

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 West Main Street Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 200-300 blocks West Main Street and 114 North High Street N/A not for publication

city or town Lincolnton N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Lincoln code 109 Zip code 28092

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Jeffrey Crow SHPD
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/18/02
Date

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

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

West Main Street H.D.

Name of Property

Lincoln Co., NC

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Choose as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Choose only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values range from 0 to 18.

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
COMMERCE/professional

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
COMMERCE/business
EDUCATION/library

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Federal
Greek Revival
Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick
walls Wood
Brick
roof Asphalt
other Wood
Brick

Narrative Description

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

West Main Street H.D.

Name of Property

Lincoln Co., NC

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1819-ca. 1945

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

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National Park Service

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West Main Street Historic District
Lincoln County, North Carolina

DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification

Bungalow
Other: Period Cottage

Materials

Roof: Metal
Other: Stucco

Narrative Description

The West Main Street Historic District is a two-block-long, primarily residential area located one block west of Lincoln County's courthouse square in Lincolnton. The linear district encompasses the tree-lined 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street (NC 27/NC 150) and 114 North High Street and is roughly bounded on the east by Government Street, on the west by Grove Street, on the north by West Sycamore Street, and on the south by West Water Street. Most lots in the district run through the block from West Main Street to West Sycamore Street on the north or West Water Street on the south. The exceptions are 201 West Main Street at the east end of the district, and 323, 324, 329, and 330 West Main Street at the west end of the district. In these cases the lots run approximately halfway through the block. The district boundaries were chosen to encompass the most cohesive collection of pre-Civil War houses in Lincolnton, complemented by other nineteenth and early-twentieth-century houses.

The district is physically distinguished from its surroundings. To the east are governmental and commercial buildings, as well as First Presbyterian Church, already listed in the National Register. To the west, beyond the intersection with Grove Street and slightly downhill, West Main Street splits into West Main Street Extension and Riverside Drive with an automobile service station located in the V formed by the split. At the split, Riverside Drive becomes the primary artery, the continuation of NC 27/NC 150, and is characterized by gas stations, vacant land, and small commercial establishments. West Main Street Extension begins with a vacant lot, followed by the Paysour-Seagle House, a mid-nineteenth-century dwelling heavily remodeled—presumably in the 1920s—which was moved from its original site at the corner, leaving the corner vacant. Beyond the Paysour-Seagle House, West Main Street Extension becomes a quiet street with a combination of vacant lots and small early-to-mid twentieth-century houses.

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Thus, Grove Street provides a significant demarcation between the character of the district and what lies beyond it to the west. On the north side of the district, the houses along West Sycamore Street are simple bungalows and other houses from the first half of the twentieth century with a totally different character from the houses along West Main Street. While modest late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century houses predominate northward along North Grove Street and one- and two-story houses primarily from the 1920s line North High Street, both of these areas seem detached from West Main Street and its historic character, forming their own neighborhoods. South of the district, along West Water Street, is mostly vacant land or buildings incongruous with the historic character of the district. There is one potentially compatible house, age-wise, at 211 West Water Street, but it has been heavily remodeled with replacement materials and appears physically isolated from the district.

The West Main Street Historic District contains a total of twenty-six resources, all but one of which are buildings. The exception is one structure, an open carport, at 208 West Main Street. While only sixty-nine percent of all resources contribute to the historic and architectural character of the district, this number is deceptive, for five of the eight non-contributing resources are domestic outbuildings (garages, carport, shed) that have little impact on the integrity of the district. The remaining non-contributing resources are three one-story brick buildings, including two commercial buildings and the public library, erected between ca. 1968 and ca. 1980. Of the eighteen primary resources in the district, eighty-three percent contribute to its historic and architectural character. The district also contains two vacant lots, both originally house sites, and parking areas associated with the two commercial buildings and the library.

The 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street were laid out as part of the original town plan of Lincolnton dating to the 1780s. Originally, each side of the 200 block was divided into four lots (#4-7) of equal size, while each side of the 300 block was laid out in five lots (#8-12) of equal size. Today, this arrangement remains partially intact, and can be seen most clearly on the south side of the street in lots five through ten (vacant lot through 315 West Main) and on the north side of the street in lot four (202-206 West Main). Although for the rest of the district the lot lines have been revised—due to the combining of lots, the division of lots, or the rearrangement of lots—in most instances the original lot structure can still be discerned.

In part of the district there is a strong consistency in the placement of buildings in relationship to the street and/or to each other. In other places, these relationships differ, due in part to development factors. Topography, as well, affects the placement of the district's buildings relative to the street. In the 300 block, West Main Street slopes downward to the west. The buildings, however, remain at the same level as those located farther east, so that those at the west end of the block sit well above street level with a concrete retaining wall. Along the north side of the West Main Street, all buildings except the library (306) are aligned close to the sidewalk in an urban manner. The placement of the library farther

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back from the street helps to minimize its impact on the streetscape, since this one-story, 1975 building is the largest in the district and consumes, along with its garden on the west side and its parking area on the north side, original lots eight, nine, and ten. The first three buildings on the north side of the street (202, 206, and 208) are closely spaced in relationship to each other, in part because 202 and 206 were built on the same lot. A gap separates 208 from the next building, 218, because of the move in the late 1960s of 222 from its original location (at 214) to its present location. Also because of this move, 218 through 226 are closely spaced, with 222 and 228 situated on the same lot. While the house at 330 West Main is set in the center of its lot (east-west), the house at 324 is positioned close to its east lot line, leaving more than the usual space between these two houses. The house at 114 North High Street is located behind the house at 226 West Main on what was originally the north half of lot seven, but even though this lot was split, the two parts were and still are owned by the same family. A little more diversity is found in the placement of buildings on the south side of the street. The houses at 201, 301, 315, and 329 all are aligned close to the sidewalk. The houses at 217 and 309 are situated slightly back from this alignment, as is the ca. 1980 commercial building at 323 West Main. Set farthest back on its lot with a terraced lawn is the house at 223 West Main. This is because it was built to replace another house on the lot, which was located close to the sidewalk and which remained in use while the new house was under construction ca. 1925. There is fairly even spacing between the houses on the south side of West Main Street, except that there is a large gap between 201 and 217 due to the demolition in the 1920s of the house that stood on lot five between them. Large trees lining either side of the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street help to unite the district visually, even with the gaps and irregularities in set-back and placement of the buildings in relationship to each other.

The buildings in the district present a domestic scale; that is, there are no buildings taller than two stories. While there are several buildings of relatively diminutive size (206, 208, and 222), there are no houses that are over-scaled. Only the library is considerably larger than the other buildings in the district, and its one-story height and use of Colonial Revival detailing help to integrate it better into the fabric of the district. Of the fifteen primary buildings erected during the district's period of significance (ca. 1819-ca. 1941), two thirds are one-and-a-half or two-stories in height, while one third are one story. Among these same buildings, seventy-seven percent are of frame construction and twenty-three percent are brick. Eight of the frame houses are currently sheathed with vinyl or aluminum siding. All three of the buildings erected after the period of significance are brick.

Decorative details are generally modest and are executed, for the most part, in the same material as the main body of the building. Detailing is consistent with the periods and styles in which the buildings were erected. Classical details predominate, and include classical porches and pilasters, cornices and pediments, and molded window and door surrounds.

During the district's period of significance, ca. 1819-ca. 1941, buildings clearly representing five

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architectural styles—ranging from the Federal to the period cottage—were erected, along with buildings where styles were mixed and simple vernacular structures. The styles are spread throughout the district, so that an obvious developmental pattern is not apparent. Of the fifteen primary buildings that contribute to the historical and architectural character of the district, approximately half date from the nineteenth century; the remaining date from the first half of the twentieth century.

Several buildings serve to illustrate well the architectural styles found in the district. One of the earliest houses in the district is also one of the finest. Shadow Lawn (NR 1972), at 301 West Main Street, was erected in 1826 in the Federal style. It is a two-story-with-raised-basement brick house laid in Flemish bond with brick stringcourses defining the floor levels and a molded brick cornice across front and rear. A single brick chimney rises at the east end of the house, while a pair of chimneys are at the west end. Although the front entrance has been altered, the symmetrical five-bay facade retains its nine-over-nine sash windows headed by brick flat arches. The house is capped by a gable roof with flush eaves. A block east and across the street, the Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House (202), built ca. 1819 and remodeled ca. 1850, retains a substantial amount of Federal style detailing, although most of it is on the interior. On the exterior, the house possesses Federal-period beaded-edge weatherboards on the facade, while the nine-over-six sash windows have Federal-style molded surrounds and sills. The facade also retains evidence of having had a pair of front entrances—a late-eighteenth-early-nineteenth-century characteristic—although one of these has been converted to a window. Stylistically transitional, the Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House also exhibits strong Greek Revival elements that, again, are seen primarily on the interior. On the exterior, the low hipped roof with overhanging boxed eaves and paneled frieze gives evidence of the later style.

The most fully developed of the houses exhibiting Greek Revival influence is the temple-form William H. Michal House (222), erected ca. 1854 at the height of Greek Revival popularity in the Piedmont. Though small, the house boldly proclaims its style through the use of a front-facing pedimented-gable roof with boxed and molded eaves, a recessed front porch supported by square-in-section tapered posts with molded caps, a flush-sheathed porch wall, and a central entrance with transom and fluted surrounds with cornerblocks. Greek Revival detailing continues on the interior. A striking, but unusual, example of the Greek Revival style is the Houser-Hildebrand-Burgin House (329) at the west end of the district. Built ca. 1842, the two-story house has a brick first story and a frame second story which projects beyond the first story of the facade to create an engaged porch. Stuccoed-brick classical porch posts support the projecting second story and are repeated on the second-story facade in the form of classical wood pilasters that reach to the roof cornice. Typical of the style, the central entrance is flanked by sidelights and transom.

There is an absence of a strong Queen Anne-style component in the district. However, it is noticeably hinted at in the decorative sawnwork front porch of the nineteenth-century Weaver-Sherrill-

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Wilkey-Burgin House (324). It is also suggested in the irregular form, if not in the details, of the one-story house at 330 West Main Street as well as in the two-story Marcus H. Hoyle House (226) and Saine-Rudisill House (217), all dating from the early twentieth century.

The only bungalow in the district is the Kent C. Turbyfill House at 201 West Main Street. The one-story brick house with central low hipped roof features intersecting gabled porches with heavy brick posts and bungalow-style windows. It was built in the mid-1920s.

The Colonial Revival style is most clearly represented in two frame houses from the 1920s—the Robert Steve Reinhardt House, built ca. 1925 at 224 West Main Street, and the 1928 Sheldon M. Roper House at 114 North High Street. The two-story Reinhardt House is typically symmetrical. It has a low hipped roof with widely overhanging boxed eaves supported by paired brackets, a three-bay facade with grouped twelve-over-one and nine-over-one sash windows, and a central entrance porch with a flat roof and triple Tuscan columns at each corner. Characteristic of many Colonial Revival houses from the 1920s, the Reinhardt House has a one-story sun room on the east side of the house, balanced by a one-story porch on the west side. The main body of the Roper House is two stories, but it is more modest in feeling than the Reinhardt House because of the design of its roof, which appears to be the steep side-gable roof of a one-and-a-half-story house with full-length shed dormers projecting from the front and rear roof slopes. Among other things, this gives the first story of the facade the appearance of having a pent eave. The central entrance of the symmetrical facade is sheltered by a segmental-arched hood supported by Tuscan columns. The Colonial Revival influence can also be seen in the detailing of other houses in the district, such as the porches with roof decks of the Hoyle House (226) and the Jacob Bisaner House (315).

The youngest house in the district is the Charles Hoover, Jr., House, built ca. 1941 at 309 West Main Street. It is a one-and-a-half-story, tapestry-brick period cottage of characteristic asymmetrical design. Defining features include its picturesque front chimney and its corner porch with gabled roof and round-arched openings echoed by the gabled front entrance with its round-arched opening and round-arched door.

None of the buildings erected during the district's period of significance had architects and/or builders who have been identified. The closest to such an identification comes with the Reinhardt House (223), which family history relates was designed by a Charlotte architect. However, the name of the architect remains unidentified.

While much of the district maintains its appearance from the period of significance, there have also been changes. Several houses built during the period of significance replaced earlier houses. These include 201, 223, 226, and 309 West Main Street. Another house, which had been located between present-day 201 and 217 West Main, was demolished in the 1920s. The circumstances of its demolition are not known. Several other changes affected the district after its period of significance. The William

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H. Michal House was moved from its original location just west of the Robert M. Michal House at 208 West Main to its present site at 222 West Main in the late 1960s. Around the same time, the Seagle-Boger House, which had stood just west of the original site of the William H. Michal House, was demolished and replaced by the non-contributing commercial building at 218 West Main Street. When the non-contributing Lincoln County Public Library was built in 1975, it—along with its accompanying garden—replaced two nineteenth-century houses, one of which was the Samuel P. Simpson House. And lastly, the one-story, non-contributing commercial building located at 323 West Main Street replaced a nineteenth-century two-story house when it was erected ca. 1980.

Even with these changes, particularly those made after the close of the period of significance ca. 1941, along with the addition of vinyl siding to some of the frame houses, the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street still present a concentrated view of historically significant Lincolnton housing from the early nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. Some of the best local examples of the Federal and Greek Revival styles are found in the district, complemented by solid representatives of later styles. With eighty-three percent of the district's primary resources contributing to the historic and architectural character of the West Main Street Historic District, it retains sufficient integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to merit listing in the National Register.

Inventory List

The following inventory list provides basic information on all properties in the West Main Street Historic District, including each property's name, location, date of construction, contributing or non-contributing status, and summary of its physical character and known history. Historic names—based on the first known owner or use of a building or on a building's most historically significant owner or owners—are used whenever possible. Resources—buildings, sites, structures, or objects—which were built during the period of significance and have sufficient integrity contribute to the significance of the district. Those resources which post-date the period of significance or have been significantly altered are non-contributing resources. Listings for vacant lots indicate current usage; while they are included in the inventory list, they are not counted as contributing or non-contributing resources.

Information in the inventory is based on a combination of the on-site survey conducted in March, 2002, and on research with a variety of documentary resources. The following resources were most helpful. In parentheses after each is its abbreviated designation, which is used at the end of each inventory list entry for which it was used. Full citations are given in the nomination bibliography. Research notes prepared by Ann M. Dellinger were invaluable in understanding many of the properties in the district, particularly those in the 200 block of West Main Street. Her notes cite the particular sources

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she used, such as deeds, wills, census records, interviews, newspaper articles, marriage licenses, death certificates, and other documents. These notes are included in the district files (Dellinger). Other helpful resources included: Marvin Brown, 's *Our Enduring Past* (Brown); Sanborn Maps (SM); City Directories (CD); *Lincoln County Heritage* (Heritage); Jason Harpe's *Images of America: Lincoln County, North Carolina* (Harpe); and the author's interview with Lee and Madeline Elmore (Elmore). These are in addition to materials previously included in the State Historic Preservation Office's survey files for the district area.

The inventory follows this sequence: properties on the north side of the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street, moving east to west; properties on the south side of the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street, moving east to west; and 114 North High Street. All properties are keyed by their street address to the district map.

WEST MAIN STREET - North Side

Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House

Contributing building

202 West Main Street
ca. 1819; ca. 1850

In 1806 Conrad Michal purchased this lot (lot four, northwest square) for \$80. In 1819 the Town Commissioners conveyed an additional two feet fronting lot four to him, noting that Michal was then living on the lot. The 1820 tax listing shows not only that Michal owned lot four, but also that it was assessed at \$750. By this time, he also owned lots five, six, and seven, each with a value of \$100. In 1825 Conrad Michal, who had moved to South Carolina, sold lot four and half of lot five to his son, John Michal, for \$850. In 1841 John Michal was forced to sell his home on West Main Street in order to satisfy the claims of his creditors. The house passed to John Hoke, one of the owners of the early-nineteenth-century cotton mill at Laboratory, but after his death in 1845, the property was sold in 1847 to Zephaniah Butt, a physician. The amount and sophistication of the house's Federal style detailing, along with documentary evidence, suggest that it was probably erected by Conrad Michal in the 1810s. It is possible, however, that it was not built until the 1820s by John Michal. It is likely that Dr. Butt was responsible for the Greek Revival modifications to the house. In 1850, he took out a \$1,000 policy from the North Carolina Mutual Insurance Company to cover his dwelling (\$800) and household furniture (\$200). The policy described the house as being at this location and as being wood, in good repair, 36 x 40 feet, two story, with an ell measuring 16 x 45 feet, two chimneys, four fireplaces, and a cook stove in the kitchen. In 1857 Dr. Butt sold his house and lot four to Martin L. Brown, another physician, for

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\$2,500. According to an 1889 article in the *Lincoln Courier*, Dr. Butt, who had been one of Lincolnton's most successful physicians, moved to Florida in 1860. A year before his purchase of the property, Dr. Brown married Catherine E. Bost, and the couple had two daughters—Violet and Lily. Although Martin Brown died in 1876, the house has remained in the ownership and occupancy of his descendants. In 1884 Violet Brown married physician John M. Pressly, but he died seven years later at the age of only thirty-one. Violet Brown Pressly survived until 1922; the Presslys' granddaughter is the current owner of the house. The Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House is a nearly square, two-story, frame dwelling with a stone foundation, a low hipped roof, a hip-roofed front porch, and a one-story gable-roofed rear ell set on a brick foundation. The two sides and rear of the house are sheathed in plain weatherboarding, while the facade has beaded weatherboards. The roof features an overhanging boxed cornice with a distinctive paneled frieze. An interior chimney rises from the west side of the house; it is stuccoed and unusually decorative with tall arched panels and a dentiled cap. Windows on the two-story portion of the house are nine-over-six sash with molded surrounds, and most retain their wood louvered shutters. The symmetrical four-bay facade originally had two side-by-side entrances in the center—like the late-eighteenth-century Woodside, located just west of Lincolnton—but at some point, the west door was converted to a window. Although the present front porch is classical in style, with square-in-section tapered posts with molded bases and caps, it dates from post 1900, when turn-of-the-century photographs of the streetscape show the house with slender, perhaps latticed posts with fancy sawnwork brackets and a turned or sawnwork balustrade. While the house had a rear ell from at least 1850, the present ell dates from ca. 1921, when Violet Brown Pressly had it built. (This may also be when the house acquired its present porch.) The interior retains much of its original Federal-period detailing, but also some Greek Revival ornamentation, and there is a substantial amount of wood-grained woodwork. Behind the house, a low stone wall stretches along North Government Street to West Sycamore Street. Running parallel to the stone wall, but just west of the house, is a long grape arbor which, according to one tradition (but not verified), is at least a century old. (Dellinger, Brown, Harpe, SM)

Doctors' Office
206 West Main Street
ca. 1850

Contributing building

Located on the same lot with the Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House, this small, weatherboarded frame building is believed to have been built ca. 1850 by Dr. Zephaniah Butt for his medical office. Historically, its primary use was as a doctor's office. Throughout the second half of the nineteenth century, the building was used successively by Dr. Butt, Dr. Martin L. Brown, and Dr. John Pressly, who all resided in the adjacent two-story house (202 West Main Street). A very brief interlude came in 1879, after Dr.

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Brown's death and before Dr. Pressly's occupancy, when John Connor used the building as a barber shop. From around 1900 to 1906, when he began construction on his hospital on South Aspen Street, Dr. Lester A. Crowell, Sr. used the building as his medical office. During those years, he lived farther west on the block in the Seagle-Boger House (destroyed), which he rented. After Dr. Crowell's occupancy, the building was used for half a century as a rental dwelling. Since the late 1950s, it has been occupied by various offices. The one-story building has a tall brick-pier foundation and front-gable roof which encompasses an engaged front porch. The pedimented gable is flush-sheathed and has vertical stiles suggesting paneling; along with the classical posts at each corner of the porch, it gives the building a temple-form appearance. However, Sanborn Maps do not indicate the presence of a porch on the building until 1906. (However, even if the building actually had no porch until ca. 1905, its form suggests the likelihood that it had a pedimented gable end.) Beneath the porch, the facade is consumed with a central six-panel door with three-light transom and flanking large, nine-over-six, sash windows with molded surrounds. The rear of the building has a single nine-over-nine sash window. The one-over-one sash windows on the east elevation probably date from the conversion of the house to a residence in the twentieth century. Sanborn Maps show that the side ell at the rear of the house was added between 1921 and 1929. It contained a kitchen. Like the Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House, the Doctors' Office has been in the same family ownership since 1857, when Dr. Brown purchased the property. (Dellinger, SM, Brown)

Robert M. Michal House
208 West Main Street
ca. 1880

Contributing building

Sanborn Maps show that a house of the present configuration has been on this site since at least 1885. It may have served initially as the home of Annie Michal and Thomas H. Hoke, who married in November, 1879. Their listing in the 1880 census suggests that they were living adjacent to her parents, William H. and Isabella (Ramsour) Michal at that time. Nevertheless, the Hokes soon moved to a house on the south side of the 200 block of West Main Street (lot five, southwest square), which had been conveyed to them by Annie's parents on August 31, 1880. Later, the house at 208 West Main Street was associated primarily with Annie Michal Hoke's younger brother, Robert M. Michal, who never married. A 1943 deed refers to the house as "the cottage occupied for many years as his home by the late R. M. Michal." Since 1965, the house has been owned and occupied by members of the Fitzhugh J. Costner family. The Robert M Michal House is a one-story-with-basement frame dwelling, now covered with vinyl siding. It has a front-gable roof, a front entrance with a gabled hood at the east end of the facade, and an engaged porch halfway along the west elevation. Prior to 1941, the porch extended farther to the north with a

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smaller enclosed area at the north end. Mid-twentieth-century ironwork forms the porch posts and railing. The brick basement once held a garage and has door and window openings. A small garden patio is located immediately west of the house. (Dellinger, SM)

Carport

Non-contributing structure

Behind the house is a two-bay, pole-frame, modern carport with a shed roof built after the mid-twentieth century.

Vacant Lot

A vacant lot stands between the buildings at 208 and 218 West Main Street. It is well maintained as a lawn with a variety of trees and English ivy along the sidewalk. This was the original location of the William H. Michal House, which was moved to its present site at 222 West Main Street in the late 1960s. The lot is now under the same ownership as 218 West Main Street.

Office Building

Non-contributing building

218 West Main Street
ca. 1968

The nineteenth-century Seagle-Boger House was demolished in 1967 for the construction of this one-story-with-lower-level brick office building. Although the building is obviously a twentieth-century structure, its design—with broad front pedimented gable and front classical pilasters—was intended as a sensitive addition to the streetscape. A full-length, two-tier, shed-roofed porch along the east side of the building provides entrance to the offices. A driveway on the east side of the building leads to a small parking area at the rear. (CD)

William H. Michal House

Contributing building

222 West Main Street
ca. 1854

Originally located at 214 West Main Street, the William H. Michal House was moved west to its present location between 218 and 226 West Main Street in the late 1960s by Sheldon M. Roper (see 114 North High Street) for use as a law office. Successful Lincolnton businessman William H. Michal (1821-1894) acquired lot five in Lincolnton's northwest square in two transactions: the west half in 1850 and the east

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half in 1854. He had married by 1853 and probably built his house soon after obtaining title to the entire lot the following year. In his 1890 will, Michal left the family home to his oldest daughter, Sallie, who, like two of his other children, never married. Nevertheless, the 1900 census shows that after William H. Michal died in 1894, his second oldest daughter, Annie Michal Hoke—a widow with two children—left her residence on the south side of West Main Street and moved back to the Michal family home, where she became head of household. In later deeds, this house was referred to as "the old homeplace of the late Annie M. Hoke," and as the "Michal and Annie M. Hoke homeplace." The Michal House is a one-story, weatherboarded frame, temple-form Greek Revival dwelling. Its front-gable roof has a boxed and molded cornice and forms a pediment over the engaged full-facade porch, which is supported by classical posts. The wall of the porch is flush-sheathed, a typical period refinement. Although the side windows have plain surrounds, the front windows have molded surrounds and the front door with transom has fluted surrounds with cornerblocks. The original window sash were replaced, probably during the late nineteenth century, with two-over-two sash. The windows retain wood louvered shutters. Only the front, four-room section of the house was moved in the late 1960s; the long rear ell with east-side porch and the basement rooms were not. The house is currently used as a rental dwelling. (Dellinger)

Marcus H. Hoyle House

226 West Main Street
1918

Contributing building

When Marcus Hoke Hoyle (1875-1950) married Georgia Caroline Miller (1880-1968) in 1897, they built a Queen Anne-style-influenced home in Lincoln County. In 1918, they built and moved to this house on West Main Street, replacing an earlier two-story house on the site. There they continued to rear their five children, born between 1898 and 1915, and became prominent citizens of the community. Marcus "Mark" Hoyle was the founder and president of the Hoyle Implement Company, which became the Hoyle Motor Company in 1933 when he acquired the Ford dealership in town. The 1921 Sanborn Map shows a large one-story structure at the rear of the house lot on West Main Street (later the site of the Sheldon M. Roper House) that was used as a farm implement warehouse and for automobile storage. Hoyle served as chairman of the Lincoln County School Board, as a city alderman, and was on the Board of Stewards of the First Methodist Church, where Georgia was also active. The Hoyle House is a large, two-story, asymmetrical, frame dwelling (now vinyl sided) with a front- and side-gable roof (covered with pressed metal shingles) and a projecting two-story bay at the west end of the facade. The full-length, one-story front porch has Tuscan columns, a classical entablature, and a balustraded roof deck. The central front entrance features an oval glass and paneled front door flanked by sidelights. A one-story ell projects from the rear of the house; a modern ironwork carport has been attached to the southeast corner of the house.

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The Hoyle House remains in family ownership and occupancy. (Heritage, SM)

Lincoln County Public Library (Charles R. Jonas Library) Non-contributing building
306 West Main Street
1975

The library is a large, one-story, brick-veneered building with a truncated hipped roof. Its Colonial Revival-inspired detailing includes front and side entrances with classical porches, brick corner quoining, and full-length windows with shutters. West of the library is a small garden; behind the library and garden is a parking area. Designed by James L. Beam, Jr. and Associates, architects, and built by Beam Construction Company, the library replaced the early-nineteenth-century, two-story frame house of Samuel P. Simpson; the garden replaced a large one-story frame house with wraparound porch which Sanborn Maps indicate had been built by 1906.

Weaver-Sherrill-Wilkey-Burgin House Contributing building
324 West Main Street
ca. 1840; ca. 1874

Conrad Weaver likely built the oldest section of this house, that part located behind the two right front bays. His 1840 will left his dwelling and lot eleven on Lincolnton's northwest square to his second wife, Nancy Wesson Weaver. After her death in 1852, the house changed hands several times before it was sold in 1866 to Samuel Pinckney Sherrill (1834-1913). During his ownership, Sherrill served as clerk of superior court (1861-1874) and, subsequently, as magistrate. In 1868 he was also mayor of Lincolnton. Among his children was William Lander Sherrill, author of *Annals of Lincoln County* (1937). In 1874 L. T. Wilkey acquired the house and lot from Sherrill. He probably gave the house its present two-story form and porch detailing. Wilkey, with his brother, James, operated a wagon making and repair business in the western part of Lincolnton. From 1886 to 1894, he served as county treasurer. The house remained in Wilkey's family for more than a century. Subsequent to Wilkey himself, the house passed to his daughter, Lila Wilkey Burgin, then to her son, Thomas Burgin (1902-1982), and then to his daughter, Joanna Burgin Harbison. After about a century and a quarter, the house was finally sold out of Wilkey family ownership. The house is a two-story frame dwelling with a truncated hipped roof and both exterior and interior chimneys. The east end of the two-story portion of the house is one-room deep, while the west end is two rooms deep, forming an ell that wraps around the one-story shed rooms that likely constitute a portion of the original house. A later, one-story rear ell projects behind the west end of the house. The three-bay facade features a central hip-roofed entrance porch that serves as the

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decorative focal point of the exterior. The porch has three bays established by chamfered posts, and decorative sawnwork brackets. The original latticed balustrade remains at each corner, but the rest of the balustrade has been replaced recently with slender turned balusters. Even though recent alterations include the addition of vinyl siding, the replacement of the window sash and front entrance, as well as the altered porch balustrade, the house retains its essential nineteenth-century form and exterior appearance. A picket fence has been added around the front of the house and a wood board fence across the rear and west side of the lot. (Brown)

Shed

Non-contributing building

Near the rear of the west side yard stands a small wood shed of recent vintage with a gable roof, a central entrance on the long (east) side, and flanking windows.

House

330 West Main Street
ca. 1905

Contributing building

The 1906 Sanborn Map shows that this one-story frame house had been built by that time, and it is, in fact, typical of many small dwellings erected in the early twentieth century. Largely devoid of decoration and now sheathed with vinyl siding, the house has a steep hipped roof with an east-side cross gable and a gabled ell projecting from the west end of the facade. The hip-roofed front porch that carries across the two non-projecting bays is supported by bungalow posts which may be an alteration from the 1920s or 1930s. Windows are two-over-two sash. The rear of the house has a small gabled ell and an enclosed porch. (SM)

WEST MAIN STREET - South Side

Kent C. Turbyfill House

201 West Main Street
ca. 1925

Contributing building

From 1885 through 1921, Sanborn Maps show a two-story frame house at this location. However, the 1929 Sanborn Map shows that between 1921 and 1929, the frame house was replaced by the present one-story brick house. In 1919, Kent C. Turbyfill and his wife, Lida Johnston Turbyfill, purchased the property. (Lida's father, Robert Z. Johnston, was minister of the First Presbyterian Church, located

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diagonally across the intersection of West Main and North Government streets from 201 West Main.) When the Turbyfills sold the property to Noah H. Cline in 1936, the deed mentioned not only the lot, but also the brick house. The red brick, vaguely Craftsman-style Turbyfill House has a hipped roof intersected by front and side gabled wings. The gables are wood shingled and have a central four-over-one sash window flanked by half-height rectangular ventilators with curvilinear louvers. The house retains its open porch with plain brick posts on the east elevation, but the front and west-side porches have had their openings enclosed (although their brick posts still define the porch spaces). A modern carport has been attached to the rear of the house. (SM, Dellinger)

Vacant Lot

Between 201 and 217 West Main Street is a vacant lot that runs through the block from Main to Water Street. It is well-maintained and has a variety of trees, along with a low stone retaining wall toward the rear. Sanborn Maps reveal that a two-story frame house stood on the lot from at least 1885 to 1921, though by 1929 it was gone. Late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century deeds to the adjoining properties refer to this parcel as "Mrs. Annie Hoke's residence" or "Mrs. Annie Hoke's home lot." In fact, this was the site from ca. 1880 to the mid-1890s of the home of Annie (Michal) and Thomas H. Hoke. After he died and she returned to her family home across the street (see 222 West Main Street), the house was rented during the first quarter of the twentieth century to the Curtis sisters. (Dellinger, SM)

Saine-Rudisill House
217 West Main Street
ca. 1905; ca. 1925

Contributing building

In 1896 Dr. John W. Saine (1869-1953) married Bessie D. Johnston, the daughter of Robert Z. Johnston, who was minister of the First Presbyterian Church at the northeast corner of West Main and North Government streets. According to their daughter, Jennie, who was born in 1897, the Saines lived in a house adjacent to the church during the early years of their marriage. In 1898, Dr. Saine purchased a vacant lot on the south side of West Main Street (lot six of Lincolnton's southwest square) and built a two-story frame house there during the early years of the new century. Sanborn Maps show that it had been erected by 1906. At their new location, the Saines had horses with a stable (gone) along the rear property line at Water Street and a small orchard with peach and apple trees. In 1917, the Saines sold their house to Merton M. Rudisill (1886-1949). Sanborn Maps reveal that between 1921 and 1929, the house was remodeled to its present form. It remained with the Rudisill family until 1983, when it was

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sold to Lee and Madeline S. Elmore, the current owner/occupants. The house is a two-story frame dwelling (now vinyl sided) with a central hipped roof and front and east side intersecting gabled wings. Stylistically, the house exhibits Queen Anne massing with some Craftsman detailing. A shed-roofed, one-story porch with plain brick posts shelters the east two bays of the facade, while a one-story sun room extends halfway down the east side of the house. The rear has short one and two-story ells and porches. The house features bungalow-style sash windows. An ironwork fence runs across the front of the house and down the east side. (Dellinger, Elmore)

Garage

Non-contributing building

At the rear of the Saine-Rudisill House property, with access to Water Street, is a one-story, frame, vinyl-sided, gable-roofed, two-bay garage. Although the garage opens to the west, the north elevation visible from West Main Street is designed to look like a cottage. The garage appears to have been built in the late twentieth century.

Robert Steve Reinhardt House

Contributing building

223 West Main Street
ca. 1925

The Reinhardt House sits farther back on its lot than do the other houses in the 200 block of West Main Street. This is because an older house once stood at the front of the lot, and the Reinhardts lived there while their new home was being constructed ca. 1925. According to family history, Robert Steve Reinhardt had the house built from plans drawn by a Charlotte architect (unidentified). When the new house was completed, the old one was torn down. About the time his house was built, Robert Steve Reinhardt took over operation of the Elm Grove Cotton Mill, which had been operated by his father, Robert Smith Reinhardt, from around 1889 until his death in 1925. The Reinhardt House remained in family ownership until 1982. It is a two-story, frame (now vinyl or aluminum-sided), Colonial Revival house set on a terraced lawn with multiple trees and boxwoods. The symmetrical dwelling has a low hipped roof with widely overhanging boxed eaves supported by paired brackets. Interior end chimneys rise at both east and west ends of the house and at the rear. A one-story sun room on the east side of the house balances a one-story porch on the west side. A one-story entrance porch at the center of the facade features a flat roof with bracketed eaves and triple Tuscan columns at each corner. Grouped windows are twelve-over-one and nine-over-one sash. A wood fence borders the west side and rear of the property. (Dellinger, SM)

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Garage

Non-contributing building

A hip-roofed frame garage at the southeast corner of the property, with three bays opening to Water Street, appears to be a replacement of the original.

Shadow Lawn (NR 1972)

Contributing building

301 West Main Street
1826

Located at the southwest corner of West Main and South High streets, Shadow Lawn is the last remaining early-nineteenth-century brick residence in Lincolnton. A year after he purchased the land in 1825, Paul Kistler (1782-1848) built the house. He was a successful Lincolnton businessman who operated a tannery located between Water and Church streets. Kistler's wife, Ann, was the sister of David Smith, who two years earlier had built the remarkably similar Magnolia Grove in the Iron Station vicinity of Lincoln County. Shadow Lawn is a two-story-with-raised-basement, Federal-style house laid in Flemish bond brick with brick string courses defining the floor levels. The steep side-gable roof features molded brick cornices across front and rear. Gutter boxes beneath the cornice at each end of the facade bear the date "1826." A single brick chimney rises at the east end of the house; two chimneys rise at the west end. The symmetrical five-bay facade has nine-over-nine sash windows headed by brick flat arches and an altered central entrance with replacement stair. Sanborn Maps show that from at least 1906 through 1929, a one-story frame ell with west-side porch projected from the east end of the rear of the house. By 1941, however, it appears to have been remodeled or replaced by the present rear ell, while a one-story frame wing was added to the west end of the house. The interior retains a modified Quaker plan consisting of a center hall with one large room on the east side and two smaller rooms on the west side. Some of the Federal-style interior detailing survives. Following Kistler's death, the house remained in his family until 1871, when it was sold to Augustus Pinckney James. The James family retained ownership until 1935, when the house was sold to Charles Raper and Annie Elliott Jonas. Charles Raper Jonas was a prominent Lincolnton attorney who served in the United States House of Representatives from 1952 until his retirement in 1972. The Jonas family renovated and enlarged the house, giving it the name "Shadow Lawn." Their ownership continued until at least the mid-1980s. Shadow Lawn was listed individually in the National Register in 1972. (Brown, SM)

Garage

Contributing building

Southwest of the house stands a one-story, gable-roofed brick garage set perpendicular to the

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house and joined to it by a covered walkway. Sanborn Maps show that between 1929 and 1941 a garage was built at this location.

Charles Hoover, Jr., House
309 West Main Street
ca. 1941

Contributing building

Dr. Charles H. Hoover (1875-1950) was a general practitioner who lived in the Crouse community. He had this house built ca. 1941 with the intention of moving his practice into Lincolnton. The garage behind the house was to serve as his office. However, when Dr. Hoover's wife, Edna, refused to move from Crouse, he remained in that community, and the house became the home of their son, Charles Hoover, Jr. Later occupants included Bob Willis and Brad Bangle. The house is a one-and-a-half-story, asymmetrically designed, tapestry brick, period cottage with a one-story rear ell. It has a side-gable roof, a pair of gabled dormers on the front roof slope, and a picturesque front chimney. The gabled northeast corner porch is echoed by the slightly projecting gabled front entrance. The round arch of the entrance—with its round-arched door with round window—is repeated in the round-arched porch openings. (Dellinger, SM)

Garage

Contributing building

Behind the Hoover House is a two-story, gable-roofed, vinyl-sided garage with access from Water Street. When built, it was intended to serve as Dr. Hoover's medical office.

Jacob Bisaner House
315 West Main Street
ca. 1860

Contributing building

In 1869 Jacob Bisaner had his homestead—including both real and personal property—formally laid off, allotted to him, and recorded with the Register of Deeds for the purpose of claiming a homestead exemption. Homestead exemptions, established as part of the 1868 North Carolina Constitution, allowed individuals to protect their homes from creditors on the theory that the preservation of home is of greater importance than the payment of debts. Bisaner (1799-1878) was a mechanic and blacksmith who served as town sexton for fifty-five years, digging graves and burying the dead. On several occasions he was elected alderman. When he died, he was eulogized in the *Lincoln Progress* (July 27, 1878) as "a fixture in the village," who was "useful, public spirited, of virtuous influence and exemplary character." Among

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subsequent owners of the house have been Robert S. Reinhardt, Fred L. Hoffman, William F. Hoffman, and from 1937-1981, Alton Claytor, publisher of the *Lincoln County News*. The frame (now vinyl-sided) dwelling is a vernacular I-house: two stories tall, three bays wide, one-room deep, with a gable roof, gable-end brick chimneys, and a one-story rear ell. Refinements include a boxed and molded cornice with molded rake boards along the flush side gables, and nine-over-nine and nine-over-six sash windows with cornerblock surrounds and slightly projecting plain cornices. The front door, with its sidelights and transom, has been altered, and the semicircular entrance porch, with its Tuscan columns and ironwork balustraded roof deck, appears to be an early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival addition. The interior has been largely remodeled, but retains some of the original four-panel doors with cornerblock surrounds. (Brown)

Outbuilding

Non-contributing building

West of the Jacob Bisaner House stands a small frame outbuilding of undetermined use with a long, flat-roofed, carport-like extension to the east. Sanborn Maps show that it was built subsequent to 1941.

Office Building

323 West Main Street
ca. 1980

Non-contributing building

This one-story, brick-veneered, office building with side-gable roof and broad-front-gabled porch was built at street level—lower than the houses along this side of the block—because of the removal of this lot's natural earth embankment. Small parking areas are located in front of and behind the building. City directories indicate that it was under construction in 1980; Sanborn Maps show that a two-story frame house with front porch and one-story rear ell stood on the site from at least 1906 through 1941. (CD)

Houser-Hildebrand House

329 West Main Street
ca. 1842

Contributing building

In 1842, Isaac Houser (1817-1865) purchased lot twelve in the southwest square of Lincolnton; it is assumed that he built this house soon thereafter. The unusual character of the house, with its brick first story and frame second story, may well owe to the fact that Isaac was a carpenter and his brother, Peter, was a brick mason. After Isaac's death, his daughter, Julia (1847-1938) and her husband, German baker

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Peter Paul Hildebrand (1835-1916), occupied the house for many years. In 1940 it was sold outside the family; after several subsequent changes in ownership, the house was purchased in 1947 by Samuel Gaston Burgin (1879-1972). He converted it to three apartments. The house remains in the ownership of Burgin's daughter, Betty (Burgin) Moore. The Houser-Hildebrand House is one of the most unusual in Lincolnton. The two-story structure has a brick first story with Flemish bond on the front and common bond on the sides. The second story is weatherboarded frame and projects outward about five feet beyond the brick facade. Classical, stuccoed-brick porch posts support the frame facade overhang. Matching frame pilasters above the brick posts continue upward to the roofline. The porch balustrade, with molded hand and foot rails and rectangular-in-section balusters, survives, but is greatly deteriorated. Although the central front door has been replaced, the sidelights and transom remain. First-story window sash have been replaced, but nine-over-six sash survive on the second story. The house has a gable roof with flush gable ends and molded rake boards. Each gable end has a single-shoulder brick chimney, although the second-floor level of the west chimney has been removed. When Samuel Burgin purchased the house, he completely remodeled the interior and added the one-story frame ell with engaged porch on either side to the rear of the house. (Brown)

NORTH HIGH STREET - East Side

Sheldon M. Roper House
114 North High Street
1928; enlarged early 1940s

Contributing building

On September 26, 1925, Sheldon Mosely Roper (1901-1971) married Mary Hoyle (b. 1903) in the parlor of her parents' home at 226 West Main Street (see Marcus H. Hoyle House). After twin daughters, Shelley Moseley and Mary Carolyn, were born in 1928, the Ropers moved into a new house built on what had been the rear of the Hoyle lot. Sheldon Roper was a prominent Lincolnton attorney who served six years as Records' Court Judge. An active Democrat, he was elected to both the state legislature and the state senate. Like his father-in-law, Sheldon Roper served on the Board of Stewards at First Methodist Church. The Roper House was originally a one-and-a-half-story frame dwelling (now vinyl sided) with a steep side-gable roof. In the early 1940s, according to family history, Roper had the roof raised to create a full second story. From the side, this gave the house the appearance of having full-facade shed dormers across both front and rear; from the front, the roof-raising made the house appear to have a pent first-story eave. The central entrance of the Roper House is sheltered by a segmental-arched hood supported by Tuscan columns. Windows are grouped and are six-over-one sash. Projecting from the south side of the house are a sun porch (1935) and a screened porch, while the north side has a small

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gabled addition. The original service porch projects from the north end of the rear (east) elevation, and a one-story ell and shed rooms complete the rear. The house remains in family ownership and occupancy. (Heritage, SM)

Garage

Contributing building

South of the Roper House and north of the Hoyle House (226 West Main Street) is a one-story, frame, hip-roofed garage shared by both family houses. The south bay appears to have been built ca. 1928, while the north two bays probably date from the mid-twentieth century.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Established in 1785 as the county seat of Lincoln County, Lincolnton has always been the political and commercial center of the county. The town enjoyed its greatest period of prosperity and influence during the first half of the nineteenth century and continuing to the Civil War, during which time numerous buildings were erected. However, as a result of rapid growth during the early decades of the twentieth century and the destruction of many of the pre-Civil War buildings since 1960, Lincolnton's architecture is now primarily representative of the twentieth century. Little survives of pre-Civil War Lincolnton other than the original placement of the courthouse square, the grid pattern of the central streets, a group of houses in the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street, and scattered other buildings. Located one block west of the courthouse, the West Main Street Historic District encompasses the 200-300 blocks of West Main Street and 114 North High Street. Included among the district's eighteen primary resources is the largest surviving collection of buildings erected in Lincolnton during the nineteenth century prior to the Civil War. This rare group of Federal and Greek Revival style buildings has become increasingly important within the context of Lincolnton given the loss, since the late 1960s, of at least five other buildings of the period that were also located on West Main Street, particularly in the 100 block. The district's pre-Civil War buildings are complemented by a collection of houses from the first half of the twentieth century that includes good representative examples of the transitional late Victorian/Colonial Revival, Colonial Revival, bungalow/Craftsman, and period cottage styles popular in Lincolnton during those years. The West Main Street Historic District fulfills Criterion C for listing in the National Register because of its locally significant architectural collection dating, particularly, from the nineteenth century prior to the Civil War, but also including houses that are good representatives of a variety of styles popular during the first half of the twentieth century. The district's period of significance spans the years from ca. 1819, the date of construction of the oldest building in the district, through ca. 1941, the year in which the last architecturally significant house was erected, to ca. 1945, the last year in which a significant remodeling of a contributing resource took place.

Historical Background

The steady influx of pioneers to North Carolina's backcountry during the eighteenth century prompted the General Assembly to repeatedly divide and create counties as a way of establishing more effective government. One of these counties, Tryon, was established in 1768. However, only eleven years later, in 1779, the General Assembly dissolved the county by splitting it into Rutherford County and

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Lincoln County. When formed, Lincoln County included 1800 square miles (Brown and York, 246).

During the late eighteenth century, and nineteenth century until the 1840s, Lincoln County became one of North Carolina's largest, wealthiest, and most populous counties. It led the state in the value of many farm products, including wheat, orchard products, and dairy products, and was among the top producers of cotton and livestock statewide. In the late eighteenth century, forges and furnaces in Lincoln County were among many that were established in the western Piedmont; by 1840, the county's ironworks lead the industry in North Carolina, producing large quantities of iron castings, bar iron, and wrought iron tools. Other manufacturing activities, such as saw mills, grist mills, tanneries, paper mills, and potteries, enlivened the economy. Of particular significance, around 1813 Michael Schenck established the first successful textile mill south of the New England. In 1816, it was destroyed by a flood, but three years later Schenck, James Bivins, and John Hoke erected a larger plant, the Lincoln Cotton Mills, on the South Fork of the Catawba River, which operated until the Civil War (Brown and York, 254-256, 258, 260).

The General Assembly tried several times, unsuccessfully, to establish a governing structure in Lincoln County. Eventually, three hundred acres in the county's center were identified as the best site for the seat of government, and on December 29, 1785, the General Assembly ratified an act establishing Lincolnton as the county seat (Brown and York, 246-247).

The county seat was to occupy fifty of the three hundred acres that had already been laid off into squares, streets, blocks, and half-acre lots. Lincolnton's symmetrically arranged grid plan dictated the development of the town during its early years, and much of the plan remains intact today. With the courthouse square in the center, four rows of streets were platted outward from the square to the east and west with blocks divided into three lots, four lots, and finally, five lots in the blocks farthest from the square. (On the north and south rows of lots, the central blocks north and south of the square have four lots each instead of three.) The whole layout was divided by Main Street and what is now Aspen Street into four squares—referred to in deeds as the northeast, southeast, southwest, and northwest squares—with lots being numbered sequentially within each square (Brown and York, 247; Heritage, 253). Main Street was clearly intended to be the primary artery in Lincolnton and, in fact, it has always served as such. Beginning in 1885, Sanborn Maps show that East Main Street developed as the commercial center of town, while West Main Street was predominated by residences (Sanborn Maps, 1885, 1890, 1896, 1902, 1906, 1911, 1921, 1929, 1941).

Lincoln County's first courthouse was built of logs in 1785. In 1788 it was replaced by a frame building, which was demolished and replaced by a new courthouse in 1810. The third courthouse was replaced by a Classical Revival brick structure in the mid-1850s. That building remained in use as the county's seat of government until 1923, when the present Classical Revival stone courthouse was completed (Heritage, 253).

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Lincolnton grew into a prosperous center of trade, culture, and government. In 1800 forty-eight whites and forty-four slaves lived in the town. In 1816, growth had continued to the point where the General Assembly authorized the laying off of additional lots in the town on land previously set aside, reserving tracts for an academy and a church. By 1820, the number of town lots had expanded from the original 100 to 161. The sale of town lots provided for the construction, ca. 1821, of the Pleasant Retreat Academy for male students; it was followed several years later by the construction of a female academy (Brown and York, 262)

Lincolnton continued to grow. According to the *Lincoln Courier*, by 1845 five attorneys maintained offices along East Main Street, six physicians had their offices along both East and West Main Street, and merchants surrounded the courthouse. Additionally, the town supported four hotels, four grocers, three tailors, a watchmaker and jeweler, a printer, three saddle and harness makers, five coach factories, five blacksmiths, a cabinetmaker, two tanners, two hat manufacturers, two shoemakers, and a coppersmith, as well as five carpenters and two brickmasons (Brown and York, 263).

Political developments in the 1840s, however, had a sobering effect on Lincolnton's future. In 1841 Cleveland County was formed out of part of Lincoln County, followed by the creation of Catawba County in 1842 and Gaston County in 1846. As a result, Lincoln County was reduced to 305 square miles. In the 1840s' partitions, Lincoln County lost prime farmlands and important factory sites to the new counties, and much of the county's momentum for growth was curtailed. Nevertheless, Lincoln County retained rich farmland—only less of it—and numerous good sites for future industrial development (Brown and York, 244, 263).

Growth in Lincoln County's population and economy remained static during the mid-nineteenth century and progressed at a slow pace throughout much of the second half of the century. In 1887, the editor of the *Lincoln Courier* wrote that "Lincolnton is not dead. Her condition is simply comatose. . . ." While the county's population grew from 9,573 in 1870 to 15,498 in 1900, Lincolnton's population actually dropped from 848 in 1860 to 828 in 1900. In the 1890s, a few houses, a Lutheran church, and other structures were erected. At the same time, the local government condemned frame buildings surrounding the courthouse in an attempt to reduce the risk of fire (Brown and York, 271).

During the first third of the twentieth century, Lincoln County experienced considerable growth in industry and commerce. Though Lincolnton had been lethargic throughout the late nineteenth century, it began to flourish again in the early twentieth century. Prior to 1902, two brick dealerships opened in Lincolnton and, by 1911, additional woodworking plants had been established. The Lincoln Co-operative Creamery Company was in operation by 1916, and the Coca Cola Bottling Company opened a plant in Lincolnton by 1921. The impact of these businesses on the local economy was surpassed, however, by the growing number of textile factories. These were centered in and around Lincolnton on or near the South Fork of the Catawba River and the town's two rail lines—the Wilmington, Charlotte and

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Rutherford Railroad, whose western division stretched twelve miles west of Lincolnton by 1861, and the Chester and Lenoir Narrow Gauge Railroad, which reached Lincolnton in 1881. Lincolnton's population grew from 828 in 1900 to 2,413 in 1910 and then to 3,390 in 1920. By that time, brick commercial buildings had completely replaced frame structures around the courthouse, as well as in the 100 block of East Main Street, and one- and two-story frame houses proliferated beyond the center of town (Brown and York, 264, 270, 272-273).

During the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century, West Main Street quickly became Lincolnton's premier residential street. Over time, the 100 block lost its houses to commerce and government, but the 200 and 300 blocks continued as a fine residential address. The buildings which line the two blocks do not follow a chronological progression from east to west. Rather, houses of different periods are scattered throughout the district.

Seven buildings date from the pre-Civil War years of prosperity in Lincolnton. Shadow Lawn (301) and the Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House (202) are the oldest houses in the district and reflect the sophisticated Federal style built in the town especially during the 1810s and 1820s. The Michael-Butt-Brown-Pressly House also reflects a later phase of Lincolnton's pre-Civil War prosperity with its fine, ca. 1850 Greek Revival detailing. Other buildings constructed from the 1840s to ca. 1860—the Doctors' Office (206), the William H. Michal House (222), the Jacob Bisaner House (315), and the Houser-Hildebrand House (329)—also use the Greek Revival style to proudly express their part in the town's prosperity during those years. The Weaver-Sherrill-Wilkey-Burgin House (324) is believed to have been built as a small dwelling ca. 1840 and then significantly enlarged ca. 1875.

Lincolnton's relative lethargy during the second half of the nineteenth century is reflected in the absence of much building activity along West Main Street during that period. Only the Robert M. Michal House (208) appears to have been built during this time (ca. 1880), and it is a simple, one-story frame, vernacular dwelling. The enlarged Weaver-Sherrill-Wilkey-Burgin House (324) nodded to the late Victorian period in its three-bay front porch, which retains chamfered posts and decorative sawnwork brackets.

Lincoln County's and Lincolnton's revived economy during the first third of the twentieth century resulted in the construction of numerous houses during that period. The West Main Street Historic District reflects the upturn in the town's economy in its six houses built during the first three decades of the century. Three of the six—the houses at 201, 223, and 226 West Main—replaced older houses which had stood on their lots since at least 1906 (Sanborn Maps, 1906, 1911, 1921). The one-story house at 330 West Main, built ca. 1905; the Saine-Rudisill House (217), built ca. 1905 and remodeled ca. 1925; and the 1918 Marcus H. Hoyle House (226) all exhibit a simplified Queen Anne-style-influenced form with Colonial Revival or Craftsman bungalow details. The ca. 1925 Kent C. Turbyfill House at 201 West Main expresses the Craftsman bungalow style in both its form and detail. The ca. 1925 Robert Steve

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Reinhardt House at 223 West Main Street and the 1928 Sheldon M. Roper House at 114 North High Street exemplify different versions of the popular Colonial Revival style.

By the end of the 1920s, the lots on the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street were filled with houses. No additional construction took place until ca. 1941—the end of the district’s period of significance—when Charles Hoover replaced an earlier two-story dwelling with a one-and-a-half-story brick period cottage at 309 West Main (Sanborn Maps, 1906, 1929). The fact that the Hoover House and three other houses from the district’s period of significance are known to have replaced earlier dwellings confirms that the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street continued to be viewed as a desirable residential address.

The late 1960s through ca. 1980 saw the construction of three one-story brick buildings which do not contribute to the historic and architectural character of the district. These buildings, located at 218, 306, and 323 West Main Street, include two small office buildings and the Lincoln County Public Library. On the other hand, the buildings from the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries, which predominate in the West Main Street Historic District and do contribute to its historic and architectural character, have, for the most part, remained well preserved and well maintained, so that the district retains a strong level of historic integrity.

Architecture Context

Lincolnton has been the political and commercial center of Lincoln County since the town’s founding in 1785. Nevertheless, as a result of rapid growth during the early decades of the twentieth century and the destruction of numerous pre-Civil War buildings in the past quarter century, Lincolnton’s architecture now represents primarily the twentieth century. Little remains of pre-Civil War Lincolnton besides the original placement of the courthouse square, the grid pattern of the central streets, a group of houses in the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street, and scattered other structures (Brown and York, 26).

Located in the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street, one block west of the Lincoln County Courthouse, the West Main Street Historic District possesses among its eighteen primary and eight secondary resources the largest surviving collection of buildings erected in Lincolnton during the nineteenth century prior to the Civil War—that period when the county seat experienced its greatest period of prosperity and influence. These buildings reflect the Federal and Greek Revival styles of architecture. Complementing the buildings from the first half of the nineteenth century up to the Civil War, the district also contains houses from the first three decades of the twentieth century and ca. 1941 that are good representatives of the transitional late Victorian/Colonial Revival, Colonial Revival, bungalow/Craftsman, and period cottage styles popular during those years.

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Two houses in the district reflect the Federal style, popular in North Carolina during the first decades of the nineteenth century. In Lincoln County, houses of this style were traditional in form with an overlay of Federal style detailing. The Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House (202), believed to have been built ca. 1819, retains many Federal style details, although they are mostly seen on the interior of the house in such features as the six-panel doors, three-part mantels, and grained woodwork. On the exterior, the house exhibits such Federal style features as beaded-edge weatherboards on the facade and molded window surrounds and sills. The facade also shows evidence that originally the house had a pair of front entrances—a late-eighteenth-early-nineteenth-century characteristic seen also at Woodside (NR), a prominent ca. 1799 house located in the Lincolnton vicinity. Shadow Lawn (301; NR), built for Paul Kistler in 1826, is the best example of the Federal style in the district. It is, in fact, one of only three surviving brick houses in the county—along with Ingleside (NR) and Magnolia Grove (NR)—that date from the 1810s and 1820s and depict the wealth and sophistication of Lincoln County's upper-class residents of the period. Like its companions, Shadow Lawn is constructed of Flemish-bond brick, is two-stories tall with a steep side-gable roof, and is five bays wide. Shadow Lawn bears a striking resemblance to Magnolia Grove, not surprising in that the latter house was built two years earlier by David Smith, Paul Kistler's brother-in-law. Like Magnolia Grove, Shadow Lawn stands on a raised basement, has a single chimney on one gable end and a pair of chimneys on the other, and has flat brick arches above the windows and a molded brick cornice with concave and convex curves (Brown and York, 7, 10, 152).

Although more numerous than buildings in the Federal style, there are few surviving examples of stylish Greek Revival buildings in Lincolnton. The earliest known example and one of the most fully developed is the General Robert F. Hoke House on Chestnut Street. Built ca. 1833, it is a large, two-story frame house with the only nineteenth-century H-plan in the county (Brown and York, 160). Most of the surviving Greek Revival buildings in Lincolnton were erected in the 1840s and 1850s. Four strong examples are located in the West Main Street Historic District.

The Houser-Hildebrand House (329) at the west end of the district was built ca. 1842. Its unusual design—with a combined Flemish bond and common bond brick first story and weatherboarded frame second story that projects out over the first-story facade porch—is unparalleled in the county. The engaged first-story porch has stuccoed brick classical posts topped on the second-story facade by frame classical pilasters that reach to the roofline. The gable roof has flush gable ends with molded rake boards. Continuing in the Greek Revival tradition, the front entrance features sidelights and transoms.

At the east end of the district, the ca. 1819 Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House (202) was remodeled in the Greek Revival style ca. 1850, while retaining many of its Federal period features. The two-story frame form of the house with its low hipped roof with overhanging boxed eaves is similar in feel to the ca. 1852 Barrett-Hoyle House on East Rhodes Street. However, owing largely to its Federal period origins, the Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House is more subdued in its presentation. Of particular

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note are its distinctive paneled frieze, its second floor interior trim, and its stuccoed interior-end chimney with dentiled cap and arched-panel stack suggestive of the Gothic Revival.

The remaining two strong examples of the Greek Revival style in the district are the ca. 1850 Doctors' Office (206), built by Dr. Zephaniah Butt to accompany his adjacent house (202), and the ca. 1854 William H. Michal House (222). Although only one story in height, the two frame buildings exemplify the Greek Revival temple form with a front-facing pedimented gable. The Doctors' Office has an engaged porch beneath its flush-sheathed, paneled, and pedimented gable. The porch wall is consumed with a central door with three-light transom flanked by large nine-over-six sash windows. The William H. Michal House provides the most classic example of the several Greek Revival temple form buildings in Lincolnton. Its pedimented gable roof has boxed and molded eaves, and its recessed front porch has a flush-sheathed wall and is supported by four classical, square-in-section, tapered posts with molded caps. The central entrance of the Michal House features a transom and fluted surrounds with cornerblocks. In its broad pedimented gable and overall proportions, the Michal House is very similar to the 1850s Wallace Alexander House on South Aspen Street. The Alexander House, however, does not have a recessed front porch.

Two other houses in the district also date from the years prior to the Civil War, although they are not strong reflections of the Greek Revival. The oldest, east rear, portion of the frame Weaver-Sherrill-Wilkey-Burgin House (324) is believed to have been built ca. 1840. (However, the house today presents a two-story, vernacular form—with a three-bay facade, a low hipped roof, and a three-bay entrance porch with Queen Anne-style-influenced chamfered posts and sawnwork brackets—which probably dates from a ca. 1874 remodeling). Across the street, the ca. 1860 Jacob Bisaner House (315)—characteristic of many houses built in Lincoln County during the second half of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—is a vernacular I-house: two stories tall, three bays wide, and one-room deep, with a gable roof, gable-end brick chimneys, and a one-story rear ell. However, the Bisaner House also has features that are simple reflections of the Greek Revival: a boxed and molded cornice with molded rake boards along the flush side gables, and cornerblock window surrounds with slightly projecting plain cornices. Its semi-circular entrance porch with classical columns and an ironwork balustrade and balustraded roof deck probably dates from a later Colonial Revival revision.

The survival of this group of pre-Civil War houses in the 200 and 300 blocks of West Main Street is all the more important given the loss of other buildings from the period that were also located on West Main Street until the 1960s. On the south side of the 100 block of West Main Street, both the North State Hotel and the Augustus A. McLean House were demolished to make way for the Lincoln County Citizens Center. The hotel was a three-story, Flemish-bond brick, antebellum structure; the ca. 1848 McLean House was a Flemish-bond brick dwelling, five bays wide and two stories tall above a full basement. On the north side of the 100 block stood the ca. 1820 David Ramsour House, a monumental

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two-story brick dwelling with a five-bay facade featuring four Corinthian pilasters and a triangular pediment. On the north side of the 200 block stood the ca. 1824 Seagle-Boger House, a two-story frame, five-bay-wide dwelling. On the north side of the 300 block, on the site of the present Lincoln County Public Library, was the early-nineteenth-century Dr. Samuel P. Simpson House. It was a two-story frame dwelling with a low hipped roof. All five of these buildings were demolished in the late 1960s and early 1970s (Brown and York, 26-27).

The slowness of Lincolnton's economy during the second half of the nineteenth century is reflected in the buildings erected during that time. Construction during the period remained, for the most part, traditional in form. During the last quarter of the century, asymmetrically planned houses began to appear, but almost completely absent from the surviving architectural landscape are examples of well-developed and richly decorated Queen Anne-style buildings (Brown and York, 24). Within the historic district, the only surviving building that appears to have been erected during that period is the Robert M. Michal House (208), a small vernacular dwelling with a side porch and no salient stylistic features. Only the decorative porch on the Weaver-Sherrill-Wilkey-Burgin House (324), with its chamfered posts and decorative sawnwork elements, reflects the influence of the Queen Anne aesthetic. It probably dates from a ca. 1874 remodeling.

With Lincolnton's and the county's revived economy during the first quarter of the twentieth century, new houses typically exhibited eclectic mixes of styles and popular, asymmetrical plans. These houses were found in great numbers in Lincolnton and, to a lesser degree, in the more conservative surrounding countryside (Brown and York, 26). Six houses built in the West Main Street Historic District between ca. 1905 and 1928 reflect the types of houses commonly built during this upturn in Lincolnton's economy.

Three houses—the house at 330 West Main, the Saine-Rudisill House at 217 West Main, and the Marcus H. Hoyle House at 226 West Main Street—exhibit a Queen Anne-style asymmetrical massing overlaid with eclectic detailing. The ca. 1905 house at 330 West Main is a small, one-story frame cottage with an irregular configuration and a hipped and gabled roof. It is plain except for the bungalow posts of its front porch. At the opposite end of the district, the large, two-story frame Saine-Rudisill House was built ca. 1905 with an L-shaped plan. When enlarged and remodeled ca. 1925, it acquired a front porch with heavy, bungalow-type, brick posts. The 1918 Marcus C. Hoyle House is a two-story frame dwelling with a two-story, projecting, west front bay. Its simple Queen Anne configuration is "Colonial Revivalized" by the one-story facade porch with Tuscan columns and balustraded roof deck.

More straightforward examples of the Colonial Revival style are seen in the Robert Steve Reinhardt House at 223 West Main Street and the Sheldon M. Roper House at 114 North High Street. Both two-story frame houses utilize a symmetrical plan, a central three-bay block with center-bay entrance porch and grouped windows, and short one-story porch or sun-room wings at one or both ends

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of the house. Built ca. 1925, the Reinhardt House is the more formal of the two and has a low hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves with paired brackets, balancing side wings, and a flat-roofed entrance porch with triple Tuscan columns at each corner. The 1928 Roper House—originally a one-and-a-half-story dwelling but enlarged to a full two stories in the early 1940s—features a steep gable roof which is raised on front and rear to give the appearance of long shed dormers. Like the Reinhardt House, the Roper House entrance porch uses Tuscan column supports (one per corner), but they support a segmental-arched roof.

An additional house built in the district during the first quarter of the twentieth century is the ca. 1925 Kent C. Turbyfill House (201), the only bungalow among the district's resources. Although its front and west side porches have been partially enclosed, the house still bears unmistakable characteristics of its style. The one-story brick structure has an irregular configuration, a hipped roof with intersecting shingled-gable wings, bungalow-style windows, and heavy brick porch posts like those on the porch of the Saine-Rudisill House. (Although the openings on the front and west side porches have been infilled, the posts remain intact and visible so that these areas can still be "read" as porches.)

No houses were built in the district in the 1930s. However, in 1941, just before the start of World War II, a new house was built at 309 West Main, replacing an earlier frame dwelling. Built by a doctor, the one-and-a-half-story Charles Hoover, Jr., House is not pretentious, but it was definitely fashionable when built. Stylistically known as a period cottage, the house is a relatively simple block form with a rear ell, made interesting through the use of colorful tapestry brick, asymmetry, and the use of facade features reminiscent of the Tudor Revival that romanticize the whole. In particular, the facade makes use of a pair of steep dormers on the west half of the steep gable roof, an off-center, double-shouldered chimney with round-arched brick panel, and an adjacent, round-arched, gabled entrance porch, echoing the round-arched openings and gabled roof lines of the northeast corner porch.

With the construction of the Hoover House and the early 1940s' remodeling of the Sheldon M. Roper House (114 West High Street), the district's period of significance ended. The only additional construction in the district, other than several garages and a carport, came from the late 1960s until ca. 1980, during which time two small brick office buildings (218 and 323) were erected, and the large, one-story, Colonial Revival-inspired, Lincoln County Public Library (301) was built. Even with these non-contributing resources, the district continues to make a strong architectural statement locally with its important collection of buildings from Lincolnton's pre-Civil War history. Complementing this collection are buildings reflecting the minimal growth experienced by Lincolnton in the late nineteenth century and the prosperity that accompanied the first several decades of the twentieth century—particularly ca. 1905 through the 1920s, but continuing to the start of World War II.

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GEOGRAPHIC DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the West Main Street Historic District is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying district map, based on Lincoln County Tax Maps 362315 and 362316, and drawn to a scale of 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the West Main Street Historic District is drawn to encompass the most cohesive collection of pre-Civil War houses in Lincolnton, complemented by other houses from the nineteenth and first half of the twentieth centuries. The two-block area within which the district is located is distinguished from its surroundings, which exhibit different land uses and/or buildings which, overall, differ in architectural character, level of integrity, or common history.

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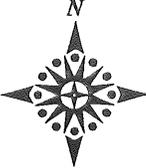
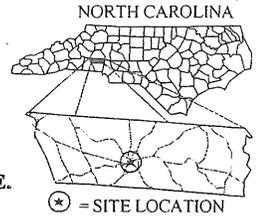
PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1) West Main Street Historic District
- 2) Lincolnton, Lincoln County, North Carolina
- 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 4) March, 2002
- 5) State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, North Carolina
- 6-7) A: Streetscape, north side 200 block W. Main St., view to NW
- B: Michal-Butt-Brown-Pressly House, 202 W. Main St., view to NE
- C: (former) Doctors' Office, 206 W. Main St., view to NW
- D: Streetscape, 222 and 226 W. Main St., view to NW
- E: Sheldon M. Roper House, 114 N. High St., view to SE
- F: Robert Steve Reinhardt House, 223 W. Main St., view to SE
- G: Streetscape, S side 200-300 blocks W. Main St., view to SE
- H: Streetscape, S side 300 block W. Main St., view to SW
- I: Houser-Hildebrand House, 329 W. Main St., view to S
- J: Streetscape, N side 300 block W. Main St., view to NE
- K: Lincoln County Public Library, 306 W. Main St., view to NW

LINCOLN COUNTY, NC

OFFICE OF THE TAX ADMINISTRATOR



Plot from the Land Records/Geographic Information System (GIS) Division
 Based on the North Carolina State Plane Coordinate System 1983 NAD
LINCOLN COUNTY AND ITS MAPPING CONTRACTORS ASSUME NO LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS MAP. THIS MAP IS NOT TO BE USED FOR LAND CONVEYANCE.
 Permanent Drainage Easements (PDE) added as of 01/01/2001 forward. Only shown if metes and bounds described on recorded plat. Not all Rights-of-Way/Easements are shown.

SHADED PIN#1:

PLOT FROM MAP(S)# 362315 362316

SCALE: 1" = 200' DATE: 23 May 02 10:56:16 Thursday Prepared for: HISTORIC DISTRICTS



WEST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

LINCOLNTON, LINCOLN CO., NC

202 STREET ADDRESS

C CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

N NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

V VACANT LOT

A > PHOTO ID + VANTAGE POINT

— DISTRICT BOUNDARY

