

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Raeford Historic District

Raeford, Hoke County, HK0027, Listed 8/9/2006
Nomination by Sarah Woodard David and Jennifer F. Martin
Photographs by David/Martin, May 2006



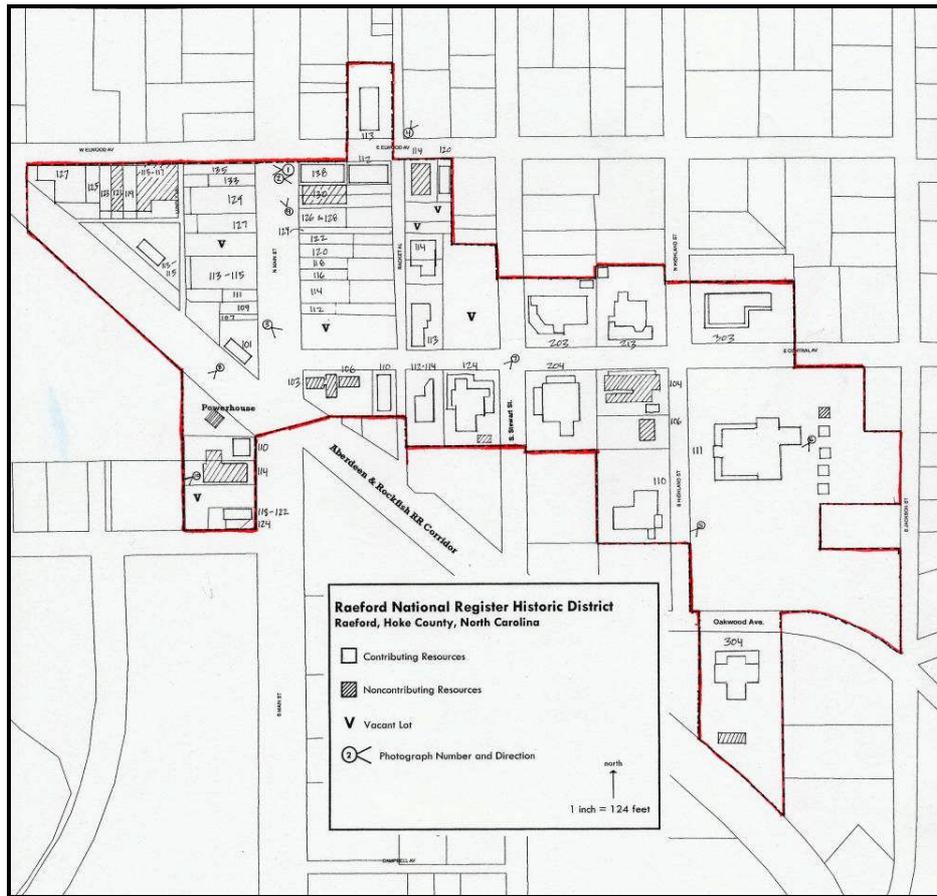
North Main Street, west side, looking southwest



Bank of Raeford



East Central Avenue, north side, looking west



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 Raeford Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Jackson Street, E. Central Avenue, the n/a not for publication
Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad, and E. and W. Elwood Avenue
city or town Raeford n/a vicinity
state North Carolina code NC county Hoke code 093 zip code 28376

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 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

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<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:)	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Raeform Historic District
Name of Property

Hoke County, North Carolina
County and State

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	
48	13	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
50	13	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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store
COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Queen Anne
Colonial Revival
Commercial Style
Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD/weatherboard
BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other METAL/Iron
CONCRETE
STONE/Granite

Narrative Description

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

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Transportation
Community Planning and Development
Commerce

Period of Significance

1897-1956

Significant Dates

1897

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Dew, Marcus

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Raeford Historic District
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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approx. 23 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>662139</u>	<u>3872145</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>662500</u>	<u>3871700</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>662480</u>	<u>3871900</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>662460</u>	<u>3871560</u>

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 Sarah Woodard David and Jennifer F. Martin
organization Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc. date May 3, 2006
street & number P.O. Box 1171 telephone 919 682-2211
city or town Durham state NC zip code 27702

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 _____
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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Raeford Historic District
Hoke County, North Carolina

7. Description

The town of Raeford is located in central Hoke County in North Carolina's Sandhills region. Raeford is laid out on an irregular grid-plan on flat terrain. The Aberdeen & Rockfish (A&R) Railroad corridor extends in a northwest to southeast direction and divides Main Street into North Main Street and South Main Street. Raeford follows a typical small railroad town plan with a compact commercial district, some light industrial buildings behind the retail buildings, and tree-lined residential streets adjacent to the town center. Sidewalks line the streets of the central business district and continue along many of the residential streets as well.

The district encompasses roughly twenty acres and contains a total of sixty-three resources of which fifty are primary buildings, eleven are secondary buildings, and two are structures. Contributing resources number fifty (79%) and include forty-eight buildings and two structures. Noncontributing properties number thirteen (20%); all are buildings. The boundary includes the greatest concentration of commercial and institutional resources in Raeford that retain integrity and were constructed during the district's period of significance (1897 to 1956). An adjacent area to the north of the district contains institutional and commercial buildings, but it is separated from the nominated area by noncontributing buildings and vacant lots. The district also includes a section of East Central Avenue lined with the homes of families associated with the rise of the town's commercial area. Other residential areas in Raeford retain architectural integrity but are separated from the district by open lots and buildings that do not retain historical or architectural integrity.

The Raeford Historic District contains commercial and institutional buildings, residences, and transportation-related resources representing styles, trends, and vernacular expressions from the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century, clearly reflecting the period of Raeford's greatest economic prosperity. Notable commercial buildings include the Farmers Furnishing Company and Hoke Drug buildings at 120 and 122 North Main Street, which feature distinctive peaked window hoods, and the Johnson-Thomas Building at 127 North Main Street with light-colored brick with arched window openings and pilasters executed in pale red brick. The Bank of Raeford located at the southeast corner of North Main Street and East Elwood Avenue is a three-story, buff-brick edifice featuring a traditional composition of a storefront base (remodeled in the 1950s) below two stories divided by pilasters into bays of paired windows, all capped by a flat frieze containing a cast-stone sign panel, a pressed metal or cast-iron cornice and a parapet with terracotta coping. Across the street at the southwest corner of North Main and West Elwood, the Page Trust Building, built in the 1920s, matches the bank's three stories but incorporates a more Craftsman-style treatment that includes a deep cornice and a shaped parapet enriched with lozenge panels.

Downtown Raeford's architecture also includes a number of smaller buildings. Kinlaw's Jewelry Store at 124 North Main Street, a one-storefront, single-story building, was constructed after a 1925 fire that destroyed several buildings. Today, the building retains much of its original storefront material. The original,

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recessed front door features glazed and solid panels and the ceiling above it retains bead-board sheathing. The display windows retain molded surrounds and a marble bulkhead. The district's smallest commercial building stands at 107 North Main Street. Built in the mid-1930s, the diminutive brick building features soldier courses of brick above the storefront and along the parapet.

Positioned on the north side of the railroad tracks on the west side of North Main Street, the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad depot represents the crucial role railroad played in the founding and growth of Raeford. The one-story brick depot replaced a wooden building around 1910. Although altered circa 1942 by the removal of a projecting pavilion and wall dormer on the south elevation, the depot retains the flared hip roof, deep eaves, and transomed doors that characterize train stations built across North Carolina in the early twentieth century.

Beginning with the gasoline station built in the mid-1920s at South Main Street and Harris Avenue and Graham's Service Station, which opened in 1933 at the southeast corner of North Main and East Central Avenue, automobile service establishments became an integral part of Raeford's architectural fabric. McDonald's Esso on East Central Avenue was built in 1937, but its current façade of enameled panels reflects changes made during the 1950s. Davis Sinclair on Main Street, just south of the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad was constructed in the 1950s using masonry covered by enameled panels. The Morgan Motor Company located on East Central Avenue and built just after World War II is a one-story stucco building featuring large display windows and transomed entrances. With the end of restrictions on the sale of rubber after World War II, McDonald's Tire and Recapping opened in the early 1950s on Racket Alley in close proximity to the town's gas stations. The business expanded in 1968.

A group of dwellings contiguous with the commercial district represents the forms and styles common to railroad towns in south-central North Carolina beginning in the first decade of the twentieth century. One Queen Anne house displaying particular liveliness is the 1903 B. R. and Margaret Gatlin House at 203 East Central Avenue. The frame dwelling, partially covered with vinyl siding, incorporates a square tower covered in decorative shingles, spindlework vergeboards, and a wrap-around porch with a spindlework frieze, a turned balustrade, turned posts, and sawnwork brackets. Despite its symmetrical plan and fenestration, the Gatlin's house creates an animated exterior by using the square tower to top the entrance bay which occupies a corner of the dwelling, rather than one of the elevations. Also, like many Queen Anne dwellings, the house has a hip roof from which gabled wings project.

The Hallie and Margaret Gatlin House, built by the son of B. R. and Margaret Gatlin around 1906 at 213 East Central Avenue incorporates Queen Anne elements, but on a smaller scale. The house features a hip roof but rather than creating gabled wings, steeply pitched gables occupy the front and side roof slopes. All three gables are sheathed with decorative shingles and a trefoil attic vent occupies the peak of the front gable.

The district's largest dwelling, the J. W. and Christina McLauchlin House on South Highland Street, was completed in 1905. Unlike the Gatlin families, the McLauchlins chose a Neoclassical design with the

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typically Southern feature of a pedimented Corinthian portico combined with a balcony and a full-width one-story porch. The dwelling features wide one-over-one sash windows and a modillioned cornice. Classically-inspired dormers with arched attic windows punctuate each roof slope. A fine group of well-preserved outbuildings stands in the yard adjacent to the house. The house now serves as a local history museum and research center.

The J. W. Johnson House on East Central Avenue, while not nearly as elaborate as the McLauchlin House, also takes design cues from Neoclassical and Colonial Revival styles and combines those with Queen Anne elements. Like the McLauchlin residence, the Johnson House incorporates classically inspired dormers and pedimented gables with lunette attic windows, but numerous polygonal bays and decorative shingles are also applied to the building.

Outbuildings accompany almost every dwelling in the historic district. All are one-story buildings and, with the exception of the 1930s brick garage apartment at the Hallie and Margaret Gatlin House, all are wood-sided. The J. W. and Christina McLauchlin House retains the greatest number of outbuildings. Three are simple, weatherboarded, front gable buildings, one of which was a garage or carriage house. A fourth is a hip-roofed garage, also with weatherboard siding. The fifth building is a turn-of-the-twentieth century school moved to the property around 2000. One-story side-gable buildings, possibly either used as kitchens or as servants' quarters, are found at the cottage at 212 East Central Avenue and behind the B. R. and Margaret Gatlin House.

Similarly, some downtown commercial buildings also had outbuildings or support buildings. A one-story brick office and warehouse building on East Elwood Avenue accompanied the McLauchlin Company building, which fronted North Main Street but burned in 1986. After the fire, the retail business was moved to the former warehouse. A one-story, concrete block warehouse built in the mid-1950s parallels the north side of the Aberdeen & Rockfish Rail Corridor behind Home Foods in the 100 block of North Main Street.

Inventory List

This inventory is arranged alphabetically by street by ascending street number beginning with the north side of the street for east-west streets and the west side of the street for north-south streets. Resources are categorized as contributing or noncontributing, meaning the resource contributes or does not contribute to the architectural or historical character of the district. Contributing buildings and structures add to the district's importance because they were present during the period of significance, they relate to the documented history of the district, and they possess historic integrity. Resources built outside the period of significance are noncontributing. Also, resources that have lost their integrity through substantive alterations are considered noncontributing. Most of the noncontributing resources are designated as such because they post date the period of significance. Construction dates are based on interviews with property owners and local residents,

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architectural style, information gleaned from clippings and files at the Raeford-Hoke Museum, and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps that were published in 1926 and revised in 1941. Additionally, the construction dates that are known for some resources are factored into decisions concerning construction dates for resources of a similar style about which little information is available. Only one city directory, commonly published every year or every-other-year in larger municipalities, was published for Raeford and that occurred in 1959.

East Central Avenue

North Side

McDonald's Esso

113 East Central Avenue, 1937, circa 1955, Contributing Building

Now known as Daniel's, the one-story, brick gas station features a façade covered in enameled panels that were likely installed in the 1950s when the business became McDonald's. The western block has a storefront façade with display windows flanking a glazed, single-leaf entry. The eastern block houses three garage bays. Metal casement windows and metal frame windows punctuate the western exterior wall. Originally, the building featured terracotta tile shed roofs along the cornice, between pilasters that extended above the roof line and terminated at shaped edges. Photographs from the early 1950s show that McDonald did not remodel the building immediately after he purchased it.

J. B. Thomas built this gas station in 1937 but for most of its history the building was known as McDonald's Esso for Neill A. McDonald who purchased it in 1950. Sanborn maps confirm that the building was built after 1926 and before 1941.

Vacant Lot

B. R. and Margaret Gatlin House

203 East Central Avenue, circa 1903, Contributing Building

Fanciful two-story Queen Anne dwelling addressing the northeast corner of East Central Avenue and South Stewart Street. The house consists of a square central block with a high hip roof from which gabled wings emerge: one faces East Central Avenue; the other faces South Stewart Street. A square tower with a hipped roof punctuated by peaked gablets rises from the main block's front corner. Decorative shingles cover the tower and square window openings pierce its walls. These bays originally contained stained glass windows but

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the openings are currently covered with plastic. Below the tower, the corner of the main block is cut away with doors on both levels. The first floor door is the dwelling's primary entrance and contains the original solid and glazed panel door. The second floor door also appears original and opens onto a balcony on top of the porch roof. The turned balustrade that surrounded this balcony has been removed. Decorative shingles, spindlework vergeboards, and Palladian attic windows occupy the gable ends of the wings facing East Central Avenue and South Stewart Street. A one-story porch wraps around the South Stewart and East Central elevations and features sawnwork brackets, turned posts, a turned balustrade, and a spindlework frieze. When compared to a 1906 photograph and the 1926 Sanborn map, it appears that the porch originally projected out slightly in front of the gabled wings and terminated at a gazebo on the north end. Some windows have been replaced but the decorative windows in the gable ends remain. Two gabled ells extend from the house's east elevation and are connected to each other by a small porch with turned posts, a turned balustrade, and sawn brackets. A small addition occupies the space between the south ell and east end of the porch. Vinyl siding covers most of the exterior, but some weatherboards remain exposed.

The Gatlins moved from Hartsville, South Carolina, around the turn-of-the-twentieth century, drawn by the Raeford Institute and the area's numerous churches. The 1910 census indicates that B. R. Gatlin operated a livery stable and headed a household comprised of his wife and three daughters. In 1920, the household included all three daughters, one of whom taught music, one boarder, and B. R.'s stepmother, Martha. By 1959, according to Raeford's city directory, B. R.'s widow, Maggie, lived here and rented out part of the house to Mrs. Sarah G. Stuart, a music teacher. Stuart may have been the daughter listed in the 1920 census as a music instructor (Mary King, B. R. and Margaret Gatlin's great-granddaughter, interview, November 4, 2005; *Hill's Raeford City Directory 1959*; 1910 census; 1920 census).

Outbuilding

203 East Central Avenue, circa 1930, Contributing Building

This outbuilding is not illustrated on the 1926 Sanborn map, but the 1941 map indicates that it is a dwelling. The one-story side-gabled building has German siding and a door centered on the façade. Five-V crimp metal covers the roof. A batten door has been cut into the west elevation. A similar building stands behind 212 East Central Avenue.

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Hallie and Margaret Gatlin House 213 East Central Avenue, 1906, Contributing Building

One-story, hip-roof dwelling with steep gables at the front and side roof slopes. Decorative shingles cover these gables, and a trefoil attic vent is located in the peak of the front-facing gable. A combination of replacement windows and original two-over-two sash light the interior. German siding covers the exterior. A single-leaf entry with sidelights occupies the center of the façade. West of the front door, a single window pierces the façade; east of the front door, a shallow polygonal bay projects and contains three windows. A one-story hip-roof porch with battered posts on brick piers shelters the entire façade and wraps around the southeast corner. A corbelled chimney rises from the interior of the east gable. A gable ell and an enclosed porch are attached to the rear elevation.

Hallie Gatlin built this house in 1906 for his bride, Margaret, who moved to Raeford from Darlington, South Carolina. Hallie was the son of B. R. and Margaret Gatlin and joined his parents in Raeford after finishing college at the University of South Carolina. Marcus W. Dew was the contractor for the house's construction. According to the 1910 census, twenty-eight-year-old Hallie and twenty-two-year-old Margaret had two sons and Hallie worked as a grocery merchant. By 1920, the household had increased to include a third son and Hallie was a manager. Thirty-nine years later, Hallie and Margaret still lived here, at which time he was the president of the Bank of Raeford, president of Farmers Furnishing Company, and vice president of Raeford Savings and Loan Association. The house has remained in the Gatlin family (Mary King, Hallie and Margaret Gatlin's granddaughter, interview, November 4, 2005; *Hill's Raeford City Directory 1959*; 1910 census; 1920 census).

Garage Apartment 213 East Central Avenue, circa 1935, Contributing Building

One-story, gable-front building with brick walls and a gable end covered with vinyl siding. The back half of the building has a brick exterior chimney and metal casement windows. This building was illustrated on the 1941 Sanborn Map with a dwelling occupying the rear section; it was not shown on the 1926 Sanborn Map.

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Kritt McNeill House

303 East Central Avenue, circa 1900, Contributing Building

One-story dwelling formed from two parallel side-gable sections connected along their long elevations so that the west elevation, which faces North Highland Street, features two gable ends. A gablet occupies the south (East Central Avenue) roof slope. The porch features a turned balustrade, sawn brackets, turned posts, and a pediment on the west elevation. The porch wraps around the west and south elevations and extends along the east elevation to a side-gable ell where the porch turns and runs along the ell's south elevation. The portion of the porch against the ell has been enclosed. A single leaf door on the south elevation is topped with a rectangular transom. A second door on the south elevation appears to be an addition. Vinyl siding covers the exterior. The windows are a combination of replacement sash and original two-over-two sash. Kritt McNeill lived here during the early twentieth century and either she or her parents constructed the house. Kenneth and Ruth MacDonald lived here in 1959 according to Raeford's City Directory (Luke and Phyllis McNeill interview, November 15, 2005; *Hill's Raeford City Directory 1959*).

South Side

Elk Restaurant

106 East Central Avenue, circa 1930, circa 1970s, Noncontributing Building

One-story building featuring a large shingled awning extending across the entire façade. Plate glass windows pierce the front elevation, which is covered with faux stucco. A skirt of imitation stone runs across the façade below the window sills. Based on the 1941 Sanborn Map and information about Graham's Service Station found in the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum, this much-altered building has always housed a restaurant. Its original name was taken from the deer statues perched on the roof of Graham's Service Station.

The Johnson Company

110 East Central Avenue, circa 1936, Contributing Building

One-story commercial building retaining one bank of original display windows in the façade's western bay. A single-leaf entry with a transom occupies the center bay while replacement windows occupy four window openings that punctuate the wall to the east of the door. Six-over-six sash are located in the blind-arch window openings on the west elevation. According to clippings filed at the Raeford-Hoke Museum, the Johnson Company began as Johnson and McNeill, a concern which dealt in farm supplies. The company had this

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building constructed in 1936 as a warehouse. The building is shown on the 1941 Sanborn Map as a cotton and fertilizer warehouse.

Morgan Motor Company 112-114 East Central Avenue, circa 1946, Contributing Building

One-story L-shaped stucco building with a projecting wing featuring a clipped corner housing a garage bay. Two additional garage bays punctuate the section of the façade parallel to the street; between the bays is a storefront composition of a single-leaf entry flanked by windows. Large window openings occupy the walls on either side of the projecting wing's garage bay. All windows and garage bays have been boarded-up or enclosed with masonry, but the building retains its original fenestration. A plain cornice runs across the entire façade.

Morgan Motor Company sold Buicks and Kaiser Motors brands including Frazers, Kaisers, and Henry J's, a small car named after the company's founder Henry J. Kaiser. Morgan Motors ceased selling Kaiser Motors cars, but continued as a Buick dealership at this location into the late 1950s. As of 1959, three businesses occupied this building: Blue and White Launderette; Hoke Service Center, which was a gas station; and L. J. Auto Supply Wholesalers (*News-Journal's* Raeford Centennial publication, May 2001).

J. W. Johnson House 124 East Central Avenue, circa 1910, Contributing Building

This two-story, Queen Anne-Colonial Revival transitional dwelling is formed from a hip-roof main block with projecting pedimented gables. A polygonal bay, located in the second floor façade and containing one-over-one sash, projects over the front porch roof. The bay is covered with decorative shingles and rises above the main block's eaves to house a row of attic windows with diamond-shaped lights. It terminates at a hipped roof. In the center of the second floor façade, a double-leaf door with solid and glazed panels is surrounded by a transom and sidelights and opens onto a balcony on the front porch roof. The balcony's railing has been removed. Above this door opening, a pedimented gable-front attic dormer with decorative shingles in the gable end, sash with diamond-shaped lights, and vertical wood siding on the side elevations, punctuates the front roof slope. The western two bays of the second floor façade contain two-over-two sash and are situated in a front-projecting gable. Decorative shingles and a lunette attic window occupy this gable's pedimented end. On the first floor façade, the corners of the front-gable wing are cut away to create a polygonal bay with one-over-one-sash. The bay below the second floor polygonal bay contains a single one-over-one sash window. In the center of the first floor façade, a transom and sidelights surround a double-leaf entry. A pedimented gable and

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a pedimented gabled dormer project from the west elevation. Another pedimented gable and pedimented gable dormer occupy the east elevation. The corners of this gabled wing are cut away at the first floor level to create a polygonal bay. On both side elevations, first-floor windows contain one-over-one sash while second-floor windows contain two-over-two sash. Rear wings include two one-story ells and one two-story ell; hip roofs cap all three. Two corbelled brick chimneys rise through the main block's roof while a third stands on the corner of the easternmost rear ell. A one-story porch with tapered square posts extends across the façade with a pediment over the front entrance bay. The porch runs along part of the west elevation and along the east elevation where it ends at a pediment over a side door. Weatherboards with corner boards cover the exterior.

J. W. Johnson, who built the house circa 1910, co-owned Johnson and McNeill but became the sole owner of the business in 1936, at which time the company became the Johnson Company. According to Raeford's City Directory, Mary McP. Roberts, the widow of William N. Roberts, lived here in 1959. A 1962 North Carolina Division of Community Planning study of Raeford's Central Business District describes this house as multifamily.

Garage

124 East Central Avenue, circa 1910, Noncontributing Building

One-story, flat-roof, brick building featuring two segmental-arch garage bays (now enclosed) and segmental-arch window openings on the north and south elevations. A large, frame, gable roof addition extends from the garage's rear elevation. This garage is shown on the 1926 Sanborn map.

Julian and Agnes Johnson House

204 East Central Avenue, circa 1920, Contributing Building

Two-story, Colonial Revival-Craftsman transitional dwelling that is nearly square with a hip roof and hipped dormer on the front roof slope. A hipped wing extends from the west elevation and contains an enclosed second floor space above a porte-cochere. The façade is divided into three bays containing a single-leaf front door in the center flanked by paired four-over-one sash windows. A hip-roof porch shelters the façade's first floor and features massive square brick columns and a brick balustrade; brick columns also support the porte-cochere. The space above the porte-cochere may have been a sleeping porch originally; weatherboard siding and modern replacement windows enclose it now. Weatherboards with corner boards sheathe the entire dwelling. According to Raeford's City Directory, Agnes U. Johnson, Julian Johnson's widow, lived here in 1959.

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East Elwood Avenue

North Side

McLauchlin Store Office and Warehouse 113 East Elwood Avenue, circa 1900, Contributing Building

One-story, rectangular brick warehouse with a flat roof and a corbelled cornice on the façade parapet. The six-bay façade has been altered with the conversion of the east door into a 12-light window, leaving a single door on the west half of the façade. The bays have been partially bricked in around the door and the 21-light fixed-sash windows. The rear elevation parapet is stepped and topped with tile coping. Doors and windows have arched brick heads or flat lintels. The interior remains mostly intact and includes tongue-and-groove wood ceilings and some original light fixtures. A safe from the McLauchlin Company survives.

This building served as the office and warehouse for the McLauchlin Store, which stood to the west facing North Main Street. When that building burned in 1986, the retail business relocated here.

South Side

Commercial Building 112 East Elwood Avenue, circa 1904, Contributing Building

Two-story, brick building with arched-head bays. An original color-coded 1926 Sanborn map indicates that the eastern half of the building is frame construction that was brick veneered, while the western half is load-bearing masonry construction. Tile coping tops the parapet along the street facade. Windows on the second floor façade are one-over-one sash. The shorter elevation facing Racket Alley displays a tall flat parapet. An advertising mural for Wood Furniture, the long-time occupant, remains on the rear elevation.

This building originally housed several businesses and offices including a grocery store and shoe shop with apartments upstairs. According to the 1926 Sanborn map, five stores occupied the building's street level. In 1941, the building held an upholstery concern and was used for furniture storage. Wood Furniture Company occupied most of the building beginning in the 1940s (Sanborn maps, 1926 (original in the North Carolina Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill); Sanborn maps, 1926 with 1941 update (microfilm); Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005).

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Hester Contracting **114 East Elwood Avenue, circa 1960, Noncontributing Building**

One-story, brick building with large metal-framed display windows and two fully-glazed front doors. Tile coping crowns the flat parapet and flat metal awning shelters the storefront.

Dr. Robert Matheson's Office **120 East Elwood Avenue, late 1930s, Contributing Building**

One-story, brick gable-front building with large fixed-light windows on the façade and six-over-six sash on the side and rear elevations. A tall narrow vent with an arched head crowns the façade; a similar vent but with a flat top, pierces the rear elevation. A flat metal awning supported by metal posts shelters the single-leaf front door centered on the façade. A small shed has been added to the rear elevation.

According to the current owner, this building was constructed sometime before 1930. It does not appear on the 1926 Sanborn map but does show up on the 1941 update of that map. Dr. Matheson operated a medical practice here for several years. The office was segregated with separate waiting rooms for African American and white patients (Leland Strother interview, October 5, 2005).

West Elwood Avenue

South Side

McPhaul Building **113-117 West Elwood Avenue, circa 1963, Noncontributing Building**

Three store fronts occupy this one-story, brick commercial building. A full-width flat metal awning supported by slender metal posts shelters the storefronts' large plate-glass display windows and plate-glass doors. The building is typical of mid-twentieth century downtown commercial buildings.

J. W. "Buck" McPhaul constructed this building around 1963. He was a partner in the McPhaul-Williams Office Equipment Company, which sold office supplies and provided accounting services from this building. This address is not listed in the 1959 Raeford City Directory (Robert Dickson, current co-owner, interview, November 4, 2005).

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News-Journal Building 119 West Elwood Avenue, 1955, Contributing Building

One-story, light-colored brick building with plate-glass display windows and a plate-glass door. The construction date is based on clippings on file at the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

Nationwide Insurance Agency 121 West Elwood Avenue, circa 1960, Noncontributing Building

Similar to the commercial buildings at 113-117 and 119 West Elwood Avenue, this one-story brick building displays plate-glass display windows and a plate-glass door. This address was not listed in the 1959 City Directory.

Commercial Building 123 West Elwood Avenue, circa 1950, Contributing Building

One story concrete-block building with a brick façade. The upper façade features two recessed panels and a corbelled cornice. This building's original storefront has been altered with the addition of windows with fanlights and a double-leaf metal-framed door with a transom. This building does not appear on either the 1926 or the 1941 Sanborn map and oral history concerning it proved inconclusive. The city directory indicates that two feed stores, Hoke Exchange Company and FCX Store, occupied this building in 1959.

National Guard Armory 125 West Elwood Avenue, circa 1920, circa 1935, Contributing Building

Two-story, brick commercial building featuring paired one-over-one sash windows set into blind segmental arches. On the first floor, the façade is divided into three asymmetrical bays. A pair of windows with a large rectangular transom and set into a blind segmental arch occupies the easternmost bay. A deeply recessed double-leaf entry occupies the center bay and a deeply recessed single-leaf entry occupies the westernmost bay. The upper level is divided into two arched-head bays, each filled with paired windows.

Information in scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum indicates this building was constructed by the WPA in 1934, but that is incorrect based on the Sanborn maps and oral history provided by Luke McNeill. The building functioned as a National Guard Armory and later housed the county's public library. According to

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oral tradition, a skating rink and/or bowling alley may have operated here at various times. The WPA remodeled the building in the 1930s, and the 1941 Sanborn map indicates that the library shared the space with a National Youth Administration woodworking shop. In 1959, a public library occupied the first floor while the U.S. Department of Agriculture maintained offices on the second floor.

Bruce Morris Sales Stable **127 West Elwood Avenue, circa 1925, circa 1935 Contributing Building**

One-story brick commercial building with a gambrel roof that might be a historic alteration. The original storefront façade featured four bays. Modern replacement windows occupy three of those; bricks and a deeply recessed entry occupy one of the center bays. Above each bay, recessed brick panels are finished with corbelled brick cornices. Above the panels, brick has been added to increase the façade's height and accommodate the gambrel roof. A one-story, concrete-block addition stands on the west wall.

According to an article in the 2001 *News-Journal* Raeford Centennial publication, Bruce Morris opened a sales stable here in the mid-1920s but closed the business during the Great Depression. The 1926 Sanborn Map describes this building as housing "sales." The WPA renovated the building for use as county offices. According to the city directory, several government agencies occupied this building in 1959 including the county agent with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the U.S. Social Security Administration, the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Commission, the county welfare department, the Lions Club, and Boy Scouts Troop 403.

South Highland Street

East Side

J. W. and Christina McLauchlin House **111 South Highland Street, circa 1905, Contributing Building**

An imposing, two-story Neoclassical dwelling with the typically-Southern expression of the style through a full-height portico coupled with a one-story, wrap-around porch. A hip-roof main block from which gabled wings project on the side elevations compose the dwelling. Three bays constitute the façade: one-over one sash windows occupy the two outer bays and flank the double-leaf front door with beveled glazed panels and beveled-glass sidelights. The second floor's center bay also contains a double leaf door with sidelights and a broad fanlight. A pedimented portico with fluted Corinthian columns shelters the center bay and a balcony.

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The balcony features a low balustrade with turned balusters above a frieze enriched with classically-inspired garlands and festoons. Doric columns support the one-story full-width porch that wraps around the north and south elevations, terminating on both sides at projecting gable wings. The porch's south section was enclosed historically with wood casement windows. Side elevations also feature one-over-one sash. A one-story rear ell with an enclosed porch terminates at a gable-end brick chimney. Also on the rear elevation, a brick chimney flue rises on the exterior. Corbelled brick chimneys pierce the side roof slopes. On the front roof slope, gabled dormers with arched attic windows, gable returns, and decorative shingles on their side elevations, flank the portico. Matching dormers also accent the side and rear roof slopes. Modillions and dentil molding compose the building's cornice. Weatherboards cover the entire exterior. The interior features walnut and teak paneling, wainscoting, chair rails, mantelpieces, and built-in cupboards.

This house is shown on the 1926 Sanborn Map with the existing outbuildings except the school building. By 1959, Christina McFadyen McLauchlin owned the house and shared it with Neill M. and Mary V. McFadyen. Neill McFadyen was a farmer at that time. The building now houses the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

Garage

111 South Highland Street, circa 1915, Contributing Building

One-story, hip-roof building with weatherboard siding and a double-leaf, wooden garage door. Shed additions extend to the south. The garage is shown on the 1926 Sanborn map.

Outbuilding

111 South Highland Street, circa 1920, Contributing Building

One-story, front-gable building features weatherboard siding and four-over-four sash windows. The building rests on a pier foundation of concrete blocks. This building is shown on the 1926 Sanborn map.

Garage

111 South Highland Street, circa 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, gable-front building with an open entrance bay with clipped corners. German siding covers the exterior. This building is shown on the 1926 Sanborn map.

Outbuilding

111 South Highland Street, circa 1915, Contributing Building

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One-story, gable-front building with weatherboard siding and a centrally located batten door. This building is shown on the 1926 Sanborn map.

School Building

111 South Highland Street, circa 1900; circa 2000, Noncontributing Building

Turn-of-the-twentieth century school building recently moved to this site. The building features weatherboard siding, six-over-six sash windows, a batten door, and a concrete-block pier foundation. The building was originally located in rural Hoke County. Because the building was not historically an outbuilding, was not originally located in Raeford, and was not related to the McLauchlin House, it does not contribute to the historic or architectural integrity of the Raeford Historic District or the McLauchlin House property.

West Side

Will and Flora McLauchlin House

104 South Highland Street, circa 1900, Noncontributing Building

One-story cottage capped with a triple-A roof. The dwelling features a rear ell with an attached side-gable ell. A shed-roof section fills the space between the rear ell's side-gable ell and the rear of the main block. A hip-roof porch extends across the façade of the main block and across part of the façade of a side-gable addition attached to the main block's east elevation. This porch has been partially enclosed. A replacement brick flue stands on the west gable end. Vinyl siding covers the exterior and the windows are modern replacements.

Will and Flora McLauchlin probably built this house around 1900. Dewey Howell, an employee of the Raeford Furniture Company, was a later and long-time occupant. The house is shown on the 1926 Sanborn map. According to Raeford's City Directory, J. Dewey and Christina Howell lived here in 1959 (Phyllis McNeill interview, November 15, 2005).

Outbuilding

104 South Highland Street, circa 1920, Contributing Building

One-story building with a side-gable roof, weatherboard siding, a central entry, and one six-over-six sash window on the rear elevation. A small brick flue pierces the rear roof slope and plywood covers

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one gable end. This building is shown on the 1926 Sanborn map. It is similar to the one behind the B. R. and Margaret Gatlin House at 203 East Central Avenue.

House

106 South Highland Street, circa 1970, Noncontributing Building

One-story, side-gable brick Ranch house with horizontal-light windows and a gable-front porch with square posts.

Archie and Ida L. Graham House

110 South Highland Street, circa 1935, Contributing Building

One-story, L-plan brick dwelling with a steeply-pitched gable and arched attic vents. Windows contain six-over-six sash and are arranged singly, in pairs, and in tripartite compositions in which sidelights flank a single window. A brick chimney rises through the rear roof slope. The shed porch roof extends to cover the carport on the south gable end. This house is shown on the 1941 Sanborn Map; it is not shown on the 1926 Sanborn map. Archie and Ida L. Graham lived here in 1959, according to the city directory. Mr. Graham owned Graham's Service Station.

North Main Street

East Side

Vacant Lot (former site of Raeford Hotel)

Pender's Grocery

112 North Main Street, circa 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, brick commercial building with inset brick panel above the storefront and a plain flat masonry parapet. The sides of the building step toward the rear elevation and are topped with a flat masonry parapet. The storefront consists of large metal-framed display windows flanking double, metal-framed doors. A sheet of horizontal aluminum covers the transom above the storefront. Two cinderblock additions occupy the rear of the building.

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According to long-time resident, Luke McNeill, Pender's Grocery was the first occupant. By 1959, Harry's Five and Ten Cent Store was here (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005; *Hill's Raeford City Directory 1959*).

Baucom's Cash Store **114 North Main Street, circa 1925, Contributing Building**

Two-story, brick commercial building with sawtooth stepped brickwork stretching above six four-over-one sash. Brick pilasters extending from the street to the masonry-capped flat parapet frame the storefront. At the street level, the matching storefronts consist of large metal-framed display windows above brick bulkheads flanking the double-leaf entrances, which are also framed in metal. Aluminum sheathing covers the transom.

This building replaced an earlier one that was destroyed in the 1925 fire. Baucom's Cash Store occupied the building until 1943 when the Belk-Hensdale store took over the space (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005).

Raeford Furniture Company **116 North Main Street, circa 1925, Contributing Building**

Two-story, pressed brick commercial building with a corbelled cornice. Brick pilasters frame the façade. Four square recessed bays surmount a row of four second floor one-over-one sash with masonry sills. The storefront consists of two large display windows flanking a recessed double-leaf entrance. Cementitious formstone sheathes the bulkhead beneath the windows and the transom and pilasters that frame the storefront. A flat metal awning extends over the storefront and the adjacent storefront located at 118 North Main Street.

Raeford Furniture Company occupied this building for several decades after its construction. (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005)

McDiarmid's Funeral Home **118 North Main Street, circa 1925, Contributing Building**

Two-story, pressed-brick commercial building with a corbelled cornice. Brick pilasters frame the façade. Three square recessed bays surmount a row of three second-floor one-over-one sash with masonry sills. The storefront consists of a large display window and an off-center single-leaf entrance. Cementitious formstone

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sheathes the bulkhead beneath the window and the transom and pilasters that frame the storefront. A flat metal awning extends over the storefront and the adjacent storefront located at 116 North Main Street.

According to local source Luke McNeill, McDiarmid's Funeral Home occupied this building for much of the twentieth century beginning around 1929 (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005).

Farmers Furnishing Company 120 North Main Street, circa 1925, Contributing Building

Two-story, brick commercial building crowned with a cast metal cornice with modillion and dentil courses below a flat parapet with tile coping. Peaked metal window hoods crown the three four-over-four upper floor windows. The storefront has been altered and consists of large display windows and two single-leaf glass doors, all framed in metal. Metal sheathing covers the transom above the storefront.

This building served as the original location of the Bluemont Hotel. Farmer's Furnishing Company, which sold farm implements, occupied the building for much of the twentieth century. (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005)

Hoke Drug 122 North Main Street, circa 1911, Contributing Building

Two-story, brick commercial building crowned with a cast metal cornice with modillion and dentil courses below a flat parapet with tile coping. Peaked metal window hoods crown the pair of four-over-four upper floor windows. The storefront has been altered and consists of large display windows and two single-leaf glass doors, all framed in metal. Metal sheathing covers the transom above the storefront.

This building originally housed Townsend's Drug Store. In 1924 Walter Baker bought the building and renamed it Hoke Drug. This was one of the few buildings in the block to survive the 1925 fire. (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005)

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Kinlaw's Jewelry 124 North Main Street, circa 1925, Contributing Building

Diminutive, one-story brick building with brick pilasters framing the façade and a brick recessed panel above the storefront. The storefront, composed of a display window and recessed door, remains fairly intact, although the transom has been covered. A flat metal awning shelters the storefront.

A jewelry store has been located here since 1911, but the original building burned in the 1925 fire. A Mr. Stone operated a jewelry store here until 1939 when Kinlaw's Jewelry took over the space. Kinlaw's continues to operate here and is one of the town's oldest businesses.

Commercial Building 126 and 128 North Main Street, circa 1912, Contributing Building

One-story, two-part brick building with a stepped sawtooth cornice and brick pilasters that frame the replacement metal-framed glass storefronts.

The earliest known occupants of this building were Campbell's Grocery, which was located in the northern section of this building, and Cox's pool hall, which occupied the southern side. The exact date that these businesses operated is unknown. (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005)

Commercial Building 130 North Main Street, circa 1912, Noncontributing Building

One-story, brick building with altered façade. The storefront is composed of metal framed windows and doors and a metal façade that covers the upper section. No original fabric remains visible.

This building was constructed soon after the Bank of Raeford was completed. In the early part of the twentieth century, Albert Dow operated a restaurant in the building's northern half. A Western Auto store was located in the southern half in the 1930s. This building was one of a few on this block to survive the 1925 fire.

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Bank of Raeford 138 North Main Street, 1911, Contributing Building

Three-story, buff brick commercial building with a crowning cast metal cornice featuring modillion and dentil courses on the façade; the cornice originally extending to the north side elevation has been removed. The façade displays two storefronts framed by three bold brick pilasters with a plain caps. A flat metal awning (not original) shelters the metal-framed glass storefronts that date to the 1950s. Metal sheathing covers the lower half of the storefronts' windows and bulkheads, but the transoms above the awning remain exposed. A cornice separates the first floor from the upper two stories where four sets of paired nine-over-nine sash pierce each level; originally one-over-one sash filled these bays. A masonry sill runs along the bottom of each sash and a row of soldier-course bricks extends along the top of each window. A masonry keystone crowns the upper floor windows. Pilasters with masonry caps stretch from the cornice above the storefront to a projecting band of brick above the third level. A masonry sign emblazoned with "The Bank of Raeford" is centered in the flat, plain brick band crowning this elevation. The masonry parapet that carried the building's construction date has been removed and the flat parapet is topped with tile coping. The north elevation features arched-head windows on the first and second levels. The street-level bays originally contained paired one-over-one sash topped with a rectangular transom; they currently contain a fixed-sash, three-part window. The south elevation features arched-head windows on the second and third levels.

When the bank was organized in 1903 it occupied a one-story building that was the first brick building in Raeford. M. W. Dew constructed the building on the site later occupied by the Hoke Drug Company. John Blue, founder of the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad, served as the bank's first president, and John W. Moore was the first employee. Construction began on this building in 1911. The bank sited its new building prominently at the corner of North Main Street and East Elwood Avenue. Professionals rented office space and tenants occupied apartments on the building's upper floors. The town's post office occupied a portion of the building from at least 1941 to the early 1950s, but vacated in 1952. In 1952, an interior wall in the bank lobby was removed when the post office vacated. Sometime during the 1950s glass and metal doors and windows replaced the exterior's wooden doors and windows and metal panels about four feet tall were placed on the bottom section of the Main Street windows. It was during this period that the centrally-located parapet inscribed "1911" was removed. By 1959, three attorneys had offices on the upper floors, as did the State Department of Motor Vehicles drivers' license department. In 1963, part of the bank lobby was enclosed to make way for a loan department. The next year, a more thorough remodeling of the bank floor was carried out and a kitchen for staff was added. The bank vacated the building in the mid- to late-1970s. Today, the building houses offices on its upper stories and a community service organization on its main floor.

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(*News-Journal*, May 18, 1961; “The Bank of Raeford Grand Opening Celebration, September 23, 1979,” booklet; Sanborn maps, 1926 with 1941 update; *Hill’s Raeford City Directory 1959*)

North Main Street

West Side

Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad Corridor Intersecting Main Street south of East Central Avenue, 1897, Contributing Structure

The Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad corridor follows a northwest-southeast route and intersects Main Street immediately south of the Aberdeen & Rockfish Passenger Depot. Hector Smith, an A & R surveyor, plotted the line’s path in 1895, but the line was not constructed to Raeford until 1897.

Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad Passenger Depot 101 North Main Street, circa 1910, circa 1942, Contributing Building

One-story, brick building with a broad hip roof with deep eaves and concave slopes. A projection on the north elevation punctuates the otherwise rectangular footprint. A matching projection on the south elevation has been removed. One-over-one sash light the interior and are capped with stone lintels. Wide single-light transoms and double-leaf doors with horizontal panels compose the entrances. One corbelled chimney penetrates the roof. Some beaded board wainscoting and paneled doors remain on the interior.

Raeford’s Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad Passenger Depot appears on the 1926 Sanborn Map. John Blue organized the A & R in 1892, and in 1895 Blue, surveyor Hector Smith, and Dan McLaughlin laid out Raeford’s Main Street and the site for the depot. After two years of service as a short logging railroad, the company pushed east laying track through Raeford in 1897. In 1912, the line reached Fayetteville. The A & R became primarily a freight line with sidings for agricultural loading estimated at about every mile-and-a-half. One passenger train made the round trip between Aberdeen and Fayetteville daily while a mixed passenger and freight train traveled in the opposite direction from Fayetteville to Aberdeen and back. In 1942 with assistance from the WPA, local leaders renovated the depot for use as a service center for soldiers. The center held farewell ceremonies when groups of men left for service and organized dances, dinners and social functions for local soldiers and those passing through. It may have been at this time that the projecting bay and the hipped wall dormer above it were removed from the south elevation. These changes were made after 1941—the Sanborn map update of that year illustrates the projection—and before an aerial photograph of downtown

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was taken around 1958. (Clippings on file at the Raeford-Hoke Museum; company history on the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad website, accessed October 7, 2005 via http://www.aberdeen-rockfish.com/html/a_r_history.html)

Commercial Building

107 North Main Street, circa 1927, Contributing Building

Diminutive one-story, brick storefront features soldier courses framing a flat panel above plate glass display windows and a single-leaf, off-center plate glass door. An awning covers an enclosed transom.

Based on Sanborn Maps, this building was constructed after 1926 and before 1941. John K. McNeill's Raeford Wholesale business failed in the mid-1920s, at which time McNeill opened a smaller grocery store in this building. McNeill did not construct it and he moved his business out of the building around 1930. John K. McNeill's brother operated Uncle Neill's Hamburger Stand here beginning in the mid 1940s. F. H. Kosak Electric Service operated in this building in 1959, according to the Raeford City Directory. Historical information provided by Luke McNeill.

Raeford Wholesale Building

109 North Main Street, circa 1920, Contributing Building

Two-story building featuring recessed glass display windows flanked by single-leaf entries. Plate-glass windows occupy the outer bays of the storefront. Bulkheads are clad in black carrera glass. The storefront's transom has been painted. A molded wooden cornice extends across the façade above the transom. At the second-floor-level, shallow brick pilasters divide the wall into three recessed panels topped with corbelled brick cornices running between the pilasters. A full-width cornice with bricks angled to create a sawtooth pattern extends across the top edge of the façade. Three sets of paired windows, with replacement single-light sash, occupy the three panels between the pilasters. Painted cast stone creates lintels and sills.

The Raeford Wholesale Building appears on the 1926 Sanborn Map. According to clippings filed at the Raeford-Hoke Museum, an article in the *News-Journal's* 2001 Raeford Centennial publication, and an interview with John K. McNeill's son, Luke, John K. and N. A. McNeill built this store to house Raeford Wholesale, a grocery wholesaler. Israel Mann and his brother Joe acquired the building and started a men's clothing shop here in 1925. Israel bought Joe's interest in 1928, and in 1955, Mann's expanded into the original Home Food Market Building next door.

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Home Food Market Building **111 North Main Street, circa 1925, Contributing Building**

One-story brick building featuring a centered, recessed entrance flanked by plate-glass display windows with black carerra glass bulkheads. A molded wooden cornice extends along the top of the store front, above the painted-over transom. A flat sign panel occupies the space between the storefront cornice and a simple projecting course of brick that creates the building's cornice. This building was constructed before 1926 when it is illustrated on the Sanborn map. John K. McNeill Sr. and Douglas McLeod opened Home Food grocery store here around 1930. Although the building predates McNeill's grocery store, the original owner is not known. Israel Mann expanded his men's clothing store into this building around 1950.

Home Food Super Market and Pope's **113-115 North Main Street, 1954, Contributing Building**

One-story brick and concrete-block building typical of mid-twentieth century downtown commercial architecture. It features a full-width, flat metal awning, plate-glass doors, and plate-glass windows. The façade is divided into two store fronts. John K. McNeill Sr. built this building on vacant lots in 1954. In 1959, Home Food Super Market still occupied one storefront while Mack's 5¢, 10¢, and 25¢ Store occupied the other.

Warehouse
113-115 North Main Street, circa 1954, Contributing Building

Angled to parallel the rail corridor, this concrete-block warehouse building features weatherboard gable ends and dock bays with garage doors. A door with an upper glazed panel and a pair of six-over-six sash windows, along with one of the dock bays, occupy the southeast gable end.

Vacant Lot

Johnson-Thomas Building **127 North Main Street, circa 1900, circa 1955, Contributing Building**

This two-story brick building is typical of turn-of-the-twentieth century commercial districts in North Carolina. The Johnson-Thomas Building is shown on the 1926 Sanborn Map with a stair case descending at the center of the building for access to offices on the second floor. The upper level of the façade reflects this arrangement: pilasters divide the upper levels into three sections that are crowned by the corbelled cornice.

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The center panel is one bay in width while each outer panel contains two bays. Boarded-up windows at the second level are arched and feature arched, brick hoods. At the uppermost level, smaller bays are now filled with louvered vents. These openings are arched and outlined with brick hoods. In the mid-1950s, the storefront was modernized with the introduction of plate-glass windows and doors; a transom, although covered with wood, remains intact. The interior was also altered by the relocation of the central stair to the south end of the building.

The Johnson-Thomas Building can be seen in the background of a 1916 photograph at the Raeford-Hoke Museum. Articles in the *News-Journal* from July 1, 1976, and in the paper's Raeford Centennial publication refer to this building as the Johnson-Thomas Building and cite Dr. G. W. Brown as an early occupant. Brown was certified to practice medicine in the county in 1912. Brown practiced medicine on the upper floor and operated the town's first drug store. It is unclear who owned the building at that time. L. E. Reaves owned it until 1940 and ran a drug store in the ground floor. After passing through several hands, W. L. Howell took ownership and opened Howell Drug Company in 1947. Howell enlarged the store in the early 1950s when the A&P grocery store, also located in the building, moved out. When Howell enlarged the store, the stair to the second floor was removed from the center of the building and the storefront was remodeled. In 1959, Howell Drug still occupied this building according to the Raeford City Directory. At that time, the building also housed the Raeford Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star (No. 226) and the Raeford Masonic Lodge (No. 306). Some upstairs rooms were also rented to boarders (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005; Thomas Howell interview, November 15, 2005; *Hill's Raeford City Directory 1959*).

Raeford Hardware Building **129 North Main Street, circa 1915, Contributing Building**

Two-story brick building with pilasters and a corbelled brick cornice that divide the upper level of the façade into four panels, each of which is occupied by a set of paired one-over-one sash windows. The street-level façade is divided into three storefronts. The outer storefronts have been renovated and now feature full-height plate glass. Although the original center storefront has been altered with modern plate glass and plate-glass doors, it does retain its original recessed entrance. This building is not shown in the early photograph that shows the Johnson-Thomas Building next door; at that time, this lot was empty. A 1916 photograph at the Raeford-Hoke Museum and the 1926 Sanborn Map illustrate this two-story building. The Raeford Hardware Store occupied this building in 1959. Over the years this buildings has housed a variety store, Epstein Dry Goods, and Raeford Barber Shop.

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Mac's 5¢ and 10¢ Building **133 North Main Street, circa 1915, Contributing Building**

Two-story brick building that is slightly shorter than the two-story building to the south. Plate-glass windows, without an entrance, fill the original storefront opening. Windows on the second story have been boarded up, although the openings indicate they were paired windows. A pilaster divides the upper level façade and a corbelled brick cornice extends across the top of the front elevation. The 1926 Sanborn Map illustrates this building. According to the Raeford City Directory, Home Furniture Company, Inc. occupied this building in 1959 (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005).

Page Trust Building **135 North Main Street, circa 1920, Contributing Building**

Three-story brick building that remains a landmark in downtown Raeford. The North Main Street elevation is three bays wide while the West Elwood Avenue elevation spans sixteen bays. The brick building features a peaked parapet on both street elevations and each parapet is trimmed with a tripartite arrangement of flat diamond-shaped panels. A deep molded cornice extends along both street elevations. On the upper two levels, windows are a combination of original one-over-one sash and modern fixed-sash plate-glass windows. On the lower level, windows have been boarded up or replaced with plate glass but the original openings and fenestration remain intact.

The Page Trust Company was a bank that was not able to recover from the Great Depression. The bank's building is shown on the 1926 Sanborn Map. In 1959, according to the Raeford City Directory, Marcus Smith, a dentist, and Theresa's dress shop were the primary occupants on the Main Street side. Other small businesses in the building were the Bluemont Beauty Shop, Rose's Taxi Service, McNeill Cleaners and the Raeford Bargain Spot, which dealt in used clothing.

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South Main Street

East Side

Graham's Service Station

103 South Main Street, circa 1933, circa 1980s, Noncontributing Building

According to clippings filed at the Raeford-Hoke Museum, this was originally a brick Gulf station built from one of the company's standardized plans. Today, the original canopy has been removed and the building is encapsulated in enameled metal panels. A large, modern, free-standing canopy dominates the pump area in front of the building.

White Deer

On top of Graham's Service Station, 103 South Main Street, circa 1935, Contributing Structure

W. T. Covington, a farmer and former state legislator sculpted these deer in the 1930s at which time they were installed on top of the service station. They were taken down for repairs and cleaning in the 1980s but otherwise have been on top of the building since the 1930s.

West Side

Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad Power House

- - South Main Street, circa 1990, Noncontributing Building

One-story, concrete-block, side-gable building that houses railroad-related utilities.

Davis Sinclair Station

110 South Main Street, circa 1956, Contributing Building

One-story building featuring enamel panels over brick or concrete block. The original storefront section has been partially boarded up and modern doors and windows have been installed. Two garage bays occupy the south half of the façade. One bay has been boarded-up while windows and a door fill the other. The building's current owner, Leroy McDuffie, provided the estimated construction date, but was unsure of the building's

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original name. A gas station stood at this location as early as 1941. The 1959 City Directory lists Davis Sinclair Station at this location. Luke McNeill recalled "Chops" McLeod operating the station.

Sales Stable

114 South Main Street, circa 1936, Noncontributing Building

According to a 1936 newspaper clipping on file at the Raeford-Hoke Museum, the Fuller Livery stable, which stood here, was demolished and replaced by a "sales stable." This building is shown on the 1941 Sanborn Map at which time it was used for auto sales and service. The now-attached wing that extends to the north towards the back of the building was a detached building and housed restrooms in 1941. Today, the brick building retains some original metal casement windows but has been heavily altered with the application of imitation stucco. The gable-front building retains its original peaked parapet profile. Small dormers housing attic vents punctuate the north and south roof slopes. According to the 1959 City Directory, this building housed three offices: the Hoke County Chapter of the American Red Cross, Mrs. Helen S. Barrington's office (justice of the peace), and a Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company collection office.

Vacant Lot

Crawley's Fish Market

118-122 South Main Street, circa 1930, Contributing Building

Two-story, brick commercial building featuring a cornice and lintels created from brick soldier courses. The first floor is divided into a storefront composition with two plate-glass windows flanking a single-leaf, glazed door and a paneled wood door in the outer bay, probably leading to steps to the second floor. Transoms finish all the first-floor windows and doors. The upper level of the façade features two windows with replacement sash. A faded Pepsi advertisement is painted on the north exterior wall.

The 1941 Sanborn Map illustrates this building with two gas pumps standing in front. Although the original occupant is not known, one of the earliest and longest was Crawley's Fish Market. The building's second floor contained an apartment. According to the 1959 City Directory, two businesses operated from this building: Johnson Cotton Company of Raeford, Inc. and Crawley's Fish Market (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005; *Hill's Raeford City Directory 1959*).

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Gas Station

124 South Main Street, circa 1925, Contributing Building

Although it has been altered, this building is shown on the 1926 Sanborn Map with a projecting one-story section, possibly a canopy, to which an awning is attached; this section and the awning were removed before 1941. Stucco covers the exterior, except for the brick bulkheads. The original storefront has been enclosed, leaving a door flanked by two plate-glass windows with round windows in the two outer bays. In-filled transoms top the door and two windows. A plain cornice extends across the building above the windows and door and a parapet rises above this cornice. Raeford's 1959 City Directory listed Down Town Amoco at this location. An earlier owner was Lawrence Stanton who operated it as Stanton's Gulf (Luke McNeill interview, November 15, 2005; *Hill's Raeford City Directory 1959*).

Oakwood Avenue

South Side

House

304 Oakwood Avenue, circa 1910, Contributing Building

This house features an unusual composition: a one-story, hip-roof wing with an engaged porch that wraps around the wing's three sides and projects forward from a one-and-a-half-story side-gable section. A hip-roof dormer containing three windows with diamond-shaped lights is centered on the front roof slope of the hip-roof wing. Hip-roof wall dormers occupying the outer bays of the one-and-a-half-story section contain double-hung sash windows with diamond-shaped lights. Weatherboards cover the exterior and corbelled brick chimneys rise through the roof. Sidelights and a transom at the single-leaf entry, Doric columns on the front porch, and the diamond-shaped lights in the sash of all the dormers create a Queen Anne-Colonial Revival transitional dwelling.

This house is shown on the 1926 Sanborn Map. Will Lamont lived here in the early twentieth century according to Luke McNeill. Duncan G. and Pauline F. McFadyen lived here in 1959, according to the Raeford City Directory.

Garage

304 Oakwood Avenue, circa 2000, Noncontributing Building

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One-story, side-gable, three-bay, weatherboard garage.

Racket Alley

East Side

McDonald's Tire and Recapping 114 Racket Alley, 1953, 1968, Contributing Building

One-story, brick building with a flat roof and tile coping on the parapet. The north section dates to 1953 and features windows with metal bars and a garage bay on the north elevation. The roughly L-shaped south section dates to 1968, the year the business expanded its tire retailing business. Large display windows pierce the west and south elevations. A two-bay garage is located in the 1968 addition. A metal-clad addition that was recently completed is located on the building's rear.

Neill A. McDonald Jr. began managing the Auto Inn, a car repair business, in 1930. He bought the business and operated it until 1943. McDonald was also a partner in the Raeford Oil Company. In 1950, he established his tire and recapping business, and in 1953 built the original part of this building on Racket Alley. In 1968, he expanded the building to 2,800 square feet. By 1973, he discontinued the recapping service. Neil A. McDonald III took over management in 1976 ("McDonald's Tire Recapping Started Service in 1950," *News-Journal*, May 1, 1976).

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8. Statement of Significance

Summary

The Raeford Historic District meets Criterion A in the areas of Commerce, Community Planning and Development, and Transportation and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. Located in the Hoke County town of Raeford in North Carolina's Sandhills region, the locally-significant district's period of significance begins in 1897, when the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad (A&R) Corridor, the district's oldest resource, was constructed, and extends to 1956, the end of the historic period for Criterion A. Raeford is significant as a typical railroad town in the Sandhills of North Carolina displaying characteristic commercial and residential growth along a grid pattern parallel and perpendicular to the rail line. Raeford coalesced in the late nineteenth century around the Raeford Institute, founded in 1895, and the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad, which cut through the area in 1897. The town was officially chartered in 1901 with 115 residents. Raeford became the Hoke County seat in 1911 when the legislature carved Hoke from Cumberland and Robeson counties. The Raeford Historic District possesses architectural significance as a commercial and residential district containing a mix of nationally popular styles and vernacular forms common to railroad towns that developed in southeastern North Carolina at the turn of the twentieth century. Buildings in the district include Queen Anne houses and an imposing Neoclassical edifice, a circa 1910 railroad depot, and two blocks of early twentieth-century brick commercial buildings. Most of the resources date from the 1910s and 1920s, but a few post-World War II properties illustrate that agriculturally-based businesses and small town commerce sustained Raeford's prosperity into the mid-twentieth century. The Raeford Historic District encompasses sixty-three buildings and structures of which seventy-nine percent are contributing resources. Twenty percent of the district's resources are noncontributing, mostly due to construction date.

Historical Background and Commerce, Community Development, and Transportation Contexts

Hoke County is located in the Sandhills region of south-central North Carolina, just north of the South Carolina state line. While the county's topography undulates slightly, the area is generally flat and traversed by slow-moving creeks and swamps. Raeford's terrain is fairly level with a very slight downhill slope running through downtown from north to south.

In 1734, Gabriel Johnston became North Carolina's royal governor. To hasten settlement of the sparsely populated colony, he established tax exemptions for new immigrants and disseminated positive information about the colony. Johnston's promotion, combined with colonists' own writings to their friends and families in Europe persuaded thousands of people, eventually hundreds of thousands, to come to North Carolina. With such

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encouragement, Scottish settlers began arriving in Brunswick and later Wilmington, they moved up the Cape Fear River into the Cross Creek area, which became Fayetteville. After 1746 when the British defeated the Scottish Highlanders, leaving many of them landless and starving, the fleeing Highlanders followed the same route moving farther up the Cape Fear and its tributaries as land along the river filled with immigrants. By 1754, enough Scottish settlers lived in the Cape Fear region that the General Assembly created a new county from Bladen County. The general assembly, mostly comprised of men of English origins, disdainfully named the county Cumberland for William, Duke of Cumberland who had commanded the victorious British army against the Highlanders eight years earlier. As the eighteenth century progressed, more Scottish settlers pushed deeper into the Cape Fear region and began populating the part of Cumberland County that would become Hoke County. By 1787, the area's population required another county and Robeson was also created from Bladen County.¹

While these Scottish settlers occupied the land on which the town of Raeford is situated during the eighteenth century, Raeford's genesis lie in the second half of the nineteenth century. At that time, most of the people living in present-day Hoke County remained closely tied to their Scottish and Presbyterian roots despite the upheavals of the Revolutionary War, and later, the Civil War. It was these Scottish Presbyterians, long respected for their devotion to education who founded a school where Raeford now stands.

In the late 1800s Dr. Albert Picket Dickson and his wife Frances Wyatt joined with the McDiarmid family to establish a private school for their children. The school did not thrive, but around 1891, the Dicksons and other neighbors tried again. This second academy also failed, but Dr. and Mrs. Dickson, as the parents of thirteen children, remained committed to creating educational opportunities, so along with the McLaughlin and McRae families, they built a new school on five acres of land between present-day Main Street, Magnolia Street, Edinborough Avenue, and Donaldson Avenue. In September 1895, the non-sectarian, co-educational Raeford Institute opened in a substantial two-story building with two teachers. By 1898, the school's faculty included five college-educated teachers, and the catalogue portrayed the institute's location as "free from temptation to extravagance, from opportunities for misconduct and wrongdoing of every kind, and from distracting influences."² By 1906, when the school's enrollment stood at 260 students representing twelve counties and three states, the catalogue depicted Raeford as a "Scotch and Scotch-Irish settlement . . . composed almost entirely of people who have gathered here for the purpose of educating their children."³

¹ William S. Powell, *North Carolina Through Four Centuries* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989), 53 and 106; Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Eastern North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1996), 10.

² Raeford Institute, *Annual Catalogue of Raeford Institute for the Scholastic Year Ending May 20, 1898* (Sanford: Cole Steam Printing Company, 1898), 4, 6.

³ Raeford Institute, *Annual Catalogue of Raeford Institute for the Scholastic Year Ending May 8, 1906* (Sanford: Cole Printing Company, 1906), 5-6.

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At the same time the Raeford Institute was getting its start, two other events helped set the scene for Raeford's inception. One was the arrival of an Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad survey party. John Blue organized the A & R in 1892, and in 1895 Blue, surveyor Hector Smith, and Dan McLauchlin laid out the depot's location and a main street for what would become Raeford. The other formative event also occurred in 1895 when A. A. Williford and John McRae applied for a permit to operate a post office at their store, gristmill, and turpentine distillery complex on Rockfish Creek. The two men combined their names to create Raeford. Williford and McRae's post office stood about a mile away from the center of present-day Raeford, however, the name was applied to the new school, to the planned A & R depot, and to the settlement that emerged around the institute and railroad.⁴

These seminal events in Raeford's history, the establishment of a school, a post office, and the promise of rail service, occurred during the New South era when optimistic farmers, merchants, industrialists, and politicians backed the expansion of the state's existing municipalities and founded hundreds of new towns. Promoters of the New South movement championed industry, education, and transportation as the vehicles that would deliver the South from the dark days of Reconstruction and an antebellum dependence on volatile cash crops and now nonexistent slave labor. The philosophy's optimism and the era's energy, charged with humming turbines, drumming industrial looms, clanking engines, dazzling electric lights, and ringing telephones, spread along the region's railways.

In 1897, after several years of service as a short logging railroad, the Aberdeen & Rockfish pushed east to Raeford where the company had already planned a depot and main street. Presumably the railroad built its original Raeford depot, a wooden building, at that time. That year, the unofficial population in Raeford stood at twenty and only one store, J.W. McLauchlin's general merchandise, operated in the town. But the railroad's arrival signaled the start of true New South expansion in Raeford: as soon as the train arrived, businesses followed. John Guiton established Main Street's first store the same year in which the rail line was completed. More businesses opened, all in wooden buildings lining Main Street between the Raeford Institute to the north and the rail corridor to the south.⁵ On February 22, 1901, state legislators incorporated the fledgling town, encompassing about 1,400 acres

⁴ Lauchlin MacDonald, "A Rich Heritage of People and Places... Raeford, N.C." in *Raeford Centennial* (Raeford: News-Journal, 2001), 9; Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad website, accessed October 7, 2005 via http://www.aberdeen-rockfish.com/html/a_r_history.html.

⁵ Levi Branson, ed. *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory, 1897, Volume 9* (Raleigh: Levi Branson, 1897), 213; MacDonald in *Raeford Centennial*, 10.

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centered on the intersection of Main Street and Central Avenue. At the time, Raeford was home to 115 residents.⁶

In the spring of 1903, a group of Raeford merchants organized the Bank of Raeford. John Blue was elected president, and the investors purchased a lot on Main Street. With \$12,000 in capital, the Bank of Raeford opened for business on October 6, 1903 in what was the town's first brick building.⁷

In the early part of the twentieth century Raeford residents shared a confidence about the town best expressed by newspaper editor Scott Poole in a 1923 *Hoke County Journal* article. Reflecting on Raeford's early years, Poole remembered that the town "was populated by the best people, and they had pluck, and a glance at the country around told us that the town had grounds for hope, so we anchored."⁸ Many of Raeford's leaders did more than anchor. They built fine homes that represented the soaring optimism they felt about the new town and its future. B. R. and Margaret Gatlin, attracted to Raeford's educational opportunities, came to Raeford around the turn-of-the-twentieth century. After Mr. Gatlin opened a store, he and his wife built a well-detailed Queen Anne dwelling prominently sited at the corner of South Stewart Street and East Central Avenue in 1903. The Gatlin's close involvement with the Raeford Institute warranted a photograph of their dwelling in the school's 1906 catalogue. A little more removed from downtown, J. W. McLauchlin built an imposing Neoclassical home dominated by a Corinthian portico with fluted columns. Mr. McLauchlin, often described as the "Father of Hoke County" for his efforts to create the county, hired Marcus Dew to build the house for his bride, Christiana McFadyen, around 1905.⁹

With rail service, a thriving school, a bank, and stately homes, Raeford possessed almost all the components of a New South town; a cotton factory was the only missing piece, but it was not absent for long. In 1907, W. J. Upchurch and T. B. Upchurch built the Raeford Cotton Mill and mill village on the edge of town. The following year, with the mill humming and downtown commerce flourishing, the Bank of Raeford sold an additional \$3,000 worth of stock. Also in 1908, R. J. Baucom opened his store on Main Street, and in 1909, electricity came to Raeford.¹⁰

⁶ "An Act to Incorporate the Town of Raeford In Cumberland and Robeson Counties," in *Private Laws of the State of North Carolina passed by the General Assembly at its session of 1901* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton and E. M. Uzzell, State Printers and Binders, 1901), 352.

⁷ Joyce C. Monroe, *History of the Bank of Raeford* (Raeford: The Bank of Raeford, 1979), n.p.

⁸ "Raeford was Growing in 1905," *News-Journal*, April 21, 1988.

⁹ Mary King, telephone interview with Sarah Woodard David, November 4, 2005; clippings in the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum; clippings in the Hoke County Library local history vertical files.

¹⁰ Monroe, n.p.; clippings in the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

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By 1910, just nine years after the town's incorporation, the population had grown five-fold to 580.¹¹ Among the residents were druggists, farmers, blacksmiths, ministers, merchants, opticians, clerks, and doctors. Dr. Francis Juiat came to Raeford from Switzerland and married a North Carolinian named Flora Ella. Allen Fuller was a horse trader living with his wife and five children. House carpenters included Duncan Kinlaw, Neill Cameron, and building contractor Marcus Dew. Martha E. McKeithan worked as a dressmaker, making her one of the few white females employed outside her home. Her husband, Smith McKeithan, was a grocery merchant.¹²

Most African Americans worked for white families as servants, butlers, cooks, or laundresses, and unlike Raeford's Caucasian women, most of the town's African American women worked outside their homes. Dean Gilmore was a stabler while his wife and two oldest daughters, ages seventeen and nineteen, worked as cooks for white families.¹³

As Raeford grew, so did the area's desire to exercise greater autonomy. When Raeford was incorporated, its land was in the western reaches of Cumberland County not far from the northwestern edge of Robeson County. People living in these western extremes of Cumberland and Robeson counties felt isolated from their county seats. Reaching Fayetteville, the Cumberland County seat, required two days of travel to cover twenty-two miles; Lumberton, Robeson's seat, was two-and-a-half days or thirty miles away from Raeford. Agitation for a new county separate from Cumberland and Robeson counties started in 1907. Both counties fought the change, but after four years, Raeford businessman J. W. McLauchlin, Cumberland County's state senator, finally pushed an act to establish the new county through the legislature in 1911. The county's first suggested name was Glenn, but when Robert B. Glenn (governor from 1905 to 1909) declined the tribute, Hoke was chosen to honor of Confederate major general Robert F. Hoke.¹⁴

Once it became the county seat, Raeford's fortunes continued. In 1912 the Bank of Raeford opened the doors of its new three-story brick building on Main Street. The bank occupied one of two storefronts, and

¹¹ Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Thirteenth Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1910, Volume III: Population, 1910, Nebraska-Wyoming* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1913), 285.

¹² Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1910: Cumberland County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (microfilm, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh).

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer: A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968), 231; Hoke County Golden Jubilee Committee, *Souvenir Program from Hoke's Heritage* (Raeford: Hoke County Golden Jubilee Committee, 1961), 15; MacDonald in *Raeford Centennial*, 10.

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Baucom's Cash Store moved into the other. The upper floors housed offices and apartments.¹⁵ Also in 1912, the tracks of the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad reached Fayetteville.¹⁶

The Hoke County Courthouse (NR 1979), however, was the most important building constructed during this period. The county engaged the architectural firm of Milburn and Heister of Washington, D.C. to design the new building and J. A. Jones of Charlotte to serve as the project's building contractor. Frank Milburn, the principal, and later the firm he organized with Michael Heister, designed numerous courthouses in North Carolina. Bonds totaling \$57,000 financed construction and the building was finished in 1912.¹⁷ The courthouse stands north of the Raeford Historic District.

Numerous businesses opened in Raeford during the 1910s. T. D. Hatcher's jewelry store and J. A. Niven's grocery gained footholds on North Main Street, and several local businessmen organized the Raeford Savings and Loan in 1913. That same year, Raeford Institute became part of the Hoke County school system and operated as the Raeford Graded School. Raeford Graded School moved out of the former Institute buildings in 1918 at which time a new street, Campus Avenue, was cut through the property and lots were auctioned. In 1916, Raeford completed a water system, the same year Upchurch Milling Company, a grist and flour mill started by the founders of the Raeford Cotton Mill, relocated from the cotton mill to a site closer to downtown on the east side of Main Street at the railroad tracks.¹⁸

As the century wore on, Raeford continued to grow as more businesspeople and workers moved to the town. The population burgeoned to 1,235 by 1920, an increase of roughly 112% from the previous census. Among the ranks of white residents were an array of merchants, clerks, bookkeepers, railroad workers, doctors, county employees, and salesmen. Most of Raeford's African Americans were confined to positions as domestic employees or unskilled laborers. A few African Americans worked at the cotton oil mill (presumably the Hoke Oil and Fertilizer Company located on South Main Street in the vicinity of Edinborough Shopping Center), while one was a horseshoer. The 1920 census reveals that the town's house builders were primarily white, although many African Americans classified as "laborers" may have worked on area buildings. One carpenter, a white man named Eldridge Chisholm, lived with his mother and brother. The only brick mason listed in the 1920 census was Whit Monroe who lived in a seventeen-person household headed by his father-in-law, L. Bratcher. Building contractors included Marcus W. Dew, who was the town's best-known contractor, Claude V.

¹⁵ Monroe, n.p.; clippings from the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

¹⁶ The Aberdeen and Rockfish Railroad website, accessed October 7, 2005 via http://www.aberdeen-rockfish.com/html/a_r_history.html; S. David Carriker, *Railroading in the Carolina Sandhills: Volume 2: The 20th Century (1900-1985)* (Charlotte: Heritage Publishing Company, 1987), 21.

¹⁷ Hoke County Minutes of Board of County Commissioners, April 3, June 29, 1911, and August 4, 1913.

¹⁸ MacDonald in *Raeford Centennial*, 8; clippings from the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum; clippings in the Hoke County Library local history vertical files.

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Brown, and John M. McDuffie, whose household included a boarder named Louis Campbell who was a carpenter.¹⁹

In 1921, a second rail line arrived in Raeford when the Laurinburg and Southern Railroad, incorporated in 1909, purchased tracks from the A & R to create a link with Raeford.²⁰ As the 1920s continued, Raeford's downtown flourished and residential areas to the west, east, and north grew. A 1925 fire destroyed much of the east side of Main Street, but merchants rebounded quickly. The fire ruined the town's hotel, but lodgers Israel Mann and his brother, both of whom lost all their possessions in the blaze, still managed to open a men's clothing shop in the former Raeford Wholesale Building that same year.²¹

The largest building constructed after the 1925 blaze was the Bluemont Hotel, which stood on the northeast corner of North Main Street and East Central Avenue. Some of the hotel's customers may have been rail travelers, but because Raeford was not a rail hub, most of the hotel's patrons probably came from Main Street, which carried the busy north-south U.S. Highway 15 through town. The hotel attracted sportsmen and hunters. The Sandhills region had been known for hunting, as well as golfing, since the nineteenth century and a twentieth century publication noted that the hotel, called the Hotel Raeford by this time, was "very popular with tourists, on account of its excellent food, comfortable rooms and reasonable rates. This Hotel is headquarters for sportsmen for three months of the South's finest deer hunting each year."²²

By 1930, just as communities across North Carolina were starting to feel the effects of the Great Depression, the population in Raeford stood at 1,303, an increase of only 68 people since the previous census.²³ The Bank of Raeford and Page Trust Company closed during the Depression. The Bank of Raeford managed to reopen in 1933 and survived into the 1970s, but Page Trust never recovered. Although little new construction occurred in Raeford during the early 1930s, business development continued. The Johnson Company started as Johnson and McNeill in 1930 and moved to East Central Avenue in 1936. Also in 1933, Morgan Cotton Mills of Laurel Hill acquired the Raeford Cotton Mill. In November 1933, the A & R started operating a motorized "jitney" between Fayetteville and Aberdeen. Graham's Service Station opened for business the same year. The

¹⁹ Fourteenth Census of the United States, 1920: Hoke County, North Carolina, Population Schedule, National Archives, Washington, D.C. (microfilm, State Archives, Division of Archives and History, Raleigh).

²⁰ Carriker, 56 and 131.

²¹ Luke and Phyllis McNeill, interview with the author, November 15, 2005; clippings from the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

²² "Where Life is Better, Raeford, North Carolina," Pamphlet in the North Carolina Collection, UNC-CH, n.d.

²³ United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930, Population, Volume III, Part 1, Alabama-Missouri* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1932), 401.

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Raeford Theater, which showed motion pictures, opened in 1934, and around 1935, W. T. Covington sculpted the two white deer that were installed on top of Graham's Service Station.²⁴

The federal government was also active in Raeford during the Depression. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) built the new county high school, now known as Turlington School. In 1935, the WPA finished construction of the armory and the following year, they completed a ball park and playground behind the armory. The dedication game on May 14, 1936 pitted the North Carolina State Wolfpack against the Duke University Blue Devils.²⁵

By the late 1930s, recovery was in full swing. McNair Cleaners, operated by an African American family, opened on Racket Alley and Fuller Livery Stable was demolished to make way for a "sales stable." J. B. Thomas built a gas station that became McDonald's on Central Avenue, new shops opened in the Page Trust Building, and in 1939, the WPA brought the first bookmobile to Hoke County.²⁶ By 1940, 1,628 people lived in Raeford.²⁷

The United States entrance into World War II quickened the pace of the town's economic rejuvenation. With Fort Bragg occupying much of the county to the north and east of Raeford, the town was particularly active during the war years. Troops passed through Raeford on their way to Fort Bragg and other groups of men gathered in Raeford before leaving. In 1942, the A & R depot was remodeled to house the Raeford Soldiers Center, a USO-type operation where soldiers enjoyed hot meals, send-off ceremonies, and dances. While the WPA provided some assistance with creating the center, one supporter called it "strictly a Hoke County project."²⁸

Raeford participated in practice blackouts, scrap iron drives, and plane spotting, through which local residents learned to recognize enemy aircraft and manned an observation facility twenty-four hours a day. The former Raeford Cotton Mill, known by this time as Edinborough Cotton Mill, produced corded yard for the war effort and participated in employee-training under the direction of the War Man Power Commission.²⁹

Post-war prosperity, and the accompanying building boom, came quickly to Raeford. A suburban housing development called Sunset Hills opened in 1945, and in 1948, a company called American Wringer, Inc. built a plant on the outskirts of town. The plant became part of the TexElastic Corporation, the world's

²⁴ Clippings in the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum; Luke and Phyllis McNeill interview.

²⁵ Clippings in the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum; program from the ball park's dedication at the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

²⁶ Clippings in the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

²⁷ United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940, Population, Volume II, Characteristics of the Population, Part 5, New York-Oregon* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1943), 387.

²⁸ Clippings in the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

²⁹ Clippings in the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

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largest manufacturer of elastic yarns. The A & R dropped its “jitney” service between Aberdeen and Fayetteville, and in 1950, another housing development, Robbins Heights, opened. Colonial Frozen Foods Inc. established itself in Raeford shortly after World War II, but the factory was dormant by 1952 when Turkaline Farms purchased the facility. In 1953, Priebe Poultry bought the plant and announced plans to process 50,000 birds weekly. Two new downtown buildings, John K. McNeill’s Home Foods and Pope’s building and the *News-Journal* Building on Elwood Avenue were finished in 1954 and 1955 respectively. Also in the mid-1950s, Burlington Mills established Raeford Weaving and Raeford Dyeing plants.³⁰

Correspondingly, Raeford’s population multiplied. Between 1930 and 1950, the population grew by about 25% during each decade. Between 1950 and 1960, the number of people living in Raeford went from 2,030 to 3,058.³¹

Downtown Raeford remained viable and a desirable address into the 1960s. Southern National Bank built a new Modernist building on the northwest corner of Main Street and Elwood Avenue in 1963. Also in 1963, J. W. McPhaul constructed a commercial office building on Elwood Avenue, and two years later, the federal government dedicated a new post office building just across the street from the McPhaul Building.³²

During the 1960s and 1970s, however, suburban development also gained importance. Raeford made its first annexation, taking in an area along East Prospect Avenue Extension, in 1964. Annexation of the Burlington Mills facility followed in 1972. Shopping centers, including Edenborough Shopping Center, new schools, new Hoke County office buildings, subdivisions and new churches pulled some of the economic, social, and governmental appeal away from downtown. Studies aimed at setting a course towards downtown revitalization recommended infill, appearance improvements, and methods for handling traffic in 1962 and 1979, but little action was taken and suburban growth continued drawing commerce away from downtown.³³ In 2004 and 2005, however, the City of Raeford has undertaken an extensive beautification project to improve downtown’s appearance and spark building owners to undertake their own renovation projects.

³⁰ Clippings in the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

³¹ United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *United States Census of Population, 1950, Number of Inhabitants: North Carolina* (Washington, D.C.: United States Government Printing Office, 1951), 33-15; United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, *United States Census of Population, 1960, General Social and Economic Characteristics, North Carolina, Final Report* (Washington, D.C.: 1961), 3-157.

³² Clippings in the scrapbooks at the Raeford-Hoke Museum.

³³ Unidentified newspaper clipping in the Hoke County Library local history vertical files; North Carolina Division of Community Planning, *Raeford, North Carolina: Central Business District Study* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, Division of Community Planning, 1962); *Fayetteville Observer and Fayetteville Times*, September 30, 1973; Townscape, Inc., *The Revitalization of Downtown Raeford* (Raleigh: Townscape, Inc., 1979).

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Architectural Context

The buildings in the Raeford Historic District represent the architectural styles and forms that occurred in Raeford and throughout south-central North Carolina from the late nineteenth century to the post-World War II period. During this time, architecture reflected the social and economic changes occurring as Raeford transformed from a railroad stop with a thriving school—the Raeford Institute—to a bustling agriculture-based commercial center and later to a small town home for local industrial employees and a few remaining farmers.

Most of the buildings in the Raeford Historic District were constructed around the turn-of-the-twentieth century. Marcus W. Dew is the town's best-known building contractor from the early twentieth century. Mr. Dew was the contractor for Raeford's finest residences, including the J. W. McLauchlin House and the Hallie and Margaret Gatlin House, as well as for the Raeford Methodist Church. Men listed in the 1910 census as house carpenters included Duncan Kinlaw, Neill Cameron, and George Carr. No brick mason lived in Raeford at that time. By 1920, John M. McDuffie and Claude V. Brown had established themselves in Raeford as building contractors and a host of other carpenters made their homes in Raeford. Louis Campbell, a boarder at John McDuffie's house, John L. McLeod, and Eldridge Chisholm all worked as house carpenters. Whit Monroe was one of the first brick masons to live in Raeford.

The oldest resource in the Raeford Historic District is the Aberdeen & Rockfish Rail Corridor; the earliest buildings in the Raeford Historic District date from the turn-of-the-twentieth century. The Kritt McNeill House and the Will and Flora McLauchlin House, both on East Central Avenue were constructed around 1900. The Will and Flora McLauchlin House is a triple-A cottage, while the Kritt McNeill House is a one-story dwelling with multiple gables and a wrap-around porch with turned posts and a turned balustrade. The two-story commercial building at 112 East Elwood Avenue built in 1904 is the district's oldest commercial building.

Most of the resources in the Raeford Historic District are commercial buildings with stylistic expressions ranging from Italianate, to Neoclassical and Colonial Revival, to simplified post-World War II stores and offices. The commercial buildings in the historic district, particularly those in the 100 block of North Main Street, are the second generation of stores and offices. Raeford's first generation consisted of one-story, gable-front wooden structures. Several fires in the early twentieth century, as well as a desire for more substantial buildings befitting Raeford's increasing prosperity destroyed all of these early buildings. The last wooden commercial building, the Moore Building, was torn down in February 1944.

Raeford's commercial and institutional buildings represent the urban growth that even small towns experienced in North Carolina during the 1910s and 1920s. These buildings tell the story of the wealth and prosperity Raeford enjoyed and illustrate the town's connection to the wider world where similar commercial buildings were also going up. The Johnson-Thomas Building at 127 North Main Street and the Hoke Drug building and Farmers Furnishing Company buildings across the street at 120-122 North Main Street both exhibit typical turn-of-the-twentieth-century designs. Arched window openings and a façade divided into recessed

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panels by pilasters distinguish the Johnson-Thomas Building while the drug store and Farmers Furnishing Company buildings feature peaked metal window hoods and a metal cornice. The three-story Bank of Raeford Building combines a classically-inspired cornice with stylized pilaster capitals while the Hoke County Courthouse presents a stately Classical Revival façade to the street. The Aberdeen & Rockfish Depot displays the flared roof, deep eaves, and fenestration typical of depots built all across the state in the 1910s.

The district's gas stations, built in the 1930s and 1950s represent the rising importance of automobiles during this period. Graham's Service Station occupies the space between East Central Avenue and the railroad corridor while Davis Sinclair Station is situated just south of the tracks. Although Graham's has been altered, the locations of both create an effective juxtaposition between the fading importance of the railroad and the growing importance of highway travel. McDonald's Esso Station is also located in the district on East Central Avenue.

During the 1950s, a number of new buildings went up in the Raeford Historic District. With the exception of Morgan Motors Company and the Johnson Company Building, both on East Central Avenue, these were the first new buildings constructed in downtown Raeford in twenty years. Their construction, in the face of increasing suburban development, illustrate that central Raeford maintained a commercial attraction and stability that could not yet be matched beyond downtown's grid.

The houses in the Raeford Historic District, like the commercial buildings, reflect the town's success and design sensibility. Raeford, like many railroad towns in North Carolina, was born during the New South era's excitement, boosterism, and can-do spirit. As a result, most of the dwellings in the Raeford Historic District display the occupants' prosperity and the availability of mass-produced ornament. Raeford was and is home to a number of exuberant Queen Anne designs, but the Historic District features one of particular note. B. R. and Margaret Gatlin's 1903 dwelling is a collection of Queen Anne sawnwork, spindlework, and decorative shingles assembled into a two-story, corner-facing dwelling capped with a square tower originally pierced with stained glass windows. The Kritt McNeill House and the Hallie and Margaret Gatlin House display more restrained Queen Anne features.

Just two years later, however, the McLauchlin family moved away from Queen Anne designs and constructed a Neoclassical residence dominated by a pedimented portico. On East Central Avenue, J.W. Johnson built a classically-inspired house, but maintained closer ties to the Queen Anne style by incorporating polygonal bays, decorative shingles, and asymmetrical massing. On Oakwood Avenue, a builder combined Colonial Revival and Queen Anne elements including diamond-shaped window panes and Doric columns into a house built around 1910. Back on East Central Avenue, Julian Johnson built a house in the 1920s. Following national trends, the Johnsons dropped the Queen Anne references that Julian's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Johnson had incorporated next door and constructed a two-story dwelling that draws most of its stylistic expression from the Craftsman style.

The Raeford Historic District remains one of the most intact, railroad-centered town centers in

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south-central North Carolina. Comparable historic districts in the region include the Maxton Historic District (NR 1999) in the town of Maxton located in neighboring Robeson County. The district contains a mix of commercial, residential, institutional, and rail-related resources dating from the mid-nineteenth century to the 1940s. Maxton owes its origins to the Wilmington, Charlotte, and Rutherford Railroad, which came through in 1862.

Red Springs, also in Robeson County, grew up along the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley Railroad. Incorporated in 1896, the town contains a small commercial district of one-and two-story brick buildings surrounded by historic residential neighborhoods.

Aberdeen, in adjacent Moore County, boasts a fine collection railroad-related buildings and a compact historic district (NR 1989) dating from the first decades of the twentieth century. The town served as a manufacturing and shipping hub for timber and turpentine. The Aberdeen Union Station, built in 1905, is a red and tan brick building with deep eaves. Commercial buildings include the 1906 Bank of Aberdeen constructed with Romanesque Revival elements. One of the more notable houses in town is the one designed by architect Charles C. Hook for John Blue (NR 1982), founder of the Aberdeen & Rockfish Railroad. The circa 1888 Southern Colonial Revival style house was remodeled in 1903.³⁴

³⁴ Catherine W. Bishir and Michael T. Southern, *A Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2003), 274-275.

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10. Geographical Data

UTM References

5. 17	662040	3871780	6. 17	661860	3872040
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Verbal Boundary Description

The Raeford Historic District boundary is marked with a black line on the accompanying map drawn to a scale of 1"=100'.

Boundary Justification

The Raeford Historic District bounds are based on the edges of the greatest concentration of historic resources dating from the period of significance in Raeford's downtown commercial district and in a residential area along East Central Avenue that developed concurrent with the commercial district. The boundary does not include a group of historic commercial and institutional buildings to the north because they are separated from the district by several vacant lots. Historic residential neighborhoods to the west and east are excluded because they are separated from the central business district by vacant lots and resources that would be considered noncontributing.