opening.

According to Gaston County property records, this building was placed into service in 1918. The structure housed the Racket Store, a general mercantile established by Max Goldiner, and Cherryville

²⁶ Blythe, *William Henry Belk*, 260; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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Building and Loan Association during the 1920s. Goldiner later operated his business as Goldiner's Department Store with his son Irvin Goldiner's assistance. Belk-Matthews Company expanded into the storefront and occupied the building until 2000.²⁷

Commercial Building, 1920, Contributing Building 124 East Main Street

This two-story brick commercial building and its neighbor to the west, 118 East Main Street, originally had identical façades. A stepped cast-stone-capped parapet and a header-course-bordered rectangular parapet panel distinguish the painted façade. A soldier course frames the sides and top of the two wide second-story window openings, which have projecting cast-stone sills. Fixed, single-pane, plate-glass windows have been installed in place of the original paired sash. A header course that spans the façade tops the soldier-course storefront lintel. The recessed mid-twentieth-century aluminum-frame storefront has a three-section central plate-glass display window above a plywood-panel kneewall and flanking single-leaf glazed doors. A straight-slope canvas awning has been mounted at the storefront opening's upper edge, covering the original transom.

Masons executed the secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond. The building's location at Main and Oak Street's southwest corner allowed for an exposed east elevation, which is stepped and capped with terra-cotta coping. Fenestration includes a single-leaf door near the wall's south end, six high square first-story windows, and six steel-frame, twelve-pane, second-story sash with six-pane hoppers. Plywood covers the first-story windows. A newly painted sign that emulates a historic sign advertising Coca-Cola products sold at Roy and Troy Grocery fills the first story of the wall's north end.

The rear elevation's second-story contains two steel-frame twelve-pane sash with six-pane hoppers and a narrow steel-frame three-vertical-pane window near the east end. A metal panel covers the lower shorter opening at the second-story's center. The two first-story window openings have been enclosed with brick and a single-leaf replacement door fills the central door opening.

Gaston County property records indicate that this building was erected in 1920. Cousins Roy and Troy Carpenter established Roy and Troy Grocery in 1938 and remained until their 1980 retirement. Local farmers supplied produce, meat, and dairy products sold in the store, which featured counter and delivery service. The Carpenters sold chickens from a coop behind the building and butchered them upon request. In addition to running his business, Roy Carpenter was Cherryville's fire chief for

²⁷ Wehunt-Black, *Cherryville*, 37; Blythe, *William Henry Belk*, 260; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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decades.²⁸

Commercial Building, 1916, Contributing Building 200 East Main Street

This two-story brick commercial building occupies Main and Oak Streets southeast corner. A soldier course caps the façade beneath the flat parapet capped with metal coping. Three rectangular louvered attic vents pierce the wall's upper section. A header course spans the façade above three second-story windows covered with plywood. A soldier course lintel tops the metal-framed storefront, which features a recessed, central, double-leaf, wood-frame glazed door. Plate-glass windows and brick kneewalls surround the display windows that extend to the sidewalk. A straight-slope canvas awning at the storefront opening's upper edge covers the original transom.

Masons executed the secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond. The building's corner location resulted in an exposed west elevation. Corbelled caps mark each stage of the stepped parapet now covered with metal coping. Plywood fills the four second-story segmental-arched window openings framed by three-header-course lintels and projecting sills. Two single-leaf doors with three-header-course lintels pierce the first-story wall near its south end. The north door opening has been enclosed with plywood. The rear elevation contains two segmental-arched, three-header-course-lintel, second-story window openings and one double-width first story door opening, all enclosed with plywood.

In June 1916, dentist Robert J. Morrison commissioned the demolition of the frame building that occupied this site and the construction of this two-story brick edifice. Dr. Morrison established a Cherryville practice in July 1904, initially leasing office space in the Mauney bank building. He was also an inventor and patented a postcard slot machine in 1907. Western Auto occupied the storefront during the 1950s. Cherryville Dry Cleaners leased the building in the 1960s and 1970s.²⁹

Commercial Building, 1916, Contributing Building 204 East Main Street

Masons embellished this narrow, one-story, rough-textured red-brick commercial building with slightly projecting pilasters, a header course beneath the flat parapet's cast-stone coping, and a header-course border around the rectangular panel above the storefront. The original stepped and molded cornice surmounts the store-front, which comprises metal-frame plate-glass display windows and low

²⁸ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975; Bobbie Y. Rudisill, *Oldies and Goodies: Recipes and Personalities* (Cherryville: Cherryville Historical Society, 2011), 96.

²⁹ "Cherryville Items," *GG*, July 12, 1904, p. 4; "Post Card Slot Machine," *GG*, October 8, 1907, p. 1; "A Gaston Genius," *GG*, November 8, 1907, p. 1; "Cherryville Chat," *GG*, June 20, 1916, p. 8; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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brick kneewalls that angle toward a central single-leaf replacement door, and a four-part transom. A painted plywood panel covers the transom.

The three-bay-wide rear elevation contains a central single-leaf door with a paneled lower section and a nine-pane upper section. Particle board fills the door opening to the west and surrounds the air conditioning unit in the window opening to the east.

City Café operated from this storefront from 1916 through the 1950s. Costner's Record Shop occupied this storefront by 1966, followed by Variety Discount House (clothing) in the 1970s.³⁰

Commercial Building, 1920, 1932, Contributing Building 206 East Main Street

This one-story, flat-roofed, Spanish Revival-style commercial building has a rectangular footprint with the exception of the angled storefront created to allow drive-through access to the historic service station canopy to the east. Metal coping caps the textured stucco façade. A metal-barrel-tile-roofed canopy shelters the four-bay-wide wood-frame storefront, which comprises (from south to north) two plate-glass windows with eight-pane transoms, a narrower plate-glass window with a five-pane transom, and a single-leaf replacement door with a three-pane transom. The storefront's low brick kneewall is protected by a concrete curb.

On the rear elevation, three-header-course-lintels surmount the central double-width door opening and the two flanking window openings, both of which contained paired, one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows. Flat metal bars secure the east windows. The west opening is filled with plywood around an HVAC unit and a window air conditioner. The door opening has partially enclosed with concrete block around a central single-leaf steel door surmounted by an asphalt-shingled canopy.

Gaston County property records delineate this building's 1920 construction date. The February 1925 Sanborn map illustrates that the garage had a rectangular footprint and a thirty-car capacity. Circa 1932, a wedge-shaped area at the building's northeast corner was removed and a new angled façade connected with the adjacent Homesley Super Service Station, also erected in 1932. Homesley Chevrolet used the building in the 1930s. By February 1943, 206 East Main Street served as a restaurant. Dayberry Paint Store and Shoe Shop moved here from 105 North Mountain Street in late 1970.³¹

³⁰ "Cherryville Chat," *GG*, June 20, 1916, p. 8; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

³¹ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975; "Troy C. Homesley," *GG*, March 21, 1972, p. A2; "Cherryville—A Unique City," *Eagle*, January 20, 1971, p. 3.

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Homesley Chevrolet - Homesley Super Service Station, 1932, Contributing Building 208-210 East Main Street

This one-story, flat-roofed, two-bay-wide, Spanish Revival-style gas station and automobile showroom is characterized by a textured stucco façade and a pent metal-barrel-tile roof that wraps around the flat-roofed west service canopy and extends across the façade's east section. Metal coping caps the parapet. Beneath the service canopy, the wood-frame storefront contains a wide, central, plate-glass window flanked by two replacement single-leaf, wood-frame, multipane doors. A tall narrow plate-glass window is east of each door. The transoms that surmount each bay have been filled with stucco. The east bay encompasses a late-twentieth-century, aluminum-frame, plate-glass storefront comprising a double-leaf door, sidelights, and transom. A fixed, rectangular, plate-glass window is west of the door. A low brick kneewall and concrete curbing span the façade. Late-twentieth-century, concrete-block, circular planting beds surround the replacement stuccoed square posts that support the canopy.

Masons executed the east and west elevations and the rear elevation's east bay in six-to-one common bond topped with terra cotta coping. The remainder of the rear elevation is concrete block. A double-leaf steel door with a flat-board surround pierces the concrete-block wall. The brick section's wide door opening has been partially filled with concrete block around a central single-leaf replacement door.

Troy C. Homesley established Homesley Chevrolet in 1932 and operated that concern and Homesley Super Service Station, a Gulf franchise, from this location until his 1968 retirement. This property was vacant in 1970 and occupied by Hallman and Saines Taxi in 1975.³²

Commercial Building, 1940, Contributing Building 216 East Main Street

A rough-textured variegated-brick façade distinguishes this simple one-story commercial building. A flat-roofed metal canopy shelters the aluminum-frame plate-glass display window and the single-leaf glazed door, sidelight and transom to the east. A soldier-course sill spans the window opening. Terra-cotta coping caps the parapets, which are flat on the façade and west elevation.

Decorative corbelled caps rise at each step of the east elevation's parapet. Two small, high, rectangular window openings on the west elevation have been enclosed with brick. The east elevation's north section is blind. A metal canopy shelters the single-leaf multipane replacement door at the wall's center. South of the door, plywood fills two small, high, rectangular window openings and a storefront-sized window opening. The three-bay-wide rear elevation comprises a square west window covered

³² *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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with plywood and two replacement single-leaf doors.

Gaston County property records provide a 1940 construction date for this building.

Parking Lot

Service Station, 1940, Contributing Building 220 East Main Street

A pent metal-barrel-tile parapet wraps around the east, north, and south edges of this one-story, Spanish Revival-style, stuccoed service station's flat roof. The tall pilasters that frame the façade's two bays and the east and west elevations reflect an Art Deco stylistic influence. The pilasters' pointed-arch upper sections rise above the roofline and contain central narrow stuccoed panels. The original windows and the service bay doors have been replaced with large, fixed, aluminum-frame, plate-glass windows. The façade's west section features two windows separated by a wall-height pilaster. In the east section, two windows flank a replacement single-leaf door. The west elevation contains two windows and the east elevation a single window. The rear elevation's east section is blind. The projecting west section comprises a single-leaf glazed door and a window to the west. Straight-slope canvas awnings with scalloped lower edges surmount the window and door openings.

According to Gaston County property records, this building was erected in 1940. Main Street Citgo Service Station operated at this location by 1970, followed by City Tire Service by 1975.³³

Service Station, 1920, Contributing Building 300 East Main Street

In order to facilitate access to this service station, the owners angled the building so that it faces northwest on its lot at East Main and Jacob Streets' southeast corner. The one-story, flat-roofed, three-bay-wide, L-shaped structure has red-brick-veneered primary elevations and concrete block secondary elevations. In an effort to attract consumers, masons erected a tall pylon that rises from the storefront and contains translucent glass blocks surrounded by a projecting brick border.

The east bay's storefront comprises a central single-leaf, aluminum-frame glazed door flanked by two wood-frame plate-glass windows. A straight-slope aluminum awning shelters the storefront. A tall rectangular window with a soldier-course lintel pierces the east side elevation's brick-veneered north bay. To the south, a gable-roofed addition containing two restrooms extends from the concrete-block wall. A single-leaf door and a high square window serve each restroom. A double-leaf plywood door

³³ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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fills the tall opening in the east wall's south section. Double-hung, wood-frame, six-over-six sash flank the wide, tall, central door opening on the south elevation. Plywood covers that door, the east window, and the single-leaf door on the west elevation.

The façade's west section encompasses two garage bays framed by slightly projecting pilasters that rise above the metal-coping-capped parapet. Soldier-course lintels span the garage bays, which contain roll-up replacement doors. The brick rear elevation contains a single-leaf six-horizontal-panel east door and a plywood-filled window opening to the west. The tall rectangular window with a soldier-course lintel on the west elevation is also covered with plywood.

Gaston County property records denote that this service station was completed in 1920. Wright's Main Street Amoco operated at this location during the 1960s and 1970s.³⁴

Service Station Canopy, 1970s, Noncontributing Structure 300 East Main Street

Two central square steel posts support the flat-roofed canopy that shelters two gasoline pumps northwest of the service station. Pure Oil Company's round logo, eagle motif, and slogan "Be Sure with Pure" are painted in red and blue on the tall metal cornice.

West Main Street, North Side

Cherryville Savings and Loan, 1972, Noncontributing Building 100 West Main Street

Architects James L. Beam Jr. and Associates designed this Modernist bank erected by Beam Construction. Masons executed the two-story, flat-roofed, square structure in light-brown brick with white cast-stone accents. The distinctive brick bond involved alternating two stretchers with a slightly projecting header within each row. The courses are offset so that headers align vertically on alternating rows. In the tall cornice, alternating columns of projecting and flush headers created a fluted effect. Cast-stone panels sheathe the building corners, foundation, and the full-height pilasters that frame each of the three bays in the aluminum-frame curtain walls at the center of each elevation. Solid spandrels separate the paired bronze-tinted-plate-glass first-and second-story windows. The flat-roofed square roof monitor provides additional illumination. A double-leaf steel door and a matching single-leaf door sheltered by a canvas awning pierce the north wall's east section. The steel structure and concrete foundation are engineered to withstand heavy vibration from the adjacent rail line.

³⁴ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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Square stack-bond posts support the flat-roofed canopies that shelter the primary entrance fronting Main Street and the two-lane drive-through teller window on the west elevation. Square stuccoed panels cover the tall canopy cornices.

Brick retaining walls executed in the same manner as the bank walls create a landscaped planting bed on the east elevation. A matching wall separates the rear parking lot from the railroad right-of-way. A concrete sidewalk surrounds the bank.

Wade Manufacturing Company supplied the interior Carpathian elm-veneered counter walls. Bronze-aluminum-frame curtain walls enclose the entrance vestibule and offices that surround the central room, which is open to a multi-section skylight. The original earth-toned carpeting and fabric color scheme has been updated.³⁵

Bedie V. Stroupe, Tom L. Stroupe, and Nellie Eaker Stroupe conveyed this property to Cherryville Savings and Loan on August 18, 1970. The bank's construction required the demolition of a commercial block that included five two-story brick buildings—three facing North Mountain Street and two fronting West Main Street. Cherryville Cue Lounge (a pool hall), Home Folks Café, Dayberry's Paint Store and Shoe Shop, and Hallman and Saines Taxi occupied the storefronts at 101, 103, 105, and 111 North Mountain Street in 1970. Kenneth Beam Insurance Agency and City Market operated at 106 and 108 West Main Street. Cherryville Savings and Loan occupied the new building in September 1972.³⁶

Cherryville Building and Loan, chartered in 1912, merged with Mutual Building and Loan Association in 1931. Subsequent reorganizations resulted in the creation of Cherryville Savings and Loan Association (1972), Cherryville Federal Savings and Loan Association (1990), and Cherryville Savings Bank (2010). HomeTrust Bank, established in 1926 as Clyde Savings and Loan Association, acquired the institution in 2014.³⁷

³⁵ David Carlyle Beam, former Cherryville Federal Savings and Loan Association executive, telephone conversation with Heather Fearnbach, January 4, 2016.

³⁶ Pat Borden, "Cherryville Has Had a Face Lifting," *GG*, October 8, 1969, p. B1; *Cherryville City Directory*, 1970; "Cherryville S & L plans new offices," *GG*, November 10, 1970, p. 3A; "Cherryville S & L plans building," *GG*, February 4, 1971, p. 1C; "A Bird's-Eye View of the City of Cherryville," aerial photograph, *Eagle*, April 7, 1971; "Cherryville—A Unique City," demolition photographs, *Eagle*, January 20, 1971, pp. 1 and 3; "Gaston Builds for Better Living," *GG*, April 28, 1973, p. 7B.

³⁷ "Moving Forward," *GG*, February 27, 1912, p. 1; "Home Trust Bank," <http://www.usbanklocations.com/hometruster-bank-history.shtml> (accessed in January 2016); David Carlyle Beam, telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 2016.

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Office Building, 1960, Contributing Building 116 West Main Street

This one-story, flat-roofed, blonde-brick, Modernist office building occupies the east end of a six-part commercial block. The modern style is seen in features such as the recessed stack-bond south wall, which is topped with a five-section aluminum-frame clerestory window. A planting bed fills the recessed area. Elsewhere, masons laid the walls in running bond. At the east elevation's south end, the roof extends to a flat canopy supported by square steel posts that shelters the aluminum-frame, plate-glass, entrance bay, which contains a central single-leaf glazed door. Three high rectangular aluminum-frame windows and a single-leaf steel door surmounted by a transom pierce the east wall's north section. The north elevation is blind. A tall, rectangular, blonde-brick chimney stack rises above the roof's northwest corner.

Gaston County property records provided this building's 1960 construction date. Optometrist Charles G. Metcalf opened an office here that year.³⁸

Commercial Building, 1952, Contributing Building 118 West Main Street

This one-story commercial building's pressed-red-brick running-bond façade, topped with a flat parapet and cast-stone coping, is taller than the adjacent two buildings. Above the storefront, a header course borders the slightly recessed rectangular panel that contains a sign board. Metal grates fill three small rectangular attic vent openings. The storefront comprises a central single-leaf steel door flanked by two large aluminum-frame plate-glass display windows.

Masons executed the red-brick secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond. Three high, square, steel-frame, nine-pane windows pierce the east wall's north section. The north elevation contains a central double-leaf steel door, a rectangular steel-frame east window with four panes remaining above an air conditioning unit, and two narrow, steel-frame, three-pane-tall west windows. Terra-cotta coping caps the stepped east parapet.

Gaston County property records indicate that this building was erected in 1952. Eagle Publishing Company operated at this location during the 1960s and 1970s.³⁹

³⁸ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

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Commercial Building, 1961, Contributing Building 120 West Main Street

This plain, one-story, flat-roofed commercial building is characterized by a pressed-red-brick running-bond façade and a flat parapet with cast-stone coping. The storefront comprises a scored cast-stone surround and a three-section aluminum-frame plate-glass display window that is canted toward a recessed single-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed door and transom at its east end. Metal flashing tops the storefront. Contractors erected a continuous façade to unify this structure and the two buildings to the west at 122 and 124 West Main Street.

The north (rear) elevation, executed in five-to-one common bond, encompasses a central single-leaf steel door, two flanking steel-frame twenty-four pane windows, and one narrow, steel-frame, three-pane-tall west window. Outside the door, a concrete landing with a brick foundation wall and metal railing accessed by concrete steps at its east and west ends spans much of the wall. An aluminum awning shelters the landing. 120 West Main Street is slightly wider and deeper than 122 West Main Street.

Gaston County property records provide a 1961 construction date for this edifice, which was known as the Law Building when it housed the offices of attorneys William J. Allran Jr. and Robert W. Kirby and Allran and Allran in the 1970s.⁴⁰

Commercial Building, 1955, 1961, Contributing Building 122 West Main Street

This simple, one-story, flat-roofed commercial building has a pressed-red-brick running-bond façade and a flat parapet with cast-stone coping. Square panels borders the recessed 1961 storefront, which encompasses a paneled west section topped by a tall, rectangular clerestory window and an east aluminum-frame plate-glass curtain wall with a central single-leaf door. A low red-brick planting bed extends across the west section. Metal flashing tops the storefront. In 1961, contractors erected a continuous façade to unify this and the two flanking buildings at 120 and 124 West Main Street.

The north (rear) elevation, executed in five-to-one common bond, contains a central single-leaf door flanked by two steel-frame twenty-four pane windows. An aluminum awning surmounts the entrance.

According to Gaston County property records, the building was placed into service in 1955. The storefront housed Nail's Insurance Agency and the Ideal Protection Credit Association in the 1960s

⁴⁰ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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and 1970s.⁴¹

Commercial Building, 1952, 1961, Contributing Building 124 West Main Street

This plain, one-story, flat-roofed commercial building is characterized by a pressed-red-brick running-bond façade and a flat parapet with cast-stone coping. Cast-stone panels border the 1961 storefront, which features a slightly recessed west section with a two-part, aluminum-frame, plate-glass display window and a stack-bond kneewall. The aluminum-frame single-leaf glazed door, sidelights, and transom that fill the east section have a deeper setback. Metal flashing tops the storefront. Contractors erected a continuous façade to unify this building and the two to the east at 120 and 122 West Main Street.

The north (rear) elevation, executed in five-to-one common bond, contains a central single-leaf door flanked by two steel-frame twenty-four pane windows. An aluminum awning surmounts the entrance.

Gaston County property records specify this building's 1952 construction date. Cherryville Savings and Loan occupied the storefront prior to erecting the bank at 100 West Main Street. T. C. Rogers Real Estate leased 124 West Main Street during the 1970s.⁴²

Masonic Building, 1924, Contributing Building 126 West Main Street

The three-story, four-bay-wide, Commercial Style building at the block's west end has a commanding presence enlivened by a blonde brick façade. Beneath the corbelled cornice, which is capped with a header course and cast-stone coping, a slightly recessed rectangular panel with a header-course border and four inset diamond-shaped white tiles ornaments the parapet. A header course spans the façade above the corbelled cornices of four tall, narrow, recessed panels that contain eight double-hung, one-over-one, wood sash windows with six-pane wood transoms. Soldier-course lintels and cast-stone sills frame the window openings. A slightly recessed rectangular panel with a header-course border fills the space between the second-story window sills and the storefront. Brick pilasters frame the storefront's wide central section and narrow outer bays. Late-twentieth-century plywood panels and three tall, narrow, wood-frame windows fill the center bay, which originally held a large plate-glass window. The outer bays contain single-leaf aluminum-frame doors and tall plate-glass transoms. Plywood covers the west transom.

⁴¹ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

⁴² *Ibid.*

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Masons executed the variegated-brick secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond with stepped terra-cotta-capped east and west parapets. The east elevation is blind. On the west elevation, four one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows; two high, square, single-pane windows, and a ground-level wood-frame storefront illuminate the interior. A steel fire escape with two landings and metal railings serves the central, single-leaf, glazed second- and third-story doors. The ten window openings on the west elevation's third story, grouped in pairs, have been infilled with brick.

The three-bay-wide north elevation encompasses a double-leaf replacement first-story door flanked by one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows. The three second-story windows are identical. Two tall, narrow, third-story window openings have been infilled with brick above replacement one-over-one sash.

When Cherryville Lodge 505 A. F. & A. M. was chartered in January 1900, members elected Dr. J. Lee Beam to serve as worshipful master, Charles P. Stroup as senior warden, and John Carpenter as junior warden. The lodge initially leased the upper floor of a former roller mill then used as a storage building to gather. Later Main Street meeting locations included the Mauney, Houser, and Rudisill Buildings.⁴³

The Cherryville Post Office occupied the first floor from 1924 until moving to its 1958 building at 107 North Mulberry Street. The public library leased space on the Masonic Building's first floor in June 1954 and remained there until the February 1959 completion of the one-story brick library at 605 East Main Street. Day Plumbing and Heating Company occupied a section of the storefront in the 1960s and Messenger's Flowers and Gifts leased space in the 1970s. Cherryville Lodge 505 A. F. & A. M. and the Order of the Eastern Star No. 156 utilized the upper floors.⁴⁴

McDowell-Gurley House, 1920, Contributing Building 200 West Main Street

This main block of this two-story, hip-roofed, red-brick residence is three bays wide and three bays deep. Two-story hip-roofed bays project from the building's northeast and northwest corners. A one-story, hip-roofed shed room with a central porch that has been enclosed spans most of the rear (north) elevation.

Robust Craftsman-style brick posts spanned by brick kneewalls with cast-stone caps support the two-

⁴³ David P. Dellinger, "The First Fraternity Lodge in Cherryville," *Eagle*, September 1, 1954.

⁴⁴ Lyle Edwards, "Library Buildings Pushed," *GG*, January 6, 1958, p. 1; "Cherryville Library Result of Years of Hard Work by Women," *GG*, February 20, 1959, p. 2; "Two of Six Township Libraries Opened," *GG*, February 23, 1959, p. 1; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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bay-wide front porch and the porte cochere at its west end. The deep porch eaves shelter exposed rafter ends and a tall wood cornice. The primary entrance comprises a single-leaf paneled wood door, a louvered wood screen door, and Craftsman-style multipane sidelights. A red-brick soldier course and a blackened header course surround the door. A bank of four narrow, double-hung, four-over-one, wood-sash windows is west of the entrance. Other window openings contain single or paired six-over-one sash with the exception of the multipane wood-frame casement window at the façade's second-story center. Decorative brickwork includes a soldier-course watertable, a soldier-course band that wraps around the house between the first and second stories, and soldier-course lintels that span the door and window openings. Three brick chimney stacks rise above the roof.

East of the front porch, a low brick wall borders the poured-concrete patio that extends to a one-story sunporch similar in execution to the front porch. A single-leaf screen door provides access to the sunporch's south entrance vestibule and tall six-over-six sash windows fill the east and north elevations.

Spartanburg, South Carolina, native Lindsay Caryle McDowell partnered with Cherryville entrepreneurs J. W. and N. B. Kendrick and Shelby pastor C. J. Woodson in 1903 to establish Kendrick Mercantile Company, for which he served as a manager and buyer. In May 1919, L. C. McDowell and his brother Elliot Eugene McDowell purchased the Kendrick brothers' interest in the dry goods sales component of Kendrick Mercantile Company. At the same time, a Shelby merchant with the surname Johnson acquired the firm's furniture inventory and undertaking business.⁴⁵

L. C. McDowell and his wife Harriet Elizabeth, known as Hattie Bess, married since December 1901, moved to Cherryville in March 1904. David A. and Ava Rudisill sold this lot to the McDowells on November 2, 1906. The couple commissioned the construction of a one-story frame dwelling at 200 West Main Street. The McDowells had three sons—Roy, Harold, and Carlyle—and a daughter Ruth by 1920, when they replaced their original house with two-story brick residence on same site. On June 14, 1941, Ruth married Robert Clifton Gurley, who served in the U. S. Army Air Corps during World War II.⁴⁶

The McDowells attended First Baptist Church and were active in many civic organizations. L. C. McDowell died on April 19, 1951. Hattie Bess was named Gaston County mother of the year in 1960. She conveyed the family home to her daughter Ruth Gurley on September 18, 1961, and remained there until her death on October 21, 1969. The Gurleys had two daughters, Harriette and Marsha. Ruth died on December 15, 1985. Following Robert's death on February 15, 1987, Harriette and her

⁴⁵ "Kendrick Mercantile Company Store," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p. 7; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, May 30, 1919, p. 6.

⁴⁶ "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, February 9, 1904, p. 2; Gaston County Deed Book 65, p. 314; U. S. Census, Population Schedules, 1910 and 1920; "L. C. McDowell Dies at Age 72 in Cherryville," *GG*, April 27, 1951, p. 8.

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husband Richard Lee Gilbert conveyed their interest in the property to Marsha on October 12, 1987. Marsha and her husband Roy Blain Hayes had two children, Robert Christopher and Melanie, who married Greg Griggs. Marsha undertook a thirty-two year career as an educator prior to her death on February 19, 2004. Roy remains in residence.⁴⁷

Garage, 1920, Contributing Building 200 West Main Street

The one-story front-gable-roofed garage northwest of the house has a north-south orientation. Masons executed the walls in oversized variegated brick laid in Flemish bond. Weatherboards fill the gable above the single garage bay that faces West Main Street. Two double-hung four-over-one wood sash windows pierce the west elevation. The east elevation contains one matching window and a single-leaf door.

House, 1907, Contributing Building 202 West Main Street

This one-story, frame, cross-gable-roofed house is characterized by deep eaves and molded cornices with gable-end returns. A front-gable bay flanked by one-bay-wide shed-roofed porches with fluted replacement columns projects from the façade's center. Concrete sidewalks and brick steps provide access to the single-leaf entrances. Double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows illuminate the interior. A gabled rear wing extends north from the main block's east end. A small addition projects from the wing's northwest corner and intersects the hip-roofed rear shed room. Tall rectangular louvered-wood attic vent pierce the gables. Asbestos shingles sheathe the exterior.

Based on the similarity of this dwelling's February 1925 Sanborn map footprint to the house that L. C. and Hattie Bess McDowell erected next door around 1907, it is possible the McDowells moved their original home west onto the adjacent tax parcel, which they also owned, to allow for the construction of their 1920 house. During the 1930s and 1940s, the McDowells conveyed the property first to their son Harold and his wife Lillian and then to their son Roy and his wife Katherine. On September 26, 1946, L. C. and Hattie Bess McDowell sold the property to Blackwelder Textile Company, who conveyed it to Eva B. Rudisill on August 9, 1947. Earl M. Wright, Mildred H. Wright, and N. A. Wright Sr. purchased the property from Rudisill on October 9, 1957. The Wrights conveyed the dwelling to Carrol L. and Reabrin Wright Patterson on June 12, 1961. The Pattersons sold the property

⁴⁷ Gaston County Deed Book 286, p. 510; Deed Book 794, p. 282; Deed Book 884, p. 48; Deed Book 1887, p. 208; Deed Book 3962, p. 636; death certificates; "L. C. McDowell Dies at Age 72 in Cherryville," *GG*, April 27, 1951, p. 8; "Clubs Sponsor Contest for '60 Mother of Year," *GG*, February 11, 1960, p. 5; "Death Claims Mrs. McDowell," *GG*, October 22, 1969, p. 2A; Marsha Gurley Hayes," *CO*, February 21, 2001.

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to Danny L. and Joie L. Arthurs on December 28, 1989. Danny Arthurs still owns the house.⁴⁸

Garage, 1980, Noncontributing Building 202 West Main Street

This one-story, front-gable-roofed, cementitious-board-sided garage stands northwest of the house facing West Main Street. A roll-up garage door, a single-leaf entrance, and an octagonal attic vent pierce the south elevation. The garage rests on a poured-concrete foundation and is protected by an asphalt-shingle roof.

John Pickney and Margaret Paulina Carpenter Dellinger House, 1908, Contributing Building 208 West Main Street

This two-story, weatherboarded, Queen Anne-style house features a pyramidal-hip-roofed main block with projecting gabled bays ornamented with a sawnwork bargeboards and multipane windows. Double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows, paired in the gabled bays' first stories, illuminate the interior. The doors have glazed upper sections above horizontal-raised-panel lower halves. Molded trim boards cap simple butt-corner door and window surrounds. Classical elements include the Tuscan columns that support the wraparound porch roof and the small gable containing a semicircular wood-frame window that surmounts the porch entrance. A wide concrete sidewalk, a concrete step, and a short concrete handicapped-accessible ramp provide access to the porch. The poured-concrete porch floor with a brick foundation is a 1980s modification.

A one-story hip-roofed room with a double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash window in its east elevation spans the north (rear) elevation's east section. A hip-roofed single-bay wide and deep bathroom rises above the rear room's west section. To the north, a vertical-board kneewall and double-hung six-over-six and four-over-four wood-sash windows enclose the shed-roofed sunporch. West of the sunporch, a small shed-roofed vestibule with a low brick kneewall and a weatherboarded north gable end provides basement access.

John Pickney and Margaret Paulina Carpenter Dellinger commissioned this home's construction in 1908. The couple had previously resided on a large farm a mile south of Shelby. J. P. Dellinger operated a cotton gin on the farm and a liquor store in Shelby. He also collaborated with W. T. Calton and others to establish two Lattimore industrial concerns: Verner Oil Mill and Pink Manufacturing Company. Beginning in 1902, Verner Oil Mill generated cottonseed oil in a building erected by Shelby

⁴⁸ Gaston County Deed Book 342, p. 472; Deed Book 414, p. 352; Deed Book 482, p. 118; Deed Book 490, p. 124; Deed Book 540, p. 248, Deed Book 704, p. 444; Deed Book 788, p. 357; Deed Book 2018, p. 68; Deed Book 3530, p. 1.

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brick maker and mason J. F. Gaffney. In late June 1906, Dellinger and Calton incorporated Pink Manufacturing Company. The plant's employees soon commenced producing rewoven and pieced bagging and whole and machine-pieced bag ties. Dellinger was also one of Shelby National Bank's founding directors and coordinated the construction of the two-store commercial building that housed the institution and other businesses. The Dellinger family attended St. John's Lutheran Church and participated in myriad civic organizations. After J. P. Dellinger died on July 9, 1921, his executors sold Verner Oil Mill, which had suffered a warehouse fire in April, and dissolved Pink Manufacturing Company. Margaret Dellinger was honored as Gaston County's mother of the year in 1949. She resided at 208 West Main Street until her death on July 8, 1959.⁴⁹

J. P. and Margaret Dellinger had eleven children. Their daughter Ruth and her husband Jasper Garland Sherrill, who had resided with Margaret, inherited the family home. Garland died on January 21, 1982. The Sherrills' son Charles Dellinger Sherrill and his wife Pat cared for his mother until her death on December 27, 1988. Charles Sherrill died on April 16, 2015.⁵⁰

Smokehouse, 1908, Contributing Building 208 West Main Street

The one-story, front-gable-roofed, brick smokehouse northeast of the house is a rare survival in an urban setting. Masons executed the walls in five-to-one common bond with two-header-course door and window lintels. The roof extends to create a deep overhang sheltering the single-leaf, five-raised-panel, wood door on the south elevation. A matching door pierces the west elevation. A board-and-batten shutter secures the rectangular window opening in the weatherboarded front gable. Rectangular, louvered, wood vents fill the east elevation's two window openings. A metal-shingle roof protects the building.

⁴⁹ *Shelby Review*, July 28, 1893, p. 1; "Oil Mill for Lattimore," *Cleveland Star* (hereafter abbreviated CS), May 21, 1902, p. 3; "Has Contract for Oil Mill," CS, June 11, 1902, p. 3; "Where will you have your cotton ginned?," CS, September 16, 1903, p. 8; "New Bank Building for Shelby," CS, March 29, 1905, p. 1; "Building Notes," CS, October 4, 1905, p. 3; "An Important Enterprise," CS, June 15, 1906, p. 1; "Two Charters for Corporations," CS, June 22, 1906, p. 1; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, August 11, 1908, p.3; "Three Warehouse Burned at Lattimore," CS, April 19, 1921, p. 4; "Mr. Pink Dellinger Dies at Cherryville," CS, July 12, 1921, p. 1; "Big Deal Involves \$80,000 in Lattimore," CS, October 11, 1921, p. 1; "Certificate of Dissolution," CS, January 17, 1922, p. 8;"Mrs. Dellinger Royally Feted as Gaston's "Mother of Year," *GG*, May 9, 1949, pp. 1 and 8;"Passes at 99," *Eagle*, July 8, 1959, p. 1; Robert V. and Lores A. Mauney, "Descendants of John Pickney and Margaret Paulina Carpenter Dellinger," March 1984.

⁵⁰ Gaston County Deed Book 638, p. 341; Deed Book 2626, p. 674; gravemarkers.

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West Main Street, South Side

Commercial Building, 1916, Contributing Building 107 West Main Street

A textured-red-brick running-bond façade and a stepped parapet topped with cast-stone coping unify this three-storefront commercial block. Brick pilasters flank the storefronts, which are surmounted by soldier-course lintels. Above the 107 West Main Street storefront, a slightly recessed rectangular panel bordered with a header course ornaments the parapet. Two small rectangular attic vent openings are filled with metal grates. A late-twentieth-century asphalt-shingled hip-roofed canopy shelters mid-twentieth-century aluminum-frame plate-glass display windows, a paneled kneewall, and a recessed single-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed door. The running-bond blond-brick rear elevation is windowless. A walkway with a board floor and a wood railing leads to the central single-leaf door.

Gaston County property records provide a 1916 construction date for this building. Newton's Music Shop occupied the storefront in the 1960s and early 1970s, followed by Goodwill Center by 1975.⁵¹

Commercial Building, 1916, Contributing Building 109 West Main Street

A textured-red-brick running-bond façade and a stepped parapet topped with cast-stone coping unify this three-storefront commercial block. Brick pilasters flank the storefronts, which are surmounted by soldier-course lintels. Above the 109 West Main Street storefront, a slightly recessed rectangular panel bordered with a header course ornaments the parapet. Two small rectangular attic vent openings are filled with metal grates. The storefront comprises low brick kneewalls and metal-frame plate-glass display windows with a central section that is canted toward a recessed, single-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed door. An asphalt-shingled pent canopy surmounts the storefront.

Masons executed the variegated-brick secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond. However, the narrow south (rear) elevation has only a few header courses in the wall's upper section. Segmental-arched two-header-course lintels support the central single-leaf steel door and the two flanking window openings that have been infilled with brick. Terra-cotta coping caps the stepped east and west parapets.

Gaston County property records indicate that this building was erected in 1916. The storefront housed Thomas Jewelers and Western Union Telegraph in the 1960s and 1970s.⁵²

⁵¹ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

⁵² *Ibid.*

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Commercial Building, 1916, Contributing Building 111 West Main Street

A textured-red-brick running-bond façade and a stepped parapet topped with cast-stone coping unify this three-storefront commercial block. Brick pilasters flank the storefronts, which are surmounted by soldier-course lintels. At 111 West Main Street, a soldier course also tops the plain parapet above two small square attic vent openings filled with metal grates. The storefront comprises low brick kneewalls and metal-frame plate-glass display windows with an east section that angles toward a recessed, single-leaf, wood-frame, glazed door. An asphalt-shingled pent canopy shelters the storefront.

The variegated-brick west elevation, laid in six-to-one common bond and topped with terra cotta coping, is blind. Remnants of a large painted sign advertising the Sanitary Barber Shop remain on the wall's north section. The south elevation contains a west window and central replacement double-leaf door spanned by segmental-arched two-header-course lintels. Plywood covers the window. A small, square, metal-shed-roofed utility room with a tall, square, brick chimney at its southeast corner extends from the south wall's east section.

Gaston County property records delineate this building's 1916 completion date. Sanitary Barber Shop occupied this storefront for much of the twentieth century.⁵³

E. L. and Ula J. Webb House, 1917, Contributing Building 201 West Main Street

This one-and-one-half-story, frame, transitional Queen Anne – Colonial Revival-style house has a tall hip-roofed main block with projecting gabled bays on each elevation. Slender Tuscan columns support the wraparound porch, which encompasses a conical-roofed gazebo at its northeast corner. A modern wood railing with square balusters and a molded handrail spans the columns. Formed-concrete steps with metal railings provide access to the porch in front of the two façade entrances, both of which have replacement single-leaf doors and aluminum-frame storm doors.

Double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows illuminate the interior with the exception of the upper story, where Queen Anne-style multipane-over-one sash pierce the gables and the hip-roofed dormer on the front roof slope. Molded trim boards cap the butt-corner, flat-board door and window surrounds. A one-story hip-roofed room served by a square stovepipe chimney extends from the east wing's south wall. A one-story shed-roofed room that includes a rear entrance spans the remainder of the dwelling's south elevation. Vinyl German siding covers the original weatherboards.

⁵³ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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Gaston County property records supplied this dwelling's 1917 construction date. Cleveland County native E. L. Webb had purchased the lot from Vernon L. Carroll on June 14, 1909, the same year that Webb and J. H. Trott established Cherryville Hardware Company. In 1912, Webb was elected to serve as the vice-president of Cherryville Building and Loan Association's board of directors. Subsequent owners include Stephen and Bessie Stroup, L. P. and Susan Dellinger, Loy Elizabeth Stroup, and Howard and Lula Belle Carpenter Robinson.⁵⁴ The home has served as a duplex for much of its history. James L. Day, Jerry W. Bumgarner, and Alda M. Hallman sequentially leased 201 West Main Street in the 1960 and 1970s. Tenants renting 201½ West Main Street during that period include Troy Drum, Gail Ballard, and Perry Cranford.⁵⁵

Shed, 1980s, Noncontributing Building 201 West Main Street

A one-story, front-gable-roofed, prefabricated frame shed with a double-leaf door on its north elevation stands southwest of the house. A poured-concrete parking pad fills much of the rear yard.

House, 1901, 1920s, Contributing Building 203 West Main Street

This one-and-one-half-story, tall-hip-roofed, frame house has Queen Anne-style massing. A gabled bay with a central, square, fixed, single-pane, replacement attic window extends from the façade's west section. The original porch likely had classical features similar to those of the adjacent residence at 201 West Main Street. The extant wraparound porch is supported by Craftsman-style tapered posts on brick piers spanned by a wood railing with square balusters and a molded handrail. These elements appear to be 1920s modifications. The porch's southeast end has been enclosed to create additional living space.

Double-hung one-over-one replacement windows illuminate the interior. The deep eaves of the pyramidal-hip-roofed dormers on the front and rear roof slopes shelter groups of three windows. Molded trim boards cap the butt-corner, flat-board door and window surrounds. A pyramidal-hip-roofed bathroom addition with a brick stovepipe chimney rises on the gabled rear wing's south elevation. The one-story hip-roofed shed room east of the wing contains a rear entrance. Vinyl German siding sheathes the exterior.

⁵⁴ Gaston County Deed Book 71, p. 416; Deed Book 228, p. 506; Deed Book 254, p. 237; Deed Book 680, p. 253; Deed Book 742, p. 231; Deed Book 3028, p. 1; Deed Book 3068, p. 869; Deed Book 4485, p. 2347.

⁵⁵ "Cherryville Hardware Company," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p. 3; "Officers Elected," *GG*, February 27, 1912, p. 1; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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According to Gaston County property records, this residence was constructed in 1901. E. L. and Ula Webb sold this property to Stephen Stroup on August 16, 1923. On October 22, 1929, Stephen and Bessie Stroup conveyed the dwelling to legal consultant, politician, and insurance agent Loy Elizabeth Stroup. Loy sold the house to Lula Belle Carpenter Robinson on May 28, 1959. Lula and her husband Howard L. and Robinson occupied the dwelling until their respective deaths on March 31, 1999, and May 13, 1994. Howard began his career in automobile sales working with his father, whose businesses included Carpenter and Robinson Motor Company, a Gastonia Pontiac dealership where he worked from 1937 to 1951. In June 1955, Howard acquired Lawrence Rankin Motors in Gastonia and changed the name to Robinson Motor Company. His estate conveyed the dwelling to C. Michael and Rebecca K. Ross in 1999.⁵⁶

Garage, 1950s, Contributing Building 203 West Main Street

The long, rectangular, one-story, front-gable-roofed, concrete-block garage southeast of the house has two double-leaf board-and-batten doors on its north elevation. Exposed rafter ends support the eaves. Vinyl German siding covers the gable ends.

Carl A. and Verner Dellinger Rudisill House, 1924, Contributing Building 207 West Main Street

A boxwood-lined brick sidewalk leads to the brick terrace that spans the façade of this two-story, side-gable-roofed, Classical Revival-style dwelling. Masons executed the red-brick walls in running bond with soldier-course window lintels. The symmetrical three-bay-wide façade comprises paired, double-hung, six-over-one, wood-sash windows flanking the single-leaf entrance and double-hung, eight-over-one, wood-sash second-story windows. Tuscan columns support the broken pediment with a denticulated molded cornice that surmounts the carved fan-shaped panel above the door. A modillion cornice and three gabled dormers with segmental-arched, double-hung, six-over-one, wood-sash further ornament the façade.

Double-hung six-over-one and four-over-one wood-sash windows pierce the west elevation's first and second stories. A cast-stone keystone tops the Palladian window in the gable. The east elevation features a matching Palladian gable window. A one-story, flat-roofed, brick sunporch with a modillion

⁵⁶ David P. Dellinger, "Cherryville Woman Judge, Blockade Lawyer, Politician, and Business Executive," *Eagle*, September 8, 1948; "Pontiac Salesman Recalls 33 Years In Car Business," *GG*, April 30, 1949, p. 10; "Gene Smith Pontiac Company is Opening," *GG*, June 20, 1951, p. 4; "Announcing Change in Ownership and Management," *GG*, July 1, 1955, p. 15; gravemarkers; Gaston County Deed Book 228, p. 506; Deed Book 254, p. 237; Deed Book 254, p. 237; Deed Book 680, p. 253; Deed Book 742, p. 231, Deed Book 3013, p. 104; Deed Book 3040, p. 732, Deed Book 4541, p. 2287; Deed Book 4624, p. 1950.

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cornice and a wood roof balustrade projects from the east elevation. A one-story, hip-roofed, brick rear entrance vestibule provides access to the main block's west section. Two tall brick chimney with corbelled stacks rises above the rear roof slope.

Carl Augustus Rudisill attended Lenoir College (now Lenior-Rhyne University) in Hickory and North Carolina State College (now North Carolina State University) in Raleigh. In 1907, he became the superintendent of Indian Creek Manufacturing Company in Lincolnton, then owned by industrialist Daniel Efid Rhyne. After Carl married Verner Dellinger on March 24, 1909, the couple resided in Lincolnton. From 1911 until 1916, Carl retained his position at Indian Creek Manufacturing Company and served as John Rudisill Manufacturing Company's secretary and treasurer. In 1919, he assumed the same offices at Cherryville, Howell, and Rhyne-Houser Manufacturing Companies, all of which D. E. Rhyne owned. In addition to those duties, Carl served as Cherryville Manufacturing Company's general manager and oversaw the construction of the Rhyne-Houser plant. He embarked upon a series of new endeavors in 1922, that year organizing Carlton Mill in Cherryville, followed by Morowebb Cotton Mill in Dallas (1923), Rex Spinning Company in Ranlo (1926), and Nuway Spinning Company in Cherryville (1926). Carl functioned as secretary-treasurer of the first three concerns and Nuway Spinning Company's general manager. He became Rudisill Spinning Company's vice-president and general manager in 1928 and the president and general manager of Cartex Mills in Salisbury in 1931.⁵⁷

When Carl and Verner Rudisill returned to Cherryville, they lived on South Mountain Street prior to erecting this Main Street residence opposite the home that Verner's parents J. P. and Margaret Dellinger had built. The couple attended St. John's Lutheran Church and led many civic and philanthropic initiatives. Carl Rudisill served as Cherryville's mayor from 1918 until 1920. He was a town board member, a director of Cherryville National Bank and the Cherryville Building Loan Association, and a Lenior-Rhyne College trustee. Gaston County voters elected him to the North Carolina House of Representatives for two terms between 1937 and 1941. Rudisill recovered after a cerebral hemorrhage in 1944, but died at the age of sixty-five on September 9, 1949. Verner Rudisill remained active in the community until her death on August 19, 1977. Her heirs sold the house to Thomas C. and Donese C. Campbell on June 25, 1979. The Campbells conveyed the property to Gary and Jane W. Simpson, who still own it, on June 15, 1983.⁵⁸

⁵⁷ Carlton Yarn Mills, Inc., *Carltonia, 1922-1938, Anniversary Edition* (Cherryville: Eagle Publishing, 1938), not paginated; marriage register; "Dellinger-Rudisill," *LCN*, March 26, 1909, p. 3.

⁵⁸ C. A. Rudisill purchased the lot from C. A. Rudisill on September 30, 1922. The property had previously belonged to W. R. Carroll. U. S. Census, Population Schedules, 1910-1940; Gaston County Deed Book 59, p. 262; Deed Book 168, p. 130; Deed Book 438, p. 624; Deed Book 442, p. 634; Deed Book 460, p. 172; Deed Book 1440, p. 454; Deed Book 1300, pp. 570 and 574; *LCN*, August 7, 1919, p. 3; "Many New Buildings for Cherryville This Year," *CS*, February 6, 1923, p. 2; "Carl Rudisill Succumbs," *GG*, September 9, 1949, p. 1; James R. Young and Marjorie W. Young, *Textile Leaders of the South* (Columbia, S. C.: R. L. Bryan Company, 1963), 173, 789-790.

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Garage, 1924, Contributing Building 207 West Main Street

A gravel driveway leads to the one-story, side-gable-roofed, brick garage southeast of the house. A roll-up multi-panel wood door secures the single, wide garage bay. West of the garage door, a single-leaf five-horizontal-panel door provides additional access. A brick chimney with a corbelled stack rises above the roof. A low red-brick wall delineates the lot's east edge, while a white picket fence borders the west edge and encloses the rear yard.

North Mountain Street, East Side

Commercial Building, 1930, Contributing Building 106-108 North Mountain Street

The three-storefront commercial block at North Mountain and East First Street's southeast corner was erected in two phases. The one-story south building (106) and the two-story central building (108), constructed in 1930, are distinguished by a wire-cut red-brick running-bond façade and a stepped parapet topped with cast-stone coping. A header course spans both storefronts above the first story. The storefronts contain low brick kneewalls and late-twentieth-century, aluminum-frame, plate-glass display windows with central sections canted toward recessed single-leaf entrances. A long, asphalt-shingled, pent canopy shelters the first story. At 108 North Mountain Street, a continuous soldier-course lintel surmounts three second-story window openings. Craftsman-style four-over-one sash, paired in the middle opening, illuminate the second floor. Three small rectangular attic vent openings in each parapet are filled with metal grates.

Masons executed the variegated brick secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond capped with terra cotta coping. The majority of the south elevation is windowless, but two slightly recessed bays near the wall's east end contain three short one-over-one sash and a single-leaf door. The two window openings on 106 North Mountain Street's east (rear) elevation have been infilled with brick. 108 North Mountain Street's rear elevation has been painted. A hip-roofed canopy supported by round steel posts shelters a corrugated-metal roll-up door and the adjacent loading dock, which has concrete-block walls and a poured-concrete floor. Three rectangular second-story windows and one high, short first-story window have been enclosed with plywood.

Gaston County property records denote that this building was placed into service in 1930. The storefronts housed Farmers Union and Supply Company, Inc., and Hardware Farm Suppliers by 1966 and Turner's Auto Parts and Supplies in the 1970s.⁵⁹

⁵⁹ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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Commercial Building, 1914, Contributing Building 110 North Mountain Street

The two-story north building, erected in 1914, has a circa 1930 light-red pressed-brick running-bond façade with a corbelled cornice and a flat parapet topped with cast-stone coping. Continuous soldier-course lintels surmount the storefront and four second-story window openings, which contain Craftsman-style, four-over-one, wood sash. Four small rectangular openings in the parapet contain louvered attic vents. The storefront has low brick kneewalls and late-twentieth-century, aluminum-frame, plate-glass display windows with a central section that angles toward a recessed single-leaf entrance. A long, asphalt-shingled, pent canopy shelters the first story.

Masons executed the stepped, variegated brick secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond capped with terra cotta coping. The north elevation is blind. The three-bay rear elevation has been painted. Three-course header lintels surmount the first-story door and windows, while two-course header lintels top the second-story windows. The outer second-story window openings and both first-story windows have been filled with translucent glass block. The middle second-story window has been enclosed with brick. A late-twentieth-century flat-roofed metal canopy shelters the central, single-leaf, first-story steel door. Steel stairs with a middle pipe railing rise to the landing at the rear entrance.

Houser Grocery, C. D. Abernathy Appliance Repair, and Cherryville Country Corner sequentially occupied this building during the 1960s and 1970s.⁶⁰

North Mountain Street, West Side

C. Grier Beam Truck Museum, 1982, Noncontributing Building 117 North Mountain Street

This large, one-story, rectangular, brick museum has a low-pitched side-gable roof screened from street view by a metal-barrel-tile, mansard-roof canopy supported by narrow brick piers that flare out at the top. The canopy roof projects slightly above the alternating façade bays that contain full-height aluminum-frame curtain walls. Plate-glass windows fill two bays in the south section and one in the north section. The primary entrance is a double-leaf glazed door in the fourth bay from the north end. The alternating bays are blind, as are the brick north and south elevations. Corrugated metal siding sheathes the rear (west) elevation. A large roll-up door pierces the wall near its south end. West of the museum, a gravel parking lot and grass lawn fill the area bounded by the railroad right-of-way to the south, North Mulberry Street to the west, and West First Street to the north. The museum occupies the

⁶⁰ Ibid.

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south section of the tax parcel that also contains Beam's Shell Service Station and Office, but the buildings are not attached.

Beam's Shell Service Station and Office, ca. 1930, Contributing Building, and Fuel Pumps, ca. 1930, two Contributing Objects, 117 North Mountain Street (National Register 1997)

This service station's deep setback from North Mountain Street and corner location facilitated access to its fuel pumps. The one-story, cross-gable-roofed, stuccoed, Spanish Revival-style service station features a metal-barrel-tile roof. A matching canopy spans the façade's east elevation above two windows and a double-leaf wood door with paneled lower sections and nine-pane upper sections. A running-bond red-brick kneewall with a header cap wraps around the building beneath round-arched multipane windows. Header courses border the window openings and flank the door openings, which are topped with soldier-course lintels. Round-arched openings containing louvered attic vents pierce the gable.

The north elevation's east section contains a round-arched multipane window and two higher, smaller, matching windows west of a single-leaf door with a paneled lower section and a nine-pane upper section. The tall garage door opening at the west section's center has been filled with stucco above a brick kneewall, but retains its brick border. A single, double-hung, wood-frame, six-over-six sash edged in brick pierces the west elevation's center. Metal gates at the southeast and southwest corners span the distance between this building and the adjacent C. Grier Beam Truck Museum. The raised, formed-concrete, oval island east of the station contains two circa 1930 fuel pumps with cast-iron bases topped with glass cylinders and glass seashell-shaped globes bearing the company name "Shell."

Guy Beam managed this Shell service station during the early 1930s. When his younger brother C. Grier Beam established Beam Trucking Company in 1932, Guy allowed him to utilize a portion of the building as an office. Beam Trucking Company commissioned Dixie Lumber Company to construct its first terminal, a frame 70-by-80-foot building that included a warehouse, dock, maintenance shop, and offices south of the service station in 1938. The service station operated as a Shell franchise until around 1952. In 1966, City Tire Service Gas Station operated from the building, sharing the space that year with Mayhue Television Service and with Ed's Lawn Mower Repair Shop by 1970. Carolina Freight Carriers Corporation purchased the property in 1981 to serve as C. Grier Beam Truck Museum's primary entrance and gift shop.⁶¹ Beam's Shell Service Station and Office was individually listed in the National Register on October 17, 1997.

⁶¹ Atkins, *Carolina Freight Corporation*, 33, 51; Gaston County Deed Book 1370, p. 481; 1833, p. 519.

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Commercial Building, late 1920s, Contributing Building 201 North Mountain Street

A red-brick running-bond façade and a stepped parapet capped with terra cotta coping ornament this one-story, flat-roofed, commercial building. A header course spans the façade above the storefront's soldier-course lintel. Metal hoods fill two small rectangular attic vent openings in the parapet. The storefront comprises a low red-brick kneewall and wood-frame, plate-glass display windows with a central section that angles toward a recessed double-leaf, wood-frame, glazed door. Plywood covers the storefront transom.

Masons executed the stepped, variegated brick secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond. High square and rectangular multipane windows pierce the long, stepped, south elevation, which is topped with terra cotta coping. A soldier course lintel spans the wide loading dock in the wall's west section. The door has been removed and the opening filled with wood siding. The west (rear) elevation contains a central single-leaf replacement door flanked by two windows. An aluminum-frame storm window protects the one-over-six double-hung sash in the north opening. Plywood covers the south window.

Architectural style and building materials suggest a late 1920s construction date for this commercial building. Moss Radio and Television Service occupied the storefront for much of the 1960s and 1970s.⁶²

Commercial Building, 1920, Contributing Building 203 North Mountain Street

This painted-brick commercial building's two-story façade features a corbelled cornice and a continuous soldier-course lintel above the second-floor windows. The storefront encompasses a low brick kneewall and wood-frame plate-glass display windows that frame a central vestibule. The recessed primary entrance is a double-leaf, wood-frame, glazed door, while the canted single-leaf door to the north is similar but slightly shorter. In front of the entrances, red hexagonal tiles form the letters "A. L. H." in the white mosaic tile floor, which is further embellished with a geometric red-square-tile border. Particle board fills the interior display-window frame. A tall transom covered with a flat-slope canvas awning surmounts the storefront.

The stepped north and south elevations, capped with cast-stone coping, are blind. The building's three-level interior is evident on the west elevation. Three-course header lintels surmount the first-story door and windows, while two-course header lintels top the second- and third-story windows. Plywood

⁶² *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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covers the windows. The central, recessed, double-leaf, first-story door is also plywood. Rectangular galvanized ductwork extends from the HVAC unit north of the door to the middle second-story window opening.

The February 1925 Sanborn map indicates that this building housed a retail concern. By February 1943, a tin shop occupied the storefront. Upchurch Feed and Seed Store leased the space by 1966, followed by Putnam and Sons Feed and Seed Store by 1970 and Golden Tiger Kung-Fu School in 1975. That year, H & R Block rented an office at 203 ½ North Mountain Street.⁶³

Commercial Building, 1948, 1960s, Contributing Building 205-207 North Mountain Street, 108 West First Street

The two-part building at the commercial block's north end comprises a one-and-one-half-story south section (205) and a one-story north section (207). Terra cotta coping tops the red-brick running-bond façade and soldier-course lintels span the storefronts. The south storefront comprises red-brick kneewalls and aluminum-frame, plate-glass display windows with central sections that angle toward a recessed double-leaf, wood-frame, glazed door. A transom covered with a flat-slope canvas awning shelters the storefront. The north storefront contains a red-brick kneewall and aluminum-frame, plate-glass display windows with central sections that angle toward a recessed double-leaf, wood-frame, door with paneled lower and glazed upper sections. An arched canvas awning surmounts the entrance bay. Indecipherable ghost marks of painted sign bands fill the parapet. A replacement double-leaf door pierces the painted north elevation near its west end.

205 North Mountain Street's painted west elevation contains three upper-story window openings and a central first-story door flanked by two windows. The north steel-frame, six-pane, upper-story window is exposed, but plywood covers the other windows. A wood step with a wood railing leads to the double-leaf, aluminum-frame, glazed door. Rectangular galvanized ductwork extends from the HVAC unit south of the door to the south upper-story window opening. Three small rectangular attic vent openings in the parapet are filled with metal grates.

A rectangular, flat-roofed, concrete block, 1960s addition that is longer than the original building projects from 207 North Mountain Street's west (rear) elevation. The addition's primary entrance is on its south elevation, facing West First Street. A flat-roofed canopy shelters the double-leaf central door. A wood handicapped-accessible ramp with a wood railing and a concrete block ramp with a poured-concrete floor extend across much of the façade. On the addition's west elevation, wood stairs with wood railings provide access to a single-leaf, multipane, glazed door. Three one-over-one sash remain

⁶³ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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in the north elevation's five rectangular window openings, but the two west openings have been enclosed with concrete block.

Gaston County property records provided this building's 1948 construction date. 205 North Mountain Street housed Pik-Nak Super Market during the 1960s and 1970s. Rainwater Furniture leased the storefront during the 1960s and early 1970s, followed by Blackwood Furniture Company by 1975.⁶⁴

South Mountain Street, East Side

Commercial Building, 1920, Contributing Building 113 South Mountain Street

A stepped parapet topped with cast-stone coping distinguishes this two-story commercial building's textured-red-brick running-bond façade. Decorative brickwork includes three slightly projecting brick pilasters that frame the two storefronts, a header course above the first story, and soldier-course lintels that surmount the four large second-story window openings. Both storefronts contain low brick kneewalls and mid-twentieth-century, aluminum-frame, plate-glass windows with central sections canted toward recessed single-leaf entrances. A door at the south storefront's south end provides second-floor access. Plywood encloses the transoms above the doors and display window as well as the second-story windows.

Masons executed the variegated brick secondary elevations in six-to-one common bond capped with terra cotta coping. The south elevation is blind. On the ten-bay-long north elevation, high, rectangular, eight-pane, steel-frame windows illuminate the first floor. On the second story, the two outermost window openings have been completely infilled with brick, while the remaining eight openings have been shortened and fitted with multipane wood sash. Plywood covers most of the second-story windows.

Four tall, twenty-pane, steel-frame windows; two high, square, four-pane, steel-frame windows, and two single-leaf doors punctuate the east (rear) elevation's seven-bay-wide first story. Three large second-story window openings have been shortened and a fourth infilled with brick around a narrow door. Plywood encloses these openings as well as two high, square, second-story windows. A brick stovepipe chimney rises between the second and third bay from the north end.

Gaston County property records indicate that this building was erected in 1920. Pender's Variety and Grocery Store occupied the first floor during the 1920s. The February 1943 Sanborn map illustrates that the north storefront (then 111 South Mountain Street) served a retail function and the south

⁶⁴ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

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storefront (then 113 South Mountain Street) housed a wholesale candy purveyor. Factory Outlet Store sold women's clothing from 111 South Mountain Street in the 1970s.⁶⁵

Rudisill-Hall House, 1905, Contributing Building 115 South Mountain Street

This two-story, weatherboarded, transitional Queen Anne – Colonial Revival-style house features a pyramidal-hip-roofed main block with projecting gabled bays on the west, north, and south elevations. Sawnwork bargeboards, pressed-metal shingles, and one-over-one windows embellish the gables. Sawnwork bargeboards also enhance the first-story cut-away bays on the west and south elevations. Tuscan columns support the hip-roofed front porch as well as the two-bay-wide, flat-roofed, second-story balcony that surmounts the main entrance. Both have denticulated cornices, tongue-and-groove wood floors, and beadboard ceilings. An enclosed room at the porch's northeast corner provides additional living space. Mid-twentieth-century brick steps with metal railings rise at the main entrance and the porch's north end.

Double-hung, one-over-one, wood-sash windows illuminate the interior. The single-leaf front door, the balcony door above it, and the door to the room at the porch's north end have glazed upper sections above raised panels. A three-part, multipane, steel-frame casement window has been installed south of the north porch door. Molded trim boards cap the butt-corner, flat-board door and window surrounds.

A series of one-story gable and shed-roofed rooms extend from the east (rear) elevation. A two-story hip-roofed bathroom addition with a brick stovepipe chimney rises above the north room. Two rebuilt brick chimney stacks serve the main block.

Melvin Lafayette Rudisill and Barbara Catherine Mauney lived on a farm in Lincoln County's Northbrook Township in 1880, but moved to Cherryville by 1890. According to local tradition, they soon commissioned the construction of a home. However, family members asserted that the expansive house at South Mountain Street house was completed in 1905. M. L. Rudisill had erected a two-story brick commercial building at Main and Mountain Streets' southeast corner in fall 1894 to house J. H. Rudisill and Company, a general store he operated in partnership with his son David A. Rudisill and son-in-law J. H. Rudisill. He served as Cherryville's mayor for two terms. M. L. Rudisill invested in industrial concerns including Kings Mountain Manufacturing Company, Mauney-Steele Company, and Carlton Yarn Mills.⁶⁶

The Rudisills had six children who survived to adulthood. Their youngest daughter Julia Eugenia, born

⁶⁵ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

⁶⁶ United States Census, Population Schedules, 1880, 1900.

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October 17, 1888, married Walter Alvis Hall in 1909. Walter, who managed Mauney Drug Company's Kings Mountain store, contracted typhoid fever and died on November 14, 1911. Julia returned to Cherryville, where she and her son Heman Rudisill Hall, born April 15, 1911, resided with her parents. M. L. and Barbara Rudisill attended St. John's Lutheran Church and remained active business and civic leaders until their respective deaths on February 21, 1930, and October 18, 1939. After Julia inherited the family home, she operated a boarding house, renting rooms to six female teachers in 1940. That year, the household also included African American chauffeur Laurence Lipscomb and servant Roscoe Roseboro.⁶⁷

Julia Hall resided on South Mountain Street until her death on August 16, 1963. She bequeathed the property to her son Heman Rudisill Hall, and his wife Jane Leslie Crawford Hall, who operated an insurance agency. Heman died on December 26, 1969. Jane owned the house until her death on September 19, 1992. Robert S. and Penelope Hoyle Buff purchased the property on February 2, 1994.⁶⁸

Garage, 1920s, Contributing Building 115 South Mountain Street

The one-story weatherboarded garage has an east-west orientation with a single garage bay and a single-leaf door facing Mountain Street. Wood rafters with exposed ends support the front-gable standing-seam-metal roof.

South Mountain Street, West Side

First National Bank of Cherryville, 1916, 1964, 1970s, Contributing Building 100 South Mountain Street

Architect Willard G. Rogers, a principal in the Charlotte firm Hook and Rogers, designed the Classical Revival-style First National Bank of Cherryville. The three-bay-wide and seven-bay-long three-story-on-basement main block occupies a prominent location at Mountain and Main Streets' southeast corner. A one-story, flat-roofed, 1964 side addition and a three-lane, flat-roofed, 1970s drive-through canopy sheathed with stucco panels extend from the south elevation. A two-story 1964 rear addition spans the distance between the west elevation and the adjacent one-story commercial building.

The main block's east and north elevations display classical design elements including a tall, projecting, heavily molded, metal third-story cornice; pedimented and arched third-story windows; a

⁶⁷ United States Census, Population Schedules, 1910-1940; "Mr. W. A. Hall Dead," *GG*, November 17, 1911, p. 1; gravemarkers, death certificates.

⁶⁸ Gaston County Deed Book 400, p. 273; Deed Book 2341, p. 921; gravemarkers, death certificates.

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molded cast-stone cornice above the first story; and a cast-stone foundation scored to emulate stone. Masons executed the primary elevations in running bond with variegated swirl-patterned brick. Quoins frame the first-story window and door openings. On the second and third stories, surrounds comprised of round-arched lintels with tall, narrow, cast-stone keystones; an inner header course; and an outer stretcher course border the east elevation's middle bay and the central five bays on the north elevation. Slightly projecting brick panels ornament the recessed spandrel between the second and third-story windows.

Open cast-iron pediments and consoles and cast-stone panels surmount the outer two third-story windows on both the north and east elevations. The windows in the pedimented openings are double-hung sixteen-over-one wood sash. The remaining second- and third-story north- and east-elevation window openings contain a central nine-over-one sash flanked by tall, narrow, three-over-one sash. The first-second-story window openings are square and rectangular. Large wood-frame plate-glass windows illuminate the first floor. The two-story south addition has a single plate-glass window at its north elevation's center.

Late-twentieth-century, aluminum-frame, single-leaf doors, transoms, and sidelights have been installed in the two main entrances at the building's northeast corner. A large, square, metal clock with a pyramidal base and cap topped with a ball finial projects from the wall above the entrances. A recessed, mid-twentieth-century, aluminum-frame, double-leaf glazed door with a tall transom fills the entrance in the second bay from the north elevation's west end. Corrugated aluminum sheathes the recessed area's side walls. Two granite steps lead to the entrance.

The secondary west and south elevations are lighter red brick laid in five-to-one common bond. Segmental-arched three-header-course lintels and cast-stone sills frame paired and single double-hung one-over-one wood sash.

The one-story addition, laid in running bond with variegated rough-textured brick, has a cast-stone molded cornice. The east elevation is blind, but seven aluminum-frame plate-glass windows with cast-stone sills pierce the south wall west of the projecting stuccoed teller window. A concrete step with a metal pipe railing leads to the concrete landing adjacent to the recessed single-leaf entrance near the south elevation's west end. The two-story addition's south and west elevations are blind.

First National Bank of Cherryville, chartered in 1904, initially occupied a Mountain Street storefront. The institution's president, Samuel S. Mauney, donated the lot upon which his two-story, weatherboarded, Queen Anne-style home had stood to facilitate the construction of the three-story edifice. Work proceeded rapidly following a March 1916 groundbreaking. In late April, contractors finished the foundation excavation and masons began erecting the walls. Charlotte contractor J. W. Campbell oversaw the building's execution at a total cost, including furnishings, of \$30,000. First

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National Bank celebrated the building's completion by inviting the public to a grand opening on January 12, 1917.⁶⁹

Cherryville National Bank, chartered on July 21, 1934, purchased First National Bank of Cherryville's assets. Cherryville National Bank and First National Bank of Wadesboro merged into Southern National Bank of North Carolina on March 31, 1984. The company headquarters was in Lumberton. Winston-Salem-based Branch Banking and Trust Company (BB&T) acquired Southern National Bank of North Carolina on May 27, 1995.⁷⁰

North Mulberry Street, East Side

Gaston County Bridge No. 164, 1959, Contributing Structure Mulberry Street

Bridge No. 164 carries North Mulberry Street over the railroad. Steel I-beams support the two-lane, three-span, reinforced-concrete deck. Rectangular reinforced-concrete posts cap low reinforced-concrete rails topped with steel guard rails. The west railing contains two horizontal steel bars, while the east railing comprises three bars. A concrete sidewalk extends along the street's east side.

Seaboard Air Line engineers presented the plans for this bridge, which was to be lower and wider than the existing bridge at the site and include a sidewalk, to the Cherryville Board of Commissioners in January 1959. The company erected the bridge that year.⁷¹

United States Post Office, 1958, Contributing Building 107 North Mulberry Street

This one-story, flat-roofed, red-brick, Modernist post office is situated at a lower grade than North Mulberry Street and the customer parking lot on the road's west side. Concrete steps with metal-pipe railings lead from the elevated parking lot to the concrete sidewalk that provides access to the primary entrance on the east elevation. A north-south sidewalk extends to parking lots at the building grade.

Smooth concrete panels sheathe the projecting entrance bay, which contains a recessed double-leaf aluminum-frame door and matching transom. To the south, an inset wall comprises five large steel-frame windows and a smooth concrete kneewall. A tall, rectangular, steel-frame window with five

⁶⁹ "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, April 4, 1916, p. 1, and May 2, 1916, p. 7; "A Fine Banking House," *GG*, January 16, 1917, p. 1; "New Bank Opened," *CS*, January 19, 1917, p. 5.

⁷⁰ "Cherryville National Bank," <http://www.usbanklocations.com/cherryville-national-bank-14611.shtml> (accessed in December 2015).

⁷¹ Cherryville Board of Commissioners meeting minutes, January 6, 1959, Minute Book 8, pp. 208-209.

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horizontal panes fills the red-brick south bay.

Three four-pane steel-frame windows pierce the south wall's east section. A gable-roofed corrugated-metal storage building extends from its west section. A flat-roofed metal canopy shelters the brick and concrete loading dock that spans the west elevation's south three bays. A double-leaf door and aluminum-frame transom fill the south bay and two tall, rectangular, steel-frame windows illuminate the mail room. Three narrow nine-pane windows pierce the west elevation's north three bays. The north elevation contains two matching windows in its west bays. A third window opening of the same size has been filled with brick. The tall, rectangular, steel-frame window with five horizontal panes near the north elevation's east end lights the entrance vestibule. A square brick stovepipe chimney rises from the roof.

The post office interior is characterized by gypsum-board walls, vinyl-composition-tile floors, and textured gypsum-board ceilings. An aluminum-frame curtain wall separates the service counter from the entrance vestibule and the post office boxes.

The United States Post Office moved from the Masonic Building's first floor to this location in 1958. Dewey F. and Sallie Beam commissioned the building's construction and leased it to the federal government. Architect James L. Beam Jr. designed the post office, which continues to be rented by the United States Postal Service.⁷²

South Oak Street, East Side

Commercial Building, late 1940s, Contributing Building 107-109 South Oak Street

This one-story, flat-roofed, two-storefront-wide commercial building's textured-red-brick running-bond façade has a flat parapet capped with metal coping. The storefronts each encompass a steel-frame twenty-pane window with a brick sill and a central single-leaf door with a six-pane upper section and a three-panel base. A mid-twentieth-century flat aluminum canopy extends across the façade. High square windows pierce the long, stepped, painted-concrete-block north and south elevations. Plywood covers some windows as well as two single-leaf doors on the north elevation and one single-leaf door on the south elevation. Three brick stovepipe chimneys serve the building.

A one-story L-plan dwelling stood on this lot in February 1943. Architectural style and building materials support a late 1940s construction date for the commercial building. The Cherryville Chamber

⁷² "New Post Office for Cherryville," *GG*, August 13, 1957, p. 5; Caryl Austell (James L. Beam Jr.'s daughter), telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 2016.

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of Commerce, Cherryville Credit Bureau, and dentist Raymond A. McKee occupied the storefront during the 1960s and 1970s.⁷³

⁷³ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1976.

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Section 8. Statement of Significance

Cherryville, population 5,906, is situated in the southwest Piedmont's Catawba River basin sixteen miles northwest of Gastonia, Gaston County's seat. The Cherryville Downtown Historic District meets National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce and Architecture. This intact and cohesive group of early- to mid-twentieth-century commercial buildings and residences manifests the community's industry-driven commercial expansion during that period.

The Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad's November 1862 extension to White Pine, which became Cherryville, facilitated commerce and influenced road and building arrangement. However, it was not until the 1890s that industrial growth precipitated significant economic development. Cherryville Manufacturing Company, the town's first cotton mill, commenced production in 1892 and had immediate impact as a manufacturer, employer, consumer of local goods and services, and taxpayer. Five additional mills followed and prospered, attracting new residents. Population increases necessitated worker housing construction in mill-owned villages and contiguous areas. Industrialists and merchants erected expansive residences, four of which are in the historic district. The flourishing economy encouraged entrepreneurial investment in mercantile concerns, professional offices, restaurants, and entertainment venues, which proliferated along Main Street and intersecting roads through the mid-twentieth century.

The largely linear Cherryville Downtown Historic District encompasses fifty-nine primary resources. These buildings represent the architectural types and styles, ranging from Italianate to Queen Anne, Craftsman, Classical Revival, Commercial Style, Art Moderne, Spanish Revival and Modernist, that predominated in North Carolina communities as the twentieth century progressed. The locally important district's period of significance begins in 1901—the completion date of its two oldest buildings, Dr. A. W. Howell's two-story brick store at 105 East Main Street and the one-story Queen Anne-style house at 203 West Main Street—and ends in 1966. Although Cherryville's businesses and local government continued to operate after 1966, the town's activities and architectural development since that time are not of exceptional significance. With approximately ninety-two percent of its primary resources categorized as contributing, the district retains a high degree of integrity.

Historical Background and Commerce Context

The abundant water supply, natural resources, and fertile soil of the southwest Piedmont's Catawba River basin proved attractive to English, Scots-Irish, and German immigrants. Although the region's settlement escalated in the mid-eighteenth century, Gaston County, constituted in December 1846 from Lincoln County, remained predominantly rural through the late nineteenth century. Given that many land grants and property acquisitions encompassed sizable tracts, residents typically lived at great distances from each other, meeting at churches and in crossroads communities and small towns to

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socialize, purchase goods, and address business matters. The vast majority of the county's occupants operated subsistence farms. Some entrepreneurs were able to sell or trade surplus crops and agricultural products for locally made and imported commodities in Dallas, the county seat, and other local markets. Others engaged in manufacturing endeavors to generate supplementary income, processing raw materials such as corn, wheat, flax seed, and logs to produce meal, flour, linseed oil, and lumber.⁷⁴

White Pine, a small community centered at the junction of the road between Charlotte and Morganton and the old post road that connected Spartanburg, South Carolina, to Lincolnton, exemplified Gaston County's rural settlement patterns. Early residents included Henry Summit, who arrived in 1852 with his wife Eva and their two young children. The Summits constructed a one-story frame dwelling near what is now the southeast corner of Main and Mountain streets and a store across the road to the northwest. Summit later built a cotton gin and a granary on the property to process crops grown on nearby farms.⁷⁵

The hamlet's growth warranted the federal government's September 9, 1854, appointment of farmer Benaja Black to serve as White Pines' first postmaster. The 1860 federal census indicates that the vast majority of Gaston County residents who received mail at the White Pine post office were farm owners or laborers. However, the community also included carpenters John Eaker and Ambrose Wise, machinist George Beam, sheriff Joseph Lusk, railroad hand Samuel Mauney, seamstress Tabitha Cross, weaver Martha Vickery, blacksmiths John Baker and George Hines, and millers Simpson Beam, John Garner, and James Watts. Henry Summit is enumerated as a farmer and merchant.⁷⁶ These men and women provided goods and services that drew others to the area.

White Pine benefited from increased commerce following the November 1862 arrival of the Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad line. The railroad corridor's location also influenced the town's road and building arrangement. Development slowed during the Civil War, but as no major battles occurred in the county's northwest section, the area escaped widespread devastation. The cherry

⁷⁴ David Leroy Corbitt, *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943* (Raleigh: North Carolina Division of Archives and History, 1987), 103; Robert F. Cope and Manly Wade Wellman, *The County of Gaston: Two Centuries of a North Carolina Region* (Charlotte: Heritage Printers, 1961), 70, 75; J. D. Lewis, "North Carolina Railroads – Central Carolina Railway" http://www.carolana.com/NC/Transportation/railroads/nc_rrs_carolina_central_railway.html (accessed in December 2015).

⁷⁵ U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1850; David P. Dellinger, "Sketches of Some of the First Settlers or Business Men of the Town," *Eagle*, November 20, 1947; W. Tabor Robinson, "A History of Cherryville," in *Cherryville: Past and Present* (Cherryville: Ken Rollins, 1996), 10.

⁷⁶ Black served as postmaster until the post office's temporary closure on March 7, 1859. Postal service resumed on May 22, 1860, under the oversight of Jacob Rudisill. North Carolina Postal History Society, "Gaston County," postmark and postmaster compilation, October 10, 2010, http://ncpostalhistory.com/pdfs/counties_Gaston.pdf (accessed December 2015), p. 73; U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1860.

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trees that lined the old post road inspired the community's renaming shortly after the war's end. The White Pine post office closed on April 30, 1865, and Margaret Summit became the Cherryville Post Office's first postmaster upon its November 2, 1865, opening.⁷⁷

As the economy recovered during Reconstruction, businessmen erected frame commercial buildings in the area now bounded by the railroad and West Main, North Mountain, and North Mulberry streets. In addition to his store, Henry Summit operated Cherryville's only hotel by 1867. Moses M. Hines opened a general mercantile in 1869. Residents constructed houses on Main Street and the intersecting roads. Some families regularly traveled five miles south of town to worship at Concord Methodist Church, led by Reverend C. E. Land.⁷⁸

On February 19, 1881, the North Carolina General Assembly incorporated Cherryville, which then had approximately 160 residents. F. Z. Sides served as the town's first mayor, G. W. Bess its marshal, and R. W. Carroll, L. M. Dellinger, M. Medlin, and W. J. McGinnis its commissioners. A newspaper account described the bartering that fueled Cherryville's economy, whereby consumers exchanged commodities such as cotton, chickens, eggs, and butter for provisions that couldn't be produced on their farms. The author noted that Kings Mountain resident Lawson Henderson Long employed several clerks to run the town's largest mercantile. Long had operated a Kings Mountain stove and tinware shop and fabricated metal roofs and gutters since 1874. He purchased Henry Summit's store and cotton gin in June 1881. African American barber Frank Black conducted business from a room in the frame building that stood at Main and Mountain Street's southeast corner. In 1882, merchants including W. J. McGinnis, G. W. Bess, and J. H. Woole enjoyed strong trade. W. O. Harrelson purchased J. C. Elliot's general store. Lee Summit and Aurelius Black operated a cotton gin and wheel wright Milas Medlin manufactured wagons.⁷⁹

Cherryville's commercial trade escalated as the nineteenth century progressed. The year after an 1888 fire destroyed S. S. Mauney and Company's frame store, the concern erected a two-story brick building at Main and Mountain Street's northwest corner. The general assembly incorporated Cherryville for a second time on March 11, 1889, designating W. J. McGinnis mayor and Peter C. Beam, A. W. Howell, and S. S. Mauney aldermen. Businesses serving the town's 175 residents in 1889

⁷⁷ Cope and Wellman, *The County of Gaston*, 79-81; North Carolina Postal History Society, "Gaston County," pp. 16 and 73.

⁷⁸ "Cherryville Originally Known as White Pines," *Lincoln Times-News*, Bicentennial edition, September 1976, p. 5-D; *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1867-1868* (Raleigh: Branson and Jones, 1867), p. 47; *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory for 1869* (Raleigh: J. A. Jones, 1869), pp. 64-65.

⁷⁹ Henry Summit, then sixty-five, retired after his April 1881 marriage to eighteen-year-old Amanda Neil. "Married," *GG*, April 16, 1881, p. 3; *GG*, July 2, 1881, p. 3; "In Cherryville," *GG*, October 15, 1881, p. 3; "Cherryville," *GG*, December 15, 1882, p. 3; "King's Mountain," *GG*, May 18, 1888, p. 3; "Mr. L. H. Long Dead," *GG*, November 21, 1911, p. 1; gravemarkers. David P. Dellinger, *The First Barber Shop*, *Eagle*, November 25, 1953.

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included general stores operated by Beam and Company and W. J. McGinnis, S. S. Mauney's hotel, Dellinger and Carroll's sawmill, two tanneries owned by J. T. Carpenter and A. A. Mauney, physician A. W. Howell's office, and E. Alderholdt's flour, corn, and sawmill.⁸⁰

Cherryville's economic base broadened to include the textile industry during the 1890s. This reflected a statewide trend as North Carolina's textile mills, once dependent on waterpower, moved to urban areas to take advantage of steam and electric power availability, railroad lines, and larger potential employee pools. Gaston County's textile production, which originated with German merchant Michael Schenck's 1813 construction of North Carolina's first cotton mill in what was then Lincoln County, burgeoned in the late nineteenth century. By 1890, eight textile mills in Belmont, Gastonia, Mount Holly, Lowell, and Mountain Island fueled the county's economy.⁸¹

On February 18, 1891, a consortium of investors—W. H. Houser, Samuel S. Mauney, William A. Mauney, John M. Rhodes, David A. Rudisill, M. E. Rudisill, and J. H. Rudisill—incorporated Cherryville Manufacturing Company, the town's first textile mill. The two-story brick building completed in January 1892 stood two blocks south of the town's center. John Rhodes supervised the factory, where workers initially utilized three thousand spindles to produce cotton yarns. The company added 2,500 spindles the following year.⁸² The concern had an immediate impact on the community as a manufacturer, employer, consumer of local goods and services, and taxpayer.

By 1896, 250 citizens resided in Cherryville. E. M. Berry, W. B. Bess and Company, M. Carpenter and Son, T. B. Leonhardt, Beam and Company, S. S. Mauney and Company, W. J. McGinnis, W. A. Moore, and Rudisill and Alderhold operated general stores. Customers also frequented T. V. Goode and Company's drug store and purchased tinware from A. T. Long and Son, and stayed at S. S. Mauney's hotel. Industrial concerns included two tanneries and Cherryville Manufacturing Company, where 75 employees operated 6,000 spindles and 40 carding machines under John Rhodes's direction. J. D. Arnold pastored Concord Methodist Church, A. C. Grier led Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Jacob A. Hoyle headed Shady Grove Baptist Church, and M. L. Little served St. Mark's Lutheran Church.⁸³

⁸⁰ Levi Branson, ed., *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1890* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1889), 301-304; David P. Dellinger, "First Brick Buildings," *Eagle*, July 20, 1955.

⁸¹ Brent D. Glass, *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1992), 7; Branson, ed., *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1890*, 302-303.

⁸² "The Cherryville Cotton Factory," *GG*, January 14, 1892, p. 1; "North Carolina," *Messenger* (Wilmington), March 17, 1893, p. 3.

⁸³ "Summary of the 184 Cotton Mills in Operation in North Carolina," [Raleigh] *News and Observer Cotton Mill Edition*, November 28, 1895; Levi Branson, ed., *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory 1896* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1896), 284-288.

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Fourteen businessmen incorporated Cherryville's second cotton mill, Gaston Manufacturing Company, on May 19, 1896. John Rhodes, who had initiated the concern's organization, functioned as its secretary, treasurer, and active manager. His son David P. Rhodes supervised production, which commenced in early 1897 in a two-story brick building north of downtown that initially contained 2,400 spindles and soon also housed 100 looms.⁸⁴ The mill's opening bolstered Cherryville's population, attracting new residents who supported the community's businesses. Farmers also frequented Cherryville to buy, sell, and trade.

Fire remained a constant threat in the densely clustered downtown. After an 1897 blaze destroyed the jail, the town erected a replacement 10-by-16-foot log building. Increased profits allowed merchants to replace frame commercial structures with stylish and fire-resistant masonry edifices. Tax revenue generated by ongoing industrial expansion and commercial ventures funded municipal infrastructure improvements such as road creation.

In 1898, Cherryville Manufacturing Company and Gaston Manufacturing Company were among the twenty-two cotton mills operating in Gaston County. New industrial concerns continued to bolster Cherryville's development. S. S. Mauney, D. W. Aderholt, and M. E. Rudisill incorporated Vivian Cotton Mills on March 6, 1900. At the one-story brick building on West Main Street's north side, twenty-five workers operated 1,632 steam-powered spindles.⁸⁵

Federal census takers enumerated 1,008 Cherryville occupants in 1900. Ten stores, five churches, and a school served area residents. Stroup Brothers' roller mill processed sixty bushels of wheat daily. J. T. Carpenter and A. A. Mauney maintained production at their tanneries. Brothers and entrepreneurs John William Kendrick and Noah Benjamin Kendrick operated a cotton gin and a sawmill. They also provided contractors with construction materials ranging from window sashes to doors, shutters, porch elements, and eave brackets.⁸⁶

The town's turn-of-the-twentieth-century growth attracted myriad residents proficient in the building trades. House carpenters included George Beam, John L. Boyles, Caleb M. Crowder, Julius Deal, Robert B. Hicks, George M. Howell, Crofton Kendrick, Sanford Litton, Roam M. Mauney, Lasson Mauney, David W. Moss, Paldie Rudisill, Albert P. Smith, Mack Smith, and D. Lee Summit. Brick masons Clive Grimes, Oliver Holman, Andy J. Rafield, William C. Upton, Ollis J. Upton, and Steve

⁸⁴ Robert Allison Ragan, *The Textile Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina, 1848-2000* (Charlotte: R. A. Ragan and Company, 2001), 76.

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 107; Bureau of Labor Statistics of North Carolina, *Eleventh Annual Report* (Raleigh: Guy V. Barnes, 1897), 33-34.

⁸⁶ Bob Peak, "Cherryville," February 6, 1900, letter, *GG*, February 15, 1900, p. 3; William R. Merriam, director, *Twelfth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1900, Population, Part I* (Washington, D. C.: United States Census Office, 1901), 466; "Cherryville Chat," *GG*, October 13, 1911, p. 7.

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Upton offered their services. Blacksmiths John Fight, Phillip A. Lang, Benjamin Rafield, Calvin Rudisill, and Eugene Ward supplied building hardware in addition to other items. Charles Stroup owned a Cherryville sawmill, while John A. Stroup's sawmill was in the township. C. C. Dellinger's foundry produced window sash, weights, and building hardware. William Wehunt, Frank Childers, and Wiley Childers erected a sash, door, and shutter factory five miles north of Cherryville. General contractors C. A. Mauney and L. S. Costner from Shelby and craftsmen from other nearby municipalities also worked in Cherryville. N. B. Kendrick and J. W. Kendrick established Kendrick Brothers, a construction company, and also began manufacturing brick at a yard outside of Shelby.⁸⁷

Kendrick Brothers installed the town's first telephone exchange in spring 1901, initially serving thirty-eight customers, many of whom were local businesses. In April 1901, physician Alfred Webb Howell, who operated a livery stable, a store in his home, and Howell Manufacturing Company in addition to treating patients, purchased a lot on Main Street's north side from the Kendricks. He immediately commissioned the construction of the two-story brick commercial building that still stands at 105 East Main Street.⁸⁸

In 1903, N. B. Kendrick and J. W. Kendrick partnered with Lindsay Caryle McDowell and C. J. Woodson to establish Kendrick Mercantile Company and erected the two-story brick commercial building that occupies the lot west of Dr. Howell's store (101-103 East Main Street). L. C. McDowell served as a manager and buyer. The concern's inventory included clothing, dry goods, furniture, hats, shoes, and undertaking supplies. That year, Cherryville's commercial and industrial establishments included J. H. Rudisill and Company's dry goods store, Junius Beam's grocery store, A. W. Howell's drug store, J. P. Vandyke's meat market, Beam and Stroup's livery, William Costner and Sons' harness shop, Kendrick Brothers' sawmill, C. P. Stroup and Brothers' roller mill, the Commercial Hotel, and T. H. Baxter, Luther Dellinger, S. S. Mauney, and Stamey Brothers' general stores. Cherryville Manufacturing Company, Gaston Manufacturing Company Vivian Mill all operated general stores in their employee mill villages. In April 1905, Luther Dellinger demolished the McGinnis store in order to erect a new building on the site. John M. Magness initiated publication of a weekly newspaper, the *Cherryville Eagle*, on May 23, 1906.⁸⁹

⁸⁷ The Kendricks moved their brickyard to Mt. Holly in late 1915, soon after incorporating Kendrick Brick and Tile Company in October. The company later opened a Charlotte plant. U. S. Census, Population Schedule, 1900; "Cherryville," *GG*, January 20, 1903, p. 2; "Cleveland Cullings," *GG*, October 15, 1915, p. 2; "Charter Issued," *GG*, October 25, 1915, p. 1; "Brick and Tile Firm Doesn't Produce Tile," *GG*, February 21, 1955, p. F12; death certificates; gravemarkers.

⁸⁸ "Old Furnace Ripples," *Gastonia Gazette* (hereafter abbreviated *GG*), June 18, 1886, p. 3; "Dr. A. W. Howell," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p.2; Gaston County Deed Book 45, p. 512; David P. Dellinger, "Doctors," *Eagle*, June 30, 1954; David P. Dellinger, "Telephone Poles," *Eagle*, September 1, 1954; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

⁸⁹ Following Magness's 1908 death, L. H. J. Houser purchased the newspaper. *Gaston County Telephone Directory*, ca. 1903, (cover missing), in the collection of the Cherryville Historical Museum; "Cherryville," *GG*, January

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Local entrepreneurs continued to invest in textile production. Melville Manufacturing Company, incorporated in June 1906, placed a one-story, brick, 75-by-250-foot, 5,000-spindle mill designed by Charlotte architect Stuart W. Cramer into service in May 1907.⁹⁰ Hickory architects Abee and Edwards rendered plans for Gaston Manufacturing Company Mill No. 2, a one-story, brick, 77-by-243-foot spinning plant with almost 5,000 spindles that commenced operations in February 1908. Many of the almost three hundred employees resided in forty-two company-owned houses near the mill. Howell Manufacturing Company, housed in a one-story brick building on Wert Street south of the railroad, commenced spinning cotton yarns in 1908 with seventy-five workers.⁹¹

Also in 1908, local merchant and industrialist John Pinkney Dellinger, his wife Margaret, and their children occupied an expansive, two-story, weatherboarded, Queen Anne-style house at 208 West Main Street. The dwelling manifests its owners' prominence, as does the similar two-story, weatherboarded, Queen Anne-style residence at 115 South Mountain Street erected in 1905 by merchant and industrialist Melvin L. Rudisill and his wife Barbara.

Soon after a November 4, 1909, fire set by sparks from a passing freight train destroyed the homes of J. M. Beam, Henry Houser, J. F. Weathers, and J. H. Rudisill, city leaders created a fire department overseen by Dr. R. J. Morrison. The town then initiated plans for the \$8,000 municipal building erected at 109 East Main Street in 1911 that provided offices, a fire station, a courtroom, and a jail. Other municipal improvements completed that year include Kendrick Brothers' installation of electric street lights. Cherryville businesses then comprised fourteen stores, restaurants, a hotel, two boarding houses, two livery stables, three blacksmith shops, a roller mill, two lumber factories, two wagon manufacturers, two fertilizer distributors, and six cotton mills. Three physicians and two dentists served area residents.⁹²

New endeavors in February 1912 included J. M. Beam's Depot Street hotel opening, Cherryville Lumber Company's creation, and Thompson Brick Company's acquisition of the Cherryville Brick Company factory. In April, Melville Manufacturing Company's owners erected an ice plant with a

20, 1903, p. 2; *GG*, April 21, 1903, p. 3; "Kendrick Mercantile Company Store," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p. 7; "Chips from Cherryville," *GG*, April 25, 1905, p. 1; Todd Hagans, "Celebration of a Century," *Herald-Eagle* Anniversary Edition, August 30-31, 2006, p. 18.

⁹⁰ "Five New Incorporations," *Raleigh News and Observer*, June 19, 1906, p. 8; W. A. Mauney, "How the Mill Was Organized," *CS*, June 29, 1906, p. 10; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, April 12, 1907, p. 1; *Charlotte News*, May 11, 1907, p. 6; *LCN*, August 9, 1907, p. 3.

⁹¹ Lincolnton industrialist Daniel E. Rhyne purchased Howell Manufacturing Company around 1915 and Carl A. Rudisill assumed its management. *GG*, December 31, 1907, p. 3; "Cherryville's New Mill," *Lexington Dispatch*, January 15, 1908, p. 6; Sanborn map, September 1914, sheet 1; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, June 29, 1915, p. 4.

⁹² "Cherryville Has Big Fire," *CO*, November 5, 1909, p.1; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, February 24, 1911, p. 1; "Cherryville Originally Known as White Pines," *Lincoln Times-News*, Bicentennial edition, September 1976, p. 5-D.

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one-ton daily capacity. Cherryville Roller Mill owners Stroup Brothers partnered with J. A. Crowder to purchase Cherryville Lumber Company in December 1912. The following year, Cherryville Foundry, owned by Carl C. Dellinger, commenced operating on North Mulberry Street in June. That month, the town sold \$31,000 of municipal bonds to Toledo, Ohio-based Sidney Spitzer and Company to finance the construction of a water system planned by Florence, S. C., engineer J. Newton Johnson.⁹³

Industrial workforce expansion ensued as Cherryville's six cotton mills prospered, necessitating additional housing in mill-owned villages and contiguous areas. The town laid out new streets lined with residential lots and contractors rapidly built homes to ameliorate the shortage. Prominent citizens including Luther Mauney, D. R. Rudisill, and physician Lemuel Lester Self occupied new residences in 1912. Dr. Self had moved to Cherryville in 1910 and soon established a successful medical practice. He also invested in the construction of several commercial buildings, including 113 East Main Street, erected in partnership with dentist Maxwell E Hoffman. The building was finished by December 15, 1913, when Hoffman, who had previously rented office space in the Houser Building, occupied his new office. Dr. Hoffman moved his practice to Asheville by 1916, but Dr. Self maintained an office at 113 East Main Street until his retirement.⁹⁴

Community leaders constructed eight extant structures within the downtown historic district during the late 1910s. First National Bank of Cherryville, chartered in 1904, erected an imposing Classical Revival-style edifice at 100 South Mountain Street in 1916. The south side of Main Street's 100 block attained a dramatically different appearance in February 1917, when the north ends of projecting storefronts were removed and a new façades erected to achieve uniform setbacks.⁹⁵ Allen Drug Store at 110 East Main Street reflects this change. Later in 1918, Cherryville Hardware Company co-owner E. L. Webb and his wife Ula erected their one-story, weatherboarded, Queen Anne-style residence at 201 West Main Street.

Records of the Cherryville American Legion indicate that eight-seven town residents enlisted in the military during World War I. Given community leaders' business acumen, local enterprises

⁹³ "Cherryville Prospering," *GG*, February 23, 1912, p. 1; "Southern Mill News," *Charlotte News*, April 26, 1912, p. 7; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, December 20, 1912, p. 1; "Cherryville Bonds Sold," *GG*, June 13, 1913, p. 1; *LCN*, May 5, 1914, p.3.

⁹⁴ Lemuel Lester Self, born on April 21, 1878, died on December 4, 1940. "Cherryville Prospering," *GG*, February 23, 1912, p. 1; "Cherryville Bonds Sold," *Gastonia Gazette*, June 13, 1913, p. 1; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, July 18, 1913, p. 1, December 16, 1913, p. 1, and December 4, 1914, p. 1; death certificate; David P. Dellinger, "Dr. Lester L. Self," *Eagle*, January 11, 1956; David P. Dellinger, "Dr. M. E. Hoffman," *Eagle*, February 15, 1956.

⁹⁵ Cherryville Board of Commissioners meeting minutes, June 15, 1916, July 4, 1916, Minute Book 4, pp. 75, 79; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, September 8, 1916, p. 3, and February 6, 1917, p. 6; A. C. Taylor, "Stanley," *GG*, February 19, 1955, p. 14 "Cherryville Druggist Dies," *GG*, January 7, 1957, p. 14; marriage records; death certificates; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975; "Allen Drug Store One of the Oldest Businesses in Town," undated article in the collection of the Cherryville Historical Museum; Wehunt-Black, *Cherryville*, 43.

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successfully weathered the economic challenges of the war years. Industrial production remained strong as concerns fulfilled federal government requisitions. Small businesses also benefited, albeit indirectly, from the federal contracts. For example, C. A. Mauney and S. Q. McGraw, who had purchased Mountain View Lumber Company from M. A. and Stephen Stroup in September 1918, supplied picker sticks for textile mill looms. In November 1919, four dry goods purveyors—Bolt-Hobbs Company, Hendricks-Harrelson Company, A. L. Houser, and Kendrick Mercantile Company—served Cherryville residents. First National Bank and Farmers Bank and Trust Company reported sizable deposits.⁹⁶

Thriving Cherryville industries drove the local economy. Dr. A. W. Howell sold his stock in Howell Manufacturing Company in 1918 and the concern, led by president D. E. Rhyne, treasurer C. A. Rudisill, secretary J. F. Harrelson, and superintendent J. C. Ballard, combined its administrative office with that of Cherryville Manufacturing Company in order to streamline operations. In December 1918, Lincoln County farmer J. C. Hoyle commenced operating Hoyle Knitting Mill on Main Street in Cherryville. D. E. Rhyne, W. H. Houser, and Carl A. Rudisill incorporated Rhyne-Houser Manufacturing Company on July 3, 1919. The concern erected a two-story, brick, five-thousand-spindle cotton mill and twenty-five one-story employee houses on East Main and East First Streets.⁹⁷

In 1918 and 1919, Vivian Mills president John J. George and superintendent H. D. George oversaw plant renovations, an addition's construction, and new equipment installation. The company improved employee accommodations with the construction of gable- and hip-roofed bungalows featuring expansive porches and a variety of plans. Many of the almost two hundred employees resided in thirty-five houses. Cherryville Manufacturing Company also undertook plant improvements and village expansion, laying out new streets and erecting houses with electricity and running water in 1919 and 1920. During the same period, Howell and Melville Manufacturing Companies each enlarged their mills to allow for the installation of five thousand additional spindles, requiring new operative recruitment.⁹⁸

This industrial growth stimulated economic development and boosted Cherryville's population to 1,884 occupants by 1920. In the ensuing decade, residents commissioned the construction of eighteen extant buildings within the downtown historic district. Contractors completed L. C. and Hattie Bess McDowell's two-story, hip-roofed, red-brick dwelling at 200 West Main Street in 1920. The previous

⁹⁶ "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, September 27, 1918, p. 2; "A Hustling Gaston County Town," *GG*, November 22, 1919, p. 4.

⁹⁷ "Cherryville Company is Enlarging Its Mill," *CO*, October 6, 1918, p. 16.

⁹⁸ "Cherryville Citizens to Build Cotton Mill," *CS*, July 4, 1919, p. 8; "Unique New Types of Cottages Built by New Owners of Vivian Mills," and "Cherryville Manufacturing Company," *CO*, Textile Progress Edition, January 3, 1919; "Cherryville Mfg. Co.'s Mill Village," *CS*, November 2, 1920, p. 7; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, September 1, 1919, p. 5, and March 6, 1920, p. 8.

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year, L. C. McDowell, a co-owner of Kendrick Mercantile Company, had partnered with his brother Elliot Eugene McDowell to purchase the Kendrick brothers' interest in the dry goods sales component of the business. New concerns such as the 1921 Cherryville Wholesale Grocery Company at 303 East Main Street, owned by Gastonia residents John L. Page and Cary Boshamer, opened, and existing enterprises expanded.⁹⁹ Entrepreneurs erected two-story brick buildings at 116 East Main Street (1921), 124 East Main Street (1921), and 112 East Main Street (1922). H. C. Harrelson and W. L. Fanning, who in 1922 established the Harrelson-Fanning Company as the successor entity to Hendricks-Harrelson Company, erected the store 112 East Main Street, where they sold books, clothing, dry goods, furniture, hats, notions, shoes, coffins, and undertaking supplies.¹⁰⁰

Businesses of all sorts benefited from Carl A. Rudisill, Lester L. Self, R. I. Dalton, and D. P. Dellinger's incorporation of Carlton Yarn Mills on June 1, 1922. The company had considered basing its mill in Lincolnton, but the newly organized Cherryville Chamber of Commerce, recognizing the potential economic impact, launched a successful campaign to ensure that the concern located there. Local laborers assisted with the clearing and excavation of the thirty-acre site east of downtown and were among the workers who commenced operating the factory's 4,896 spindles on October 15, 1922. C. A. Mauney erected the mill and Kendrick Brothers supplied the lumber and labor to build employee houses.¹⁰¹

Cherryville Lodge 505 A. F. & A. M. subsidized the construction of the commanding three-story brick Masonic Building at 126 West Main Street in 1924. The organization, chartered in 1900, had previously met at locations including a former roller mill and the Mauney, Houser, and Rudisill Buildings on Main Street. The Cherryville Post Office occupied the first floor from 1924 until 1958. One block west of the Masonic Building, industrialist Carl A. Rudisill and his wife Verner erected an expansive Colonial Revival-style residence at 207 West Main Street. The dwelling stands opposite the home that Verner's parents J. P. and Margaret Dellinger had built in 1908.¹⁰²

⁹⁹ "Leon Truesdell, supervisor, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Volume I* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1942), 777; "Wholesale Grocery Store Opened at Cherryville," *GG*, June 13, 1913, p. 1. Kendrick Mercantile Company Store," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p. 7; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, May 30, 1919, p. 6.

¹⁰⁰ "Hendricks-Harrelson Co.'s Store," *GG*, August 1, 1911, p. 3; "A Bunch of Live Wires," *LCN*, August 4, 1911, p. 1; "Fanning to Open a Cherryville Store," *CS*, August 18, 1922, p. 1; D. P. Waters, "Cherryville, N. C.," *Charlotte News*, August 31, 1916, p. 10; *CS*, October 14, 1921, p. 3; "New Store Opens At Cherryville Saturday," *CS*, October 3, 1922, p. 2; "Harrelson-Fanning Open at Cherryville," *Forest City Courier*, October 5, 1922, p. 9.

¹⁰¹ Mill village amenities included a club house, library, and playground. "98th Cotton Mill for Gaston County Being Built in Cherryville," *GG*, June 15, 1922, p. 1; "Cherryville Chat.," *GG*, July 12, 1922, p. 2, and October 28, 1922, p. 2; "Carlton Yarn Mills in Operation," *GG*, November 22, 1922, p. 7; Carlton Yarn Mills, Inc. *Carltonia, 1922-1938*.

¹⁰² David P. Dellinger, "The First Fraternity Lodge in Cherryville," *Eagle*, September 1, 1954; "Many New Buildings for Cherryville This Year," *CS*, February 6, 1923, p. 2.

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Despite the booming mid-1920s economy, Vivian Mills, which had in 1921 become Vivian Spinning Company, suffered bankruptcy. In 1926, Shelby cotton farmer George E. Spurling purchased the mill for \$35,000 and with Carl A. Rudisill, M. M. Rudisill, Lester L. Self, and W. K. Mauney established Nuway Spinning Company. The concern sold the existing equipment, renovated the mill, and installed 5,400 spindles in order to produce cotton yarns.¹⁰³ The factory's location on West Main Street's north side afforded employees convenient access to the downtown businesses they patronized.

Cherryville investors erected three contiguous commercial buildings—203-205, 209, and 211-213 East Main Street—in 1928. That year, Rose's Stores, Inc., leased the west storefront of the two-story blond-brick-veneered structure at 203-205 East Main Street. The company remained through fall 1985. The one-story building at 209 East Main Street, which also features a blonde brick façade, functioned as a movie theater by 1943. The one-story red-brick building at 211-213 East Main Street housed a dry cleaners (211) and a store (213).¹⁰⁴

The October 1929 stock market crash and ensuing Great Depression slowed the area's growth. However, contractors completed in 1930 two projects that had been under construction before the economic downturn: the one- and two-story building at 106-108 North Mountain Street and the one-story Pliskin and Londner Building at 115-119 East Main Street. Although many business proprietors struggled to maintain operations, Troy C. Homesley established Homesley Chevrolet in 1932. He operated that concern and Homesley Super Service Station, a Gulf franchise, from a Spanish Revival-style complex at 208-210 East Main Street.¹⁰⁵

Guy Beam managed the Shell service station at 117 North Mountain Street during the early 1930s. When his younger brother C. Grier Beam established Beam Trucking Company in 1932, Guy allowed him to utilize a portion of the building as an office. Grier had graduated from North Carolina State College in 1931 and returned to Cherryville to work on his parents' farm. He turned to produce hauling to make ends meet when the return on agricultural products decreased exponentially during the depression. His success conveying produce from Florida to North Carolina facilitated the purchase of a second truck in 1933. Grier then marketed his transport services to textile manufacturers. In partnership with Cone G. Beam, C. C. Carpenter, and Victor Stroup, Grier established Carolina Freight Carriers Corporation in 1937. The concern immediately acquired the assets of Mauney Transfer, a Cherryville-based trucking company that had been founded in 1931. Grier's older brother Dewey F. Beam initially retained his assistant cashier position at Cherryville National Bank while assisting with Carolina Freight Carriers Corporation's operation. In 1938, Grier and his wife Lena Sue and Dewey and his spouse Sallie assumed sole ownership of the company's stock, a wise investment as gross

¹⁰³ GG, August 21, 1926; Ragan, *The Textile Heritage of Gaston County*, 107.

¹⁰⁴ Sanborn map, September 1914, sheet 1

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

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revenue increased 578 percent from \$20,179 in 1937 to \$136,818 in 1938. Beam Trucking Company commissioned Dixie Lumber Company to construct its first terminal, a frame 70-by-80-foot building that included a warehouse, dock, maintenance shop, and offices south of the Shell service station in 1938. By 1939, the company operated a 53-truck fleet and leased terminals in New York, Jersey City, and Providence.¹⁰⁶

Although Beam Trucking Company/Carolina Freight Carriers Corporation and Cherryville's textile mills provided jobs for some residents during the Great Depression, government-funded New Deal agencies created work for unemployed citizens, many of whom were farm laborers. The North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration (NCERA), the state's first New Deal program, funded from 1932 to 1935 Cherryville projects including street improvements, water main and sewer system construction, interior painting at the graded and high schools, a school librarian's salary, and grading of the African American school's grounds.¹⁰⁷

The federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) followed in 1935, engaging citizens in endeavors ranging from public health and education initiatives to cultural activities, manufacturing projects, and building and park planning and execution. Efforts such as paving secondary "farm-to-market" roads, placing culverts, creating drainage systems, and erecting bridges, sanitary privies, agricultural extension service offices, and vocational buildings at schools occupied many work crews. In Cherryville, WPA programs funded projects including the construction of the two-story-on-basement brick Cherryville High School completed in the summer of 1936. WPA crews from Bessemer City assisted Cherryville-based WPA workers with the construction of nine-bay-wide building designed by Gastonia architect Hugh Edward White. Cherryville's 1915 school then became known as Elementary No. 1 and housed first- through seventh-grade students. Shelby architect V. W. Breeze prepared plans for WPA-funded road grading and graveling in fall 1938.¹⁰⁸

Local groups also subsidized educational initiatives during this period. The Cherryville Woman's Club, aided by a \$100 appropriation from Gaston County, created a library for the municipality's citizens in November 1936. Librarian Maxine Beam oversaw its operation in the organization's

¹⁰⁶ "Carolina Freight Carriers Corporation," *GG*, April 17, 1971, p. 5J; Garland Atkins, *Carolina Freight Corporation: A History, 1932-1985* (Cherryville: Herald Publishing Company, 1985), 24, 33, 48-51, 61.

¹⁰⁷ J. S. Kirk, Walter A. Cutter, and Thomas W. Morse, eds., *Emergency Relief in North Carolina: A Record of the Development and Activities of the North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1932-1935* (Raleigh: North Carolina Emergency Relief Administration, 1936), 478-479.

¹⁰⁸ Cherryville Board of Commissioners meeting minutes, August 26, 1935, April 7, 1936, August 12, 1938, Minute Book 6, pp. 161-162, 176, 263; "Cherryville In An Early Start," *GG*, February 16, 1957, p. 9; Davyd Ford Hood, *The Architecture of Hugh Edward White and White, Streeter & Chamberlain, 1921-1939*, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1999, Section E, p. 19.

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clubhouse adjacent to Cherryville High School. Following the Woman's Club's 1940 sale of its clubhouse, the Nuway clubhouse housed the library for six years.¹⁰⁹

Commercial concerns proliferated as the economy strengthened. Dr. William Henry Houser and his brother Emmett Holt Houser established Houser Drug Company in 1935 and operated from the former Farmer's Bank and Trust Company 100 East Main Street, by then called the Houser Building, until moving to 302 East Main Street in February 2015. Belk-Matthews Company opened a department store at 114 East Main Street in August 1936 and gradually expanded east into the two adjacent commercial buildings. The company occupied that location until 2000.¹¹⁰ In the contiguous building at 124 East Main Street, cousins Roy and Troy Carpenter established Roy and Troy Grocery in 1938 and remained until retiring in 1980. Local farmers supplied produce, meat, and dairy products sold in the store, which featured counter and delivery service. The Carpenters sold chickens from a coop behind the building and butchered them upon request. In addition to running this business, Roy Carpenter was Cherryville's fire chief for decades.¹¹¹

Several local textile industries folded during the late 1930s. Cherryville Manufacturing Company went into receivership in 1938 and closed in 1939. Dover Mills and Shelby-based Ora Mills acquired Gaston Manufacturing Company in 1938 and incorporated Dora Yarn Mills.¹¹²

Cherryville's population continued to grow, however, increasing from 2,756 to 3,225 people between 1930 and 1940. The Cherryville Merchants Association, which had incorporated on April 11, 1941, encouraged economic development in the 1940s. Entrepreneurs erected the 1940 commercial building at 216 East Main Street, the 1940 service station at 220 East Main Street, and the 1942 Lester Theater at 301 East Main Street prior to widespread building materials shortages during World War II. A. E. Miller, Lincolnton Amusement Company's owner and manager, announced Lester Theater's grand opening on July 16, 1942. The venue bore the name of Cherryville physician and entrepreneur Lemuel Lester Self, who died in 1940. His widow Hattie Peeler Self was involved in the theater's operation.¹¹³

As World War II escalated, 11,695 Gaston County men and women enlisted in the U. S. military. Those left behind supported the war effort in a variety of ways, from filling vacant positions in local manufacturing plants to participating in bond drives and planting victory gardens. In Cherryville,

¹⁰⁹ "Cherryville Library Result of Years of Hard Work by Women," *GG*, February 20, 1959, p. 2.

¹¹⁰ Blythe, *William Henry Belk*, 260; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

¹¹¹ *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975; Rudisill, *Oldies and Goodies*, 96.

¹¹² "Mill in Receivership," *Robesonian*, August 24, 1938, p. 4..

¹¹³ Lester Theater opening postcard from the collection of Pat Sherrill; Pat Borden, "Cherryville Has Had a Face Lifting," *GG*, October 8, 1969, p. B1; Lester Theater advertisement, *GG*, June 17, 1973, p. B6; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975; Lester S. Andrews (Lemuel Lester and Hattie Peeler Self's grandson), email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 25, 2016.

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Carolina Freight Corporation transported ammunition, clothing, and other supplies for the military. At the war's end, returning veterans starting families supported local businesses and created a need for housing after years of market stagnation during the depression and war. Commercial building construction also resumed, as evidenced by the one-story structure erected at 107 East Main Street in 1947. Dellinger's Jewel Shop, Inc., operated by Kenneth and Louise Dellinger, and Ann's Shop leased the two storefronts by 1955.¹¹⁴ The one-story commercial buildings erected at 106 West First Street and 205-207 North Mountain Street in 1948, and 114-116 West First Street, completed at about the same time, accommodated a variety of businesses.

Cherryville's industrial concerns expanded facilities and operations during the late 1940s. Carolina Freight Carriers Corporation renovated and enlarged its Cherryville headquarters and terminal in 1949. The company's 140-truck and trailer fleet moved product through its terminals in Atlanta, Charlotte, Philadelphia, Jersey City, and Greenville, South Carolina, as well as nine call stations throughout the eastern seaboard. North and South Carolina textile manufacturers including Cherryville clients supplied ninety percent of the cargo.¹¹⁵

Cherryville's population remained stable in 1950, when the federal census enumeration of 3,492 residents reflected an increase of only 267 inhabitants since 1940.¹¹⁶ In November 1950, the Cherryville Branch of the Gaston County Public Library opened in the McGinnis Building on Oak Street. Contractors erected the commercial buildings at 118 and 124 West Main Street in 1952 and 122 West Main Street in 1955.

As the economy burgeoned in the mid-1950s, Cherryville commissioned construction of a Modernist municipal building designed by resident architect James L. Beam Jr. and erected by his father, contractor James L. Beam Sr., at a cost of \$100,000. When placed into service in November 1955, the two-story brick edifice at 116 South Mountain Street encompassed a one-hundred-seat courtroom, eight-cell jail, and offices for town government, police and fire departments, Gaston County health

¹¹⁴ Truesdell, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Volume I*, 777; Spencer B. King Jr., *Selective Service in North Carolina in World War II* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1949), 321; Atkins, *Carolina Freight Corporation*, 69; David P. Dellinger, "First Brick Buildings," *Eagle*, July 20, 1955; *Cherryville City Directories*, 1966, 1970, 1975.

¹¹⁵ "Cherryville Merchants Association, Inc.," <http://www.secretary.state.nc.us> (accessed December 2015); Atkins, *Carolina Freight Corporation*, 80.

¹¹⁶ Howard D. Brunsman, supervisor, U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Eighteenth Decennial Census of the United States: Census of Population, 1960, Volume I, Part A* (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1961), 35-16.

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department, and the State Highway Patrol. Space was reserved for the Cherryville Chamber of Commerce. The municipality officially became known as the City of Cherryville in May 1957.¹¹⁷

Two important institutions, the post office and the public library, moved from the Masonic Building's first floor to free-standing structures in the late 1950s. Dewey F. and Sallie Beam commissioned the construction of the post office at 107 North Mulberry Street designed by James L. Beam Jr. Upon its 1958 completion, the couple leased the building to the federal government. In order to facilitate access to the post office, Seaboard Air Line erected the 1959 steel and concrete bridge that carries North Mulberry Street over the railroad. In February 1959, Cherryville residents celebrated the completion of the one-story brick public library at 605 East Main Street designed by Gastonia architect Frank Griffin.¹¹⁸

Cherryville's population increased nominally through the 1950s—only three percent—to number 3,607 residents in 1960. That year, the municipality encompassed five public schools, seventeen industrial concerns, and twelve white and two African American churches. Significant developments with the local textile industry included Burlington Industries' 1960 acquisition of Rhyne-Houser Manufacturing Company.¹¹⁹

Two commercial buildings were erected within the historic district in the early 1960s. Optometrist Charles G. Metcalf occupied the one-story Modernist office at 116 West Main Street upon its 1960 completion. The 1961 construction of the one-story Law Building at 122 West Main Street between two contiguous 1950s commercial structures resulted in a continuous red-brick façade and Modernist storefronts for all three buildings. The Law Building housed the offices of attorneys William J. Allran Jr. and Robert W. Kirby, followed by Allran and Allran through the 1970s.

In 1970, Cherryville maintained its status as Gaston County second largest town with 5,258 residents, many of whom were employed by Carlton Yarn Mills, Cherry Spinning Company, Carolina Freight Carriers Corporation, Dora Yarn Mill Company, Howell Manufacturing Company, Nuway Spinning Company, and Burlington Industries' Rhyne-Houser Division. Carolina Freight Carriers Corporation

¹¹⁷ "Cherryville Library Result of Years of Hard Work by Women," *GG*, February 20, 1959, p. 2; "Two of Six Township Libraries Opened," *GG*, February 23, 1959, p. 1; "Ground Broken for Cherryville Municipal Building," *GG*, March 12, 1955, p. 6; "Officials of Cherryville Make Plan to Open Town Building," *GG*, November 3, 1955, p. 3.

¹¹⁸ "New Post Office for Cherryville," *GG*, August 13, 1957, p. 5; Cherryville Board of Commissioners meeting minutes, January 6, 1959, Minute Book 8, pp. 208-209; Lyle Edwards, "Library Buildings Pushed," *GG*, January 6, 1958, p. 1; "Cherryville Library Result of Years of Hard Work by Women," *GG*, February 20, 1959, p. 2; "Two of Six Township Libraries Opened," *GG*, February 23, 1959, p. 1.

¹¹⁹ Brunsmann, *Eighteenth Decennial Census of the United States: Census of Population, 1960, Volume I, Part A*, 35-16; North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, "Community Data: Cherryville, North Carolina," February 1965; Ragan, *The Textile Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina*, 157.

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had grown to encompass 2,400 employees and a fleet of 2,324 tractors, trailers, trucks, and cars. The company operated 29 terminals in 19 states as well as 22 call stations.¹²⁰

In an effort to present an up-to-date image, Cherryville Savings and Loan erected a distinctive Modernist bank designed by James L. Beam Jr. and Associates at 100 West Main Street in 1972. The architecture firm also prepared plans for the Modernist one-story community center erected by Elmore Construction and Supply Company, Inc., at 106 South Jacob Street in 1975. Cherryville's economy has remained strong and the community vibrant despite losses of many industrial concerns during the late twentieth century.

Architecture Context

Commercial Buildings

None of Cherryville's mid- to late-nineteenth-century commercial buildings—typically one- or two-story weatherboarded structures, often with full-width shed-roofed front porches—remain. As merchants prospered, they replaced these utilitarian frame buildings with stylish and fire-resistant brick edifices intended to advertise their success and attract customers. Architectural journals, trade publications, and popular periodicals promoted brick construction, touting its beauty, versatility, and durability. Cherryville's earliest extant commercial buildings feature brick façades with Italianate and Classical Revival-style corbelling, pilasters, and decorative parapets. A few structures also exhibit the use of cast-iron and pressed-metal storefront, window, and cornice ornamentation. Dr. A. W. Howell's two-story, brick, ca. 1901 store at 105 East Main Street exemplifies this trend in its corbelled cornice, window hoods, and cast-iron pilasters. Kendrick Mercantile Company at 101-103 Main Street, completed in 1903, is not as elaborate, but its tall stepped parapet designed to attract customers distinguishes the structure from its neighbors.

Community investment in the built environment during the 1910s is manifested in fourteen extant structures within the downtown historic district. Although façade appearance varies widely, common materials include brick, cast stone, and terra cotta. The 1910s commercial buildings at 110 North Mountain Street, 107-111 West Main Street, and 110, 118, 200, and 204 East Main Street are simply finished, but masons employed corbelled and patterned brickwork to embellish the walls. Brothers N. B. Kendrick and J. W. Kendrick—Cherryville residents who operated a sawmill, construction company, and brick manufacturing plant—likely supplied much of the brick. The Kendricks moved

¹²⁰ "A Town on the Grow," *GG*, April 17, 1971, p. G6; "Carolina Freight Carriers Corporation," *GG*, April 17, 1971, p. 5J.

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their brickyard from the Shelby vicinity to Mt. Holly in late 1915, soon after incorporating Kendrick Brick and Tile Company in October of that year.¹²¹

Several buildings display classical features, a fashionable choice intended to epitomize democracy, permanence, and refinement. Municipalities often selected the Classical Revival style for government buildings, as was the case with the 1911 Cherryville City Hall at 109 East Main Street. The construction of the eclectic two-story building set the tone for subsequent development. Tall pilasters ornamented with cast-stone cartouches, garlands, egg-and-dart and foliated moldings, and corbelled caps frame the blonde-brick façade. The adjacent two-story, blonde-brick, 1913 Self-Hoffman Building at 113 East Main Street also embodies classical attributes, displaying cast-stone keystones, impost blocks, and projecting sills in round-arched window openings beneath a shaped parapet.

The Classical Revival style was also a popular choice for banking institutions attempting to convey a sense of financial responsibility and security. Farmer's Bank and Trust Company's 1914 building at 100 East Main Street features brick pilasters flanking a blonde-brick façade as well as decorative soldier and header courses above the pilasters and at the parapet's upper edge. First National Bank of Cherryville at 100 South Mountain Street, designed by architect Willard G. Rogers, a principal in the Charlotte firm Hook and Rogers, is particularly notable. Completed in 1916, the building's classical design elements include a tall, projecting, metal, third-story cornice; pedimented and arched third-story windows; a molded cast-stone cornice above the first story; and a cast-stone foundation scored to emulate stone.

Contractors erected eighteen extant commercial buildings within the district during the 1920s and four in the 1930s. Variations in parapet configuration and brick texture, color, and pattern add interest to the streetscape. A stepped parapet and a header-course-bordered rectangular parapet panel distinguish the two-story brick storefronts of 118 East Main Street (1918) and 124 East Main Street (1920). The austere, two-story, 1920 commercial building at 113 South Mountain Street is characterized by a textured-red-brick façade, stepped parapet, slightly projecting brick pilasters that frame the storefronts, a header course above the first story, and soldier-course second-story window lintels. The one-story, red-brick-veneered, 1920 service station at 300 East Main Street features a tall pylon that rises from the storefront and contains translucent glass blocks surrounded by a projecting brick border. The 1921 Cherryville Wholesale Grocery Company at 303 East Main Street has a textured red-brick façade, a stepped parapet, and slightly projecting header courses that top the façade and border the rectangular panels that surmount the second-story windows. At the one-story, two-storefront, 1920s commercial building at 127-201 East Main Street, a flat parapet topped with a slightly projecting header course

¹²¹ The company continued to expand the Mt. Holly operation and added a Charlotte plant, but maintained a Cherryville office. "Cleveland Cullings," *GG*, October 15, 1915, p. 2; "Charter Issued," *GG*, October 25, 1915, p. 1; "Brick and Tile Firm Doesn't Produce Tile," *GG*, February 21, 1955, p. F12.

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caps long, thin, red bricks. The one-story building at 106 North Mountain Street and the two-story building at 108 North Mountain Street, constructed in 1930, are distinguished by wire-cut brick façades, stepped parapets, and a header course spanning both storefronts above the first story.

Quite a few Cherryville buildings manifest the Commercial Style, which was popular from the 1920s through the 1940s and represented a complete departure from ornate Victorian-era embellishment. Patterned masonry, shaped parapets, bands of large rectangular windows, and sparingly used tile, concrete, stone, or terra cotta insets distinguish these buildings. All relatively inexpensive ways to enliven a façade, such features exhibit the economical design sensibilities and construction practices of that period. This approach is evident in the two-story, brick, 1921 commercial building at 112 East Main Street, ornamented with three rectangular basketweave panels and a pointed parapet with stepped outer edges. The one-story 1928 commercial building at 211-213 East Main Street features a wire-cut red-brick façade with a corbelled cornice and parapet panels bordered with a band of stretchers laid in an alternating pattern of three horizontal and three vertical bricks. An almost-full-width slightly recessed rectangular parapet panel bordered with a header course embellishes the blonde-brick façade of the one-story 1920 commercial building at 217 East Main Street. The commanding three-story 1924 Masonic Building at 126 West Main Street has a blonde-brick façade, corbelled cornice, and a slightly recessed rectangular parapet panel with four inset diamond-shaped white tiles. Masons embellished the blonde-brick façade of the one-story 1928 commercial building at 209 East Main Street with brick pilasters, a corbelled cornice, and three rectangular parapet panels bordered with projecting header courses.

Classicism also remained a dominant influence in the twentieth century's early decades. Although slight variations in height and decorative masonry execution differentiate the two halves of the two-story 1928 commercial building at 203-205 East Main Street's blonde-brick façade, both feature brick pilasters, projecting header courses bordering rectangular panels, and arched second-story window openings with cast-stone keystones. The one-story 1930 Pliskin and Londner Building at 115-119 East Main Street's blonde-brick façade is topped with a decorative masonry and a cast-stone panel that features a bas-relief eagle, horn-of-plenty garlands, and scrolled outer edges. Four slightly recessed panels, each bordered with a header course, surmount the storefront.

A few Cherryville buildings illustrate the manner in which business owners employed Spanish Revival and Art Moderne stylistic elements to attract customers during the 1930s and 1940s. The Spanish Revival style, characterized by light-colored stucco walls and red terra cotta or metal barrel-tile roofs, emulated traditional Spanish and Latin American building elements. Commonly executed in Florida and the southwestern United States, particularly Arizona, California, and Texas, the style achieved widespread popularity during the early-twentieth-century rise of eclectic revival-style architecture. By the late 1930s, as the nation started to recover from the great depression, American buildings began to reflect European design tenets in their streamlined modern forms. The Art Moderne style reflects the

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speed, energy, and power of automobiles, trains, steamships, and factories in buildings with horizontal lines, asymmetrical facades, flat roofs, and curved corners.¹²²

The ca. 1930 Beam's Shell Service Station and Office at 117 North Mountain Street, the 1932 Homesley Chevrolet - Homesley Super Service Station 208-210 East Main Street, and the 1920 commercial building at 206 East Main Street (updated in conjunction with Homesley Super Service Station's construction) are executed in the Spanish Revival-style with stuccoed walls and metal-barrel-tile roofs. The 1940 service station at 220 East Main Street displays the same features, but utilizes tall pilasters to flank façade bays. An Art Moderne influence is also manifested in the 1942 Lester Theater at 301 East Main Street, where fluted vertical panels and scored horizontal lines ornament the second story.

However, most 1940s commercial buildings, like many of the district's earlier structures, exhibit functional design with minimal ornamentation. The ongoing popularity of textured brick as a means to embellish simple facades is reflected in the wire-cut variegated-brick façade of the one-story 1940 commercial building at 216 East Main Street and the textured-red-brick running-bond façade of the mid-1940s commercial building at 107-109 South Oak Street. At 205-207 North Mountain Street, erected in 1948, terra cotta coping tops the red-brick running-bond façade and soldier-course lintels span the storefronts.

From 1950s through the 1970s, Cherryville's commercial buildings tended to incorporate elements of the Modernist style, reflecting the era's progressive thinking and optimism in the use of new materials, construction techniques, and spatial arrangements. These structures display sleek lines, smooth facades, and the aluminum-framed plate-glass windows, doors, and curtain walls that characterize the modern design aesthetic. Storefronts featured asymmetrical entrances, angled or cantilevered display windows and side walls, flat-roofed canopies, and neon or aluminum-lettered signage in an effort to project an up-to-date image that would appeal to consumers. Materials including structural and spandrel glass, glass block, porcelain-enameled steel, anodized aluminum, natural and cast stone, wood, cast concrete, and long, thin Roman brick were used to embellish facades throughout the nation during this period.¹²³

Cherryville examples include the buildings at 120, 122, and 124 West Main Street erected from 1952 to 1961, which are unified by a pressed-red-brick running-bond façade and a flat parapet with cast-stone coping. At 120 West Main Street, stuccoed and scored cast-stone surrounds the aluminum-frame

¹²² Peter Gossel and Gabriele Leuthauser, *Architecture in the Twentieth Century* (Koln, Slovenia: Taschen, 2001), 319.

¹²³ Carol J. Dyson, "How to Work with Storefronts of the Mid-Twentieth Century," presentation for the National Main Streets Conference, Philadelphia, April 2, 2008, <http://www.illinois-history.gov/ps/midcentury.htm>.

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plate-glass display window. Cast-stone panels also border 124 West Main Street's storefront, which features a slightly recessed west section with a stack-bond kneewall beneath the display window. The one-story, flat-roofed, blonde-brick, 1960 office building at 116 West Main Street's most distinctive feature is its recessed stack-bond south wall topped with a five-section aluminum-frame clerestory window.

Cherryville architect James L. Beam Jr. designed the one-story, flat-roofed, red-brick, Modernist United States Post Office at 107 North Mulberry Street, completed in 1958. Smooth concrete panels sheathe the projecting entrance bay, while to the south, an inset wall comprises five large windows and a smooth concrete kneewall. Beam's firm also rendered plans for the district's youngest building. The two-story, flat-roofed, square, 1972 Cherryville Savings and Loan at 100 West Main Street is characterized by light-brown brick with white cast-stone accents. The brick bond involved alternating two stretchers with a slightly projecting header within each row. The courses are offset so that headers align vertically on alternating rows. In the tall cornice, alternating columns of projecting and flush headers created a fluted effect. Cast-stone panels sheathe the building corners, foundation, and the full-height pilasters that frame each of the three bays in the aluminum-frame curtain walls at the center of each elevation.

Residential Architecture

The Cherryville Downtown Historic District includes seven houses adjacent to the community's commercial center. Five early-twentieth-century dwellings exhibit Queen Anne and classical elements, a 1920 house displays Craftsman features, and a 1924 residence embodies Colonial Revival characteristics.

As Cherryville's population grew, landowners near downtown took advantage of the opportunity to profit from the subdivision of their large parcels of land into smaller residential lots. This push outward from the center of town translated into the construction of houses on streets only one or two blocks beyond main transportation arteries and commercial and industrial areas. During the twentieth century's first decades, it was common for professionals and workers to live in close proximity to their work places and each other. The differences in the two groups' income and social standing were made clear by the size of their houses and the lots they occupied. This disparity is still apparent in Cherryville, but was especially pronounced when more Main Street housing stock was intact.

Most Cherryville dwellings were modest frame houses with minimal ornamentation, but some reflected the increasingly elaborate architectural expression made possible by the industrial advances of the late nineteenth century. Steam-powered factories produced vast quantities of dimensional lumber and inexpensive millwork which was sold locally and moved by rail throughout the country. The Queen Anne style, which became popular in the 1880s, utilizes these mass-produced components

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to exemplify the most up-to-date design sensibilities. Queen Anne-influenced buildings are characterized by irregular massing, manifested on the exterior by features such as projecting bays, wings, towers, gables, dormers, and balconies, and on the interior by asymmetrical plans. Tall hipped roofs often shelter these dwellings, and porches wrap around facades and side elevations, sometimes encompassing corner towers or pavilions. Contrasting siding materials including various weatherboard styles, wood shingles, brick, stucco, faux half-timbering, and pebbledash add decorative interest, as do sawnwork porch elements, eave brackets, and gable ornament. Windows of different shapes, sizes, and sash configurations illuminated interior spaces.¹²⁴ During the early twentieth century, builders often employed classical elements such as columns, pilasters, window and door surrounds, fanlights and sidelights, pedimented entrances, and Palladian windows in conjunction with Queen Anne-style attributes such as asymmetry, complex massing, and gable ornamentation.

Main Street was once lined with homes that used scale and massing rather than an abundance of architectural ornament to convey the wealth and social status of their early owners, but few survive. The five oldest dwellings in the Cherryville Downtown Historic District—the 1901 residence at 203 West Main Street, the 1905 Rudisill-Hall House at 115 South Mountain Street, the 1907 dwelling at 202 West Main Street, the 1908 John Pinkney and Margaret Dellinger House at 208 West Main Street, and the 1917 E. L. and Ula J. Webb House at 201 West Main Street—exhibit a combination of Queen Anne-style and classical features. The two-story weatherboarded Rudisill-Hall House is characterized by a pyramidal-hip-roofed main block with projecting gabled bays embellished with sawnwork bargeboards, pressed-metal shingles, and first-story cut-away bays. Tuscan columns support the hip-roofed front porch as well as the second-story balcony that surmounts the main entrance. At the two-story, weatherboarded, cross-gable-roofed, John Pinkney and Margaret Dellinger House, sawnwork bargeboards and multipane windows ornament the projecting gabled bays and Tuscan columns embellish the wraparound porch. The E. L. and Ula J. Webb House, a one-and-one-half-story frame Queen Anne-style house, has a hip-roofed main block with projecting gabled bays. The wraparound porch features Tuscan columns and a conical-roofed gazebo at its northeast corner. The adjacent residence at 203 West Main Street is also a one-and-one-half-story, hip-roofed, frame Queen Anne cottage with a wraparound porch. The one-story, frame, cross-gable-roofed dwelling at 202 West Main Street retains deep eaves and molded cornices.

Building forms that rejected the extravagance of late nineteenth-century eclectic architecture began to exert a greater influence on Cherryville's residential design by the 1910s. The Craftsman style became prevalent during this period. American stonemason, furniture maker, and metalworker Gustav Stickley visited England in 1898 and, upon his return home, promoted the tenets of the English Arts and Crafts movement—a reaction against the loss of manual skills and traditional crafts due to the mechanization

¹²⁴ Catherine W. Bishir, *North Carolina Architecture*, portable edition (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 329, 402-403.

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of the Industrial Revolution—through his magazine, *The Craftsman* (1901-1916). The publication emphasized the use of natural, handcrafted materials and low, horizontal massing to allow for harmony between a house and its surrounding environment. Building plans for dwellings with wide overhanging eaves, open room arrangements, and inviting porches, appeared in national magazines such as *House Beautiful* and *The Ladies Home Journal*. Stickley, Radford, Sears, Montgomery Ward, Aladdin, and others sold plans by mail.¹²⁵

Two-story, square plan, gable- or hip-roofed dwellings, many of which exhibited Craftsman stylistic elements, were inherently cost-effective to construct and remained popular through the 1920s. These houses usually had open first floor plans with corner staircases and three or four second-floor bedrooms and a bathroom. The two-story, hip-roofed, red-brick dwelling that L. C. and Hattie Bess McDowell erected at 200 West Main Street in 1920 features a two-bay-wide front porch and a porte cochere supported by robust Craftsman-style brick posts spanned by brick kneewalls. The deep porch eaves shelter exposed rafter ends and a tall wood cornice. The Queen Anne-style house at 203 West Main Street has a Craftsman-inspired 1920s replacement porch with tapered posts on brick piers.

The two-story, side-gable-roofed, red-brick 1924 Carl A. and Verner Dellinger Rudisill House at 207 West Main Street is an excellent example of early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival architecture. Richard Guy Wilson defined the Colonial Revival as “the United States most popular and characteristic expression. Neither a formal style or a movement, Colonial Revival embodies an attitude that looks to the American past for inspiration and selects forms, motifs, and symbols for replication and reuse.”¹²⁶ Colonial Revival residences constructed in Cherryville during the first half of the twentieth century have symmetrical facades, large multipane windows, and classical embellishment. The Rudisill House features an elaborate entrance with Tuscan columns supporting a broken pediment and a denticulated molded cornice surmounting the fan-carved panel above the door. A modillion cornice and three pedimented dormers with round-arched, double-hung, six-over-one, wood-sash further ornament the façade.

James Lorn Beam Jr. - James L. Beam Jr. and Associates: Cherryville’s mid-twentieth-century architect

Cherryville native James Lorn Beam Jr., born on January 27, 1918, attended Cherryville High School and Lenoir Rhyne College in Hickory before earning an undergraduate architectural engineering degree from North Carolina State College in 1942. While in Raleigh, he gained drafting experience through a part-time position in architect Ross Shumaker’s office. Beam enlisted in the United States

¹²⁵ Paul Duchscherer and Douglas Keister, *The Bungalow: America’s Arts and Crafts Home* (New York: The Penguin Group, 1995), 2, 7-8, 14-15.

¹²⁶ Richard Guy Wilson, *The Colonial Revival House* (New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc., 2004), 6.

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Navy in 1942 and studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Naval Design School for a year. After completing his military service in 1945, Beam moved to Charlotte and worked as a draftsman for architect Charles W. Connelly until 1946, followed by a year as a job captain in the office of J. N. Pease and Company. In 1947, he opened his own firm in Cherryville, but partnered with an engineer with the surname Mackintosh in 1949 to establish a Charlotte practice, Beam and Mackintosh. Beam returned to Cherryville in 1951 and became a member of the American Institute of Architects in 1953. He headed an independent firm with offices in Cherryville and Gastonia until his 1988 retirement. After Beam elevated architect Tom Craig Lewis, a Dallas native, fellow North Carolina State College graduate, and World War II veteran who had worked with Beam intermittently beginning in 1950, to partnership in 1962, the firm was known as Beam and Lewis until 1965. Lewis operated independently for three years, but rejoined the firm, then called James L. Beam Jr. and Associates, in 1968. Tom C. Lewis died on June 26, 1991. James L. Beam Jr. died on November 24, 2010.¹²⁷

The firm undertook myriad commercial, education, industrial, institutional, religious, and residential commissions, many of which were in Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and Rutherford counties in North Carolina and upstate South Carolina. Cherryville commissions include the Carlton Yarn Mills office (1958), Carolina Freight Carriers office (1950s); Dixie Lumber Company office (1950s); Cherryville Municipal Building (1955); East Elementary School (1957); U. S. Post Office, Cherryville (1958); Cherryville Savings and Loan (1972); Cherryville Community Center (1975); Cherryville sanctuaries for First Baptist Church (1962), First United Methodist Church (1973), and First Wesleyan Church (1978); and the First Presbyterian Church educational building (1957) and fellowship hall (1963). Residences designed by the firm and erected in the 1950s include Howard K. and Prue Ballard Houser's house at 406 South Elm Street, Dewey F. and Sallie Carpenter Beam's residence at 400 South Elm Street, Ben R. and Dorothy Butler Rudisill's dwelling at 409 South Elm Street, James L. and Lola Stroup Beam's house at 408 Farris Drive, John L. and Margaret Stroupe Fraley's residence at 404 Farris Drive, Russ Cook's house at 400 Farris Drive, Lewis B. and Mary Elizabeth Houser Doggett's dwelling at 401 Farris Drive, and Charles Grier and Lena Sue Brawley Beam's house at Sunbeam Farms, 164 Sunbeam Farm Road.¹²⁸ Beam's residential commissions were traditional in style, ranging from commanding two-story side-gable-roofed brick dwellings to modest Minimal Traditional and Ranch houses.

¹²⁷ "James L. Beam Jr.," American Institute of Architects (AIA) membership file, AIA Archives, Washington, D. C.; George S. Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 1st ed. (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1956), 32, 332; *Hill's Gastonia City Directory* (Richmond, V. A.; Hill Directory Company, 1963), 28; George S. Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 3rd ed. (New York: R. R. Bowker, 1970), 53; "Lewis Joins Architectural Firm Here," *GG*, November 14, 1968, p. 8A; "James Lorn 'J. L.' Beam Jr.," *GG*, November 26, 2010; Caryl Austell (James L. Beam Jr.'s daughter), telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 2016; death certificates.

¹²⁸ Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 1956, 32; Koyl, ed., *American Architects Directory*, 1970), 53; Caryl Austell, telephone conversation and email correspondence with Heather Fearnbach, January 2016.

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The two buildings designed by James L. Beam Jr. that stand in the Cherryville Downtown Historic District—the U. S. Post Office and Cherryville Savings and Loan—are excellent examples of the firm's commercial work, which typically displayed Modernist characteristic. Both retain all original features, unlike the nearby Cherryville Municipal Building, which has been altered by the 1997 addition of a pedimented two-story primary entrance surround and replacement windows. As Beam was the principal architect working in Cherryville for much of the twentieth century, he had an enduring impact on the city's built environment.

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Herald-Eagle (Cherryville)

Gastonia Gazette (abbreviated *GG* after first appearance in notes)

Lexington Dispatch

Lincoln County News (abbreviated *LCN* after first appearance in notes)

Lincolnton Times-News

Raleigh News and Observer

Robesonian

Wilmington Messenger

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10. Geographical Data

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

- A. Latitude: 35.379437
Longitude: -81.382010
- B. Latitude: 35.380105
Longitude: -81.381101
- C. Latitude: 35.380331
Longitude: -81.380230
- D. Latitude: 35.380248
Longitude: -81.379547
- E. Latitude: 35.380476
Longitude: -81.377666
- F. Latitude: 35.379287
Longitude: -81.377036
- G. Latitude: 35.378181
Longitude: -81.379202
- H. Latitude: 35.377571
Longitude: -81.381486
- I. Latitude: 35.3781486
Longitude: -81.382032
- J. Latitude: 35.378854
Longitude: -81.382297

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Cherryville Downtown Historic District are indicated by the bold line on the enclosed map drawn at a scale of one inch equals two hundred feet.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the 18.95-acre Cherryville Downtown Historic District are drawn to encompass the most intact and cohesive concentration of historic commercial and residential buildings in the downtown area constructed during the period of significance—1890 to 1966—that contribute to the district’s historic and architectural character. Late-twentieth-century commercial development flanks Main Street at the district’s east end and North Mountain Street north of the boundary. These areas contain buildings that do not possess the requisite age and architectural and historical integrity to contribute to the district’s significance.

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Photograph Catalog

All photographs by Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc., 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, in November 2015 and January 2016. Digital images located at the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh.

1. Dr. A. W. Howell Store, 105 East Main Street, south elevation
2. Cherryville City Hall, 109 East Main Street, and Self-Hoffman Building, 113 East Main Street, south elevations
3. First National Bank of Cherryville, 100 South Mountain Street, northeast oblique
4. South side of East Main Street's 100 block, looking southeast from 100 East Main Street
5. North side of East Main Street's 200 block, looking northwest from 213 East Main Street
6. Lester Theater, 301 East Main Street, south elevation
7. North side of West Main Street's 100 block, looking northwest from 116 West Main Street
8. Commercial Buildings, 106-110 North Mountain Street, west elevations
9. Cherryville Savings and Loan, 100 West Main Street, southwest oblique
10. Rudisill-Hall House, 115 South Mountain Street, northwest oblique
11. Carl A. and Verner Dellinger Rudisill House, 207 West Main Street, northwest oblique